

**MINUTES OF NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
June 8, 2026**

New Freedom Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, June 8, 2026. 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
Ginnie Neugebauer
Michael Werdin
Dennis Cummings

ALSO PRESENT:

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

ALSO ABSENT:

BOROUGH COUNCIL ABSENT:

David Reisdorf

Public Comment

None at this time.

Visitors / Presentations

Jody Anderson Leighty with Northern Central Railway was present to update Council on upcoming events, provide a recap of 2025, and request a refund of 2025 Amusement Tax assessed and collected. Ms. Leighty made a request for a return of all the Amusement Tax collected in 2025, totaling \$35,151.44. This request will be added to the July 2026 Council Meeting Agenda for consideration. Mayor Butcher requested an Executive Session to discuss and consult with legal counsel before the request is considered.

Rose Fire Company Chief Chris Boyer provided Council with monthly statistics for May 2025.

Mark Kephart with Kochenour, Earnest, Smyser & Burg presented the 2025 Financial Audit for the Borough.

Representatives from New Freedom Heritage (Jim Holley, Jack Eckenrode, and Dennis Winters) provided an update on the process to create a Hometown Hero Banner Program. Additionally, due to limitations of New Freedom Heritage as a volunteer organization, a request was made for the Borough to assume the role of administrative functions of the program. Ginnie Neugebauer made a motion, seconded by Michael Werdin, to authorize the Borough to administer the Hometown Hero Banner Program. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held May 11, 2026 and the Treasurer's Report for the month of May 2026 were presented to Council for their review. Ginnie Neugebauer made a motion, seconded by Dennis Cummings, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Erica Rearich requested a change to May 11, 2026 minutes to include the clarification of the MyRec annual subscription expense. The motion and second was amended to include the wording clarification. Motion carried.

Unfinished BusinessPaul Smith Library

President Bobby reported there are no new developments. The item will remain on the agenda.

NIMS Certification Process

President Bobby reported that he has completed the required courses.

Southern Police Commission By-Laws and Code of Conduct Resolution

Adoption was again tabled as signed copies of the Code of Conduct were not available for the meeting.

New BusinessFourth Amendment to Ground Lease

Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by Michael Werdin to approve the Fourth Amendment to the Ground Lease with Orrstown Bank. The Amendment represents a \$500 per month increase and an annual renewal clause with a 5% increase. Motion carried.

Amusement Tax Abolishment

Ginnie Neugebauer made a motion, seconded by Michael Werdin to begin the process to abolish the ordinance relating to assessment and collection of an Amusement Tax. During discussion, Erica Rearich made a motion to amend the motion on the floor to keep the Amusement Tax as currently adopted, seconded by Dennis Cummings. A roll call vote was taken; voting Aye, Andrew Bobby, Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings, Michael Werdin - voting Nay, Ryan Ross, Ginnie Neugebauer. The motion to amend the original motion passed. The revised motion to maintain the tax as currently adopted was voted on as a roll call vote; voting Aye, Andrew Bobby, Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings, Michael Werdin - voting Nay, Ryan Ross, Ginnie Neugebauer. Motion carried. The item will be added to the July 2026 Council Meeting Agenda for further discussion.

Hometown Hero Banner Installation Agreement

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Ginnie Neugebauer to approve an agreement with First Energy Corporation for installation of the Hometown Hero Banners throughout the Borough. Motion carried.

Road Closure Request

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Ginnie Neugebauer to approve the road closure request from Cub Scout Pack 24 on September 5, 2026 for a portion of Front Street, for the purpose of a bike rodeo. Motion carried.

Financial Security Reduction Request

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Michael Werdin to approve a financial security reduction request from New Freedom Land Partners, LLC (solar array) in the amount of \$57,012.50. Motion carried.

Bailey Avenue Stormwater Improvement Project

Ginnie Neugebauer made a motion, seconded by Dennis Cummings to approve Payment Application #4 (Final) from Barrasso Excavation, Inc in the amount of \$1,875.00 for the Bailey Avenue Stormwater Improvement Project. Motion carried.

Administrative ReportsSolicitor

Solicitor Tilley updated Council on activities throughout the month of May 2026.

Manager

Nothing additional at this time.

President

Nothing to report.

Mayor

Mayor Butcher provided the April and May SCEMA reports. Mayor Butcher referenced a draft Mutual Aid Agreement prepared by Shrewsbury Borough. A copy of the draft agreement will be provided in the July 2026 Council Meeting packet.

Police

President Bobby updated Council on department activities as reported during the May 2026 Southern Regional Police Department meeting.

Engineer

Council was presented with the monthly report from Warehaus.

Water System

Manager Shaffer reported a follow-up letter was provided to York Water as previously directed by Borough Council and the request to allow the current agreement to auto-renew.

Wastewater System

No updates at this time.

Zoning & Code Enforcement Report

A consolidated permit, land development, and code enforcement report for May 2026 was presented to Borough Council.

Recreation Report

Ryan Ross provided an update on Commission activities. The next meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2026. Ryan Ross requested consideration to make the community wide yard sale an annual event.

Committee Reports *(if any)*

None at this time.

Correspondence

Manager Shaffer provided a public notice relating to the York County Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

Public Comment

Mayor Butcher reported that a bell dedication (one of seven around York County) will occur on June 22 near the historic train station on York County Park property.

Executive Session

At 9:05PM Council moved into Executive Session to consult with legal counsel.

Adjournment

At 9:44PM, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2026 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew N. Shaffer

Borough Manager