

**MINUTES OF NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
December 11, 2023**

New Freedom Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, December 11, 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
Burnell Wildasin
Dennis Cummings

ALSO PRESENT:

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

ALSO ABSENT:

None

BOROUGH COUNCIL ABSENT:

David Reisdorf

Public Comment / Visitors

- 1) Myra Gillis provided Council a recap on the Christmas Parade that occurred on December 2. A donation to Rose Fire Company of \$750 will be sent from event proceeds. Next year's parade will occur on December 7, 2024 with a rain date of December 8, 2024.
- 2) Bernadette Reineberg was present to express continued concern with the Stop and Chill at 204 North Constitution Avenue. Ms. Reineberg believes the owner and/or employees are using the property as a residence. Borough employees have visited the property on two separate occasions and witnessed no evidence of the property being utilized as a residence. It was suggested that Ms. Reineberg hire a 3rd party to monitor the property and provide a report to the Borough.
- 3) Ray Noll expressed concern over an open sidewalk area around the electric pole at 114 North Constitution Avenue.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held November 13, 2023, were presented to Council for their review. Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen, to approve the minutes as presented. During discussion Erica Rearich provided suggested corrections. The motion was amended to include the suggested corrections. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Continuation Meeting held November 28, 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.

Treasurer's Report

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

Unfinished Business

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

Manager Shaffer reported the draft ordinance was sent to the York County Planning Commission for their review.

Stormwater Channel – North Constitution Avenue

Manager Shaffer reported that following the Technical Deficiency letter, a response was submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Glen Rock Police Services Agreement

The agreement was approved and passed by all parties. The revised Intergovernmental Agreement is still outstanding.

Draft Rental Housing & Occupancy Ordinances

Discussion occurred among Council on a variety of topics related to a Rental Housing & Occupancy Ordinance. The appointed Committee will meet and develop recommendations.

Community Center Cleaning & Floor Sweeper Proposal

This item was previously tabled. Manager Shaffer updated Council on new initiatives including a cleaning checklist that must be executed by renter and a post rental checklist to be completed by staff.

New Business

Payment Application - Crosswalk Improvement Project

Burnell Wildasin made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to approve Payment Application #2 in the Amount of \$125,032.50 to Kinsley Construction Inc. for the Crosswalk Improvement Project. Motion carried.

Payment Application - Street Improvement Project

Dennis Sarpen made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross to approve Payment Application #1 in the Amount of \$143,293.89 to Kinsley Construction Inc. for the 2023 Street Improvement Project. Motion carried.

Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to approve the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with C.M. High. Motion carried with a Nay vote from Erica Rearich.

2024 Meeting Schedule

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to authorize advertisement of the 2024 Meeting Schedule. It was noted that Budget Meetings will be held October 7 and November 4. Motion carried.

Tax Ordinance

Dennis Sarpen made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross to approve an ordinance setting the real estate tax rates for 2024 at 2.3 Mills for General Services, .28 Mills for Fire Service, and .20 Mills for EMS Services. Motion carried with Nay votes from Erica Rearich and Dennis Cummings.

Refuse Fee Resolution

Burnell Wildasin made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross to approve a resolution setting the fee for refuse and recycling at \$90 per quarter. Motion carried with Nay votes from Erica Rearich and Dennis Cummings.

Miscellaneous Fee Schedule

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to approve a resolution setting the miscellaneous fee schedule. Security deposits for the Community Center were increased. Motion carried.

2024 Budget

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to approve the budget for 2024. Motion carried with Nay votes from Erica Rearich and Dennis Cummings.

Administrative Reports

Solicitor

Solicitor Jones cautioned Council on the adoption of a specific handicap parking ordinance that could restrict Council's future discretion.

Stock and Leader will hold a Municipal 101 on January 30. Invitations will be sent later this month.

Manager

Manager Shaffer provided a written report for the month of November 2023. A discussion occurred regarding the recently replaced welcome signage. The item will be placed on an upcoming agenda for additional discussion.

President

Nothing additional.

Mayor

Mayor Butcher thanked Council for the implementation of an EMS tax.

Mayor Butcher recognized Public Works Superintendent Donnie Bortner after his receipt of the Scott A. Gibson award for meritorious service to both chapter and branch of the American Public Works Association (Central Pennsylvania Chapter).

Police

The Southern Regional Police Department activity reports from October 8 to November 4 were presented to Council for their review.

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

New Freedom's portion of the 2024 Southern Regional Police Department Budget was adjusted to \$769,945.

Engineer

Council was presented with monthly reports from Warehaus and ARRO.

Water System

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

Wastewater System

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

Zoning & Code Enforcement Report

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

Recreation Report

A December Meeting Report was presented to Borough Council. Ryan Ross provided a summary of the meeting.

Committee Reports

Business Development

Nothing to report.

EMS & Fire Funding

Nothing to report.

Infrastructure

Nothing to report.

Personnel

Nothing to report.

Public Safety

Nothing to report.

2023 Sesquicentennial

Nothing to report.

Correspondence

Nothing additional.

Public Comment

Nothing additional.

Executive Session

Not needed at this time.

Adjournment

At 9:24PM, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew N. Shaffer

Borough Manager