

Borough of Freemansburg

600 Monroe St., Freemansburg, PA 18017

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 7, 2023-7:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

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

Borough Secretary: Justine Rossi-*present*

Solicitor: James Preston, Esq.-*present*

Borough Manager: Jonathan Itterly-*present*

(Gallagher arrived at 7:02pm after Roll Call)

Courtesy of the Floor

- Residents will be limited to five minutes.
- *Russell Sutton, Lower Saucon resident, was present and thanked members of Council for their support with their opposition toward the landfill expansion. He states that the Borough was granted party status and he encouraged the Borough to send the Solicitor to the Conditional Use Hearings this Thursday and Friday.*

Finance/Personnel

- Payroll Reports for paychecks dated 2/9/23 & 2/23/2023, *informational.*
- List of bills dated 3/7/2023, (*will be distributed this evening*), *authorization of payment.*
Motion-to pay all bills listed by LaBar, 2nd Smith-PASS 7-0.
- Writ of Execution for property address 950 Monroe St. in the amount of \$7,423.81 for past due Sewer and Trash fees at collections with Portnoff Law & Associates, *for authorization.*
Motion-to authorize a Writ of Execution for property address 950 Monroe St. in the amount of \$7,423.81 for past due Sewer and Trash fees at collections with Portnoff Law & Associates by M. Lorrh, 2nd Smith-PASS 7-0.
- Letter from Borough property owner Thomas Fenon, to request an exemption of Sanitation and Sewer fees for vacant property at 535 Main Street Rear (aka 13 Elm St).
Motion-to authorize the exemption of Sanitation and Sewer fees for vacant property at 535 Main Street Rear (aka 13 Elm St), property owner Thomas Fenon. If property owner rents alternate unit he will be invoiced retroactive to today's date, by Smith, 2nd M. Lorrh-PASS 7-0.
- Copy of checks dated 2/28/23 in the amount of \$20,000, and \$73,763 for reimbursement from DCED LSA (Monroe & Lehigh/Northampton Counties) for the "Security & Info. Technology Improvements" grant.

Council Meeting Minutes

- ✓ *January 3, 2023 (Correct Derr's absence)*

Motion-to adopt Council Meeting Minutes dated January 3, 2023 without additions or corrections by M. Lorrh, 2nd Smith-PASS 4-0 (Abstain due to meeting absence-LaBar/Gallagher/Derr).

Community Development, Public Safety & Fire Company

- Letter dated 3/1/2023 from PA DEP in regard to heating oil release at Fritch Fuel Company- *Fritch Fuel Co. reported that approximately forty gallons of heating oil accidentally was spilled from filling station. Manager Itterly stated there was no canal or storm drain entry.*
- Barnesdale Associates-Termination of Permit- *Manager Itterly stated the facility is getting ready to sell the property for warehousing. There is question regarding Borough stormwater easement. Borough Council discussed they will require the requestor to pay an escrow for admin and engineering fees to obtain maps and legal opinion.*

Motion-to authorize Borough Solicitor to complete a deed search by M. Lorrh, 2nd Derr-PASS 7-0.

- Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement, *for discussion. Manager Itterly stated to Council that Comcast wishes to enter into a franchise agreement with the Borough. They are looking into possibly erecting a hub for distribution on a Borough property that will service Freemansburg, Hellertown and Fountain Hill. Itterly would like to have Council's approval to have the Borough Solicitor review the cable franchise agreement. He would also like to renegotiate with Service Electric which is currently at 5%.*

Motion-to authorize Borough Solicitor to review franchise agreement draft by Smith, 2nd Gallagher-PASS 7-0.

- FY24 Appropriations Application Portal Information-*discretionary funding is available. One out of ten applications receive funding which has a 35% match which could be covered by another grant.*
 - Upcoming CDBG and Grow NORCO Grant Programs-*Itterly stated he could write a grant for an additional parking lot at the park which will require the Borough Engineer to do a preliminary sketch.*
 - Motion to ratify Executive Session decision to join "Party Status" in regard to Landfill Expansion Project
- Motion- to ratify the action of the Borough Solicitor in obtaining party status for the Borough of Freemansburg in the Lower Saucon Township conditional use hearing regarding the expansion of the Bethlehem Landfill and authorizing the Borough Solicitor to take whatever other and further actions they deem necessary to oppose the landfill expansion by Gallagher, 2nd Smith-PASS 7-0.

Sewer, Sanitation, Streets/Public Works

- Public Works Building now has electric and HVAC.

Police Department

- February 2023 monthly report will be distributed at this evenings meeting. *Chief Itterly stated that Officer Delgado will have completed his field training by the end of the month.*

Parks & Recreation

- Next event is the Easter Bunny Pizza Party on Saturday 4/1/23 (12-2pm). Registration is 3/15/23 to 3/25/23
- Parks & Rec Clothing & Shoe Drive Fundraiser-Saturday 4/29/23 (11am-12pm)

Mayor, Manager & Council President

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Miscellaneous

- NIXLE alerting platform registration has begun. Please feel free to register your mobile device by texting FREEMANSBURG to 888777 or go online to register your cell or home phone numbers <https://local.nixle.com/register/>

Open Meeting Adjourn: 7:43pm

Executive Session: litigation, property acquisition & personnel matters

Executive Session exit at 8:38pm where the following motions were made:

Motion-to authorize staff to obtain a commitment letter from Fulton Bank to fund the PennDOT Turnback Main Street project by Gallagher, 2nd M. Lorrh-PASS 7-0.

Motion-to authorize Manager Itterly to submit a funding request to Senator Casey’s office for an eligible community project by M. Lorrh, 2nd Gallagher-PASS 7-0.

Motion-to authorize Borough Engineer to survey Borough property located on the western bank of the canal by M. Lorrh, 2nd Smith-PASS 7-0.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:43pm by LaBar-PASS All Ayes.

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

Approved by Council: _____ Certified: _____