

FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes- September 14, 2022

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 Eric Climo, Bill Smith, Dan Baker, Sydney Eckman, Kevin Horan. Bernie Rabik; Solicitor, Sharon Miller; Boro Secretary /Treasurer. Road Foreman; Ron Miles and Freedom Engineer; John Balewski.

Absent: Mark Forrest; Council.

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:

- Travis Chickness: 309 4th Ave. complaining about 305 4th Ave. Property is condemned. Brian will check into this with Peggy.
 - Michael Hildman here for zoning.
- Thomas & Rachel Smrzlick: No one is stopping at stop sign on 16th street and cars going too fast on 8th Ave. Questions on football games security. RR was not to cut cars at certain times.? Per J. Kaercher; we have no control over them, you need to contact Norfolk & Southern. Houses need to be better taken care of. Also, abandoned cars on streets. Mayor has reached out to school and athletes to be aware of the problem. Mayor has already reached out to the Police too.
- Dan DeLuca 1101 6th Ave. requesting a curb cut. Work was already completed.

*Motion to approve the curb cut at 1101 6th Ave. with the final approval of inspection was made by B. Smith and seconded by D. Baker.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

- Hannah Ward from Beaver County Conservation Dist. Attached is a tentative work plan and rough drawing of the 9th Ave/Laurel potential LVDGR project. Grant will pay 100%, with 20 % of engineer costs.

*Motion to have Sharon apply for the LVDGR grant was made by E. Climo and seconded by K. Horan.

All Voted Motion Carried.

- Discussion on the paving projects to be bid in January for February meeting. John will look at the roads on the list.

*Motion to approve the Engineer report was made by B. Smith and seconded by S. Eckman.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

STREET DEPT. REPORT:

- Motion to purchase Rubber snowplow blades at the price of \$798.66 was made by E. Climo and seconded by B. Smith.

All voted. Motion Carried.

- Lamp posts are looking good. Road Dept. will start keeping gate closed during the day. Meeting date with PennDOT agility meeting to discuss exchange of services was on August 18, 2022 @ 9:00 a.m. waiting to hear back from them.

- Freedom Winter maintenance agreement w Penn DOT is still valid.

- Motion to approve the Street Department report as presented was made by S. Eckman and seconded by K. Horan.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

MAYOR REPORT / POLICE REPORT:

- Please review the August police report. I will follow-up with the police on the speeding on 8th Ave. We have a car cruise here on Saturday, I will make sure we will have an officer drop in. Police Regionalization meeting has a rough draft for our Solicitor to look over. Police are making sure we have enough coverage for the Aliquippa football games. As Mayor, I receive many calls from community confused on who to contact, at that time I help what is best for them or the entire community.
- Motion to accept Police and Mayor report was made by K. Horan and seconded by D. Baker.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

MINUTES:

*Motion to approve the Borough monthly meeting on 08/10/2022 and work session minutes from August 1, 2022 as presented was made by S. Eckman and seconded by E. Climo.

All voted. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by K. Horan and seconded by E. Climo.

All voted. Motion carried.

- Second payment of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) was direct deposit on 9-9-2022 in the amount of \$77,280.11
- Motion to open a new (ARPA) bank account with WesBanco was made by E. Climo and seconded by B. Smith.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

BILLS:

- Motion to pay bills in the amount of \$16,058.96 and any bills deemed necessary before next month's meeting or as money becomes available was made by B. Smith and seconded by K. Horan.

All voted. Motion Carried.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

- Motion to approve the Solicitors monthly fees of \$500.00 a month for services was made by E. Climo and seconded by K. Horan.

All voted. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Peggy Griffith Code Enforcement report for August 2022.
- Code Enforcement report from Brian Richards for August 2022.
- Discussion on Valley Waste contract. Discussion on height of the grass in Ordinance.
- Motion to accept the Code Enforcement report was made by E. Climo and seconded by B. Smith.

All voted. Motion Carried.

- Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority minutes August 11, 2022.

COMMITTEES:

Bill Smith- Personnel: Nothing.

Mark Forrest- Finance: Everyone should be working on the budget. Waiting on milage rate for County wide reassessment.

Eric Climo- Street Dept: Looking into side by side. Might be another option to get a small tractor. Looking into pricing.

Sydney Kaercher- Recreation: Oct 1st Fall fest. Sharon will be calling Vendors. Set up at noon event runs 2:00-6:00. Contact Jim Whelan on Fire Dept. Thank you to Sandy Kopacz for making flyer. Matt & Totally Baked for donating money for face painting. Allen Lee from Freedom to provide entertainment. Oct 30th Halloween parade. Eric will talk to PennDOT for road closure for the 1st and 30th. Talking about Dec. 3rd for Light up night.

Kevin Horan- Grants & Web site: Kevin will be meeting with John Balewski to go over grants for 2023. Will make sure Police dept and Fire dept. are completely updated. Discussion on the outlet in the park.

Dan Baker: Discussion on the outlet in the park. Also, discussion on Penn Dot and cutting trees around road signs.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion to approve the 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Plan in the amount of \$19,293.00 was made by E. Climo and seconded by Kevin Horan.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

- Flyer from the West Nile Tech with the Beaver County Conservation District. I just wanted to remind everyone that there is increased viral activity for mosquitoes this time of year.
- Rochester Boro Emergency Responders Appreciation Day Sept. 18th 1:00-5:00 pm.

Literature in center of table:

Thank you note from the Freedom Parent Advisory Council for donation.

Pennsylvania 811 2021 Annual report

Pennsylvania Borough News magazine September 2022

J. Kaercher would like to Thank the Freedom Council and Bernie Rabik for the ad in my honor of the Freedom Hall of Fame. Greatly appreciated.

**Motion to adjourn at 7:15 PM was made by B. Smith and seconded by D. Baker.*

All voted. Motion carried.