

Borough of Freemansburg

600 Monroe St., Freemansburg, PA 18017

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 1, 2023-7:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Mayor: Gerald Yob-*present*; **Council Members:** Homer Lorrh-*absent*, Justin LaBar-*present*, Jim Smith-*present*, Charles Derr-*present*, Colleen Gallagher-*present*, Margaret Lorrh-*absent*, Rudolph Gallich-*present*

Borough Secretary: Justine Rossi-*present*

Solicitor: Anthony Giovannini, Esq.-*present*

Borough Manager: Jonathan Itterly-*present*

Courtesy of the Floor

➤ Residents will be limited to five minutes.

- *Borough Resident Joanne Zaharick was present and stated concern with jake breaks on tractor trailers and if something could be done. Manager Itterly said it would be discussed amongst Council.*

Finance/Personnel

- Payroll Reports for paychecks dated 6/15/23, 6/29/23, 7/13/23 & 7/27/23, *informational.*
- List of bills dated 6/28/2023 previously signed by the Finance Committee, *authorization of payment.*
Motion-to pay all bills dated 6/28/2023 previously signed by the Finance Committee by Smith, 2nd Gallagher-PASS 5-0.
- List of bills dated 7/10-18/2023 previously signed by the Finance Committee, *authorization of payment.*
Motion-to pay all bills dated 7/10-18/2023 previously signed by the Finance Committee by Gallagher, 2nd Derr-PASS 5-0.
- List of bills dated 8/1/2023, *authorization of payment.*
Motion to pay all bills dated 8/1/2023 by Smith, 2nd Gallagher-PASS 5-0.
- Monthly Tax Collector Reports for **June 2023**, *informational.*
- Estimates for the Public Works Building Stucco façade will be distributed at the meeting, *for discussion.*
Item was tabled for Executive Session.

Council Meeting Minutes

✓ *June 20, 2023*

Motion-to approve Council Meeting Minutes dated June 20, 2023 without corrections or additions by Smith, 2nd Gallagher-PASS 5-0.

Community Development, Public Safety & Fire Company

- Monthly Fire Report for **June 2023.**

- Update from the Planning Commission Meeting on 7/13/2023 regarding 1600 Freemansburg Ave. land development, *for discussion*. Manager Itterly updated Council regarding the property. Trammel Crow is the equitable owner of the property which will tentatively be an 8-900,000 square foot warehouse called “Freemansburg Industrial”. The project is permitted by Borough Zoning Ordinance but has stormwater issues to resolve. The Borough is requesting a traffic signal from PennDOT. A resident that was present asked if there would be turning lanes, Manager Itterly stated they are requesting them in both directions.
 - There was discussion regarding the road “Constitution Blvd.” which is most commonly called “Freemansburg Ave.”. Councilman Derr stated that Freemansburg Ave. is not even located in the Borough but “has our name”. He would like to pass a motion this evening to approve the request.

Motion-to request the roadway now called Constitution Blvd. to be changed to extend Freemansburg Ave. from the Bethlehem Twp. Portion at Main St. extension to the intersection at Washington Street in Freemansburg by Derr, 2nd Smith-PASS 5-0.

- “D&L Festival of Races” presented by St. Luke’s is scheduled for 11/12/23. The event was not held since 2019 where their race had 1,136 marathon entrants, 114 relay teams, and 800 half-marathon entrants! They’re expecting similar numbers for this year’s race. Emergency Management & Borough Police will be on site with the mobile operations center for the event.
- Public bid for Phase 1 construction of the Amphitheater Project is currently on PennBid for drawings and specifications prepared by the Borough Engineer. Once all bids are received, they will be provided to Council for review. (Possible meeting needed for Tuesday 8/22/23). *Pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8/3/23 at 10am in the Borough Hall.*
- Emergency Management would like to host a “Weather/Flooding Preparedness” discussion for Borough Residents. The intent is to proactively inform residents regarding the free use of NIXLE, discuss a plan of action, expectations from First Responders, to our residents most likely affected-specifically Main St, *for discussion*. *Council agreed to support the idea.*
- Resolutions authorizing the submission of a joint grant application in the amount of \$475,000.00 to the Monroe and Northampton/Lehigh LSA (Local Share Account) grant programs for Phase 2 Construction of a seating section and security fencing for the Borough’s Amphitheater Project. Each program has a \$100.00 application fee. *Separate Motion required for each Resolution.*

Resolution # 2023-018- Northampton/Lehigh Counties

Resolution # 2023-019- Monroe Co.

