FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 12, 2026

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: Sydney Eckman; President, Kim Farrow; Vice-president, Kevin Horan; Pro-Tem, Jon Kaercher, Michael Phillips, Solicitor; Max Schmierer, Mayor Lou Armstrong, Sharon Miller; Boro Secretary/Treasurer,

ABSENT: John Kaercher, Ron Miles; Road Dept. Foreman

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.

PETITONERS:
Mike Szatkiewicz: 999 10th street don't forget to paint the sidewalk yellow on Third Ave. in front of Boro office and remove handicap spot. Solicitor will look into it and see what we can do. Tree laying down on 10th St. and corner of 7th Ave. Katrina Czopek 500 5th Ave. : Here to observe, would like to be appointed to vacant seat on Council.
Rachel Smrzlick & Tom Smrzlick 1744 8th Ave. Here to see if the police are going to be present when elementary is letting out the students in the afternoon. Maybe there can be an alternate route? Can signs be put up for speed? Crossing guard? If the school can provide a crossing guard and also speed control signs will all come from the school not the Borough. Road is really bad in front of 1788 8th Ave. The new owner of 1598 8th Ave. is not cutting the grass and much garbage in the back. 7th Ave. needs to be looked at the weeds are hitting the cars going through the alley. Kayla Kaskalaich: 1021 8th Ave. here to file a complaint on a vacant property next door to her 1021 8th Ave. grass extremely high cut once only this year. Jeff Beltz FASD superintendent, here to introduce himself. Darla McFee 345 6th St. here to observe. Mary Ann Fennych: 1788 8th Ave. I have a pot hole right outside my house. Near the stop sign on 8th ave. is really big holes also. Near school St. around the football field, you cannot see because of two trees blocking the view. We need to reach out to New Sewickley Twp. that is their property.
Kyle & Tanya-Alegria- Bridges 903 6th Ave:
***Motion to exonerate the 2024 Freedom Borough taxes Parcel # 26-001-0814.000 for the year 2024 was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Horan.**
All Voted. Motion Carried.

***ENGINEERS REPORT*:** No report

STREET DEPT. REPORT: Review of street department report. Mike, Kim and the Mayor met with the road dept. to make sure all are on the same page and work is getting done in town.
*** Motion to approve the purchase of an exhaust fan for the road dept. garage in the amount of $335.90 which will be installed by the road dept. employees was made by M. Phillips and seconded by K. Horan.**
All Voted. Motion Carried.
***Motion to approve the Street Department Report was made K. Farrow and seconded by Jon Kaercher.**
All Voted. Motion Carried.

MAYOR REPORT: Per Sydney Eckman; Thank you to all who helped with the cleanup after our flood in the Boro building. Also, thank you to the mayor for the work he is doing on the grant to give our main street a much-needed face lift. We will be painting the gazebo and replacing bad wood.
We are still waiting on PennDOT for the Third Ave. signage.
***Motion to accept the mayor report was made by K. Horan and seconded by Jon Kaercher.**
All Voted. Motion Carried.

POLICE REPORT: Review of police report. We are at 16.7 % of the calls. We did have a discussion on the traffic around the school. Sharon gave Max a copy of the contract that is up at the end of December. It is a perpetual renewal unless we want to bring up a change.
***Motion to accept the Police report was made by K. Horan and seconded by M. Phillips.**
All Voted. Motion Carried.

MINUTES:
***Motion to approve the Borough monthly meeting on 07/08/2026 was made by Jon Kaercher and seconded by K. Horan. All Voted Motion Carried.**

TREASUER'S REPORT:
***Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Horan.**
All voted. Motion carried.

***BILLS*:**
***Motion to Pay the Bills in the amount of $59,572.21 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 M. Phillips.**
All Voted. Motion Carried.

SOLICITOR REPORT:
***Motion that no vacancy-board chair was ever appointed, therefore, no fully constituted vacancy board ever existed, the reason the vacancy could not be filled within the additional fifteen-day period was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Horan.**
All Voted. Motion Carried.

***Motion to terminate any further vacancy-board process and to disband for purposes of 8 Pa.C.S. § 901(d)(2), and authorize the Solicitor to file a petition in the Beaver County Court of Common Pleas to fill the vacancy was made by Jon Kaercher and seconded by K. Horan.**
All Voted. Motion Carried.

***Motion to accept the Solicitors report was made by Jon Kaercher and seconded by K. Farrow.**
All Voted. Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDANCE: **Code report from Patrick McGuire for July 2026.**
***Motion to accept Code enforcement report was made by K. Farrow and seconded by K. Horan.**
All Voted. Motion Carried.
RAJSA minutes June 11, 2026

COMMITTEES: Personnel:
Finance:
Street Dept:
Recreation: Dec. 5th "Mainstreet Hometown Christmas?" Maybe we can make this a joint effort with Vicary House, the Borough and the FVFD.
Utilities:
Grants & Web site: Kevin will update the website and include the hours office will be closed.
Fire Dept. Committee: Mike is looking to receive an FVFD active roster, Council should try to be more involved with the department.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: We are waiting on the adjuster to come look at the building from water damage to the Borough building from the storm on August 2nd.

Literature on the table:
- Pennsylvania Boro News magazine August 2026.

REMINDER THE BORO OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED 09/07/2026-09/11/2026
HAPPY LABOR DAY

REMINDER MEETING CHANGE FOR SEPTEMEBER. MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2026.

***Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:04 p.m. was made by K. Farrow and seconded by M. Phillips. All voted. Motion carried.**

APPROVED_____ ATTEST_____

MAYOR_____

Respectfully submitted by:

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Sharon A. Miller; Freedom Boro Secretary / Treasurer