

**MINUTES OF NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
May 13, 2024**

New Freedom Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, May 13, 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 April 2024.

President Bobby read a statement regarding accusations and statements made during the April 8, 2024 Council Meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held April 8, 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 and the statement from Denise Butcher. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Aye, David Reisdorf, Erica Rearich, and Dennis Cummings. Voting Nay, Dennis Sarpen, Burnell Wildasin, Andrew Bobby, Ryan Ross. Motion failed. Dennis Sarpen made motion, seconded by Ryan Ross, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried with Nay votes from Dennis Cummings and Erica Rearich.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for the month of April 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 BusinessChapter 225, Zoning, Article VIII, Sign Regulations, Update Request

Manager Shaffer reported the New Freedom Borough Planning Commission will be reviewing the draft ordinance during their upcoming meeting on May 20, 2024.

Stormwater Channel – North Constitution Avenue

Manager Shaffer reported that work must be completed during low flow situations. Therefore, work will be scheduled at a later date.

Volunteer Service Credit Resolution

Burnell Wildasin made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross, to approve the resolution updating the point earning matrix to align with those of the surrounding communities. Motion carried.

Northern Central Railway - Refund of 2023 Amusement Tax

David Reisdorf made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross, to approve a refund of \$9,684.67 (30%) of the 2023 Amusement Tax Collected to Northern Central Railway. David Reisdorf called the question. Question called with Nay votes from Erica Rearich and Dennis Cummings. Motion carried with Nay votes from Erica Rearich and Dennis Cummings. Following the motion, Ryan Ross requested a review of the ordinance in its entirety and application to other organizations/events. The consensus of Council was to align this discussion with budget discussions later in the year.

Ordinance Approving the Third Amending and Restated Joint Municipal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services

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

New BusinessDemand Deposit US Treasury State and Local Government Series Securities

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen, to approve the Custody Agreement with Wilmington Trust for Demand Deposit US Treasury State and Local Government Series Securities in the principal amounts of \$3,015,000 - Sewer Fund and \$825,000 Water Fund. Funds used to purchase the securities relate to monies held from the 2021 General Obligation Note proceeds. Motion carried with Nay votes from Erica Rearich and Dennis Cummings.

At this time, 7:40PM, Council recessed for five minutes.

Handicap Parking Space - 22 East Franklin Street

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by David Reisdorf, to approve the handicap parking space request at 22 East Franklin Street. Voting Aye: Dennis Sarpen, David Reisdorf, Burnell Wildasin, Dennis Cummings. Voting Nay: Erica Rearich, Ryan Ross, Andrew Bobby. Motion carried.

Advertisement of 2024 Street Projects

Burnell Wildasin made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross, to authorize advertisement of the 2024 Street Projects. Motion carried.

Third Amendment to Peoples Bank Ground Lease

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to approve the Third Amendment to the Peoples Bank Ground Lease as presented by Peoples Bank. The motion was later rescinded by Ryan Ross and Burnell Wildasin. Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to table the Lease until more information can be collected. Motion carried.

Administrative ReportsSolicitor

Nothing at this time.

Manager

Manager Shaffer provided a report for the month of April 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 March 24 to April 20 was provided to Council for their review.

The February & March 2024 Southern Regional Police Department financial reports were provided to Council for their review.

In addition, Erica Rearich updated Council on department activities as reported during the April 2024 Southern Regional Police Department meeting.

Engineer

Council was presented with monthly reports from Warehaus and ARRO.

Water System

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

Wastewater System

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

Zoning & Code Enforcement Report

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

Recreation Report

The April Meeting Report was not available. Ryan Ross provided an update on initiatives following the hiring of a Recreation Director.

Committee Reports

Business Development

Nothing to report.

EMS & Fire Funding

Mayor Butcher reported that a chase truck has been purchased and is expected to be in service within a month.

Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

Infrastructure

Nothing to report.

Personnel

Nothing to report.

Public Safety

Nothing to report.

Rental Housing and Occupancy Ordinance

The committee held a meeting and will be providing a red-lined version for Council's review.

Community Center Cleaning

Nothing to report.

Correspondence

Nothing additional.

Public Comment

Ezequiel Celario Sedano, a new resident of New Freedom Borough, addressed the Council to share the reasons behind his relocation to New Freedom. He expressed that his positive experiences and conversations with current residents played a significant role in solidifying his decision to move his family to the area.

Executive Session

Not needed at this time.

Adjournment

At 9:01PM, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew N. Shaffer

Borough Manager