

Freeland Borough Council Meeting Minutes / 14 March 2024

Members in Attendance

Joshua Richie – President
Barbara Tulanowski – Vice President
Members – Rich DeStefano, Frank Kislan, Tom Meyers, Marilyn Calderon-Cruz. Absent John Budda

Information transcribed from an audio recording

Joshua Richie calls meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Joshua Richie states that no Executive Sessions were conducted since the previous regular meeting.

Citizen’s Petitions

Matt Krone 939 Birkbeck Street states that the Ambulance has been out-of-service for 173 days. He states that Northumberland County is being sued because they did not have their alarm cards set up properly and a girl lost her baby because she had to wait for over an hour for an ambulance. He believes that if they are only talking about being open 16 hours per week, then they should not be first due. He continues by stating they have lost \$135,000.00 since 2015 and that does not include two years which could possibly increase that amount to \$200,000.00 or more. He states that if we want to shut him up, we could, by committing to Valley Regional as first due through the end of the year, committing to putting the EMS tax into an escrow account and let nature take its course. He states that he has been lied to repeatedly when he was a member of Council and as a citizen he was threatened.

Acceptance of Minutes

Rich DeStefano makes a motion to accept the minutes. 2nd by Frank Kislan. Motion passes unanimously.

Secretary and Tax Collector Reports

There were no deposits from the Tax Collector. The General Fund ending balance was \$252,218.51 Liquid Fuels total ending balance was \$10,478.09, and the Savings Account balance was \$47,659.18.

Barbara Tulanowski makes a motion to approve the Secretary and Tax Collector reports. 2nd by Joshua Richie. Motion passes unanimously.

Payment of Bills

Heather Donish reviews the bills from each account. She notes that due to having the meeting early not all of the regular monthly bills have been received yet. Attention was given to the \$825.00 invoice from Kowalski to service the Borough’s rooftop unit, the \$525.00 charge for a sewer line inspection, the \$2,500.00 invoice from Starr Uniform for patches, and the \$400.00 fee for NEMO training for the new council people.

Rich DeStefano makes a motion to pay the bills. 2nd by Marilyn Calderon-Cruz. Motion passes unanimously.

Mayor's Forum

Nothing at this time.

Comments and Recommendations

Engineer

Joshua Richie reports that there are no updates on the Storm Water and Paving Project at this time.

Solicitor

Nothing at this time.

Committee Reports

Budget, Finance, & Administration

Rich DeStefano makes a motion to close the Liquid Fuels ESSA Account and move the proceeds to Community Bank. 2nd by Tom Meyers. Motion passes unanimously.

Police, Code Enforcement, and Zoning

Police and Public Safety

Chief Maholik reports the department had 115 calls for service. He thanks the Civil Service Commission for the time they are investing for the testing procedure. He states that there have been some changes made to the physical agility portion of the test. There are vacancies for full-time and part-time positions. He states that of the 106 parking tickets issued 101 were for snow ban violations. He reports that there were 21 citations issued. He shares that currently for the month of March, 73 citations were issued.

Chief Maholik requests permission to attend the free Vehicle Interdiction Training being held in Parsippany, New Jersey on April 8, 9, and 10 with a cost of \$388.00 for lodgings.

Chief Maholik reports that the owner of the laundromat has asked for consideration to allow him to purchase two parking spots in front of his establishment.

Frank Kislak makes a motion to advertise the March 30, 2024 Civil Service testing date. 2nd by Joshua Richie. Motion passes unanimously.

Code

Frank Kislak reports that there were 6 formal filings along with the report provided by Joe Mummolo at the work session.

Zoning

Nothing at this time.

Streets and Sanitation

Frank Kislak makes a motion to advertise the Spring Street Sweeping schedule. 2nd by Rich DeStefano. Motion passes unanimously.

Rich DeStefano makes a motion to approve the \$739.34 quote to fill the bolt bin at the Streets Garage from TIFCO Industries. 2nd by Tom Meyers. Motion passes unanimously.

Fire, Light, & Water

Chief Stepansky gives his report for February.

18 Incidents for February

8 Hours in service

96 Training hours January & February

96 Training hours YTD

Chief Stepansky shares that on March 22 the Fire Department will be holding a potato cake sale. He states that he will meet with Lorne Rish to schedule sidewalk washing after street sweeping is complete.

Buildings and Grounds

Barbara Tulanowski makes a motion to place the remaining kitchen items on Municibid. 2nd by Joshua Richie. Motion passes unanimously.

Ambulance

Nothing

Rec Board

Nothing

Acceptance of Committee Reports

Rich DeStefano makes a motion to accept the Committee Reports. 2nd by Joshua Richie. Motion passes unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Marilyn Calderon-Cruz makes a motion to approve the Hazleton Mustangs Field use by resolution in a form acceptable to our solicitor's office and our insurance carrier. 2nd by Tom Meyers. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business and Correspondence

Nothing

Resolutions and Ordinances

Nothing.

Public Input

Matt Krone 939 Birkbeck Street thanks Mr. Richie and Mr. DeStefano for attempting to attend the advertised meeting of the Freeland Business and Development Authority on February 29th. He states that for the second time since November a legal ad had been placed in the Standard Speaker and a sign appeared on the door stating that the meeting had been canceled. He states that he confirmed some of the members had not been notified that the meeting had been canceled. He states he doesn't know what kind of shenanigans some scumbag is trying to play there.

Sandra Kuklis 813 Schwabe Street asks to confirm if the Borough is going to acquire the Ambulance building and if so, are there any liens on it. Joshua Richie responds that it is a possibility in the future. Frank Kislak responds that there are no liens on it. Mrs. Kuklis asks what are the plans for the building if the Borough acquires it. Joshua Richie responds that the ambulance would

continue to operate out of it because they would have funds from the sale. Mr. Richie states that if something were to happen that the Ambulance could not continue to operate the Borough would have something to fall back on for the money that we put forth.

Adjournment

Frank Kislak makes a motion to adjourn. 2nd by Barbara Tulanowski. Motion passes unanimously.

These minutes are certified true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Heather Donish, Borough Secretary / Treasurer

(The proceedings of the Regular Meetings of Freeland Borough Council are recorded. These taped recordings are not meant to be for public record. They are for use by the Borough Secretary in preparing the Minutes of the Regular Meetings.)