

**FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2024**

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; Sydney Eckman, Krysta Climo, Kim Farrow, Kevin Horan, Jon Kaercher, Mayor Padezanin, Bernie Rabik; Solicitor, Sharon Miller; Boro Secretary /Treasurer. Ron Miles; Road Dept.

Absent: Jeremy Valles

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: Silvio Rosati and son of 1710 7th Ave have complaints on the road in front of their house 7th Ave. It has never been paved. It's a dust ball. A lot of traffic now too.

***Motion to put a no outlet sign on 18th street was made by Jon Kaercher and seconded by K. Climo.**

All voted. Motion Carried.

Rachel Smrzlick 1744 8th Ave. Support on how bad 7th Ave. is. More people living there now and more traffic.

Bill & Jonathan Bruce: Jonathan is working on his Eagle Scout project and would like to renovate the Ashland Park Basketball court and he was here to give an update to the Freedom Borough Council.

ENGINEERS REPORT: None.

STREET DEPT. REPORT: Review of Street department report. The banners that have been purchased are in need of repair. You are welcome to view your banner to see if you would like a replacement. After this season some will not be able to go back up. The moving of the playground equipment is going well. Can we paint the retro playground equipment? Ron will look into the paint. We have a leak in the grandstand lawnmower, ordered an oil seal kit today to fix it. Ron met with the State today at 6th street and Third Ave. re: the sinking storm catch basins. He was told that yes, it is State Road but they are not responsible for anything under the surface of the road. K. Horan asked if he could put a 55 -100-gallon free-standing rain barrel at corner of dump area, no problem with the barrel.

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

All Voted. Motion Carried.

MAYOR REPORT / POLICE REPORT:

Discussion was made on the police report. Weather related and ambulance was most of our calls. I did reach out after our last meeting re: speeding on 8th Ave. I have not got word back from Norfolk and Southern RR re: the complaint we had on noise. K. Farrow wrote a letter of support for the BVRPD K-9 foundation from Freedom Borough Council. Tomorrow will be the police meeting. I will be putting my house up for sale by the end of the month. When it does sell, I will have to resign. I had a resident reach out about fireworks. He was rained out and has some leftover. I suggested he reach out to our Recreation Committee and see if there was an interest for Christmas in July event. He wanted to abide by all laws.

***Motion to accept the Police / Mayor report as presented was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Horan.**

All voted. Motion Carried.

MINUTES:

***Motion to approve the Borough monthly meeting on 06/12/2024 and work session on 07/01/2024 as presented, was made by Jon Kaercher and seconded by K. Farrow.**

All voted. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

All voted. Motion carried.

BILLS:

***Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$30,294.07 and any bills deemed necessary before next month's meeting or as money becomes available was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Horan.**

All voted. Motion Carried.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

I am going to ask to have executive session to discuss the litigation of Otto vs. Scarcella, only to inform you there are interrogatories that we'll have to answer. But, I had a conversation with the attorney who is representing us, I told him I will discuss the interrogatories and get back to him. We have no liability. Discussion was made on the Code enforcement invoice. Sharon will look into this further. Whenever Sharon had a doubt on anything. She is on the phone to me. She is to be commended for not putting aside problems but, confronting them.

***Motion to accept the Solicitors report was made by K. Climo and seconded by Jon Kaercher.**

All voted. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDANCE: Dennis Smith of United Code Consultants report for June 2024.

***Motion to donate \$100 to the Freedom Area School District Homecoming Festival was made by S. Eckman and seconded by K. Horan.**

All Voted. Motion Carried.

If anyone would like to participate in the Homecoming Parade, we have the form to be completed.

COMMITTEES 2024:

Personnel:

Finance:

Street Dept:

Recreation:

July 26th with be a Christmas in July movie night.

September 21, 2024 Fall Festival

October 27, 2024 Halloween Parade

December 7, 2024 Light-up night

May 17, 2025 Spring Festival date Sharon will ask if we can purchase Christmas decorations.

There was discussion on getting a contract from our Solicitor for the future festivals to be held in Freedom Brough.

***Motion to order the ADA Freedom Swing with ARPA grant funds as an addition to the playground was made by K. Farrow and seconded by S. Eckman. All Voted. Motion Carried.**

Utilities:

Grants & Web site: Will add the new dates to website.

Fire Dept. Committee:

OLD BUSINESS:

***Motion to authorize the Solicitor to dissolve the prior Ordinance of Freedom Borough in regards to Handicap parking space was made by Jon Kaercher and seconded by K. Climo.**

All Voted. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

***Motion to renew the 2024-2025 MRM Property & Liability Trust policies for Freedom Borough & Freedom Volunteer Fire Dept. from 08/01/2024 - 08/01/2025 with MRM carrier in the amount of \$11,433.00.**

All voted. Motion Carried.

Inform the Carrier that there is a fire truck that is being kept not on Freedom Borough property.

***Motion to renew the POL/EMP insurance for Freedom Borough through HUB International from 08/01/2024 – 08/01/2025 in the amount of \$4,230.00 was made by S. Eckman and seconded by K. Farrow.**

All voted. Motion Carried.

ARPA grant update. Everyone has updated packet.

Thanking Vicki Baker and family for an addition to all the wonderful Freedom Borough artifacts and pictures.

Eric Climo's Celebration of Life will be Saturday August 10th 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m. Cranberry Twp. Community Park.

***Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:55 p.m. was made by Jon Kaercher and seconded by K. Climo.**

All voted. Motion carried.

APPROVED _____ ATTEST _____

MAYOR _____

Respectfully submitted by:

Sharon A. Miller; Freedom Boro Secretary / Treasurer