

# Borough of Freemansburg

600 Monroe St., Freemansburg, PA 18017

## Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 6, 2025-7:00 PM

➤ Pledge of Allegiance

➤ *Roll Call*

Mayor: Gerald Yob

Council President: Homer Lorrach

Council Vice-President: Jim Smith

Council Members: Charles Derr, Colleen Gallagher-*absent*, Rudolph Gallich, Monica Elliott, Margaret Lorrach

Council Secretary: Ramona Ruiz

Borough Manager: Jonathan Itterly

Solicitor: Anthony Giovannini, Esq.

***Courtesy of the Floor***-Resident Dee Rasner informed council about her concern with the traffic going up the wrong way on Market St which is a one-way street. She inquired why additional signs couldn't be posted. H. Lorrach stated that the Borough must have a traffic study done in order to enforce signage. J. Itterly informed D. Rasner that the Police Department has written many tickets and the inbound lane of the Freemansburg Bridge is closed and also mentioned the bridge will be closing for repairs in the upcoming months. H. Lorrach mentioned adding signage at the top of the hill to which J. Itterly stated there are signs posted at the top of Market Street. D. Rasner also inquired about how traffic will operate when Main Street and the bridge are closed for the final phase to which J. Itterly stated the traffic should be able to exit as usual from Market Street. D. Rasner's additional concern is the debris and branches on Market Street. P. Elliott added the cleanup of Market to the Public Works to-do list. D. Rasner's other concern is that Comcast knocked a branch down on Market. J. Itterly stated he will handle that with Comcast directly. D. Rasner's final issue is the zoning issue with the house on Market that is looking to rebuild a 2 unit. J. Itterly replied that if an application was submitted the main issue would be access to the property. He stated that a roadway was never approved. Resident Beth Robinson inquired why there has not been a notification from the Borough that Comcast was coming through Market Square to dig up certain areas of the sidewalk to which J. Itterly replied that he sent her a detailed email stating Comcast had received a permit and will be working in the utility easement. They will place door hangers when they will be in the area. J. Itterly also stated a Nixle alert will be sent by the Borough once notification has been received from Comcast. J. Itterly also commented to B. Robinson that if door hangers aren't placed and Comcast is in the area, she is to contact the Borough. Resident Melanie Wrecksics informed council that she maintains the embankment on Market St. and inquired if she could place cones out while taking care of the embankment to which Solicitor Anthony Giovannini replied she can as long as she does not block traffic and to use her best judgement.

Stephanie Valez made a request that council authorize basketball hoops to be placed at the park during the Fit-Fest on 6/7/25 to which H. Lorrach replied that they would not be put back due to the backboards missing from previous vandalism. H. Lorrach also commented that possibly in the future they can utilize the space for pickle ball.

### ***Finance/Personnel***

- Payroll Reports for paychecks dated 4/3/2025 & 4/17/2025. *Informational.*
- Bills paid dated 4/1/2025, 4/16/2025 & 5/6/2025 in view of due dates to avoid late fees, signed by council. *Informational.*
- Remittance Reports from Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd. for sewer fees in the amount of (\$775.11) & trash fees in the amounts of (\$619.45 & \$281.50). *Informational.*

