

**FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 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, Eric Climo-Vice president, Bill Smith, Sydney Eckman, Kevin Horan, Mark Forrest, Nadine Padezanin; Mayor, Bernie Rabik; Solicitor, Sharon Miller; Boro Secretary /Treasurer, Ron Miles; Road Foreman.

Absent:

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:

Michael Szatkiewicz; 999 10th St. follow up to the parking on 3rd Ave. at the bottom of 10th Street.

Justin Turpin; Freedom High School Asst. principal. Inviting and seeking approval of the Homecoming parade to be held on Third Ave. on Thursday September 28, 2023.

Ed Cline; Beaver Falls, PA.

***Motion to exonerate real estate taxes on two vacant lots in the Borough of Freedom on Parcel no: 26-001-0810-000-01 years 2003 – present and Parcel no: 26-001-0811-000-01-1 years 2002 – present was made by M. Forrest and seconded by E. Climo. All Voted. Motion Carried.**

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Waiting to hear back from Youngblood on Paving projects.

STREET DEPT. REPORT:

Review of street department report.

***Motion to submit requests to ARPA grant for attachments for skid steer Heavy-duty pick-up broom at \$6,836.61 and attachment for skid steer Brush chipper at \$12,566.31 was made by M. Forrest and seconded by K. Horan. All Voted. Motion Carried.**

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

MAYOR REPORT / POLICE REPORT:

Discussion was made on speeding on 8th Ave. in Freedom due to pick up times at the elementary school.

***Motion to ratify the signed /executed copy of the BVRPD Commission Resolution No. 23-06 admitting Rochester Twp. into the BVRPD starting Sept. 1, 2023 Was made by K. Horan and seconded by E. Climo. All voted. Motion Carried.**

***Motion to approve the Beaver Valley Regional Police Department (BVRPD) 2024 Budget in the amount of \$2,436,897.58 was made by S. Kaercher and seconded by B. Smith.**

All voted. Motion Carried.

Discussion was made on a legal issue resending any and all jurisdiction boundaries that took place in the past contracts re: Freedom Area School.

***Motion to enter into executive session at 6:28 p.m. for legal matters was made by K. Horan and seconded by B. Smith. All voted. Motion Carried.**

***Motion to reconvey meeting at 6:41 p.m. was made by B. Smith and seconded by M. Forrest. All voted. Motion Carried.**

***Motion to resend any and all contracts and or agreements that dealt with jurisdiction with the police at the Freedom Area School was made by E. Climo and seconded by M. Forrest. Roll call vote was requested.**

S. Eckman – ABSTAINED, B. Smith – YES, M. Forrest – YES, K. Horan – YES, E. Climo – YES, J. Kaercher – ABSTAINED. Per Solicitor B. Rabik the abstention is totally legal.

Roll call vote tally: four (4) YES and two (2) ABSTAINED. With roll call being totaled and with quorum present, the motion has passed as presented.

***Motion to accept the Police / Mayor report as presented was made by M. Forrest and seconded by K. Horan. All voted. Motion Carried.**

Police Dept. will have a meet and greet at the Fall Fest.

MINUTES:

***Motion to approve the Borough monthly meeting on 07/12/2023 as presented was made by B. Smith and seconded by M. Forrest. All voted. Motion Carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

BILLS:

***Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$56,955.78 (2 months) and any bills deemed necessary before next month's meeting or as money becomes available was made by M. Forrest and seconded by K. Horan. All voted. Motion Carried.**

SOLICITOR REPORT:

There should be an ad in the Times next week for the vacant lots for sale.

Regards to the open council seat. I am going to prepare a consent order that hopefully Judge Mancini will approve indicating that you followed the steps and ultimately and I will include the two resumes.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Code enforcement report from Troy Gump for August 2023.

***Motion to accept the Code Enforcement report was made by K. Horan and seconded by E. Climo
All Voted. Motion Carried.**

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

Letter from Tri State River Products notice of pending permit to D.E.P. authorizing the continuation of the gravel dredging in the Ohio river.

