

**MINUTES OF NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
February 10, 2025**

New Freedom Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, February 10, 2025. 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
Dennis Cummings
David Reisdorf
Burnell Wildasin

ALSO PRESENT:

Kim Butcher, Mayor
Walter Tilley, Solicitor
Andrew Shaffer, Borough Manager

ALSO ABSENT:

BOROUGH COUNCIL ABSENT:

Commission & Board Appointments

Zoning Hearing Board - Alternate

Andy Bobby made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to appoint Daniel Gahagan to the Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate with a term expiring December 31, 2027. Motion carried.

Property Maintenance Appeals Board

Dennis Sarpen made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to appoint Douglas Brent to the Property Maintenance Board with a term expiring December 31, 2026. Motion carried with a Nay vote from Ryan Ross.

Southern York County Regional Recreation Commission

David Reisdorf made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to appoint Andy McCauley to the Southern York County Regional Recreation Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2027. Motion carried.

Planning Commission

David Reisdorf made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross to appoint Seth Wheeler to the Planning Commission with a term expiring December 31, 2028. Motion carried with Nay votes from Erica Rearich and Dennis Sarpen.

Public Comment - Agenda Items

Devin Taylor read a statement and submitted documents to the Council regarding his lawsuit.

Patti Wurzbacher questioned installation of the community organization signs, specifically the New Freedom Lions Club sign. Installation will occur in the Spring. Additionally, Mrs. Wurzbacher questioned if delivery occurred of the bench for Marge Goodfellow Park and if the invoice was provided. The bench has been received by Public Works and a copy of the invoice provided to the Lions Club.

Visitors / Presentations

Chief Chris Boyer was not available for tonight's meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held January 13, 2025 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 January 2025 was presented to Council for their review. Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen, to approve the report as presented. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Stormwater Channel – North Constitution Avenue

No update as final seeding of the swale area will occur in the Spring.

Legal Analysis – Code of Ordinances

No update as the advertisement will occur in February for consideration during the March 2025 meeting.

Paul Smith Library

An informational meeting is scheduled for February 13, however municipal representation is not permitted. An additional donation for 2025 to Paul Smith Library has been requested and will be added to the agenda for the March 2025 meeting.

New Business

Truck Body Purchase

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to authorize the purchase of a truck body from Lancaster Truck Bodies for the 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 in the amount of \$29,150 a budgeted Capital Reserve Fund expenditure for 2025. Motion carried with a Nay vote from Erica Rearich and Dennis Cummings.

Fire Company Event Participation Resolution

Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross to approve a resolution outlining participation by Rose Fire Company during community events. Motion carried.

Payment Application – Phase 1 Aeration Improvements

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to approve Request for Payment #1 from PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc, in the amount of \$209,393.00 for Phase 1 Aeration Improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Motion carried.

Volunteer Service Credit Roster

Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to approve the Fire and EMS Volunteer Service Credit Roster for 2024. Motion carried.

Solar Energy – Decommissioning Bond Requirements

Manager Shaffer presented two separate examples of bond requirements for solar energy projects. Following discussion on provisions within each ordinance, Manager Shaffer will draft an amendment for Council's review.

Council Apparel Allowance

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by David Reisdorf to authorize an expenditure of \$100 every two years for each elected official for the purpose of purchasing New Freedom Borough logoed apparel. Motion carried with Nay votes from Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings, and Andy Bobby.

Administrative ReportsSolicitor

Solicitor Tilley provided a quick recap on First Amendment Free Speech within a limited public forum, such as a Borough Council Meeting, referencing case Galena v. Leone (2011). Additionally, Solicitor Tilley read a public statement regarding Mr. Taylor's current lawsuit.

Manager

Manager Shaffer provided a report for the month of January 2025, as well as a grant report listing closed and current grants since 2021.

Manager Shaffer provided an unaudited 2024 financial report for Council's review.

President

Nothing additional at this time.

Mayor

Mayor Butcher thanked Public Works for their work during recent snowstorms.

Police

The activity report for the period of November 3 to November 30 was provided to Council for their review.

The activity report for the period of December 1 to December 31 was provided to Council for their review.

The November 2024 financial report was provided to Council for their review.

Erica Rearich updated Council on department activities as reported during the January 2025 Southern Regional Police Department meeting.

Engineer

Council was presented with monthly reports from Warehaus and ARRO.

Water System

Council was presented with the January 2025 Operating Report for their review.

Wastewater System

Council was presented with the January 2025 Operating Report for their review.

Zoning & Code Enforcement Report

The Permit and Land Development Reports for January 2025 were presented to Borough Council for their review. The Code Enforcement Report was not generated, however Manager Shaffer provided an update on outstanding violations.

Recreation Report

Council was provided with the Director's Report from January and the financial report for the period ending December 31, 2024. Ryan Ross provided updates on upcoming events, programs, and activities.

Committee Reports

Business Development

Nothing to report.

EMS & Fire Funding

Mayor Butcher reported on calls for service for Rose Fire EMS.

Public Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

Infrastructure

Nothing to report.

Personnel

Nothing to report.

Rental Housing and Occupancy Ordinance

Mayor Butcher and Manager Shaffer have a meeting scheduled later in the week to review a final draft before presenting to Council.

Correspondence

Council was provided a copy of the York County Office of Emergency Management annual report.

Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items

Erica Rearich inquired about the removal of propane tanks and a storage rack previously used by Tasteful Occasions and stored at the Community Center. Following the start of the recently revised lease and multiple prior requests, Manager Shaffer relocated the propane tanks and storage rack to Public Works. Since then, Tasteful Occasions has regained possession of the items, with the understanding that they are not to be stored at or around the Community Center.

Adjournment

At 8:58PM, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2025 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew N. Shaffer

Borough Manager