

Borough of Freemansburg

600 Monroe St., Freemansburg, PA 18017

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday October 1, 2024-7:00 PM

➤ Pledge of Allegiance

➤ *Roll Call*

Mayor: Gerald Yob
Council President: Homer Lorrah
Council Vice-President: Jim Smith -*absent*
Council Members: Charles Derr, Colleen Gallagher-*absent*, Rudolph Gallich, Monica Elliott, Margaret Lorrah
Council Secretary: Ramona Ruiz
Borough Manager: Jonathan Itterly
Solicitor: Anthony Giovannini, Esq.

Courtesy of the Floor

Mr. & Mrs. Lasso expressed their concern with the low hanging wires by their property, asked if a sign could be placed so that cars could travel on the opposite of the street, J. Itterly expressed the cable company should be handling their wires and stated there is no ordinance in place to authorize signs.

Dave Knecht expressed his dissatisfaction with the ongoing issue with Chandi Market. He was accompanied by Mrs. Alexander and went into great detail of the multiple issues with the trucks ruining Peach St as well as the issues with the cooler and odor. Council addressed the code violations but could not come to a solution for the trucks traveling on Peach making deliveries. Dave contacted the dept of agriculture and also the City of Bethlehem for further assistance.

Finance/Personnel

- Payroll Reports for paychecks dated 9/5/2024 & 9/19/2024. *Informational.*
- Bills paid dated 9/17/2024 & 9/23/2024 & 9/26/2024 in view of due dates to avoid late fees, signed by Council. *Informational.*
- Monthly Tax Report for August 2024. *Informational.*
- City of Bethlehem 2025 Annual Capital Charge Debt Service in the amount of \$18,396.00 (\$41.00 increase from 2024). *Informational.*
- Remittance Reports from Portnoff dated 9/4/2024 for Sewer Fees (\$1,263.97), Trash (\$1,402.79). *Informational.*
- Remittance Report from Portnoff dated 9/11/2024 for Sewer Fees (\$531.91), Trash (\$536.03), and Real Estate Taxes (\$36.02). *Informational.*
- Authorize Borough Manager to execute writs of execution for Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd. to file for the collection of delinquent Sewer and Sanitation fees for properties 446 New Street. ***Motion Required.***

Motion to authorize Borough Manager to execute writs of execution for Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd. for delinquent Sewer and Sanitation for 446 New Street by P. Lorrh, 2nd C. Derr - PASS 5-0.

- Authorize Playground Inspection Proposal in the about of \$1,500.00 for Yob Park Play area. Inspection needed due to complaint received regarding safety. **Motion Required.**
Motion to Authorize playground inspection proposal in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Yob Park Play area by M. Lorrh, 2nd R Gallich - PASS 5-0.
- Payment received 9/23/2024 for destroyed guard rail on Market Street due to drunk driver from Nationwide Insurance in the amount of \$3,160.00. *Informational.*
- Authorization to list the 2014 Ford F-350 Public Works truck, which was replaced with a new Public Works truck, on Municibid. **Motion Required.**
Motion to authorize listing the 2014 Ford F-350 PW truck on Municibid by M. Lorrh, 2nd M. Elliott -PASS 5-0.
- CDBG Award Letter received, dated 9/9/2024 for “ADA Accessible Community Areas Project” in the amount of \$65,000.00 by Northampton County Council. *Informational.*
- Authorization to advertise Preliminary Budget for 2025. **Motion Required.**
Motion to authorize the advertisement of the Preliminary Budget for 2025 by M. Lorrh, 2nd M. Elliott – PASS 5-0.
- **Council Meeting Minutes:** 9/3/2024 (absent Mayor Gerald Yob & Ramona Ruiz). **Motion Required**
Motion to approve the meeting minutes after corrections were made by removing Public Works Monthly report for August 2024 which was not distributed at the meeting and correcting the motion to authorize the Fire Company to utilize a garage bay for a fitness room from 7-0 to 6-0 due to M. Elliott abstaining, motion passed 5-0 by M. Lorrh, 2nd M. Elliott.

Community Development, Public Safety & Fire Company

- Recommendation from Borough Engineer regarding the Bids received on PennBID for the Amphitheater Seating Section Project. **Motion Required.**
Motion to award the Amphitheater Retaining Walls and Misc Construction Project to the lowest bidder T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$238,500.00 by M. Lorrh, 2nd M. Elliott.
- Cambria Street Traffic and Engineering Study. **Motion Required** to send to PennDOT for review.
Motion to approve the Cambria Street Traffic and Engineering Study by M. Lorrh, 2nd M. Elliott -PASS 4-1 (No-C. Derr).
- BASD Lease Agreement was approved by the School Board. Agreement is \$1.00 for a 25 year term. *Informational.*
- Draft Property Maintenance Code for Council to Review. Code requires Council to designate an appeals board and enforcement officer. If Council is in favor of the draft, it will require advertisement prior to adoption. *For discussion.*

- Review complaint from Dave Knecht, site manager @ Anothony Builders regarding the condition of Peach Street between Garfield St. and Roosevelt St. due to multiple issues with Chandi Supermarket such as pot holes, tractor trailer traffic, debris, leaking cooler, trash and odor. *Informational.*
- Review Fire Company’s Call Run Reports for July and August 2024. *Informational.*
- Review Fire Company’s Monthly Treasurer’s Report for August 2024. *Informational.*

Sewer, Sanitation, Streets/Public Works

- Monthly Whitetail Service Overview for August 2024. *Informational.*
- Public Works Employee Update. *Informational.*
- The Sewer Pump House is now reporting all data and alarms through a cellular network. *Informational.*

Parks & Recreation

- Authorize request from Milly Vazquez to host a Jeep Show Saturday, October 26 2024 between 12pm & 4pm in the parking lot of Yob Park and also possibly park in the grass should there be more attendees. Possibly 40-50 jeeps. ***Motion Required.***
Motion to table until more information has been received from Milly regarding the type of organization involved if any, and what insurance requirements would need to be in place by M. Lorrh, 2nd M. Elliott - PASS 5-0

Police Department

- September 2024 Monthly Police Report. *Informational*

Mayor, Manager & Council President

Miscellaneous

- Approve hand delivery of Council Packets by Council Secretary no less than 24 hours prior to Council Meeting. ***Motion Required.***
Motion approved to hand deliver Council Packets by Council Secretary no later than 24 hours prior to a Council Meeting, by M. Lorrh, 2nd M. Elliott -PASS 5-0

Open Meeting Adjourn: 7:59PM

Executive Session: litigation, property acquisition & personnel matters

Executive Session Start: 8:03PM, Adjourn: 8:57PM

Open Meeting Re-Start: 8:57PM, Adjourn: 9:06PM

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:06PM by M. Lorrh, 2nd C. Derr – PASS 5-0

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Ramona Ruiz, Council Secretary

Approved by Council: _____ Date _____ Certified: _____
Date Ramona Ruiz, Council Secretary