

**MINUTES OF NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
July 13, 2026**

New Freedom Borough Council met in Regular Session on Monday, July 13, 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
David Reisdorf

ALSO PRESENT:

Kim Butcher, Mayor
Kathryn Silcox, Solicitor
Walter Tilley, Solicitor (*via phone at approximately 8:25pm*)
Andrew Shaffer, Borough Manager (*via phone*)

ALSO ABSENT:

BOROUGH COUNCIL ABSENT:

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Michael Werdin to allow Manager Shaffer to participate in the meeting via Zoom. Motion carried.

Announcement of Previously Held Executive Sessions

President Bobby announced an Executive Session was held following the June 8, 2026 regularly scheduled Council Meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding enforcement of the Amusement Tax.

Additionally, President Bobby announced an Executive Session was held before tonight's meeting to consult with legal counsel following the litigation notice served against Borough Council from Mayor Butcher and Councilmembers Rearich and Cummings.

Public Comment

Becky Senft with New Freedom Lions Club was present to thank the Borough for assistance during the recently held Carnival. Ms. Senft requested clarification on the fireworks permit fee and emergency service fee and how those fees have the potential to change from year to year. Ms. Senft requested a list of tasks completed by the Borough to help facilitate the Carnival. Manager Shaffer will prepare and provide to Council.

Myra Gillis was present to request utilization of the Community Center Auditorium for the Sixth Annual New Freedom Christmas Parade on December 5, 2026. During discussion, Councilmember Neugebauer and Resident Joanie Mason agreed to split the cost of the Community Center Auditorium rental fee. A cleaning deposit will still be required.

Andy McCauley with Pack 24 expressed gratitude to New Freedom Borough Public Works for ensuring that Earnst Park was clear of any downed trees and brush in preparation for their recently held event in which 65 families participated.

Curtis Winter addressed Council regarding the Amusement Tax and his dissatisfaction with Northern Central Railway and their operations.

Donna Russell spoke against Northern Central Railway and does not believe the train provides any benefit to New Freedom Borough.

Steve Lanigan with Southern York County Youth Club addressed Council regarding the Amusement Tax and concern over the Amusement Tax impacting youth sports and non-profits.

Rebecca Bates also spoke against any tax on non-profits.

Councilmember Rearich raised a question of privilege affecting the assembly as it relates to her accusation of conflicts of interest between attorneys of Saxton & Stump and Northern Central Railway. Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by Dennis Cummings to remove and prohibit all representatives of Saxton & Stump from participating in any discussions regarding the Amusement Tax and Northern Central Railway immediately and permanently. Before the motion received a vote, Councilmember Rearich called a point of order and made a motion, seconded by Dennis Cummings to move into Executive Session for a personnel matter. Voting Aye: Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings. Voting Nay: Andrew Bobby, Ryan Ross, Ginnie Neugebauer, Michael Werdin, David Reisdorf. Motion failed. Voting on the original motion - Voting Aye: Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings. Voting Nay: Andrew Bobby, Ryan Ross, Ginnie Neugebauer, Michael Werdin, David Reisdorf. Motion failed. Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by Dennis Cummings to obtain fully independent outside legal counsel with no prior or current relationship with Northern Central Railway, Saxton and Stump, or Stock and Leader for any matters relating to the Amusement Tax Ordinance and any related legal questions. Voting Aye: Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings. Voting Nay: Andrew Bobby, Ryan Ross, Ginnie Neugebauer, Michael Werdin, David Reisdorf. Motion failed. Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by Dennis Cummings to immediately terminate the arrangement with Saxton and Stump as Borough Solicitor. Voting Aye: Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings. Voting Nay: Andrew Bobby, Ryan Ross, Ginnie Neugebauer, Michael Werdin, David Reisdorf. Motion failed.

Andrew Bobby made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross to modify the agenda and move up the Solicitor's Report to be discussed before other matters. Voting Aye: Andrew Bobby, Ryan Ross, Ginnie Neugebauer, Michael Werdin, David Reisdorf. Voting Nay: Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings. Motion carried.

Solicitor Report

Solicitor Silcox provided an update and requested further direction on the complaint and preliminary injunction filed against New Freedom Borough Council by Mayor Butcher and Councilmembers Rearich and Cummings. Michael Werdin made a motion, seconded by Ginnie Neugebauer to enforce attorney client privilege and take necessary action to protect that privilege. The motion and second was amended to include the authority to respond to the lawsuit. Voting Aye: Andrew Bobby, Ryan Ross, Ginnie Neugebauer, Michael Werdin, David Reisdorf. Voting Nay: Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings. Motion carried.

