

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
July 9, 2007

Meeting called to order by President Terrell at 1900 hrs. Present were:

J. Blum – Vice President
D. Sarpen – Councilman
G. Andrews – Councilman
C. Herrmann – Councilman
W. Burgess – Councilman
J. Joy – Mayor
T.L. Crawford -Borough Secretary
D. Jones - Solicitor

Also Present: others (see attached list).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

DISBURSEMENTS:

GEN (001): Total \$ 228,355.62 Motion by J. Blum, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve. Motion carried.
WAT (006): Total \$ 85,821.78 Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by G. Andrews to approve. Motion carried.
SEW (008): Total \$ 94,131.59 Motion by W. Burgess, seconded by J. Blum to approve. Motion carried.
REC (009): Total \$ 3,301.57 Motion by W. Blum, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve. Motion carried.
CC (099): Total \$ 2,394.58 Motion by C. Herrmann, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Motion by J. Blum, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve the minutes of June 2007, with correction. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Mayor – Mayor Joy read the emergency services reports for June, noting the police for May. He also noted the fire extinguishers in the cook shack are outdated and need serviced. T.L. Crawford will review the lease and arrange for service.

Water – D. Sarpen noted the proposal for drilling a test well on the school property was received from Buchart Horn. The proposal includes the DEP notification, drilling, testing etc., the cost is \$ 14,000. The township will also be notified when the work will be done. D. Sarpen requested authorization to discuss with Buchart Horn the cost for an additional well, noting the cost should be minimal for another test. Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by J. Blum to accept the proposal from Buchart Horn for the test well, and authorize D. Sarpen to have a second test well drilled if the cost is minimal. Motion carried.

D. Sarpen also discussed PA House Bill # 1649 (fluoride in public water systems), he would like Council to send a letter opposing the bill. The proposed bill would mandate fluoride be added to public drinking water systems. He expressed concerns on the cost, and does not believe it is necessary. Council discussed the pros and cons of fluoride in drinking water. Council determined they will not send any correspondence opposing or supporting the bill. D. Sarpen also expressed his dissatisfaction with the state requiring water/sewer line inspectors to be certified under the ICC Plumbing Code. He noted most water/sewer line inspectors have been inspecting for years, and rarely inspect indoor plumbing, which is what the code concentrates on. He is in favor of a class or test that only deals with the inspections done at an applicable level, not the entire plumbing code. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by W. Burgess authorizing the office to send a letter to state officials, noting the Council's dissatisfaction with requirements for inspectors in the current building code. Motion carried.

Parade – P. Herrmann present to advise Council of the success of the parade, and provide a list of the winners. She extended her gratitude to all those who assisted with the 2007 parade.

Police – W. Burgess advised the SRPC will be holding an executive session held on 7/12/07.

Rec. – J. Blum requested the costs for "motion detector" lights to be installed at Goodfellow playground on the bandstand be researched. He also requested new "No Trespassing" signs be installed in the same area. J. Blum advised Joan Davis has concerns about the fall tennis hours since the lights are no longer utilized. The office will review the schedule and see if another time, possibly Saturdays can be utilized. Mayor Joy noted concern over confusion with a street address for the carnival, for emergency services. Council noted the problem appears to be with the 911 center, not emergency services.

Solicitor – D. Jones presented Resolution 2007-4. The resolution is necessary for the Rose Fire Co. The resolution qualifies them for a tax exempt status with their loan obligation. The resolution does not obligate the Borough in any way. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by W. Burgess to adopt Resolution 2007-4 as written. Motion carried.

CITIZENS FORUM:

Residential Glass submitted a request for abatement of the refuse ordinance, based on his need for a dumpster. It was noted residential trash service can not accommodate his quantity of refuse, which is mostly glass and window frames. He has a contract with York Waste for dumpster service. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by G. Andrews to remove his account from municipal billing, contingent upon a copy of the dumpster contract being submitted to the office. Motion carried.

Andrew Stewart, representing Warrior Football Boosters present concerning community center rental cancellation policy. He explained his dissatisfaction that the non-profit group must forfeit 1/2 of the fee (\$180.) It was explained to him that the contract outlines the cancellation policy and the time frame guidelines, and that the contract was signed. Council discussed the policy and the problems that have occurred with cancellations and loss of revenue in the past. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by C. Herrmann to authorize the forfeited fee (\$180.) to be applied to another rental date at the community center within this calendar year. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

Keystone Homes LOC Release Request – Written request submitted for the amount of \$ 357,753.52. The request and checklist was reviewed by the Public Works Dept. They are recommending a release of \$ 321,978.17. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by G. Andrews to release \$ 321,978.17 as recommended. Motion carried.

Freedom Ave. Road Project – D. Sarpen discussed the proposed road project, and modifications to the "eyebrow" and island. Council recommended the tree be removed form the island and a low maintenance (no mowing) ground cover be installed. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by W. Burgess to approve the project to be bid as items #1, 2B, #3 and #4 with the following conditions; tree being removed, the island be modified with a ground cover and any and all easements be obtained at no charge and with no resistance. Motion carried.

Delinquent Utility Issues – T.L. Crawford advised Council of the increase in residents failing to pay utilities, particularly new residents in the newer developments. The most recent list was 77 accounts totaling \$ 11,327.83, noting this is a smaller book of accounts. A letter with stronger wording was sent noting the forth coming termination would be within 10 days, and still resulted in 7 terminations. The average account is 90 days pass due, and the notices have been ignored. The office has become subject to irate, belligerent residents when the service is terminated. The office request authorization to work with the Solicitor on amending the Ordinance for repeat offenders, and shorting the time frame for termination. Council discussed the disturbing trend with new home owners failing to pay the Borough utilities. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by W. Burgess to authorize the office to work with the Solicitor to amend the Ordinance and establish the penalty at the maximum allowed by law, and the termination be done as soon as lawfully permitted. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council convened to executive session for discussion on the SRPC contract at 2020 hrs. and reconvened to the regular meeting at 2050.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by G. Andrews, seconded by J. Blum to adjourn at 2058 hrs. Motion carried.