

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
August 10, 2015

Meeting called to order by President Terrell at 1900 hours. Present were:
J. Blum – Council member
G. Andrews – Council member
L. O'Brien – Council member
D. Sarpen – Council member (arr. 1914 hrs.)
K. Earll – Council member
J. Halapin – Mayor
T.L. Crawford – Administrator
S. Hovis - Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 2015 - \$ 355,340.98 Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to approve as submitted. Motion carried.

MINUTES: (July, 2015)

Motion by L. O'Brien, seconded by K. Earll to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Solicitor – S. Hovis noted one item to discuss in executive session.

Mayor – He advised he was out of town during the last SRPC meeting. B. Terrell advised there have been some recent issues at the SPRC meetings; it appears they are not adhering to the intergovernmental agreement again. The issue is Shrewsbury Borough's use of an alternate, and his admittance to executive sessions, as well as chairman of committees. It appears he is a third representative. B. Terrell explained the history of this issue, including his resignation and subsequent coming back with no official action. J. Halapin noted in March of 2015 the SRPC, based on the solicitors recommendation noted no alternates would be permitted in executive session if both municipal representatives were present. That policy has been ignored. He also explained some of the actions taken by the chairman, are not actions of the body, but decisions made only by the chairman and the body is advised after it is done. Council discussed in length the ongoing problems, noting it does not appear much progress has been made over the last 5 years. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to send a letter to the SRPC noting New Freedom's dissatisfaction with the handling of this matter and the lack of respect and adherence to the intergovernmental agreement, and that New Freedom representatives will not attend any executive sessions until this issue is resolved. Motion carried, with D. Sarpen abstaining due to arrival during the conclusion of the discussion.

Rec. Council - M. Halapin advised Tee Shirts are available for \$ 15. each to help raise funds for Goodfellow Park. She noted the recent 5k run was a success and netted approximately \$ 700. She also advised Council to visit "Seven" on August 18, a portion of all proceeds will be donated to the Goodfellow Park project. Council commended Rec Council on their success of their programs and fund raising activity.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

St. John Catholic Church Request – Council reviewed the request for reduction of water/sewer bill due to a leak and a water tank problem. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to reduce the sewer bill to the average of the last year, which has been Councils policy, and water bill remain as billed. Motion carried, with D. Sarpen abstaining.

Steam into History Request – Council reviewed the e-mail request for a full refund for cancellation of the community center. Council noted the actual date booked was in excess of 6 months, but the payment was received in April. Council also noted the cancellation policy has never been altered in the past, but followed as written or the event changed to a future date. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to deny the request for a refund, and issue a credit of \$ 362.50 against a future rental that must be utilized 1 year from this date (8/10/16).

NF Heritage – D. Folger noted N.F. Heritage will have a fund raiser at Chick-Fila on 8/24.

BUSINESS:

T.L. Crawford advised the water tank removal project bids are due by August 14, 2015. The bids are received at Buchart Horn and will be forwarded to Solicitor Hovis for review. She noted a brief continuation meeting should be held to award the bid so work can be begin and completed prior to winter weather.

T.L. Crawford advised the School Alley bids are being prepared, and will be ready to bid by the end of this month or early September, and awarded by the end of September. She noted once out for bid the temporary construction easements will be obtained and Eric Mains will schedule a work session for adjoining property owners that wish to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council convened to executive session for a personnel matter at 1935 hrs. and resumed the regular meeting at 1946 hours.

OTHER:

Bowser School Road – K. Dickmyer advised Penn Dot will be installing a storm water pipe across the roadway sometime from October thru March. This will impact the route used to access wells 7 & 8. K. Dickmyer advised he keep Council posted and work with Penn Dot, and other impacted agencies as needed.

CONTINUATION:

Motion by L. O'Brien, seconded by J. Blum to continue the meeting on August 20 at 0730 hours. Motion carried.