- Collections Summary from Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd. for real estate taxes through 3/31/2025. *Informational.*
- Authorize the Borough Solicitor to draft an Ordinance authorizing the Borough to collect Per Capita Tax and Occupation Tax. ***Motion Required.***  
Motion to authorize Solicitor to draft Ordinance authorizing the Borough to collect Per Capita Tax and Occupation Tax by J. Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Elliott -PASS 6-0.
- Review Tax Collector's Monthly Report for the Month of March 2025. *Informational.*
- Review Tax Collector's Monthly Report for the Month of April 2025. *Informational.*
- Authorize Application for Payment No. 7 period ending February 28, 2025, prepared by Construction Masters Services, LLC for the Main Street Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$91,742.30. ***Motion Required.***  
Motion to authorize Payment No. 7 to Construction Masters Services, LLC for the Main Street Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$91,742.30 by J. Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. C. Derr-PASS 6-0.
- Authorize Application for Payment No. 8 period ending March 31, 2025, prepared by Construction Masters Services, LLC for the Main Street Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$234,184.58. ***Motion Required.***  
Motion to authorize Payment No. 8 to Construction Masters Services, LLC for the Main Street Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$234,184.58 by J. Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Elliott-PASS 6-0.
- Authorize Application for Payment No. 2 dated for work accomplished through April 1 2025, prepared by T. Schiefer Contractors, Inc. for the Amphitheater Retaining Walls & Miscellaneous Construction in the amount of \$132,750.00. ***Motion Required.***  
Motion to authorize Payment No. 2 to T. Schiefer Contractors for the Amphitheater Retaining Walls & Miscellaneous Construction in the amount of \$132,750.00 by J. Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Elliott -PASS 6-0.
- Authorization to adopt Ordinance #2025-002 fixing the rate of compensation for members of council and the mayor and parameters of compensation of members of council. ***Motion Required.***  
Motion to adopt Ordinance #2025-002 fixing the rate of compensation for members of council and the mayor and parameters of compensation of members of council by M. Elliott, 2<sup>nd</sup> -PASS 6-0.
- Review email correspondence from CDR Maguire Engineering regarding the upcoming repairs to the Freemansburg Bridge (SR3005, Main Street). *Informational.*
- Authorize the Administrative Office to close for lunch from 12-12:30 Monday through Wednesday. *Motion Required.*  
Motion to authorize the Administrative Office to close for lunch from 12-12:30 Monday through Wednesday by M. Lorrah, 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Derr -PASS 6-0.
- ***Council Meeting Minutes: 4/1/2025 (absent Colleen Gallagher & Jim Smith). No corrections. Motion Required.***  
Motion authorizing Council Meeting Minutes from 4/1/2025 without corrections by M. Elliott, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Lorrah -PASS 5-1 (J. Smith Abstain).

### ***Community Development, Public Safety & Fire Company***

- Review Fire Company's Call Run Report for March 2025. *Informational.*
- Review email from Ryan Miranda regarding the poor condition of the Lehigh River. *Informational.*

### ***Sewer, Sanitation, Streets/Public Works***

- Authorize resident Homer Lorrach to relinquish 1 sanitation cart from their residence and account due to residence having a dumpster and having never utilized the cart service. ***Motion Required.***

Motion to authorize resident Homer Lorrach to relinquish 1 sanitation cart from their residence and account due to residence having a dumpster by C. Derr, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Smith – PASS 4-2 (M. Lorrach & H. Lorrach Abstain).

- Review Public Works March Report. *Informational.*
- Motion to authorize Garbage Contract prepared by Broughal & DeVito L.L.P. between the Borough and Whitetail Disposal for its final one-year renewal term to commence on January 1, 2026. ***Motion Required.***  
Motion to authorize Garbage Contract prepared by Broughal & DeVito L.L.P. between the Borough and Whitetail Disposal for its final one-year renewal term to commence on January 1, 2026 by J. Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Elliott -PASS 6-0.
- Review Whitetail Disposal's Service Overview for March 2025. *Informational.*
- Meeting Scheduled with PennDOT on May 21, 2025 at their Allentown Office regarding the Borough's request for additional Turnback funding in the amount of \$1,151,326. We would like 2 members of Council and the Mayor to attend if possible. Meeting time to be determined. *Informational.*

### ***Parks & Recreation***

- Carnival is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>. Wristband will be sold on the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> for \$30.00 per person. *Informational.*

### ***Police Department***

- Monthly Police Report for April (to be distributed at meeting). *Informational.*
- After having discussions with the Council President, the Police Department would like Council to authorize the formation of a Blight Property Taskforce. This Taskforce would be comprised of up to 3 members of Council, police officers and the zoning officer. The purpose of this task for would be to review problematic areas and/or properties within the Borough that have ongoing violations and complaints. ***Motion Required.***

Motion to authorize Blight Property Taskforce comprised of up to 3 members of Council, police officers and zoning officer by M. Elliott, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Smith -PASS 6-0.

### ***Mayor, Manager & Council President***

***Miscellaneous***

Open Meeting Adjourn: 9:00PM

Executive Session: litigation, property acquisition & personnel matters

**Executive Session Agenda:**

- Discuss organizing a farewell event for Carrie Basic prior to her departure.
- Discuss Parks & Rec Volunteer situation.

Executive Session Start: 9:02PM, Adjourn: 9:31PM

Motion to adjourn at 9:31 by M. Lorrah, ALL ALYES.

Respectfully Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ramona Ruiz, Council Secretary

Approved by Council: \_\_\_\_\_ Certified: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Ramona Ruiz, Council Secretary