

**FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 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, Vice-President; Eric Climo, Bill Smith, Mark Forrest, Sydney Eckman, Kevin Horan, Mayor Padezanin, Bernie Rabik; Solicitor, Sharon Miller; Boro Secretary /Treasurer. Road Foreman; Ron Miles.

Absent: Dan Baker; Council.

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:

Matt Hogue 5th Ave. Here to speak about the Emergency Management Coordinator for Freedom Boro.

Discussion was made on merging with Conway Boro E.M.C. Mayor will reach out to them.

James Miller Jr. 1498 8th Ave. here to observe.

Donna Miller 1395 8th Ave. Here to meet the new Code Enforcement. Checking on the condemned 1071 8th Ave.property

Mr. Troy Gump introduced himself. He is our new and current Code and Zoning Enforcement officer for Freedom Borough. There was much discussion on demolition projects. Rental agreement. Occupancy inspections. Grass & garbage inspection. Troy will pick up where Peggy left off.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Contract No: 2023-01 paving contract. Bids will be opening Feb. 15 @ 2:00 p.m. here at the Freedom Boro building for anyone who would like to attend.

STREET DEPT. REPORT:

Review of street department report.

The 2009 dumptruck will need new upper and lower ball joints, wheel seals, change fluid in front end. Get a price list and we will do a phone vote. E. Climo said he will come down and help the guys do the work.

E. Climo stated we should like into a cover to prevent water from getting on the salt pile in the salt bin, to prevent it from getting damaged.

We have had complaints on the hole that is in the middle of the wall on 5th Avenue. We will repair it.

Update on LVDGR project. We should know this month on acceptance.

***Motion to accept the Street Department report as presented was made by B. Smith and seconded by M. Forrest.**

All Voted. Motion Carried.

MAYOR REPORT / POLICE REPORT:

We will be in need of a resolution for Freedom. We will need to get a signed agreement as well. Minutes from last meeting that has not been approved yet. All are welcome to view. From the meeting; Scott Levenson is Chair, Vice-chair is Mike Stuban, Secretary is Debbie Giska Rose and the Treasurer is myself. It's better to get a .gov when applying for grants, Freedom does not have one.

***Motion to accept Police and Mayor report was made by M. Forrest and seconded by K. Horan.**

All Voted. Motion Carried.

MINUTES:

***Motion to approve the Borough monthly meeting on 01/11/2023 as presented was made by E. Climo and seconded by M. Forrest.**

All voted. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

All voted. Motion carried.

BILLS:

***Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$72,451.74 any bills deemed necessary before next month's meeting or as money becomes available was made by M. Forrest and seconded by S. Eckman.**

All voted. Motion Carried.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

I think these meetings would benefit if you have a work session

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

All voted. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Troy Gump Code Enforcement report for January 2023.

Code Enforcement report from Brian Richards for January 2023.

*** Motion to accept Brian Richards resignation as Code Enforcement with pending future needs, if need be, to evaluate to bring Brian back was made by B. Smith and seconded by M. Forrest.**

All voted. Motion Carried.

When you see Brian tell him Thank you and we appreciate it.

COMMITTEES:

Personnel: Nothing

Finance: Our utilities bills are high. FVFD will be converting to LED lighting to conserve. JMI Consultants sent e-mail re: Energy consultant for both gas and electric, will get quotes for next months meeting.

Street Dept: All good.

Recreation: April 1st is Easter egg Hunt from noon – 2:00 p.m. Everyone at the fall festival wanted a spring fest. Looking at date of May 6th with a rain date as the 20th. So, we can start advertising.

Grants & Web site: will probably have something next meeting I have a message into DCNR on Parks and Recreation grant. S. Eckman will set up a Facebook page for Freedom Borough. Current version of GoDaddy for website is outdated. Will look around to compare prices for website and will have them at the March meeting. Will have information at next meeting about getting a freedomborough.gov domain.

NEW BUSINESS:

***Motion to approve the 2021 Annual audit that was performed by Mark C. Turnley was made by M. Forrest and seconded by S. Eckman**

All voted. Motion carried.

JMI Consultants sent e-mail re: Energy consultant for both gas and electric.

Updated information on the tree service contracted through Duquesne Light who are working in the Boro

Literature in center of table:

- PennDOT moving forward flyer winter 2023
- Pennsylvania Borough News magazine February 2023
- Veterans Breakfast Club magazine Winter 2023

***Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. was made by S. Eckman and seconded by K. Horan.**

All voted. Motion carried.

***Motion to go back is session was made by B. Smith and seconded by M. Forrest.**

All voted. Motion Carried.

***Motion to increase the Rental Dwelling Unit Registration from \$25.00 to \$50.00.**

ONE FAMILY UNIT FROM \$50.00 TO \$75.00

TWO FAMILY UNIT FROM \$75.00 TO \$100.00

THREE FAMILY UNIT FROM \$100.00 TO \$125.00

OVER 10 UNITS \$150.00 PLUS \$15.00 PER UNIT was made by B. Smith and seconded by M. Forrest.

All voted. Motion carried.

***Motion to increase the coin operated machines (games of chance) from \$100.00 to \$150.00 each was made B. Smith and seconded by K. Horan.**

All voted. Motion carried.

***Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:05 p.m. was made E. Climo and seconded by K. Horan.**

All voted.

Motion Carried.