

**MINUTES OF NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
March 14, 2022**

New Freedom Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, March 14, 2022. President Bobby led those in attendance to The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENT

Andrew Bobby
Ryan Ross
Erica Rearich
Dennis Sarpen
Burnell Wildasin
David Reisdorf
Inga Andrews

ALSO PRESENT:

Andrew Shaffer, Borough Manager
Kim Butcher, Mayor
David Jones, Solicitor

ALSO ABSENT:

BOROUGH COUNCIL ABSENT:

Public Comment / Visitors

Eric Scheaffer, New Freedom Judge of Elections, was present to clarify logistics at the Community Center for Election Day. Specifically, Mr. Scheaffer inquired about gaining access to the Community Center the day before and day of the election. Council agreed to provide Mr. Scheaffer a key to the Community Center (and storage closet) to be picked up the day before the election and returned the day after the election to the Borough Office. Mr. Scheaffer also requested the storage closet off the auditorium be accessible and cleared out ten days prior to an election.

Nicole Strassman, Executive Director of South-Central Senior Center was present to request council waive the rental fee for the Community Center Auditorium on April 24 for their bingo event. Ryan Ross, made a motion, seconded by, David Reisdorf, to approve waiving the rental fee. Motion Carried.

Neil Taylor, New Freedom Lions Club, was present to request council waive the rental fee for the Community Center Auditorium on June 14 for their blood drive event. Burnell Wildasin, made a motion, seconded by, Inga Andrews, to approve waiving the rental fee. Motion Carried. It was noted that this does not count toward the three free uses of the community throughout the year as outlined in the current lease agreement.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held February 14, 2022, were presented to Council for their review. Ryan Ross, made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment / Visitors

Suzie Blake and members of the community that utilize the Community Center Auditorium for pickleball were present to ask that Council consider constructing outdoor pickleball courts. A request was also made to place temporary lines on the existing tennis courts to allow pickleball usage. A lengthy discussion took place, after which Council decided to keep the item on the agenda moving forward until a location is established and estimates are obtained. Additionally, President Bobby stated the Pickleball Committee should return at the next meeting with information at which time Council should be ready to take action.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer Report for the Month of February 2022 was presented to Council for their review. Dennis Sarpen, made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

President's Report

President Bobby reported that the additional playground equipment at Marge Goodfellow Park has been fully installed and is open for use.

President Bobby reported that meetings were held with Penn Waste regarding the penalty that was assessed for missed collections. A penalty of \$6 per service unit was requested by New Freedom Borough. Penn Waste countered at \$2.68 per service unit. A second round of discussions will occur.

President Bobby updated Council on EMS meetings held. Springfield Township, Codorus Township, and Tri-Community Ambulance have joined the study. Unfortunately, the consultant working with DCED has resigned and a new consultant will need to be selected.

President Bobby and Councilmember Wildasin spoke with Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill regarding Act 84 which allows ambulance organizations to be directly reimbursed from insurance companies. Rose Ambulance was encouraged to utilize the District Magistrate to collect delinquent accounts. Mayor Butcher added that Rose Ambulance outfitted a chase truck from Glen Rock Ambulance.

President Bobby initiated discussion regarding responsibility of declaring a snow emergency in the Borough. Currently, Borough Ordinance states the responsibility lies with the Emergency Management Director or Borough Manager. After discussion, Erica Rearich, made a motion, seconded by Inga Andrews, to draft an amendment ordinance to allow the Mayor to declare a snow emergency. A Roll Call vote was requested. Voting Aye, Erica Rearich and Inga Andrews. Voting Nay, Andrew Bobby, Ryan Ross, Dennis Sarpen, Burnell Wildasin, and David Reisdorf. Motion Failed. Therefore, snow emergencies will continue to be called by the Borough Manager with input from Public Works. The Mayor and President shall be notified when a snow emergency will be declared.

Mayor's Report

Southern Regional Police Department

The police activity reports from January 30 to February 26 were presented to Council for their review.

The January 2022 financial report was presented to Council for their review.

Mayor Butcher reported that in the last three months 82 red light bus runs have been reported. Residents are encouraged to report any violations.

Manager Report

Manager Shaffer provided a written report for the month of February 2022, hereinto attached.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Jones has been reviewing the draft stormwater ordinance.

Engineer Report

Jacob Sechrist, E.I.T. with Buchart Horn provided Council with a report of services for February 2022.

Water System Report

Council was presented with the February 2022 Operating Report for their review.

