

**MINUTES OF NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
June 10, 2024**

New Freedom Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, June 10, 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 *(via phone)*  
Dennis Sarpen  
Burnell Wildasin  
Dennis Cummings  
David Reisdorf

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO ABSENT:**

Jason Sabol, Solicitor

**BOROUGH COUNCIL ABSENT:**

**Public Comment / Visitors**

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

Marianne Michels and Sharon Boyle were present to re-read their resignations from the New Freedom Recreation Commission and to request their statements be included in minutes.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 13, 2024 were presented to Council for their review. Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by David Reisdorf, to approve the minutes as presented with the addition of the resignation letters from Marianne Michels and Sharon Boyle. This motion was later withdrawn. Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to include the resignation in the draft minutes from tonight's meeting, June 10, 2024. David Reisdorf called the question, and all were in favor. Motion carried (resignation statements are shown in the following paragraphs). Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to approve the May 13, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion was amended to include President Bobby's statement. Motion carried.

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*April 8, 2024*

*Re-Read - June 10, 2024*

*Dear New Freedom Borough Council:*

*I am sorry I am not able to come to the meeting tonight in person, but I am heading out of town, so I have asked Council Member Erica Rearich to read this in my absence.*

*I am writing this resignation after much thought and sadness, but it appears that the Borough wants to give the Rec Commission lots of responsibility with little authority, essentially micromanaging the Recreation Commission. Being on the commission is no longer enjoyable, the interaction with the borough manager and several members of the borough council is antagonistic rather than collaborative, and major issues are dictated to us rather than discussed.*

*The recent phone call that I received on Thursday from President Andy Bobby telling me that you are keeping me on but letting Rich Garvey and Sharon Boyle go was the straw it took for me to say enough. The addition of two new members and the fact that there was never an indication that the current commission would be disbanded left me in disbelief. The fact that Ryan Ross, who is the Borough Liaison to Rec, would be given voting rights when he is a member of the Council that makes the final decisions is counterintuitive.*

*I was told that the reason Rich was asked to leave the council was that he made derogatory comments about the Sesquicentennial Committee. A committee that should have been part of Rec and run through Rec. Sharon Boyle is being dismissed because she verbally had questions about the role of Shrewsbury Township with the newly formed commission because they did not have any sitting Rec members and it looked like they were going to struggle to get residents for these positions. This should have led to an adult conversation with all involved. It does appear that these decisions were made based on a couple of people's opinions and questions and not the quality of Rich and Sharon's contributions.*

*I have been on the Recreation Commission for 14 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my commitment to New Freedom and my seven years as the New Freedom Recreation Commission President. However, the Borough's involvement and manipulation over the last few years have made it too difficult to tolerate. I am proud of what we have done for the Community. The Tennis Program; Pickleball Program; The Parade; Concerts in the Park, and the Veteran's Day Dinner.*

*I look forward to seeing new programs put into place and hope that they are all successful. I also hope the programs that Rich, Sharon, and I have run successfully and profitably for years continue to benefit the citizens of New Freedom. I wish the new members of the New Freedom Recreation Commission well.*

*Thank you, Marianne Michels*

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*Sharon Boyle*

*204 S. Shaffer Drive*

*New Freedom, PA 17349*

*April 8, 2024*

*New Freedom Borough Council*

*49 East High Street*

*New Freedom, PA 17349*

*Dear Borough Council,*

*Last Thursday, April 4th, 2024, I received notification that Andy Bobby had chosen to dismiss my colleague, Rich Garvey, from New Freedom's Rec Commission. This decision occurred without a discussion by the full board of council members and without an official vote brought to motion or approved.*

*I am no longer comfortable serving on the Rec Commission under the leadership of Andy Bobby as Borough Council President. I believe he conducted himself in an unprofessional manner, putting what appears to be his personal agenda before established protocol and proper conduct rules of a government official. I have concerns of the legality of his behavior and question if he is still an appropriate choice to continue as council President. Therefore, I am resigning my position on the Rec Commission effective immediately. Additionally, I have no interest in carrying over in volunteering my time to the new Rec Director which, per my understanding, has been chosen by Andy Bobby ..... once again without the full discussion or vote of his fellow borough council members. I was also informed that a specific responsibility or title was pre-discussed and decided upon pertaining to me and how I can best serve the new Rec Director and the communities of New Freedom and Shrewsbury township. I am quite disappointed and highly offended that specific people feel they have the privilege of deciding and dictating what I'll be doing to meet their agenda without any thought to a conversation with me. There is a vast difference in willingly choosing to volunteer versus discovering your personal time, talents, and services have been promised to another person without your consent. I want no part of this. I urge the solicitor and any other concerned citizens to please review the actions of Andy Bobby. He especially appears to be making a habit of creating such a hostile environment that the end result is a mass exodus. He may recall his behavior at a prior birthday celebration for himself at the VFW caused the chef, waitress and bartender to quit all on the same night. He is now two for two in causing decent, hard-working people to resign because we won't abide with his personal agendas.*

*Respectfully, Sharon Boyle*

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**Treasurer's Report**

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

**Unfinished Business**Chapter 225, Zoning, Article VIII, Sign Regulations, Update Request

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to authorize advertisement of an ordinance replacing Chapter 225, Zoning, Article VIII, Sign Regulations and the corresponding public hearing. Motion carried with Nay vote from Erica Rearich.

Stormwater Channel – North Constitution Avenue

Manager Shaffer reported there are no updates.

Third Amendment to Peoples Bank Ground Lease

Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin, to respond with a rate of \$12,000 annually. Devin Taylor, New Freedom Borough resident addressed Council over concerns regarding the lease and other non-relevant topics. Motion carried.

Handicap Parking Space - 22 East Franklin Street

Council discussed the previous approval of this space. Andy Bobby made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to draft an ordinance amending Chapter 207-29 to include the requested handicap space. Motion carried with Nay votes from Erica Rearich and Ryan Ross.

**New Business**2024 Street Projects

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen, to approve the low bid from Stewart and Tate, Inc. in the amount of \$194,073.50 (base and alternate bid) for the 2024 Streets Projects. Motion carried.

Sale of Bil-Jax

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by David Reisdorf, to accept the high bid for sale of the Bil-Jax lift in the amount of \$19,000. Motion carried.

**Administrative Reports**Solicitor

Solicitor Jones provided a public comment policy and statement for Council's review during the next meeting.

Manager

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

President

Nothing at this time.

Mayor

Mayor Butcher reported on his attendance at the Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's Conference.

Police

The Southern Regional Police Department activity report for the period of April 21 to May 18 was provided to Council for their review.

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

In addition, President Bobby updated Council on department activities as reported during the May 2024 Southern Regional Police Department meeting.

Engineer

Council was presented with monthly reports from Warehaus and ARRO.

Water System

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

Wastewater System

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

Zoning & Code Enforcement Report

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

Recreation Report

A meeting was not held during the month of May 2024.

**Committee Reports**

Business Development

Nothing to report.

EMS & Fire Funding

Mayor Butcher reported that the chase truck is expected within the next few weeks.

Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

Infrastructure

Nothing to report.

Personnel

Nothing to report.

Public Safety

Nothing to report.

Rental Housing and Occupancy Ordinance

A red-lined version is expected for the July 2024 Council meeting.

Community Center Cleaning

Nothing to report.

**Correspondence**

York County Borough's Association will hold a meeting on June 27.

**Public Comment**

None

**Executive Session**

Not needed at this time.

**Adjournment**

At 8:41PM, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Andrew N. Shaffer*

Borough Manager