

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
May 14, 2018

Meeting called to order by President Sarpen at 1900 hours. Present were:

- L. O'Brien – Council member
- A. Shemo – Council member
- K. Earll – Council member
- B. Merrill – Council member
- B. Terrell – Council member
- J. Blum – Council member
- E. Paules - Mayor
- D. Jones - Solicitor
- T.L. Crawford – Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

RESOLUTION 2018-1 (Policy to Govern Public Comment at Council Meetings)

President Sarpen explained the Resolution is reiterating a policy that was originally adopted in the mid 1990's. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by B. Terrell to adopt Resolution 2018-1 as written. Motion carried.

SRPC

J. Blum reported he attended the recent SRPC meeting and believes with some new members the group will function better, and issues can be worked out. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by B. Terrell to rescind the "withdraw letter" and sign a five-year contract as the other members have done. Motion carried, with B. Merrill opposing. J. Blum request a letter be sent asap to the SRPC prior to their next meeting.

President Sarpen declared a 5-minute recess.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

D. Brent of 54 S. Third St. thanked Council for taking the action to withdraw the letter and sign the 5-year contract, noting this is what the residents wanted.

VFW Requests - M. Sharkey requested authorization to use Veterans Park on Memorial Day for a service for veterans. President Sarpen advised him to stop by the office and complete a contract so the Borough will have a record and contact information. He also advised they are working with the Rotary Club to display flags at Goodfellow Park and Freedom Green. M. Sharkey also requested exclusive use of a portion of the public parking lot on High St. They would like to rope it off for a staging area for motorcycles. President Sarpen advised it is a public lot and can be used but not roped off. President Sarpen noted the lot does have numerous people parking there, including users of the rail trail and Goodfellow park. Mayor Paules suggested they contact Freedom Business Park noting they have a large parking lot and no tenant in the area of the lot. M. Sharkey on behalf of the VFW requested use of Goodfellow park for an event. The event will have wine and beer and will follow all PLCB regulations and have the appropriate licenses. He requested Council waive the portion of the

park Ordinance that prohibits alcohol on park properties. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to waive the "alcohol prohibited" portion of the park Ordinance. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Website – A. Shemo reviewed the quote from *Rick's Web Solutions*. The initial cost to create the page is NTE \$ 1000., with an annual cost of under \$ 500. She explained he will be updating the page as information is sent to him, and the page will include calendars. Mayor Paules questioned requested he establish a blind e-mail that gets forwarded to elected officials without giving out their personal e-mails or phone numbers. Motion by A. Shemo, seconded by J. Blum to contract Ricks Web Solutions for the Boroughs web page. Motion carried. L. O'Brien inquired if a *Facebook* page could be established. He noted he believes part of the dissatisfaction of the residents about the police issue was lack of communication. A. Shemo advised she attended a PERAS seminar that recommended municipalities do not utilize Facebook and explained cases of those that did and are now in litigation. She advised the comments made by elected officials or employees open the municipality up for legal action. Solicitor Jones also noted Facebook has numerous liability issues.

Sewer – J. Blum advised Council he attend a meeting at Shrewsbury township that included representatives from Shrewsbury Borough and Hopewell township also. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the availability of EDU's for use in the townships. He reported another meeting will be held on June 4. He also noted a meeting will be held with Shrewsbury Borough on 5/17 to discuss the proportionate sharing report and their outstanding invoices.

OTHER:

TEASURER'S REPORT

May 2018- \$ 288,076.37. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to approve as submitted. Motion carried.

MINUTES: (April, 2018)

Motion by J. Blum, seconded by B. Terrell to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

Rental Policy – President Sarpen reminded Council members and the audience that the Borough facilities such as parks, community center and pavilions are able to be rented for private and public events. He advised all facilities require checking with the office for availability and must have a written contract completed prior to the event.

Ordinance 2018-1 (Sewer Agreement with Shrewsbury Twp. For Hamilton Overlook) – Solicitor Jones explained the intergovernmental agreement authorizes the service to be provided in the township. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to approve the Ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by L. O'Brien, seconded by J. Blum at 1958 hours to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.