

**FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 2026**

Freedom Borough Council met this evening at 6:00 PM for their regular monthly meeting in the Municipal Complex with the following members of Council present: Sydney Eckman; President, Kim Farrow; Vice-president, Kevin Horan; Pro-Tem, Jon Kaercher, John Kaercher, Michael Phillips on phone, Solicitor; Max Schmierer on phone, Mayor Lou Armstrong, Sharon Miller; Boro Secretary/Treasurer, Ron Miles; Road Dept. Foreman

ABSENT:

Pledge of allegiance was held.

Reminder present Council members and petitioners that all cell phones cannot be on during the meeting. They should be placed on vibrate and you will need to leave the building if you want to use your cell phone.

PETITIONERS:

Mike Szatkiewicz: 999 10th street don't forget to paint the sidewalk yellow on Third Ave in front of Boro office. We are tabling this subject until we can talk further with our Solicitor on painting the curb. Catch basins along 8th Ave. Katrina Czopek 500 5th Ave. : Here to observe, would like to be appointed to vacant seat on Council. Rachel Smrzlick & Tom Smrzlick 1744 8th Ave. Concerns over the school pick -up and cars speeding along 8th Ave. and not stopping at the stop signs. Home on 8th Ave with garbage in yard and is Freedom Boro applying for grants for the roads.

ENGINEERS REPORT: No report

STREET DEPT. REPORT: Review of street department report. Discussion on

***Motion to approve the Street Department Report was made Jon Kaercher and seconded by K. Horan.**

All Voted. Motion Carried.

MAYOR REPORT: Per Mayor; with the storms we have opened the dump to let people use it. Leave the dump locked, if someone needs it, they will get a hold of Sharon or Ron to open. Sydney will contact Freeman Printing to get quotes for banners and at that time we will have Max see if he can write Freedom Boro a contract.

We are still waiting on PennDOT for the Third Ave. signage.

***Motion to accept the mayor report was made by K. Horan and seconded by Jon Kaercher.**

All Voted. Motion Carried.

POLICE REPORT: Review of May and June report. 75 calls @ 19% for May and 71 calls @ 17% for June. Regional is back up to full staff. Will be doing more traffic stops in towns. I will mention the concerns at the meeting tomorrow night about the dismissal at school. Sharon will send the BVRPD contract to Max for review. The contract will renew the end of the year. If a municipality is in a need for a change it will need to be addressed with all communities together. Waiting for Duquesne Light to get back with final words to use their poles for the license plate readers. There was much discussion on the new pie chart, Kim following up with the regional police at the next meeting.

***Motion to accept the Police report was made by Jon Kaercher and seconded by K. Horan.**

All Voted. Motion Carried.

MINUTES:

***Motion to approve the Borough monthly meeting on 06/10/2026 was made by K. Horan and seconded by Jon Kaercher.**

Roll Call:

Kevin Horan YES, Jon Kaercher YES, Mike Phillips YES, Kim Farrow YES, Sydney Eckman YES,

Abstained: John Kaercher he as not here.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

TREASUER'S REPORT:

***Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Horan.**

All voted. Motion carried.

2025 Audit report was complete. All Council received an e-mail.
Sharon will reach out to the Auditor to attend the September or October meetings.
September 9th meeting will be moved to September 16th. Sharon will advertise.

BILLS:

***Motion to Pay the Bills in the amount of \$34,466.13 and any bills that are deemed necessary to be paid before the next monthly meeting as monies become available was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Horan.
All Voted. Motion Carried.**

SOLICITOR REPORT:

***Motion to accept Solicitor Bernie Rabiks resignation at Freedom Borough Public meeting on July 8, 2026 was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Horan.
All Voted. Motion Carried.**

**Motion to appoint Max Schmierer Esq. as the new Freedom Borough Solicitor was made by K. Farrow and seconded by John Kaercher.
All Voted. Motion Carried.**

Retainer will be \$500.00 a month with an hourly rate of \$125.00.

***Motion to accept the Solicitors report was made by K. Horan and seconded by K. Farrow.
All Voted. Motion Carried.**

CORRESPONDANCE: Code report from Patrick McGuire for June 2026.

***Motion to accept Code enforcement report was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Horan.
All Voted. Motion Carried.**

COMMITTEES: Personnel:

Finance:

Street Dept:

Recreation:

Utilities:

Grants & Web site:

Fire Dept. Committee:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

We have two people who are interested in the vacant seat on Council.

Mike Szatkiewics pulled his name, he is no longer interested in applying for the open seat on Council.

We have one person interested Katrina Czopek who would like to apply for the current open seat on Freedom Council.

**Motion to approve FASD requesting permission to hold the Homecoming Parade on Third Ave on September 24th @ 6 p.m. was made by Jon Kaercher and second by K. Farrow.
All Voted. Motion Carried.**

***Motion to approval the 2026-2027 insurance renewal with the HDH Group in the annual amount of \$ 12,519.00 was made by K. Farrow and seconded John Kaercher.
All Voted. Motion Carried.
This is a slight increase of \$257.00.**

***Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Richmond National (POL-EPL) Public officials & Employment practices Renewal in the amount of \$4,512.00 was made by K. Farrow and seconded by Jon Karcher.
All Voted. Motion Carried.
This is a slight increase of \$105.00**

Literature on the table:

- Pennsylvania Boro News magazine July 2026.

Sharon will be on vacation July 9th & 10th and the 20th through 24th.

***Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:15 p.m. was made by Jon Kaercher and seconded by M. Phillips.
All voted. Motion carried.**

APPROVED _____ ATTEST _____

MAYOR _____

Respectfully submitted by:

Sharon A. Miller; Freedom Boro Secretary / Treasurer