

**MINUTES OF NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
August 14, 2023**

New Freedom Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, August 14, 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
Dennis Sarpen
David Reisdorf
Burnell Wildasin

ALSO PRESENT:

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

ALSO ABSENT:

None

BOROUGH COUNCIL ABSENT:

Inga Andrews

Public Comment / Visitors

President Bobby thanked, 1) Borough Staff for their recent work to accomplish the inaugural Smoke on the Rail BBQ Festival Event, 2) Public Works Department for their assistance to residents following the recent severe storm that damaged numerous properties and left residents without power for multiple days.

Shakinna Brown, 101 South Broad Street was present to request Council consider installation of additional street lighting near the intersection of South Broad Street and West High Street. Council members agreed to review the area during nighttime to determine need.

Mayor Butcher presented a certificate from Senator Kristen Phillips Hill recognizing Smoke on the Rail and it's positive impact on the community, county, and state.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held July 10, 2023, were presented to Council for their review. Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by David Reisdorf, to approve the minutes as presented. During discussion, Erica Rearich requested modifications. The motion and second was amended to the requested changes and carried.

Treasurer's Report

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

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

Unfinished Business

Chapter 225, Zoning, Article VIII, Sign Regulations, Update Request

Borough Staff is reviewing the draft ordinance as provided by Solicitor Jones.

Stormwater Channel – North Constitution Avenue

Manager Shaffer reported no additional approvals have been received. However, PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program has provided the Borough with a determination on responsibility. Neither the Commonwealth nor the Borough has any record of extending the stormwater pipe outside the PennDOT right-of-way. Furthermore, Borough Staff has attempted to televisive the stormwater pipe and found multiple defects and partial collapse. President Bobby made a motion, seconded by David Reisdorf to draft a letter informing the two residents of their responsibility to maintain the pipe. The Borough will continue to permit the needed maintenance at the daylight of the pipe and surrounding area. Motion carried.

New Business

McDade Subdivision Plan

David Reisdorf made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to re-approve the McDade Subdivision plan, noting that there were no changes to the plan, but rather the time lapsed to have the plan properly recorded. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Solicitor

Nothing additional.

Manager

Manager Shaffer provided a report for the months of June and July 2023.

President

President Bobby called an Executive Session to discuss Contractual Obligations for Southern Regional Police Department as well as a Personnel Matter. Council moved into session at 7:10PM and reconvened at 8:52PM. Following the session, President Bobby announced he will temporarily assume the appointment of Police Commission Representative and Mayor Butcher will be listed as the alternate.

Mayor

The Southern Regional Police Department activity reports from June 18 to July 15 were presented to Council for their review.

The May 2023 Southern Regional Police Department financial report was provided to Council.

Engineer

Council was presented with monthly reports from Warehaus and ARRO.

Erica Rearich requested minutes from the Marge Goodfellow Park Feasibility Study and Master Site Plan meetings be posted to the Borough's website.

Dennis Sarpen requested delivery verification from the product manufacturer for the crosswalk signals noting that the project was set for completion near the end of 2022.

Water System

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

Wastewater System

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

Zoning & Code Enforcement Report

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

Recreation Report

The July Meeting Report was provided for Borough Council. Ryan Ross provided a summary of the meeting.

Committee Reports

Business Development

Nothing to report.

EMS & Fire Funding

Nothing to report.

Infrastructure

Erica Rearich requested clarification on the current street work along South Front Street. The works entails milling, base repair, and overlay of the roadway shoulder.

Personnel

Nothing to report.

Public Safety

Nothing to report.

2023 Sesquicentennial

Burnell Wildasin reported a meeting will be held on August 23 to discuss the purchase and installation of new signage at Marge Goodfellow Park. The group looking to hold a baseball game is no longer interested.

Correspondence

None at this time.

Public Comment

Burnell Wildasin expressed gratitude to the New Freedom Community for their willingness to lend a hand and help neighbors following the recent damaging storm.

Executive Session

Not needed at this time.

Adjournment

Adjournment was at 9:33PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew N. Shaffer

Borough Manager