

Borough of Freemansburg

600 Monroe St., Freemansburg, PA 18017

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 5, 2023-7:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

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

Borough Secretary: Justine Rossi-*present*

Solicitor: ~~James Preston, Esq.~~ Anthony Giovannini-*present*

Borough Manager: Jonathan Itterly-*present*

Courtesy of the Floor (Residents will be limited to five minutes.)

Finance/Personnel

▪ Payroll Reports for paychecks dated 11/2/23, 11/16/23, & 11/30/23, *informational*.

▪ List of bills dated 12/5/2023, *Motion for authorization*.

Motion-to pay all bills listed dated 12/5/2023 by M. Lorrh, 2nd Derr-PASS 6-0.

▪ Monthly Tax Report for **October 2023**, *informational*.

▪ 2024 Borough Real Estate Tax, **Resolution # 2023-024**, a Resolution of the Borough of Freemansburg for the year 2024 setting the Real Estate Tax Rate to 18.26 mills...(no increase-Resolution vs. Ordinance since rate is the same as 2023), *Motion for authorization*.

Motion-to authorize Resolution # 2023-024, a Resolution of the Borough of Freemansburg for the year 2024 setting the Real Estate Tax Rate to 18.26 mills by Smith, 2nd M. Lorrh-PASS 6-0.

▪ **2024 Budget**, distributed at this evening's meeting, *Motion for adoption*.

Motion-to adopt the 2024 Budget for the Borough of Freemansburg by Smith, 2nd M. Lorrh-PASS 6-0.

▪ **Resolution # 2023-025**, a Resolution authorizing a franchise agreement between the Borough of Freemansburg and Comcast of Southeast Pennsylvania, LLC, (will be distributed at this evening's meeting) *Motion for authorization*.

Motion-to authorize Resolution # 2023-025 authorizing a franchise agreement between the Borough of Freemansburg and Comcast of Southeast Pennsylvania, LLC by M. Lorrh, 2nd Smith-PASS 6-0.

▪ Police Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) has been negotiated between the Police Union and the Borough's Bargaining Committee, *Motion to authorize Council President Lorrh to execute agreement on behalf of the Borough*.

Motion-to authorize the Council President Homer G. Lorrh to execute the agreement on behalf of the Borough of Freemansburg by Smith, 2nd M. Lorrh-PASS 6-0.

- Application for Payment No. 1002 in the amount of \$65,700, for the Freemansburg Park Amphitheater project. This check was already signed by members of the Finance Committee, *informational*.
- Authorization of a reduction in the maintenance security for \$60,545.00 (15% of original Letter of Credit amount \$403,633.89), for Parkview Apartments. The project will go into an 18-month maintenance period, *Motion to authorize*.

Motion-to authorize the reduction in the maintenance security for \$60,545.00 for Parkview Apartments by Smith, 2nd M. Lorrh-PASS 6-0.

- Authorization for Manager Itterly to advertise Borough Meeting schedules for 2024, *Motion to authorize*. Motion-to authorize the advertisements of Borough Meetings for 2024 by M. Lorrh, 2nd Smith-PASS 6-0.

Council Meeting Minutes

- 11/8/2023 (Members Absent: Gallagher/Derr)

Motion-to authorize Council Meeting Minutes dated 11/8/2023 without additions or corrections by M. Lorrh, 2nd Smith-PASS 5-0 (abstain Derr due to meeting absence).

Community Development, Public Safety & Fire Company

- Statewide LSA Grant was submitted 11/30/23 for phase 2 of the Community Center in the amount of \$770,000.00, *informational*.

Sewer, Sanitation, Streets/Public Works

- Copy of “Attestation Engagement” (audit) for Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for 1/1/2022-12/31/2022, *informational*.
- Stucco has been completed on the Public Works building, *discussion in Executive Session*.
- November 2023 Monthly report was distributed to Council this evening. Councilman Lorrh stated it is a “nice report” and Councilwoman Lorrh stated it is a “nice report”.

Police Department

- November 2023 Monthly Report, will be distributed this evening. Chief Itterly stated the Officers recently completed their annual firearms qualifications.

Parks & Recreation

- The first Holiday Vendor and Craft Show was held on Saturday November 11, 2023. The Parks & Rec Committee did a great job with the event-many compliments were received-and the committee will be hosting it again next fall. Thanks to the volunteers and staff that helped or stopped by that day.
- Cookies with Santa will be held Saturday 12/16 (8am-1pm with 2 seatings this year due to the great response last year!) Registration began 12/1/23 to Borough Residents. The Fire Co will also be holding their annual Santa Toy Run that afternoon. The fire co. will assist Parks & Rec in the morning and Parks & Rec will assist the fire co with the Santa Run in the afternoon.

Mayor, Manager & Council President

- Thank you letter from New Bethany Ministries for the donation sent.

Miscellaneous

- Borough Christmas Party will be Saturday 12/16/23 (5-8pm) at the Heights AA. Please respond if you haven't already to Cindy Amorim if you plan to attend. RSVP was due Monday.
- Borough Council Swearing-In for Council Members Gallagher, LaBar, H. Lorrh and Smith will be before the Council Reorganization Meeting on **TUESDAY 1/2/2024 at 6:30pm.** Members will be sworn-in by MDG Alan Mege. Regular meeting will continue at 7:00pm. Please remember to give Justine your Affidavit of Residency before this meeting.

Open Meeting Adjourn: 7:13pm

Executive Session: litigation, property acquisition & personnel matters

Open Meeting Entered: 7:55pm where the following motions were made.

Motion-to authorize payment to Brickote in the amount of \$6,000.00 for extra work completed by Smith, 2nd M. Lorrh-PASS 6-0.

Motion-to adjourn by LaBar-PASS ALL AYES.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

Justine A. Rossi, Borough Secretary

Approved by Council: _____ Certified: _____