COMMITTEES:

Personnel:

Finance:

Street Dept:

Recreation: Fall Festival September 23rd 12:00- 6:00 p.m. We had a halt, someone tried to scam the vendors. There is an open police investigation to this issue. We have Coco the clown coming. Lou Armstrong took up the responsibility of collecting donations. F.O.E. donated \$250.00 of the money we needed everyone else wished to be anonymous. Also, the Yeck's have a petting zoo coming. Per Solicitor Rabik approved the letter from insurance regarding this. Big Snow will be here this year. Sharon got a permit to close the road. Kevin, will you post the website. F.V.F.D. will pull out the trucks on the pad and have fire safety pages to color. Checked with them about the Halloween parade too. Halloween parade will be Sunday 29th @ 4:00 p.m. on Third Avenue in Freedom.

Grants & Web site:

OLD BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

***Motion to approve the 2024 PMRS Non- Uniform Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) in the amount of \$ 19,868.00 was made by M. Forrest and seconded by B. Smith.
All Voted. Motion Carried.**

Letter from Beaver County Commissioners re: ARPA Disproportionately Impacted Community Grants deadline for earmarked projects. Dec. 15, 2023.

Discussion on approval to submit new requests.

Approval was made to request for Trex Lumber in the amount of \$3,500.00 and Sharon to request 36 hours of pay from missed work due to Covid-19 in May 2022.

***Motion to approve the address of 1788 8th Avenue Freedom Pa. to Tax parcel No: 25-001-0751.000 was made by E. Climo and seconded by M. Forrest. All Voted. Motion Carried.**

***Motion to ratify a phone vote conducted on August 9, 2023 exonerating taxes on parcels Parcel No. 27-001-0114.01 Parcel No. 27-001-0113.00 Parcel No. 27-001-0112.00 was made by B. Smith and seconded by H. Horan.
All Voted. Motion Carried.**

J. Kaercher – yes, S. Eckman – yes, E. Climo – yes, B. Smith – yes, K. Horan – yes. Results of phone vote.

***Motion to ratify a phone vote conducted on August 25, 2023 to purchase the 2023 Ford F-600 with snowplow, stainless bed and salt spreader at a cost of \$125,502.00 which will be purchased with the ARPA grant fund and Beaver County will be making the check directly to Shults Ford of Wexford was made by M. Forrest and seconded by B. Smith. All Voted. Motion Carried.**

J. Kaercher- yes, S. Eckman – yes, E. Climo – yes, B. Smith - yes. M. Forrest- no vote and K. Horan- no vote.

Results of phone vote.

***Motion to ratify a phone vote conducted on August 17, 2023 approving the transfer from Liquid Fuels (street light reimbursement) into the General Account in the amount of \$14,396.00, this will cover our annual premium for liability insurance for the Borough was made by B. Smith and seconded by E. Climo. All Voted. Motion Carried. J. Kaercher – yes, E. Climo – yes, M. Forrest – yes, B. Smith – yes, S. Eckman – yes, K. Horan – yes.**

Results of phone vote.

Freedom Area Homecoming weekend Celebration Sept. 28, 29, & 30th.

Freedom Area Homecoming Parade Participant Application Form – Thursday Sept. 28th @ 6:30 p.m.
followed by bonfire and fireworks!

*** Motion to donate \$100.00 to the Freedom Area Homecoming Fall Festival Fireworks was made by K. Horan and seconded by S. Eckman. All Voted Motion Carried.**

***Motion to donate \$ 100.00 to the Freedom Are High School Parent Advisory Council was made by M. Forrest and seconded by K. Horan. All Voted. Motion Carried.**

***Motion to approve Lou Armstrong to use the two light poles at the Freedom Memorial to put military flags on them, with the lights up there now being removed and returned to the Boro was made by K. Horan and seconded by B. Smith.**

All Voted. Motion Carried.

Literature in center of table:

- Pennsylvania Borough News August & September 2023
- Beaver County Emergency Services mid – year 2023 newsletter.
- Beaver County Community Health Survey
- PennDOT stormwater training

***Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:15 p.m. was made by E. Climo and seconded by M. Forrest. All voted. Motion carried.**