

**FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
December 13, 2023**

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: President; John Kaercher, Eric Climo-Vice president, Sydney Eckman, Kevin Horan, Nadine Padezanin; Mayor, Bernie Rabik; Solicitor, Sharon Miller; Boro Secretary /Treasurer, Ron Miles; Road Foreman.

Absent: Bill Smith, Mark Forrest.

Pledge of allegiance was held.

President John Kaercher 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 Farrow; Pentland Ave. Here to observe. She is one of the newly elected Council members.  
Jim Miller 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Here to observe.  
Sarah Lonkert; 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Problems with Billing of late fees and her garbage bill. K. Horan will look into this.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:** \*Motion to approve the Shipley lot Consolidation plan of three lots into a single lot pending the approval of B.C. Planning Commission was made by K. Horan and seconded by E. Climo.

All voted. Motion Carried.

Discussion was made on the Youngblood paving invoice.

**STREET DEPT. REPORT:**

Review of street department report. Bid was opened yesterday for the 11<sup>th</sup> St. work. That will be completed in the spring. S. Eckman thanked the road dept. for all the work they did to make Freedom Light Up night a success.

\*Motion to accept the Street Department report as presented was made by K. Horan and seconded by E. Climo.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

**MAYOR REPORT / POLICE REPORT:**

Discussion was made on the Regional Police report. Police meeting will be tomorrow night. We had a few officers at Light – up night in Freedom.

\*Motion to accept the Police / Mayor report as presented was made by S. Eckman and seconded by E. Climo.

All voted. Motion Carried.

**MINUTES:**

\*Motion to approve the Borough monthly meeting on 11/08/2023 as presented was made by E. Climo and seconded by S. Eckman. All voted. Motion Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

All voted. Motion carried.

A deposit of \$21,034.13 into the general fund from Liquid fuels for the street light reimbursement by the end of this year.

**BILLS:**

\*Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$33,045.30 and any bills deemed necessary before next month's meeting or as money becomes available was made by E. Climo and seconded by S. Eckman.

All voted. Motion Carried.

**SOLICITOR REPORT:**

At 5:30 today we completed the sale of vacant land to the Freedom F.O.E.

\*Motion to adopt Resolution No. 12132023-04 fixing the tax rate for the year 2024 to comply to County wide reassessment was made by K. Horan and seconded by E. Climo.

All voted. Motion carried.

**\*Motion to advertise an Ordinance of the Borough of Freedom fixing the rate of Tax at 4.7331 mills and levying the Borough real estate tax for the fiscal year 2024 was made by K. Horan and seconded by S. Eckman.  
All voted. Motion carried.**

**\* Motion to adopt Resolution No. 12132023-03 adopting Freedom Borough Budget for year 2024 was made by S. Eckman and seconded by K. Horan.**

**All voted. Motion carried.**

Solicitor will advertise a public meeting to be held Thursday Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. here at the Boro building.

**\*Motion to accept the Solicitors report was made by S. Eckman and seconded by K. Horan.**

**All voted. Motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDANCE:**

Troy Gump Code Enforcement report for month of October & November 2023.

**COMMITTEES:**

**Personnel:**

**Finance:**

**Street Dept:**

**Recreation:**

**Grants & Web site:**

**OLD BUSINESS:** Temporary EMS Coordinator is still Mark Forrest until we can find a replacement.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Freedom Borough has been approved for the LVDGR Low Volume Dirt & Gravel Road grant funded through the BC Conservation District for the repair of Laurel Alley / 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.

We received a check in the amount of \$52,500.00 dated on Nov. 17,2023 which is ½ of the estimated price of the project.

Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup> 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. at the Boro building will be an information gathering only with the FVFD.

**ARPA Disproportionately Impacted Community Grants.** Discussion was made on new park renovations to be submitted.

**Literature in center of table:**

- Pennsylvania Borough News December 2023

**\*Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:16 p.m. was made by E. Climo and seconded by K. Horan.**

**All voted. Motion carried.**

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted by:

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Sharon A. Miller; Freedom Boro Secretary / Treasurer