Wastewater System Report

Council was presented with the February 2022 Operating Report for their review.

Zoning & Code Enforcement Report

The Permit, Code Enforcement, and Land Development Reports for February 2022 were presented to Borough Council for their review.

Recreation Report

The March Meeting Report was provided for Council's review. Councilmember Ross provided a summary of the meeting.

Northern Central Railway has expressed interest in partnering with the Recreation Commission on events and initiatives.

To start the season, the Farmers Market will be held at Smith Woods beginning on the second Saturday in May.

As a matter of clarification, it was noted that a formal plan for upcoming phases of improvements at Marge Goodfellow Park does not exist.

A discussion occurred regarding pickleball, use of the Community Center Auditorium, and the rate charged for usage. Council suggested an increase in the monthly rate for participation in pickleball. At this time, there is no change to the \$15 per day charge to the Recreation Commission for use of the Community Center for pickleball.

Committee Reports

2023 Sesquicentennial Committee

The committee is working to establish a reoccurring meeting.

Unfinished Business

Residential Parking Permits Ordinance

Staff will create and install signs providing direction to municipal parking lots along Front Street. Northern Central Railway has offered to pay half of the costs of new signs.

Code Enforcement Policy and Procedures

Council discussed the current policy of handling code enforcement in the Borough. Inga Andrews left the meeting at 9:48PM. After a lengthy debate, the consensus of Council was to enforce ordinances on a complaint basis and follow through based on the fines and penalties association with each ordinance. Mayor Butcher left the meeting at 9:54PM.

Review of Traffic Study Results - Dickinson Court

No action at this time.

Marge Goodfellow Park Improvements

Manager Shaffer presented three sketch/concept plans for improvements at Marge Goodfellow Park to increase accessibility near and around the band stand and food buildings. After discussion, the item was tabled to allow time for Council to review.

Council Chamber Audit Video Improvements

Manager Shaffer presented a quote for audio and video improvements to Council Chambers. After discussion, the item was tabled to allow time for Council to review.

New Business

Councilmember Rearich requested a complete committee list. This list was provided in the 2022 Budget and Directory Document.

Councilmember Rearich asked for additional documents on the website including minutes from 2018 and resolutions from 2021. Additionally, Manager Shaffer will prepare minutes for the website with hyperlinks for resolutions.

Correspondence

Manager Shaffer provided copies of the 2021 Real Estate Market Report.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Executive Session

None at this time.

Adjournment

Adjournment until the next meeting scheduled for April 11, 2022. Adjournment was at 10:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew N. Shaffer

Borough Manager

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH
FEBRUARY 2022 - MANAGER'S REPORT

DCNR PEER STUDY

The peer consultant has extended the survey deadline to allow additional participation from residents of Shrewsbury Township. This extension should not impact final report delivery date.

PUBLIC WORKS RENOVATIONS

As you probably noticed, work has commenced and is moving forward according to schedule. Public Works Staff is coordinating schedules with the contractor.

LIHWAP

New Freedom Borough is now a participating member of the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program. This temporary program can provide residents crisis assistance of up to \$2,500 for past due water and sewer bills, should they qualify. Residents must apply directly at compass.state.pa.us

CROSSWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Final approval has been granted by PennDOT and bid specifications are almost complete. Warehouse is currently evaluating options to eliminate the need to bore under the railroad tracks for placement of the activation bollards. The goal is to advertise for bids by the end of March and align work with the 2022 Street Improvements Project.

SLYDER TANK REPLACEMENT

All permit applications are complete and currently in the review process at the Department of Environmental Protection. Unfortunately, approval time is unknown but will most likely take three to six months. Staff will be working with Concord Financial to look at possible borrowing and funding scenarios over the next few months in parallel with the permit review process.

2021 PROPORTIONATE SHARE REPORT

The 2021 Proportionate Share Report was delivered to Shrewsbury and Railroad Boroughs in February. A new clear format was created and well received. This report recaps flow totals and reconciles expenditure data for 2021, while communicating the 2022 budget figures.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS

A progress meeting is scheduled for the third week in March with RK&K. At that time, staff will report back to the sewer user group.

COSTARS ROAD SALT SAVINGS

With the hopes that we are at the end of snow removal season, we can report on the savings recognized by enrolling the Borough in the COSTARS Road Salt Purchasing Program. Over 450 tons of road salt were purchased this season resulting in savings in excess of \$25,000 from last season.