

**FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
March 13, 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, Jon Kaercher, Jeremy Valles; Nadine Padezanin; Mayor, Bernie Rabik; Solicitor, Sharon Miller; Boro Secretary /Treasurer, Ron Miles; Road Foreman.

Absent: Kevin Horan

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.

President John Kercher asked for nominations for Vice-President of Freedom Borough Council due to the unexpected passing of Eric Climo.

**Jon Kaercher nominated Sydney Eckman to be Vice- President of the Freedom Borough Council and was seconded by K. Farrow. President John Kaercher asked 3 times for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.**

**All Voted. Motion Carried.**

**PETITIONERS:** Davin Brown 1408 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. complaining of water runoff onto his property. Freedom Street dept will contact the home owners to address the situation. Michael Szatkewicz 999 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Steffan Paganie, Jessica Karas, Gary Gilarno 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. here to represent the FVFD. Justin Boyer; FVFD, Harry Gilarno; FVFD Fire Chief, Art Evans Jr; President of F.V.F.D. Wampum, FVFD, Devyn Lindeman; FVFD, Robert Campbell, FVFD.

Lou Armstrong 1146 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. asking for flower donations for the Freedom Memorial can be dropped off with the Freedom Borough Secretary.

Much discussion was made on the Freedom Volunteer Fire Dept. Solicitor recommends an agreement by next month's meeting to have an answer as to what the position of the Borough is. The position of the Borough is to improve the Fire Dept.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:** Update on LVDGR grant.

**\*Motion to confirm authorization with Jessica from MS Consultants to move forward with the LVDGR project on Laurel Alley was made by J. Valles and seconded by K. Climo**

**All Voted. Motion Carried.**

**STREET DEPT. REPORT:** Review of Street department. Per J. Kaercher looks like we are in great shape to get moving with mowing season. Street signs are completed. Reminder we are selling old street signs for \$10.00 apiece. Money can be dropped off with the Borough Secretary. The money collected will goes towards recreation.

**\*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 Regional Police report. Freedom represented 15% of calls for last month.

You can find the monthly reports on the BVRPD website. Police meeting tomorrow March 14, 2024.

I have a student to help with the Easter Egg Hunt. Any student who is interested, we have many opportunities for Community Service. We have met with the Memorial and Monument Association to get ready for Memorial Day.

Any one interested to serve on the committee or volunteer we would love more members. We are looking to have the bike decorating again this year.

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

**All voted. Motion Carried.**

**MINUTES:**

**\*Motion to approve the Borough monthly meetings on 02/14/2024 and work session 03/04/2024 as presented, was made by K. Climo and seconded by S. Eckman.**

**All voted. Motion Carried.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

\*Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by K. Farrow and seconded by J. Valles.  
All voted. Motion carried.

**BILLS:**

\*Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$33,274.44 and any bills deemed necessary before next month's meeting or as money becomes available was made by K. Climo and seconded by K. Farrow.  
All voted. Motion Carried.

**SOLICITOR REPORT:**

\*Motion to enter into executive session to discuss the Otto case was made by K. Climo and seconded by K. Farrow.  
All voted. Motion Carried.  
\*Motion to reconvey meeting at 7:18 pm was made by K. Climo and seconded by Jon Kaercher.  
All voted. Motion carried.  
\*Motion to accept the Solicitors report was made by K. Farrow and seconded by Jon Kaercher.  
All voted. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDANCE:** Updated information for Code Enforcement with new updated contacts.

**COMMITTEES 2024:**

\*Motion to appoint Kim Farrow as a representative to the Police Commission was made by S. Eckman and seconded by K. Climo.  
All voted. Motion Carried.  
\*Motion for Jeremy Valles for the second alternate to the Police Commission was made by S. Eckman and Seconded by K. Farrow.  
All voted. Motion Carried.

**Personnel:** Jon Kaercher – Chair  
Krysta Climo  
**Finance:** Kim Farrow – Chair  
Kevin Horan  
**Street Dept:** Jeremy Valles – Chair  
Sydney Eckman  
**Recreation:** Sydney Eckman – Chair  
Kim Farrow  
**Utilities:** Krysta Climo – Chair  
Jeremy Valles  
**Grants & Web site:** Kevin Horan – Chair  
Jon Kaercher  
**Fire Dept. Committee:** Krysta Climo -Chair  
All Council members

**Recreation:** Easter Egg hunt March 16<sup>th</sup> with a rain date on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will request the eggs to be emptied and returned when leaving. We can use again the next year. Car Cruise / Spring fest is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>. 11:00 – 6:00. First 50 cars to get dash plaque. T-shirts will be made. Fall fest set for Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>.

\*Motion to order 10 Spring fest signs and 5 double sided car cruise signs was made by Jeremy Valles and seconded by K. Climo.  
All voted. Motion Carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

\*Motion to appoint Matt Hogue as Freedom Borough Emergency Management Coordinator and Jeremy Valles as Deputy was made by K. Farrow and seconded by Jon Kaercher.  
All voted. Motion Carried.

**ARPA grant update; Must have all projects completed by Oct. 31, 2024 or it will go back to the Federal Government.** We have \$179,528.66 left to spend.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

\*Motion to approve \$150.00 donation to the Freedom Memorial & Monument Association towards Memorial Day 2024 was made by J. Valles and seconded by S. Eckman.

**All Voted. Motion Carried.**

**Literature in center of table:**

- Pennsylvania Borough News March 2024

**\*Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:39 p.m. was made by K. Climo and seconded by K. Farrow.  
All voted. Motion carried.**

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

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon A. Miller; Freedom Boro Secretary / Treasurer