

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

New Freedom Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, March 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

Property Maintenance Appeals Board - Alternate

David Reisdorf made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to appoint David Moyster to the Property Maintenance Appeals Board as an alternate with a term expiring December 31, 2027. Motion carried.

Public Comment - Agenda Items

None

Visitors / Presentations

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held February 10, 2025 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 the inclusion of Patti Wurzbacher's public comments. Original motion was amended to include the statement. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2025 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 BusinessStormwater Channel – North Constitution Avenue

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

Legal Analysis – Code of Ordinances

David Reisdorf made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to approve an ordinance updating the code of ordinances for New Freedom Borough. Motion carried with Nay votes from Erica Rearich and Dennis Cummings.

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to authorize advertisement of ordinance adoption. Motion carried with Nay votes from Erica Rearich and Dennis Cummings.

Paul Smith Library

While another meeting was held, very little new information was obtained. David Reisdorf made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to approve a payment of \$3,000 for the first quarter of 2025 and \$1,000 per month beginning in April 2025 with a maximum of up to \$20,000 total for 2025. Each \$1,000 monthly allocation shall be ratified by Borough Council. Motion carried.

Solar Energy – Decommissioning Bond Requirements

Manager Shaffer presented a draft zoning ordinance amendment to include language requiring a decommissioning bond for solar energy generating facilities. The draft will be placed on the agenda for April to authorize submission to York County Planning Commission for their review.

New BusinessReal Property Appraisal

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by David Reisdorf to approve the expenditure of \$5,000 for the appraisal of real property within the Borough. Motion carried.

Bailey Avenue Stormwater Infrastructure Project

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to authorize advertisement of the Bailey Avenue Stormwater Infrastructure Project. Motion carried.

Volunteer Service Credit Roster

Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to ratify the additional volunteer to the service credit roster for 2024. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Appointment Resolution

David Reisdorf made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to approve a resolution appointing and reaffirming Planning Commission appointments. Motion carried with a Nay vote from Erica Rearich.

Recreation Commission Appointment Resolution

Dennis Sarpen made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to approve a resolution appointing and reaffirming Regional Recreation Commission appointments. Motion carried with a Nay vote from Erica Rearich.

Property Maintenance Appeals Board Appointment Resolution

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Dennis Sarpen to approve a resolution appointing and reaffirming Property Maintenance Appeals Board appointments. Motion carried.

Zoning Hearing Board Appointment Resolution

Dennis Sarpen made a motion, seconded by David Reisdorf to approve a resolution appointing and reaffirming Zoning Hearing Board appointments. A correction to the expiration date for William Taylor was noted. The original motion was amended to include the correction. Motion carried.

Senior Center Draft Lease Review

Manager Shaffer presented a draft lease for Council's review. During discussion Council suggested changes to include a proposed rate of \$4.50 per square foot, annually, along with separate line items for utilities and appliance utilization. Additional concerns included the length of term, the ability to utilize the facilities 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the need for a 5% increase in the renewal term.

Administrative ReportsSolicitor

Solicitor Tilley updated Council on the merger of Stock and Leader with Saxton and Stump to be effective April 1, 2025. A revised engagement letter will be available for the meeting in April.

Manager

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

Manager Shaffer provided a draft 2024 Proportionate Share Report.

President

Nothing additional at this time.

Mayor

Nothing additional at this time.

Police

The activity report for the period of January 1 to January 25 was provided to Council for their review.

The activity report for the period of January 26 – February 22 was provided to Council for their review.

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

Erica Rearich updated Council on department activities as reported during the February and March 2025 Southern Regional Police Department meetings.

Dennis Sarpen made a motion, seconded by Burnell Wildasin to appoint Adam Laser to the Police Civil Service Commission. Motion carried.

Engineer

Council was presented with monthly reports from Warehaus and ARRO.

Water System

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

Wastewater System

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

Zoning & Code Enforcement Report

The Permit, Land Development, and Code Enforcement Reports for February 2025 were presented to Borough Council for their review.

Recreation Report

The February meeting was cancelled, and the March meeting has not yet occurred. Ryan Ross provided updates on upcoming events, programs, and activities. Erica Rearich requested monthly financial reports. These reports would normally be provided to Council, however, due to meeting cancellation and that the March meeting has yet to occur, those reports must first be reviewed and approved by the Recreation Commission. Additionally, Erica Rearich requested that the Recreation Commission consider a continuation meeting or a rescheduled date rather than cancel the monthly meeting.

Committee Reports

Business Development

Nothing to report.

EMS & Fire Funding

Mayor Butcher reported on Fire and EMS activities.

A copy of the DCED Public Fire Protection Study was provided to Council.

Mayor Butcher reported that a new fire truck (tower) has been ordered and will arrive in two to three years.

Public Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

Infrastructure

Nothing to report.

Personnel

Nothing to report.

Rental Housing and Occupancy Ordinance

A draft ordinance was provided to Council for their review. Council was asked to review the draft for additional discussion in April.

Correspondence

An invite to the York County Borough's Association meeting on March 27 was shared with Council.

Mayor Butcher encouraged elected officials to attend the upcoming PSAB Annual Conference, June 1 – 4 in Hershey.

A letter indicating acceptance of the Hazard Mitigation Plan was provided. Erica Rearich recently attended the Elected Officials Seminar on Emergency Management and questioned operations as they relate to the Emergency Operations Plan. Additionally, it was suggested that an upcoming newsletter include the ability for those to register that would need assistance during emergencies. Councilmember Rearich expressed concern again over ensuring elected officials complete the NIMS certifications.

Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items

Devin Taylor read a statement regarding his dissatisfaction with Manager Shaffer.

Adjournment

At 8:57PM, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2025 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew N. Shaffer

Borough Manager