Visitors / Presentations

Rose Fire Company representatives were not in attendance.

Consent Agenda

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held June 8, 2026 and the Treasurer's Report for the month of June 2026 were presented to Council for their review. Michael Werdin made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Erica Rearich requested a change to June 8, 2026 minutes to include Solicitor Silcox as "Also Present." The motion and second was amended to include the wording clarification. Motion carried with an abstention from David Reisdorf who was not in attendance for the June 8, 2026 meeting.

Unfinished Business**Paul Smith Library**

President Bobby reported there are no new developments. A request was made by the library to release \$4,000 of the municipal contribution. The request will be added to the August 2026 meeting agenda.

NIMS Certification Process

Councilmember Werdin reported that he has completed the required courses.

Southern Police Commission By-Laws and Code of Conduct Resolution

Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by Michael Werdin to approve the Resolution accepting the By-Laws and Code of Conduct. Motion carried with a Nay Vote from Dennis Cummings.

Northern Central Railway - Amusement Tax Return Request

Item was removed from the agenda.

Amusement Tax Ordinance Modifications

Ginnie Neugebauer made a motion, seconded by Michael Werdin to repeal the amusement tax ordinance. During discussion, Erica Rearich made a Dilatory Motion to remove the item from the agenda. President Bobby rejected the motion. Ginnie Neugebauer made a motion, seconded by Michael Werdin to take a three-minute recess. At this time, Solicitor Tilley joined the meeting via phone. While the Dilatory Motion was rejected by President Bobby, it was altered as a motion to amend the agenda, thereby

removing the action item from the agenda. Voting Aye: Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings. Voting Nay: Andrew Bobby, Ryan Ross, Ginnie Neugebauer, Michael Werdin, David Reisdorf. Motion failed. The original motion and second to repeal the Amusement Tax Ordinance was modified to include direction to the Solicitor to prepare a repeal ordinance and publish advertisement. Voting Aye: Andrew Bobby, Ryan Ross, Ginnie Neugebauer, Michael Werdin, David Reisdorf. Voting Nay: Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings. Motion carried. Mayor Butcher indicated he plans to veto the ordinance, if Council adopts the ordinance during the August 2026 meeting.

Mayor Butcher requested review of the document(s) prepared as it relates to the Amusement Tax. Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Ginnie Neugebauer to not allow Borough Staff and Borough Solicitor to review the document prepared by Mayor Butcher. Upon review, Solicitor Tilley identified a Borough Code regulation that allows the Mayor to directly contact the Borough Solicitor and request action. Hearing this, the motion and second were rescinded.

New Business

Ordinance Amending Chapter 183- Solid Waste and Recycling

Ginnie Neugebauer made a motion, seconded by Michael Werdin to authorize advertisement of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 183 - Solid Waste and Recycling to clarify definitions and include regulations for the Drop-Off Facility. Motion carried.

Draft Mutual Aid Agreement

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Ginnie Neugebauer to not pursue a mutual aid agreement but continue cooperating with neighboring municipalities. Motion carried.

Well #1 Upgrade

Ryan Ross made a motion, seconded by Ginnie Neugebauer to authorize advertisement of the Well #1 Upgrade Project. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Solicitor

Nothing additional at this time.

Manager

Nothing additional at this time.

President

President Bobby requested ratification of the decision to cease collection of the Amusement Tax. David Reisdorf made a motion, seconded by Ryan Ross to ratify such action. Voting Aye: Andrew Bobby, Ryan Ross, Ginnie Neugebauer, Michael Werdin, David Reisdorf. Voting Nay: Erica Rearich, Dennis Cummings. Motion carried.

Mayor

Nothing additional at this time.

Police

Councilmember Rearich updated Council on department activities as reported during the June and July 2026 Southern Regional Police Department meetings. Erica Rearich made a motion, seconded by Ginnie Neugebauer to send a letter of support to the County Commissioners in favor of a countywide effort to address homelessness. Motion carried.

Engineer

Council was presented with the monthly report from Warehaus.

Water System

No updates at this time.

Wastewater System

No updates at this time.

Zoning & Code Enforcement Report

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

Recreation Report

The meeting for July has not yet occurred. Councilmember Rearich requested future consideration to implement rain dates for events.

Committee Reports *(if any)*

None at this time.

Correspondence

Nothing additional at this time.

Public Comment

Nothing additional at this time.

Executive Session

None at this time.

Adjournment

At 9:43PM, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2026 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew N. Shaffer

Borough Manager