

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
March 9, 2015

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

K. Earll – Council member
E. Andrews – Council members
J. Blum – Council member
L. O'Brien – Council member
D. Sarpen – Council member
S. Hovis - Solicitor
T.L. Crawford – Administrator

Other present: see attached

CALL TO ORDER

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Vice President Paules noted a fund raiser for the Goodfellow Park project is being held on March 10 at Seven Bar & Grille. A portion of all drink and food purchases will be donated to the park project.

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 2015 - \$ 204,522.22. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to approve the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

MINUTES: (February, 2015)

Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to approve the minutes of Feb. 9, 2015 as presented. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Solicitor – S. Hovis reminded Council members of the May 1 deadline for the filing of the Ethics/Financial Statements.

Rec Council – K. Earll reminded Council the Farmers Market is held the 1st Saturday of each month in the Community Center auditorium. He also noted it will move outside when the weather permits.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kevin Burke of 111 S. Shaffer Drive present to request Council grant “conditional approval” for him to operate as a home occupation. His occupation is physical therapist and he advised he had previously met with the zoning officer and reviewed the criteria for a home occupation in his zoning district, which he meets. Vice President Paules reviewed the conditions, noting the concern for adequate parking accommodations if the business is successful. K. Burke advised he is hoping to obtain a building just for the business in the future, considers this location as temporary. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to approve the conditional use for a home occupation of physical therapy for Kevin Burke at 111 S. Shaffer Dr. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

Smith/Lutter Subdivision – J. Brennamen of James Holley’s office was present to review the plan. He noted the PC recommended approval at the 2/17/15 meeting. He also noted all comments and conditions have been met, except to pay the necessary fees which will be done within the next several days. Motion by L. O’Brien, seconded by K. Earll to approve the plan and sign when all applicable fees have been paid. Motion carried, with D. Sarpen abstaining.

CFR Partners – J. Brennamen of James Holley’s office was present to request an extension on the plan that was previously approved in December 2014. He noted the owner will be ready to start the project in the spring and pay the fees at that time. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O’Brien to grant a 90 day extension with the original terms as set forth in the December 2014 approval. Motion carried, with D. Sarpen abstaining.

Goodfellow Park Plan – Karla from Buchart Horn was present to review the master plan for the project. She explained the plan would consist of approximately 5 phases over a period of 15 years. She explained the process and the public participation that assisted in developing the plan. She reviewed the DCNR guidelines, as well as the TAP program and other possible funding sources. Council questioned the time frame involved with various grants and the projected phase schedule for the park. J. Blum expressed concerns on the condition of the existing buildings and how priorities will be determined. Karla advised the plan is only a master plan concept, some items will change in time, and improvements may be removed or added to the plan. She requested Council authorize her to proceed with the completion of the plan and the grant application and submittal to DCNR, noting the deadline is April 16, 2015. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to approve the conceptual master plan and authorize Buchart Horn to complete and submit the DCNR grant application for Marge Goodfellow Park. Motion carried.

Bonnie Houston of 4 Freedom Ave. questioned Council on when improvements will be made to keep water off her property. Solicitor Hovis advised he sent a letter to her attorney outlining the action Council is willing to take along Freedom Ave. He reported the modifications to the roadway are a result of an engineering study. He noted an independent engineering firm had completed a survey and study of the entire area. The results note that even with the roadway being modified her property will receive water runoff from neighboring properties regardless what is done to the roadway. B. Houston disagreed with Solicitor Hovis and continued to request the Borough provide her a remedy. Solicitor Hovis advised her to contact her legal counsel, noting she can also hire an independent engineering firm to do a survey and study of the area if she disagrees with the 2 firms the Borough has had study the area.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by J. Blum to adjourn the meeting at 2011 hours. Motion carried.