

FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes- April 13, 2022

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: Vice-President Eric Climo, William Smith, Mark Forrest, Sydney Kaercher. On the telephone was Dan Baker. Also, present was Mayor Nadine Padezanin.

Absent: President; John Kaercher

Pledge of allegiance was held.

Vice-President Eric Climo reminded everyone 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:

Kim Rygiel of 1051 8th Ave. Has concerns of property owner at 1041 8th Ave. is cutting down trees and wants to make sure he knows the property line. He also applied for a permit to put a parking lot in. Concerns if he removes dirt, it could cause a landslide. E. Climo suggests for her to get a survey done. Freedom will talk to the engineer about the permit.

She also asked if she can get some gravel on Laurel Alley to fill pot holes.

Rosemarie Lucente of 1445 6th Avenue

*Motion to exonerate taxes on Parcel No. 25-001-0815.000 was made by B. Smith and seconded by K. Horan.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

Rosemarie will bring a copy letter from the School Board to the Boro office tomorrow morning.

Joe Zindren of 401 8th Street is here to get taxes exonerated.

*Motion to exonerate taxes on Parcel No. 26-001-0542-000 was made by M. Forrest and seconded by K. Horan.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

Joe said the Beaver County Assessment office also told him he needs a letter from the Borough.

Katie Prest of 860 Spruce Street Rochester. Is here to ask permission to have a memorial Car Cruise in memory of her Uncle Bill Prest. The Council approved and (Recreation) will be working with her on the details.

Brooke Burtner – observing

ENGINEERS REPORT:

NO REPORT

STREET DEPT. REPORT:

Had an issue today with 10th Street and 5th Ave. Resident had issues with sewer back up. Mr. Drum will look at the problem. B. Smith asked about the 8th Ave. sink hole in yard. E. Climo said they had asked John Bawleski to take a look at it. E. Climo said he will get a bottle of dye and they can do a test. There has been a date set of April 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. to meet with PennDOT at the Boro office to discuss the Agility program. J. Baker said the 3rd Ave & 8th street work hit a wire while cutting the road. Need to purchase light bulbs for the black street lights.

*Motion to accept Street Department Report was made by B. Smith and seconded by S. Kaercher.

All voted. Motion carried.

MAYOR REPORT / POLICE REPORT:

*Motion to dissolve the Freedom Police Dept. exchange online yearly subscription in the amount of \$203.52 through mgsoft-net. was made by M. Forrest and seconded by E. Climo

All Voted. Motion Carried.

Police Regional meeting is scheduled for May 5th 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Baden Boro Building. Hopefully someone from the Council can join me on this next one. Anyone interested in joining various committees with The Regional Police Committee, please let me know.

Need to know what Council members will be attending the Memorial Day parade. They have seats available if interested.

Very happy with the Police Services with no complaints. I want to make sure our community knows we are trying to clean up our community. There will be notices sent out if you do not clean up your residence.

*Motion to accept the Mayor/ police Report was made by M. Forrest and seconded by B. Smith.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

MINUTES:

*Motion to approve the minutes from the workshop meeting 3/7/2022 and the monthly meeting 3/9/2022 was made by B. Smith and seconded by K. Horan.

All voted. S. Kaercher abstained has not viewed them yet.

Roll Call vote, K. Horan; yes, S. Kaercher; abstained, E. Climo; yes, M. Forrest; yes and B. Smith; yes.

All Voted. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

*Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by S. Kaercher and seconded by M. Forrest.

All voted. Motion carried

BILLS:

*Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$19,031.49 and any bills deemed necessary before next month's meeting was made by S. Kaercher and seconded by M. Forrest.

All voted. Motion Carried.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

*Motion to ratify the phone vote conducted on March 22, 2022 to appoint J. Phillip Colavincenzo as the Solicitor to the Freedom Zoning Hearing Board was made by M. Forrest and seconded by B. Smith. K. Horan Abstained he was not included in call. Roll call vote: K. Horan; No. S. Kaercher; yes. E. Climo; yes. M. Forrest; yes. B. Smith; yes. D. Baker; yes.