Motion-to authorize Resolution # 2023-018, a Resolution requesting a Northampton & Lehigh Counties Local Share Assessment Grant in the amount of \$475,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for Phase 2 of the Amphitheater program at the Gerald C. Yob Community Park by Gallagher, 2nd Smith-PASS 5-0.

Motion-to authorize Resolution # 2023-019, a Resolution requesting a Monroe County Local Share Assessment Grant in the amount of \$475,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for Phase 2 of the Amphitheater program at the Gerald C. Yob Community Park by Gallagher, 2nd Smith-PASS 5-0.

- Resolution authorization the submission of a grant application for PA Statewide LSA (Local Share Account) Grant for Phase 2 of the Community Center project. Grant amount cannot exceed \$1million. Construction Cost estimate to be determined by Borough Engineer, *Motion to authorize.*

Resolution # 2023-020-PA Statewide LSA

Motion-to authorize Resolution # 2023-020, a Resolution requesting a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant in the amount of \$ _____ from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for Phase 2 of the Community Center Project at the Gerald C. Yob Community Park by Smith, 2nd Gallagher-PASS 5-0.

Sewer, Sanitation, Streets/Public Works

- Monthly Public Works Report for **July 2023** (new report), *informational. Great job Public Works Supervisor Philip Elliott for supplying Council with this report.*
- BF Brown has completed the Paving at the Public Works Facility.
- Whitetail Disposal Service Overview for June 2023. This new report will be distributed monthly and will be included in Council Packets going forward.
- Planning Commission recommendation regarding a Response Letter to the City of Bethlehem’s Act 537 Special Study, *for discussion and authorization. Technical upgrades are necessary to the treatment plant.*
Motion-to accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation regarding a Response Letter to the City of Bethlehem’s Act 537 Special Study by Gallagher, 2nd Smith-PASS 5-0.

Police Department

- Monthly Police Report for **June 2023**, *will be distributed at this evening’s meeting.*
- Authorization to purchase new duty weapons for the police department, *for discussion. Item was tabled for Executive Session.*
- Letter from the Freemansburg Police Officers Association dated 6/19/23 in regard to contract negotiations, *for discussion in Executive Session.*

Parks & Recreation

- Next Event Reminder: Senior Health & Wellness Fair-Wednesday 8/23/23 (6-8pm)-Borough Hall. Please sign up in the office if you plan to attend-Parks & Rec hops to see you all there!
- Community Zumba Class is back and will be held weekly at the park/hall weather dependent.

Mayor, Manager & Council President

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Miscellaneous

Open Meeting Adjourn: 7:34pm

Executive Session: litigation, property acquisition & personnel matters

Executive Session- 8:40pm

Open Meeting Commenced where the following Motions were made:

Motion-to appoint Council President Lorrh and Councilman Smith, and Mayor Yob to the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement Negotiations Committee by Derr, 2nd Gallich-PASS 5-0.

Motion-directing Manager Itterly to instruct Public Works to cut the grass strip on the unimproved portion of Lincoln Street by Smith, 2nd Gallagher-PASS 5-0.

Motion-directing Manager Itterly to instruct Public Works to cut the grass on the property owned by Norfolk Southern at the corner of Main Street and Lockhouse Road by Smith, 2nd Gallagher-PASS 5-0.

Motion-authorizing Police Chief Itterly to order new firearms, holsters, weapon lights and optics for the Police Department not to exceed \$10,000.00 by Smith, 2nd Derr-PASS 5-0.

Motion-to adjourn at 8:50pm by LaBar-ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Justine A. Rossi, Borough Secretary

Approved by Council: _____ Certified: _____