

**MINUTES OF NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
March 13, 2023**

New Freedom Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, March 13, 2023. President Bobby led those in attendance to The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM.

**BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESENT**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Kim Butcher, Mayor  
Andrew Shaffer, Borough Manager  
Sarah Doyle, Solicitor

**ALSO ABSENT:**

**BOROUGH COUNCIL ABSENT:**

**President's Message**

President Bobby read a message regarding the meeting on February 13, 2023; presenting data in support of Borough Council's decisions on accounting and auditing, community center maintenance and lease agreements, tax increases, borough transparency, and public safety. President Bobby addressed previous campaign promises during a point of personal privilege.

Councilmember Erica Rearich read a statement during a point of personal privilege addressing the meeting on February 13, 2023 and her opposition to her imposed censure.

**Public Comment / Visitors**

Judge Sweeney, District Court 19.3.04 was present to introduce herself and update Council and those in attendance on work and initiatives at the district court.

Mayor Butcher requested an Executive Session. Council convened into Executive Session at 7:04PM to discuss personnel and consult with legal counsel. Council reconvened at 7:26PM.

President Bobby recognized those in attendance from Rose Fire Company regarding the Volunteer Service Credit. President Bobby read the list of names for the individuals that qualified for the tax credit for 2022. Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to approve the tax credit roster for 2022. Motion carried.

Josephine Kalista, representing 119, 114, & 112 Waneta Street requested an update from Council on the roach infestation. Council was also provided with a statement from Ann Costantino at 115 Waneta Street. While Council can not directly assist with extermination, all measures to enforce other code enforcement violations will be addressed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held February 13, 2023, were presented to Council for their review. Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried with a Nay vote from Erica Rearich.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Manager Shaffer read and answered questions as provided by Council.

During discussion, Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to invoice Tasteful Occasions for \$10 for the month of January 2023 and \$790 for the month of February 2023. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report for the Month of February 2023 was presented to Council for their review. Burnell Wildasin made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### Marge Goodfellow Park Improvements

Nothing new to report.

Chapter 225, Zoning, Article VIII, Sign Regulations, Update Request  
Solicitor Jones is currently updating a draft ordinance amendment.

#### Stormwater Channel – North Constitution Avenue

Manager Shaffer reported the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is requesting additional information following the submission of the Joint Permit Application. An additional \$4,000-\$5,000 is required to accomplish the necessary tasks. David Reisdorf made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to authorize an additional \$4,000-\$5,000 of engineering work. Motion carried with a Nay vote from Ryan Ross.

#### Advertisement - Quality of Life Ordinance

David Reisdorf made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin, to authorize advertisement of the ordinance with replacement of "shall" in Section 3 subsections E, F, & G. Motion carried.

Advertisement - Intergovernmental Agreement of Cooperation for Recreation with Shrewsbury Township

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin, to authorize advertisement of the ordinance. Motion carried with Nay vote from Erica Rearich.

Financial Statement & Audit Services Proposal

Manager Shaffer provided an update. Borough Staff has been working with the auditor to clarify statements for 2021 and better delineate funds relating to the general obligation note moving forward. Council clarified the need to meet with the auditor concerning their services.

**New Business**

Nothing additional at this time.

**Administrative Reports**

Solicitor

Nothing additional at this time.

Manager

Manager Shaffer provided informational updates.

Manager Shaffer presented data from the radar speed signs placed on North Constitution Avenue.

Manager Shaffer provided copies of the completed 2022 Proportionate Share Report for operation of the wastewater treatment facility.

President

Nothing additional.

Mayor

The police activity reports from January 29 to February 25 were presented to Council for their review.

The December 2022 and January 2023 financial reports were presented to Council for their review.

Engineer

Council was presented with monthly reports from Warehaus and ARRO.

Water System

Council was presented with the February 2023 Operating Report for their review. Erica Rearich requested additional information be provided in the report.

Wastewater System

Council was presented with the February 2023 Operating Report for their review.

Zoning & Code Enforcement Report

The Permit, Code Enforcement, and Land Development Reports for February 2023 were presented to Borough Council for their review.

Recreation Report

The March Meeting Report was presented to Borough Council for their review. Ryan Ross provided a summary of the meeting.

**Committee Reports**Business Development

Nothing to report.

EMS & Fire Funding

Mayor Butcher requested on behalf of Rose Fire Company a location to train on extraction from vehicles. President Bobby will look for other park areas.

Mayor Butcher requested the purchase of AED's for Borough buildings. Manager Shaffer has obtained quotes. Mayor Butcher and Manager Shaffer will coordinate on the matter.

Infrastructure

Nothing to report.

Pickleball Court Installation

Nothing to report.

Personnel

Nothing to report.

Public Safety

Nothing to report.

2023 Sesquicentennial

Burnell Wildasin mentioned the parade and celebration on May 20 and the prom on June 10. The committee has received a generous amount of support from the community.

Council Chamber Audio & Video Improvements

Mayor Butcher will coordinate with Manager Shaffer. The committee will be dissolved.

Donation Request – New Freedom Lions

Council received a donation request from New Freedom Lions for a fireworks display on July 7, 2023. Burnell Wildasin made a motion, seconded by Inga Andrews for discussion. Motion carried. Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to donate \$500. Motion carried.

Stock & Leader Municipal 201 Event

Invitations for Stock & Leader's 201 event were provided to Council.

**Public Comment**

Erica Rearich requested additional information be provided on the memo line in the expense report.

Erica Rearich requested Tasteful Occasions not park box trucks and employee vehicles in spaces that could be utilized by others visiting the center. It was suggested that they park in the gravel lot.

**Executive Session**

Council convened into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation at 9:50pm. Council reconvened at 9:51pm.

**Adjournment**

Adjournment was at 9:51PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Andrew N. Shaffer*

Borough Manager