

**MINUTES OF NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
September 9, 2024**

New Freedom Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, September 9, 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  
David Reisdorf

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO ABSENT:**

**BOROUGH COUNCIL ABSENT:**

Dennis Cummings

**Public Comment / Visitors**

Chief Woods with Rose Fire Company presented Council with the August 2024 Call Report as well as recent accomplishments and initiatives of the Department.

Devin Taylor read a statement regarding councilmember interaction with VFW Post 7012, the completion of Ethics Statements by elected officials, and actions taken during previous meetings. During Mr. Taylor's statement, David Reisdorf left the meeting at 6:44PM and did not return, stating a resignation letter would be submitted in the morning.

Myra Gillis, presented information for the upcoming Christmas Parade on December 7, 2024. The parade in its fourth year, will reflect a Pearl Harbor theme. Additionally, Mrs. Gillis, made a request for consideration of a reoccurring food truck event within the Borough. Council suggested coordinating with Southern York County Regional Recreation Commission.

Jess Sampson, 271 North Front Street, addressed Council regarding code violations at 235 North Front Street. Specifically, Ms. Sampson expressed concerns with the number of animals and the free roaming of those animals onto others property. The code violations are currently in process and court hearings are scheduled.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held August 19, 2024 were presented to Council for their review. Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin, to approve the minutes as presented. Erica Rearich requested a change to include a

statement regarding the purchased shed at the Community Center. The original motion was not amended. Motion carried with a Nay vote from Erica Rearich.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for the month of August 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**

#### Stormwater Channel – North Constitution Avenue

Manager Shaffer reported H&H General Excavating was selected to complete the improvements and will begin during the week of September 16, 2024 at a cost of \$16,750.

#### Tasteful Occasion Lease Renewal

A response letter from Tasteful Occasions regarding the proposed lease and offer to pay \$1,995 per month was provided to Council. Andy Bobby made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpn to prepare a counteroffer. Andy Bobby later amended his motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpn to counteroffer at \$2,364 per month noting, 1) the lease includes capturing the correct square footage which adds approximately 360 square feet, 2) an increase in the charge per kW/hr was absorbed since negotiation of the previous, 3) no real estate taxes are being assessed on the property and tenants reap the benefits of leasing a tax exempt property at a lower rate, 4) no propane tanks or bottles of any type are to be stored on the premises or within the leased space, 6) a lease term of two years with an optional third year at a 5% increase, 6) Council requests a response within 25 days. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

#### Legal Analysis – Code of Ordinances

Manager Shaffer presented a draft ordinance following a legal and comprehensive review of the Borough's Code of Ordinances by General Code. Manager Shaffer requested Council review the documents for a continued discussion.

### **Administrative Reports**

#### Solicitor

Solicitor Jones suggested Council reconsider a public comment policy.

#### Manager

Manager Shaffer provided a report for the month of August 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 July 14 to August 10 was provided to Council for their review.

The July 2024 Southern Regional Police Department financial report was provided to Council for their review.

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

Engineer

Council was presented with monthly reports from Warehaus and ARRO.

Water System

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

Wastewater System

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

Zoning & Code Enforcement Report

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

Recreation Report

Ryan Ross provided a brief update from the August meeting.

**Committee Reports**

Business Development

Nothing to report.

EMS & Fire Funding

Nothing to report.

Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

Infrastructure

Nothing to report.

Personnel

Staff is in the process of hiring two public works employees.

Public Safety

Nothing to report.

Rental Housing and Occupancy Ordinance

Nothing to report.

Community Center Cleaning

Nothing to report.

**Correspondence**

None

**Public Comment**

None

**Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

At 9:49PM, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Andrew N. Shaffer*

Borough Manager