

# **FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **February 9th, 2022- Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**

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

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 Arbutina who lives at 819 19th St. Freedom. I own 2 properties in Freedom, one on 3rd St. which is a garage and a house 1041 8th Avenue. Hoping to get some salt, so I could clear the street and use the salt to treat the road for access. With approval from Council Matt will contact John Baker to get salt when needed to treat the alley, that cannot be reached by the Road Dept.

Jennifer Waggoner, 1730 5th Ave. Freedom. Would like to have speed bumps on 5th Ave. people do not stop at stop signs. Dennis got hit by a car and is really messed up. Concerned over how fast vehicles go. Mayor Padezanin will go over this with Chief Adam. Per Solicitor, once the parties are identified please call me and I will help with this.

Dennis Frisco, 1730 5th Ave. was the person injured. No one stops at the stop signs; they blow through all stop signs all day long.

Robert Fehir 455 6th St. Freedom. Two churches below me The Lord of the Harvest. They do not clean the sidewalks since COVID started. My daughter slipped and fell on the ice trying to get to the bus stop. Also, the people who own the property where the big school used to be, the sidewalk is not cleaned off. The children have to wait on the road for the school bus. We will call Peggy Griffith and have her look into this.

Tom Wingrove 420 6th St. has not had garbage picked up for 4 weeks. Valley waste response is the road needs cleared in winter. Much discussion was made on this. Eric Climo will put a call into Valley Waste.

### **ENGINEERS REPORT:**

Kevin Horan spoke on his comments which were made from reaching out to the Engineer applicants and recommended L.S.S.E.

\*Motion to hire MS Consultants as the Freedom Borough Engineer was made by E. Climo and seconded by M. Forrest. There was discussion and a roll call vote was done. Bill Smith no, Mark Forrest yes, Eric Climo yes, Sydney Kaercher yes, Kevin Horan no, Dan Baker no, John Kaercher abstained due to conflict of interest. Mayor Padezanin voted yes to break the tie. Mayor Padezanin was worried if we wait, we might miss the boat with the deadline for grants.

### **STREET DEPT. REPORT:**

John Baker said we do have salt. I will get with Secretary by March to order salt with COSTARS.

\*Motion to accept Street Department Report was made by B. Smith and seconded by K. Horan.

All voted. Motion carried.

\*Motion to have the minimum purchase of 22 tons for the 2022-2023 salt order unforeseen any changes from Mr. Baker were made by E. Climo and seconded by M. Forrest.

All voted. Motion carried.

### **MAYOR REPORT / POLICE REPORT:**

Mayor Padezanin reviewed the monthly police report. There was a hit and run and we are looking into that with Adam. Remind everyone the Regional Police meeting is tomorrow.

\* Motion to accept the mayor report was made by M. Forrest, seconded by S. Kaercher.

All voted. Motion carried.

### **MINUTES:**

\*Motion to approve the minutes from 01/12/22 was made by M. Forrest seconded by S. Kaercher.

All voted. Motion carried.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

\*Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by S. Kaercher seconded by B. Smith.

All voted. Motion carried.

Mark Forrest asked that in the newspaper he saw Freedom Boro was Awarded over \$200,000 in grant money. As of today, S. Miller said the money was not received. Discussion was made.

Solicitor Rabik is going to reach out to the County and find more information on this grant.

## **BILLS:**

J. Kaercher commented on bills and noted that everything looked normal we did have additional salt costs and the paying of the quarterly Police Services.

\*Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$74,952.12 and any bills deemed necessary before next month's meeting was made by M. Forrest and seconded by S. Kaercher.

All voted. Motion Carried.

## **POLICE REPORT:**

As the Mayor mentioned, The Regional Police Dept. meeting is tomorrow, Feb. 10, @ 6:00 pm. at the Baden Community Center. (downstairs) Per B. Smith we should change agenda so the Police Report falls under the Mayor report.

\*Motion to approve the Police Report was made by B. Smith and seconded by M. Forrest.

All voted. Motion Carried.

## **SOLICITOR REPORT:**

Discussion was made on the correspondence received from Woomer & Talarico. Recommendation from Solicitor is to refer this out to our insurance company and see what happens.

\*Motion to accept the Solicitors report and advance the Woomer & Talarico correspondence to our Insurance Company was made by K. Horan and seconded by M. Forrest.

All voted. Motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

No report from Peggy Griffith for January 2022, off not feeling well.

Code Enforcement report from Randy Morrow for January 2022.

Letter of resignation from Randy Morrow Code Enforcement.

\*Motion to accept Code Enforcement letter and to follow-up with his final report to the newly seated

Code Enforcement officer is made by M. Forrest and seconded by B. Smith.

All voted. Motion Carried.

RAJSA minutes for 12-9-2021 and RAJSA maintenance report for Dec. 2021.  
Bernie Rabik; Thank you letter for interview.

## **COMMITTEES:**

Bill Smith: Personnel: we have had no issues.

Mark Forrest: Finance: only question I had was on the grant money.

Eric Climo: Street Dept., Streets been doing pretty good. Some complaints. But, always the regular ones. I think we should try to sub contract on a third truck during heavy storms, these guys are running nonstop. It becomes a liability after so many hours. Much discussion was made on this.

\*Motion to have repairs made to the garage roof to prevent snow from sliding off in sheets was made by B. Smith and seconded by M. Forrest.

All voted. Motion Carried.

S. Kaercher: Recreation: To host some things starting in June: Movie night. July: Ice cream Social. August: back to school picnic. September: Fall fest, food trucks. (Maybe Vicary House be part when making apple butter). October: Halloween fest again. Per Solicitor, you should inform the insurance carrier what we are doing. Mayor asked questions on date for Easter Egg Hunt. April 3, 2022 was a date mentioned. B. Smith commented on trying to incorporate one of those activities with Vicary Days. We should advertise to set up a Vicary Day committee, per S. Kaercher. Solicitor, if any of these committees have direct contact with children must all have their clearances and dated within a year. Mayor commented on when we have events for children. Maybe we can have a job fair for the adults at the same time.

K. Horan: Grants, now that we have settled on John Balewski, I will reach out to him for

grant information. I did meet with Brenda yesterday and she was excited about forging a close relationship with the Council. I am looking into the web site; I do have the credentials now. Side note, I did purchase some trees and wild flowers for Spring. We can put those in some of our places.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

\* Motion to hire Brian Richards as Freedom Code Enforcement replacing Randy Morrow was made by

E. Climo and seconded by S. Kaercher.

All voted. Motion carried.

\* Motion to purchase six (6) rolls of stamps for the Tax Collector to mail out the 2022 real estate tax bills was made by B. Smith and seconded by M. Forrest.

All voted. Motion carried.

Discussion on delinquent garbage bills, Eric will continue to follow up.

Reminder to turn in ethics forms by May 1, 2022.

\*Motion to have Sharon write a letter of support for the Vicary House, they are applying for a grant to repair their porch was made by B. Smith and seconded by K. Horan.

All voted. Motion carried.

**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.

***MEETING ENDED***