All Voted, Motion Carried.

*Motion to accept the Solicitors report was made by B. Smith and seconded by M. Forrest.

All voted. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Code Enforcement report from Peggy Griffith for March 2022. Beaver County Residential Demolition Program / application. Discussion was made on this County program from the Solicitor. Solicitor will call Peggy Griffith to get a list to prioritize the condemned properties.

Code Enforcement report from Brian Richards for March 2022.

*Motion to accept the Code enforcement report from B. Richards was made by K. Horan and seconded by S. Kaercher.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEES:

Bill Smith-Personnel: to go over job descriptions for Road dept.

Mark Forrest- Finance: When tax money starts coming in, we need to move the 74,000 from the ARP

to its own account.

Eric Climo- Street Dept: Covered mostly everything at work session. Discussion on the paving Bids

from last year.

S. Kaercher- Recreation: Easter Egg Hunt was April 9th had a really good turn out with over 200 kids.

Great team effort. We have a meeting tonight at 8:00 p.m. for Recreation for people who want to be on the committee.

Kevin Horan- Grants: Earth Day Celebration at April 23 at noon. Fun activities and snacks and a few plantings. I reached out to the Engineer, waiting for him to get back to me to draft up grants for Comprehensive Planning. I reached out to Shell, response from Shell is we no longer accept unsolicited grants. They will actually reach out to you, if they feel you qualify. Kevin Bowser said he will reach out to Shell. I also e-mailed all 3 Beaver County Commissioners for a meet n greet. I also reached out to Beaver County Community Development. Update of website: frame work is done. February minutes are posted I will put March this week.

S. Kaercher and Mayor Padezanin wanted to make sure a Big Thank you went out to the community on all the donations that made the Easter Egg Hunt a success.

NEW BUSINESS:

On March 15th & 16th Ron Miles; Road Dept., Eric Climo; Vice-President Council, Brian Richards; Code Enforcement all became certified with the Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) with the Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads through Beaver County Conservation Dist. and Penn State and DCNR.

*Motion to adopt **Resolution No. 04132022-2** A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF FREEDOM BOROUGH, AUTHORIZING, THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD TO APPOINT A LIAISON BETWEEN IT AND BERKHEIMER, THE DULY APPOINTED COLLECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES TAX FOR THE DISTRICT, FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF SHARING CONFIDENTIAL TAX INFORMATION WITH THE DISTRICT FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES.

*Motion to adopt **Resolution No. 04132022-3**: A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF FREEDOM BOROUGH, DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH BERKHEIMER WHEREUNDER BERKHEIMER IS RETAINED AS THE EXCLUSIVE TAX OFFICER FOR THE COLLECTION, ADMINISTRATION, RECEIPT AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE RESPECTIVE TAX ENACTMENT OF THE GOVERNING BOARD LEVYING AND ASSESSING THE LOCAL SERVICES TAX FOR THE TERM HEREIN DEFINED.

*Motion to adopt **Resolution No. 04132022-4**: A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF FREEDOM BOROUGH, AUTHORIZING, EMPOWERING AND DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD TO APPOINT BERKHEIMER AS ITS TAX HEARING OFFICER UNDER AND PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL TAXPAYERS BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF ADJUDICATING APPEALS THEREUNDER.

*Motion to adopt **Resolution No. 04132022-5**: A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF FREEDOM BOROUGH, AUTHORIZING AND EMPOWERING ITS LOCAL TAX COLLECTOR, BERKHEIMER, TO IMPOSE AND RETAIN COSTS OF COLLECTION ON DELINQUENT TAXES.

We also would like to Congratulate Freedom High School Girls basketball team the Head Coach John Kaercher and Asst. Coach Sydney Kaercher for having an awesome season and bringing home the Silver Medal for the State Championship on Saturday March 26, 2022. Great job Lady Bulldogs and coaching staff!

Reminder to turn in Ethics Form.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business

*Motion to adjourn at 7:24 PM was made by S. Kaercher, seconded by B. Smith.

All voted. Motion carried.