

**FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2025**

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: John Kaercher; President, Kim Farrow, Krysta Climo, Kevin Horan, Jeremy Valles, Mayor Lou Armstrong, Sharon Miller; Boro Secretary/Treasurer, Ron Miles; Road Dept. Foreman.

Absent: Sydney Eckman; Vice-president, Jon Kaercher, Bernie Rabik; Solicitor,

Pledge of allegiance was held.

Reminder 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:

Mike Szatkiewicz 999 10th St. Need to continue spraying the wall on 8th Ave. Need to move the handicap parking spot on Third Ave.

Jonathan Bruce: 498 5th Ave. Updates on his Eagle scout project for updates to the Ashland Park basketball hoops and maintain the sidewalk and clean up the park.

Bill Bruce: 498 5th Ave. Here to observe with his son Jonathan.

Matt Hogue: 125 5th Ave. Would like to talk about curb appeal in town. Specific to road – street signs bent from 2013. Complain about loose gravel on road and walk way, potholes, overgrowth on sidewalks. I don't see the curb appeal at all. I don't want to help anybody in Freedom anymore if we can't clean up the town.

Rachel Smrzlick: 1744 8th Ave. We attended the School Board meeting in April or May to talk about the busses on 8th Ave and the 15-mph speed limit. I have been trying to figure out a way to have the drop off and picking up a better option. Mr. Capeheart said he would have someone contact the Boro office. No one has reached out to the Boro. Any solutions on abandoned houses in the Boro?

Lorrain Fox 1898 7th Ave. 6th Ave. & 18th street used to be mowed all the way to the ground. You can not see at the stop sign. Also, the weeds on Harvey Run Road are bad and you cannot see. Sharon will call PennDOT about Harvey Run Road. Most of Lorraine's complaints were on Freedom School District or New Sewickley twp. not Freedom Boro.

Shawn Mason: 655 8th street: requesting an ADA exempt letter for F.O. E. from Freedom Borough for the PA. Lottery.

ENGINEERS REPORT: No report

STREET DEPT. REPORT: Review of street department report.

Ron spoke to BFMA on the meter fee for the water fountain with BFMA will be a 1,000.00. Vandalism on the fountain could be costly to Freedom. I spoke to Harry on the dump truck; he told me to be patient with him. Much discussion was made on this. Council will look for someone to pick up the truck. The catch basin on 6th street has been replaced. We cannot sell the snow plow because it was purchased with a grant. Ron will look around to see if there are options with a different edge that can be flipped. Can we work on some of the punch list that Matt has been talking about? The way the wind blows in this town I can fix the road signs every day.

***Motion to approve the Street Department Report was made K. Climo and seconded by K. Horan.**

All Voted. Motion Carried.

MAYOR REPORT: Thank you all for the prayers, as I am going through cancer. Harry has insurance on the fire truck in his garage. Sharon also called our carrier and the truck is insured if we own it, even if it is not on our property. It is also brought up at school board meetings how everyone wants more police presence during school pick up times, to help control speeding. Mayor applied for a wish list of 25,000- 30,000 to help with memorial sustainability and electrical updates through Rep. Matzies office.

***Motion to accept the mayor report was made by J. Valles and seconded by K. Horan.**

All Voted. Motion Carried.

POLICE REPORT: Review July 2025 police report. The increase of percentage this month was due to the increase of the traffic calls. The calculation of payment Freedom only pays 8.8% of all calls. Depending on how the new municipality enters the Regional is how it depends if you have a seat on the board. Regional police are interviewing investors to get a better return on the pensions. Letter was sent to school to see if they would agree to sign a contract after they finish out the grant that they have with the school district which runs for a year and a half ending 2026.

***Motion to accept the Police report was made by K. Horan and seconded by K. Climo.**

All Voted. Motion Carried.

MINUTES:

*Motion to approve the Borough monthly meeting on 07/09/2025 as presented, was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Climo.

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 the Bills in the amount of \$42,315.48 and any bills that are deemed necessary to be paid before the next monthly meeting as monies become available was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Climo.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

SOLICITOR REPORT: No report

CORRESPONDANCE: Patrick McGuire July Code enforcement report.

*Motion to execute the contract with Valley Waste to put a municipal lien on properties in Freedom Borough that have delinquent payments, pending approval from our solicitor was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Climo.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEES REPORTS:

Personnel:

Finance: Discussion was made on First National Bank vs. WesBanco. Decision needs to be made by the reorganizational meeting in January

Street Dept:

Recreation:

Utilities:

Grants & Web site:

Fire Dept. Committee:

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

*Motion to give permission to Freedom Area High School Asst. Principal Mr. Justin Turpin to convey the Freedom Homecoming Parade on Thursday September 25th 2025 @ 6:30 p.m. on Third Avenue in Freedom was made by K. Horan and seconded by K. Farrow.

All Voted. Motion Carried.

Sharon will let them know to contact the B.V.R.P.D. asap and PennDOT and also BC Transit.

Received concerns over the ice cream truck riding through town. (solicitor permit needed?)

We do have an Ordinance under Chapter 124, Solicitation in the Boro. Was put in the books probably 15 years ago. It was added as a safety measure. We were having everybody coming through this town and we had no idea who they were. To get a permit is \$10.00 a day or \$300.00 a month. The ice cream truck is soliciting business.

Literature on the table:

- Pennsylvania Boro News magazine June 2025

Mayor had some discussion on Fall Clean-up Day in Freedom in the fall.

K. Horan asked if the Borough should have the parking lines painted on the street? Per John Kaercher the Borough should paint the parking lines, hopefully before fall.

Per K. Climo brought up discussion on banners. When we take down the summer banners, we need to find a way to let them know they will not be going back up. We should have an option of purchasing military banners along with the new.

***Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:52 p.m. was made by J. Valles and seconded by K. Climo.
All voted. Motion carried.**

APPROVED_____ ATTEST_____

MAYOR_____

Respectfully submitted by:

Sharon A. Miller; Freedom Boro Secretary / Treasurer