

**FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 11, 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, Bill Smith, Sydney Eckman, Nadine Padezanin; Mayor, Bernie Rabik; Solicitor, Sharon Miller; Boro Secretary /Treasurer, Ron Miles; Road Foreman.

Absent: Eric Climo-Vice president, Mark Forrest, 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.

For the record President J. Kaercher gave Secretary S. Miller \$400.00 in cash which will be deposited into the Freedom Recreation Committee from Jackie Goletti profits from the bake sale they had at the Freedom Fall Festival.

PETITIONERS:

Michael Szatkiewicz; 999 10th St. follow up to the parking on 3rd Ave. at the bottom of 10th Street. Freedom Boro is waiting to hear back from PennDOT on the safety study.

Loren Mossholder, here for the vacant lot Bid opening.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Todd Youngblood said he will start paving projects in Freedom Oct. 16, 2023.

STREET DEPT. REPORT:

Review of street department report. Leaf box is ready to go and run until the first snowfall.

***Motion to purchase the Poly cutting edge kit western Wide out moldboard and wings priced at \$525.00 for the new snowplow for the F-600 dump truck was made by B. Smith and seconded by S. Eckman.**

All voted. Motion Carried.

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

All Voted. Motion Carried.

***Motion to submit requests to ARPA grant for a new paint striper for roads, new flagpole in front of Borough building, American flags for all light posts and see if reimbursement for the WO wings for dump truck was made by B. Smith and seconded by S. Eckman.**

All Voted. Motion Carried.

MAYOR REPORT / POLICE REPORT:

Discussion was made on the police report.

***Motion to approve the closing of the Freedom Borough Police Narcotics Fund and transferring the balance of \$123.00 to the Beaver Valley Regional Police Department was made by B. Smith and seconded by S. Eckman
All voted. Motion Carried.**

***Motion to accept the Police / Mayor report as presented was made by S. Eckman and seconded by B. Smith.
All voted. Motion Carried.**

MINUTES:

***Motion to approve the Borough monthly meeting on 09/13/2023 as presented was made by B. Smith and seconded by S. Eckman. All voted. Motion Carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

***Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by S. Eckman and seconded by Smith.
All voted. Motion carried.**

2023 Fire Relief payment was direct deposit on September 21, 2023 in the amount of \$6,221.62.
Check will be mailed to F.V.F.D. Treasurer on Oct 12, 2023.

2023 Municipal Pension Payment was direct Deposit on September 27, 2023 in the amount of \$19,908.82

BILLS:

***Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$30,585.67 and any bills deemed necessary before next month's meeting or as money becomes available was made by S. Eckman and seconded by B. Smith.
All voted. Motion Carried.**

SOLICITOR REPORT:

Bid Opening for vacant lots owned by the Borough of Freedom that went out for Bid.
One check received Check #17793 in the amount of \$1,025.00 for Parcel number 26-001-0202.000 from the Freedom Fraternal Order of Eagles met all requirements.

***Motion to sell Parcel # 26-001-0202.00 to the Fraternal Order of Eagles in the amount of \$1,025.00 was made by B. Smith and seconded by S. Eckman.
All voted. Motion Carried.**

Bernie will have a conversation tomorrow with Bill Hare on the open Council seat.

***Motion to accept the Solicitors report was made by S. Eckman and seconded by B. Smith.
All voted. Motion carried.**

Discussion was made on the procedure of write ins on the General election ballot and open seats.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Code enforcement report from Troy Gump for September 2023.

***Motion to accept Dennis Smith with United Code Consultants to be our Building Code Official (PA Certified) was made by B. Smith and seconded by S. Eckman.
All Voted. Motion Carried.**

R.A.J.S.A. July 13th 2023 minutes.

COMMITTEES:

Personnel:

Finance:

Street Dept:

Recreation: Halloween Parade will be October 29 @ 4:00 p.m. Thank you to all donations given.

Light up Night will be Dec. 2nd. Looking to do 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. bulb decorating, Santa letter writing, cookie decorating. With returning in the evening, with bulbs to decorate tree and gives letters to Santa. Thank you to the FVFD for removing the fire trucks to use the pad as done with Vicary Days.

***Motion to request 2 playgrounds equipment in total of \$72,752.00 also J&J Catering storefront canvas awnings in the amount of \$2,305.88 for streetscape under the ARPA grant for disproportionality affected communities was made by S. Eckman and seconded by B. Smith. All voted. Motion Carried.**

***Motion to request under ARPA grant are 10 turn out gear, 10 helmets, camera and charger for a total of \$35,475.99 for the FVFD was made by B. Smith and seconded by S. Eckman. All voted. Motion Carried.**

Grants & Web site:

OLD BUSINESS:

Temporary EMS Coordinator is still Mark Forrest until we can find a replacement.

NEW BUSINESS:

Received a TC Energy check in the amount of \$9,000.00 from a grant (Community Togetherness) which Kevin Horan applied for through Conservation.

Freedom will have Trick or Treat on Tuesday October 31, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

We are thankful to the family of our late Freedom Councilman Dan Baker who donated Freedom artifacts to the borough. Make sure to view Freedom history on display in our Council Chambers.

Literature in center of table:

- Pennsylvania Borough News October 2023

***Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:54 p.m. was made by B. Smith and seconded by S. Eckman.
All voted. Motion carried.**