

**MINUTES OF NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
April 8, 2024**

New Freedom Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, April 8, 2024. 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
David Reisdorf

ALSO PRESENT:

Kim Butcher, Mayor
Jason Sabol, Solicitor
Andrew Shaffer, Borough Manager

ALSO ABSENT:

David Jones, Solicitor

BOROUGH COUNCIL ABSENT:

Public Comment / Visitors

John Woods with Rose Fire Company was in attendance to provide call reports for March 2024.

Erica Rearich read a statement from Marianne Michels regarding her resignation from New Freedom Recreation Council.

Denise Butcher addressed Council on her concerns over the handling of Recreation Council members, the appointment of the new Southern York County Regional Recreation Commission members, and the hiring of a Recreation Director.

Jeaninne Herbert read a statement from Sharon Boyle regarding her resignation from New Freedom Recreation Council.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 11, 2024 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, requested the addition of her name to minutes when reporting on Southern Regional Police. Ryan Ross and Dennis Sarpen conceded. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Council Meeting held March 21, 2024 were presented to Council for their review. Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2024 was presented to Council for their review. Dennis Sarpen made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross, to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.

Unfinished BusinessChapter 225, Zoning, Article VIII, Sign Regulations, Update Request

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen, to move the draft ordinance to the New Freedom Planning Commission for their review. Motion carried with Nay votes from Erica Rearich and Dennis Cummings.

Stormwater Channel – North Constitution Avenue

Manager Shaffer reported that the permit was issued by the Department of Environment Protection. Under the permit, work must be completed during low flow situations. Therefore, work will be scheduled at a later date.

Volunteer Service Credit Resolution

Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by David Reisdorf, to update the point earning matrix to align with those of the surrounding communities. A resolution will be drafted for Council's review and approval during the May 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Northern Central Railway - Refund of 2023 Amusement Tax

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by David Reisdorf, to approve a refund of \$16,141.11 (50%) of the 2023 Amusement Tax Collected to Northern Central Railway. Voting Nay: Andy Bobby, Dennis Sarpen, Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings. Voting Aye: Ryan Ross, Burnell Wildasin, David Reisdorf. Motion failed. Following discussion, Council requested a 30% refund agenda item for the May 2024 Council meeting.

New BusinessSt John Catholic Church Sewer & Water Utility Adjustment

David Reisdorf made a motion, seconded by Dennis Cummings, to credit the sewer portion of the utility bill in the amount of \$2,496 following a significant water service line leak on the property. Motion carried with a Nay vote from Ryan Ross.

Appointment of Recreation Director

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen, to hire and appoint Gina Porter as the Director of Recreation for the Southern York County Regional Recreation Commission. Voting Nay: Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings, David Reisdorf. Voting Aye: Andy Bobby, Dennis Sarpen, Burnell Wildasin, Ryan Ross. Motion carried.

Resolution Appointing Members to Southern York County Regional Recreation Commission

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by David Reisdorf, to approve a resolution appointing residents of New Freedom Borough to the Southern York County Regional Recreation Commission. Voting Nay: Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings, David Reisdorf. Voting Aye: Andy Bobby, Dennis Sarpen, Burnell Wildasin, Ryan Ross. Motion carried.

At this time (9:10PM) Council recessed for 5 minutes.

Community Center Auditorium Rental Fee Reduction

Council reviewed a rental fee reduction request from Light Em' Cornhole to hold a fundraising cornhole tournament at the Community Center for Dakota Dixon, a local eight-year hold who was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive brain tumor. Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Cummings, to approve waiving the rental fee. This motion was later withdrawn. The consensus of Council was to make private donations directly to the family to offset any rental costs.

Authorizing Advertisement of an Ordinance Approving the Third Amending and Restated Joint Municipal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services

Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by David Reisdorf, to authorize advertisement of the Third Amended and Restated Joint Municipal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services. Motion carried with Nay votes from Ryan Ross and Dennis Sarpen.

Administrative Reports

Solicitor

Nothing at this time.

Manager

Manager Shaffer provided a report for the month of March 2024, as well as a grant report listing closed and current grants since 2021.

President

Nothing at this time.

Mayor

Nothing at this time.

Police

The Southern Regional Police Department activity report for the period of January 28 to February 24 was provided to Council for their review.

The Southern Regional Police Department activity report for the period of February 25 to March 23 was provided to Council for their review.

The February 2024 Southern Regional Police Department financial report was not available.

In addition, Erica Rearich updated Council on department activities as reported during the March 2024 Southern Regional Police Department meeting. The Department is preparing and fundraising for National Night Out on August 6, 2024.

Engineer

Council was presented with monthly reports from Warehaus and ARRO.

Water System

Council was presented with the March 2024 Operating Report for their review.

Wastewater System

Council was presented with the March 2024 Operating Report for their review.

Zoning & Code Enforcement Report

The Permit, Code Enforcement, and Land Development Reports for March 2024 were presented to Borough Council for their review.

Recreation Report

The April Meeting Report was not available. Ryan Ross thanked Recreation Council members Marianne Michels, Rich Garvey, and Sharon Boyles.

Committee Reports

Business Development

Nothing to report.

EMS & Fire Funding

Nothing to report.

Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

Infrastructure

Nothing to report.

Personnel

Nothing to report.

Public Safety

Nothing to report.

Rental Housing and Occupancy Ordinance

Nothing to report.

Community Center Cleaning

Nothing to report.

Correspondence

Nothing additional.

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

Not needed at this time.

Adjournment

At 10:34PM, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew N. Shaffer

Borough Manager