

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
April 13, 2015

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

J. Blum – Council member
D. Sarpen – Council member
K. Earll – Council member
G. Andrews – Council member
L. O'Brien – Council member
J. Halapin – Mayor
T.L. Crawford – Administrator

Other present: see attached

CALL TO ORDER

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

April 2015 - \$ 183,561.09 Motion by J. Blum, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve the report as submitted. Motion carried.

MINUTES: (March, 2015)

Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Mayor – Mayor Halapin noted the SRPC has supplied a 6 month time analysis to the municipal officials for review. He also advised they hired the 15th officer, Mr. Ray Clayton. J. Blum inquired about the status of the contract negotiations, or if arbitration will be the next step. Mayor Halapin advised the attorney nor the Commission has heard of any change since the last meeting, but did note the FOP union is representing the department this contract.

Rec. – M. Halapin advised Council the Rec. Council recommends Brianna Anderson be appointed to the Rec Board which would fill the last vacancy, and Caitlyn Russo be appointed as the Youth Representative. She also noted a letters of interest were supplied to Council. President Terrell read the letter from B. Anderson. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to appoint Brianna Anderson and Caitlyn Russo to the Rec Council as recommended. Motion carried. M. Halapin also supplied a calendar of Rec Council events in their mailbox.

NF Heritage – D. Folger distributed a calendar of events to be held at Freedom Green.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

2 Boy Scouts from Troop # 24 were present to learn how a municipal meeting is conducted.

Sewer Bill Reduction Requests – Council reviewed the requests from 135 Highland Ave., and 258 N. Front St. T.L. Crawford advised both properties experienced frozen/ broken water pipes that did not go to the sewer, but flooded their homes. She also noted NF water department

employees were at each location and verified. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by D. Sarpen to reduce the sewer portion of the bills to the average use of each property. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

ZHB Appointment – Motion by K. Earll, seconded by D. Sarpen to appoint Andrew Manker as an Alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board. Motion carried.

DCNR Goodfellow Park Grant Resolution – Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to approve Resolution 2015-1 supporting the Goodfellow Park Grant, and authorizes the signing of all necessary documents. Motion carried.

Fire Police – T.L. Crawford explained P.L. 137 No# 74, Section # 1 regulations concerning non-emergency fire police activity and workers compensation insurance. Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by K. Earll to approve the fire police attendance at non-emergency events and activities. Motion carried.

Peoples Bank Loan Modification – T.L. Crawford noted the offers from Peoples Bank to reduce the interest on the Borough loans. Council reviewed the offers noting the savings over the term of the loans, if all funds utilized for the full term would be several hundred thousand. Motion by K. Earll, seconded by J. Blum to accept Offer # 2 with a 10 year fixed term and minimum net savings of \$ 199,436., and authorize all necessary agreements and documentation to be completed. Motion carried.

OTHER:

D. Sarpen provided a Penn Dot web site for commenting on their 12 year plan. He also reviewed EPA comments concerning Pa Clean Streams Act, and the failure of the plan to address the Chesapeake Bay adequately. He explained if waste water treatments plants reduce all harmful discharge; it will not be enough unless farmers are forced to address the problem. He expressed concerns over the financial impact of sewer customers and the sewer plant in 2017 if this problem is not dealt with by addressing the farmers.

DEP/Steam into History – Council expressed dissatisfaction on the actions of Steam into History that resulted in DEP inspection and violation.

2015 Streets – T.L. Crawford distributed a list of proposed street repairs for 2015. If Council has any other streets they believe are a priority contact the office.

T.L. Crawford advised sewer lining project should be ready to go out for bids in May, and the water tank removal bids are being worked on.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by J. Blum to adjourn the meeting at 1955 hours. Motion carried.