

Minutes- Regular Council Meeting

December 4, 2023

Council President Clint Warnick opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Stephanie VanTine, Josh James, Jacob Whitlock; Mayor Zack Gent, Borough Manager Zach Filous, Code Enforcement Officer Mike Greiser, Solicitor Matt Kalina, and KLH Engineering Rob Horvat. Council Members Rich Macura and Chad Westerman were absent.

The regular Council Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Minutes- Motion was made by Stephanie VanTine to approve the November 6, 2023, Regular Council Meeting minutes. Motion was 2nd by Josh James. Motion Carried.

Borough Manager Report- Motion was made by Josh James to approve the Borough Manager report. Motion was 2nd Jacob Whitlock. Motion Carried.

Public Safety Report- Motion was made by Stephanie VanTine to approve the Public Safety Report. Motion was 2nd by Josh James. Motion Carried.

Police Report- Motion was made by Stephanie VanTine approve the Police Report. Motion was 2nd by Jacob Whitlock. Motion Carried.

Invoices- Motion was made by Stephanie VanTine to approve the invoices. Motion was 2nd by Josh James. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report- Motion made by Stephanie VanTine to approve the treasurers report. Motion 2nd by Jacob Whitlock. Motion carried.

Mayor Report- Mayor Zack Gent, thank everyone from Christmas parade. Thank police for their efforts and dedication to making the town safe. Thank Borough Manager for passing DEP exams.

Planning Commission Report- No new business.

Solicitor Report- 67 Main Street must wait for deed to be issued before we advertise for sale.

Citizen Comments- Susan Johns stated that she is interested in the tax collector position once current tax collector resigns in January. Asked the board for a letter of recommendation. Council instructed Susan to submit an official letter of interest. Clayton Holbein introduce himself now that his business is officially in Freeport. 55 people working in Borough. Wanted to have fire and police come visit to better understand their setup. Offered to help the Borough in any way.

Public Works- Sewage Treatment Plant Phase 2- (Robert Horvat) LSA grants completed. Waiting on environmental closer. Nothing else new currently. Josh James motions to accept Sustainable Pittsburgh Grant of \$1,428 to start changing streetlights to LED. Motion 2nd by Stephanie VanTine. Motion carried.

Public Safety, Property, & Ordinance- New list of blighted properties has been issued. Solicitor states that we must receive deed from county before we move forward with advertisement of 67 Main Street for sale. Allowing off street parking at 521 Franklin Street was dismissed due to Chief of Police recommendations. No action was taken to add street signs to prevent trucks going wrong way up Buffalo Street. Josh James motions to approve Freeport Borough Public Safety as lead agency in Safe Kids of Pennsylvania, Alle-Kiski Coalition partnership. Motion 2nd by Stephanie VanTine. Motion carried. Josh James motion to approve free parking in Freeport for the month of December. Motion 2nd by Jacob Whitlock. Motion carried.

Parks, Recreation, & Community- Freeport Borough was recognized as a Bronze Certified Sustainable Community by Sustainable Pittsburgh. This certification will allow the Borough to apply for more competitive grants.

Finance- No delinquent accounts currently. Sharp Collections recovered \$2.25 in delinquent income tax in the month of November. Stephanie VanTine motion to approve 2024 budget. Motion 2nd by Josh James. Motion carried. Stephanie VanTine motion to approve Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for 2024 Freeport Borough Pension Plan. Motion 2nd by Josh James. Motion carried. Stephanie VanTine motion to approve passing resolution No. 2023-8 levying the Property Taxes of 15 mills for 2024. Motion 2nd by Josh James. Motion carried. Stephanie VanTine motion to approve a 3% raise for Secretary, Borough Manager, and Public Safety salaries. Motion 2nd by Jacob Whitlock. Josh James abstained from the vote. Motion carried. Stephanie VanTine motion to approve purchasing a new tractor not to exceed \$16,500. Motion 2nd by Josh James. Motion passed.

Electronics, Web- Nothing to report.

Personnel- Re-entering the Armstrong UCC Group was dismissed until more information. Allowing Bureau Veritas to do UCC permitting under the Armstrong UCC Group umbrella was dismissed until more information. Stephanie VanTine motion to approve 2024 Health Insurance under UPMC. Motion 2nd by Josh James. Motion carried.

Executive Session- Properties and personnel. Council moved to executive session at 6:32 pm. Council returned at 6:45 pm. Council President reported no straw votes taken.

Stephanie VanTine motion to adjure at 7:06pm. Motion 2nd by Josh James. Motion Carried.