

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
December 8, 2008

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

W. Cerkan – Vice President
E. Myers – Councilman
E. Molinsky – Councilman
D. Sarpen – Councilman
E. Paules – Councilman
G. Andrews - Councilman
J. Joy - Mayor
T.L. Crawford -Borough Secretary

Also Present: (see attached list).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Terrell wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

DISBURSEMENTS:

General Fund - \$ 75,597.74. Motion by G. Andrews, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve. Motion carried.
Water Fund - \$ 26,136.52. Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by E. Paules to approve. Motion carried.
Sewer Fund - \$ 75,281.57. Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by E.Molinsky to approve. Motion carried.
Rec. Fund - \$ 204.88 Motion by E. Molinsky, seconded by E. Paules to approve. Motion carried.
Com. Ctr. - \$ 3,563.11. Motion by E. Paules, seconded by E. Molinsky to approve. Motion carried.
2008 Year End – Motion by W. Cerkan, seconded by E. Molinsky to approve. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Motion by E. Molinsky, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve the minutes of Nov. 2008. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Mayor – Mayor Joy read the emergency services report. He advised Council the Chief has noted that some of the vandalsim is linked to juvenilles that have ties to Manto School in York. He explained the meanings of the graffiti that has been sprayed painted on municipal and private property. He advised the public works depts. are painting over or removing it from municipal property as soon as notified. Mayor Joy also advised Council Carol Childs is resigning as Assistant EMA Coordinator due to her responsibilities at her full time job. President Terrell questioned the breakdown of "other" time, noting it is higher than municipal time. Mayor Joy explained it is school, vehicle washing, etc., He will ask for a better breakdown of time for 2009. He also noted the District Justice has changed his scheduling procedures, and it may create more overtime for hearings. He noted the Fire Co. will have election on Thursday evening, and there may be new officers.

Police – Sgt. Geary was present to report the increase of thefts from vehicles, noting the majority of vehicles were not locked. He also explained the problem with residents not calling 911 until after event occurs. He noted the sooner they call and report the incident, the better chance the police have to catch the perpetrators. He also explained the new officer graduated 11/21/08 from HACC and has begun training with the department. The officer replaced Officer Staum. President Terrell questioned the status of the Peer-to-Peer study. E. Molinsky advised he is uncertain since the Chief will be handling the request and he was not at the last meeting.

Roads – E. Molinsky complimented the road crew for the recent snow/ice incident handling.

Solicitor – S. Hovis reminded Council of the opportunity to set the tax collectors rate of compensation prior to Feb. 15, 2009. He advised Council the rate that has been established previously at .75% of collected seems adequate. S. Hovis complimented Council and staff for operating a fiscally responsible municipality, with such a minor tax increase of .02 mils. He noted the Borough through its sound practices is able to provide an abundance of services and still maintain low rates for taxes, utilities. etc.

Planning Commission – T. Ruby was present to review additional amendments to be considered for the ZO. She reviewed the additions for domestic livestock and animated signs. She also discussed some concerns with alternate energy issues such as, solar, wind power, geothermal and outdoor furnaces. Council briefly commented on some of the recommendations, and will comment after they receive a written copy to review. T. Ruby advised the PC will forward a copy at the end of the month for Council review and consideration.

Rec – E. Paules advised the Rec. Council requests the public works dept. remove the newest tennis net for the season, and turn the court lights off until 3/20/09. President Terrell noted the SYC lease is not resolved, and the recommendation

from Rec. Council for a \$ 1.00 annual lease payment is not acceptable. President Terrell explained the history of the facility, noting the cost in excess of \$ 70,000. He explained the use was intended for various groups, if only one group uses the facility, the rent must reflect the exclusive use. He also advised SYC pays for improvements in other municipalities. Council will develop a lease for the facility. D. Royer inquired into the possible placement of an advertising sign on the Freedom Green property. Council advised they prefer not to place more than the one sign on the property, which is in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance. They suggested they contact the Senior Center about possible use of the sign in front of the Community Center. D. Royer requested placing material in the Municipal buildings lobby, and was advised flyers would be permissible, but nothing can be placed to impede ADA accessibility in the lobby. President Terrell advised her to check with the office when she has something for the lobby. She inquired about possible use of the various rooms at the Community Center. President Terrell advised her to call the office and complete an application so the room can be reserved. D. Royer advised Cathie Itzoe is resigning from the Rec. Council and they have another individual interested in the vacancy. E. Molinsky advised once the resignation is submitted to Council and accepted, Council will also accept letters of interest and recommendations from Rec. Council for appointment.

CITIZENS FORUM:

No one present.

BUSINESS:

Solicitor – S. Hovis advised Council the new Open Records Policy takes effect in Jan. He explained his office has prepared a policy and procedures in accordance with the law for the Borough. He reviewed the guidelines of the new law and the documentation necessary for compliance. He recommended the Council appoint T.L. Crawford as the Records Officer, noting she has the training and is familiar with the regulations. Motion by E. Paules, seconded by W. Cerkan to adopt the Open Records Policy as presented and to appoint T.L. Crawford as the Open Records Officer. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council convened into executive session at 2012 hrs. for litigation. Council reconvened to the regular meeting at 2040 hrs.

OTHER:

Rec. – D. Royer explained their Ernst Park Revitalization concept. She explained the agencies she has already met with concerning the project, such as Penn State Extension Office. She questioned if Rec. could meet in the Heritage facility in 2009. President Terrell advised they originally wanted the Council Chambers, and those arrangements have been made and meetings advertised. The Rec. Council will meet in the Heritage facility in Dec. 2008, and from that point forward will meet in the Council Chambers, with a Council member present to open and disable the alarm. President Terrell expressed concerns over any work done in the wetlands or vicinity of the creek. He reminded the group they will need to contact the Army Corp of Engineers prior to any disturbance in those areas. D. Royer questioned if the mulch piles may be leveled, and explained the invasive plants they want to remove. She discussed the volunteer assistance, and requested a waiver from the Solicitor. Solicitor Hovis will provide a waiver before the end of 2008. Solicitor Hovis explained the liability, and the responsibility of individuals that are agents of the Borough. D. Sarpen noted any improvements for the park should include a parking area, since none is currently provided, and the connection of the cul-de-sacs. Council requested they be kept informed of the progress of this project, as well as other projects.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by E. Myers, seconded by E. Molinsky to adjourn at 2107 hrs. Motion carried