

FREEPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL
Special Meeting | January 22, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

- A. Council President Rick Fennell opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- B. The Special Council Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

II. Roll Call/Attendance

- A. Roll call of council members was taken by Borough Manager Zach Filous:
 - 1. Rick Fennell- Present
 - 2. Lori Miller- Present
 - 3. Sally Riley- Present
 - 4. Stephanie VanTine- Present
 - 5. Josh James- Present
- B. Additional attendees included; Mayor Zack Gent, Borough Manager Zach Filous, Solicitor Matt Kalina, Chief of Police Chris Fabic, and KLH Engineering Rob Horvat.

III. Citizen Comments

- A. Jim Swartz expressed concerns that the anticipated \$25,000 in savings by regionalizing the police force was not coming to fruition.
 - 1. Chief Fabic explained that the previous price did not include fuel, overtime, health care, workers comp, and insurance.
- B. Jim Swartz questioned as to the police being readily available 24/7.
 - 1. Chief Fabec indicated that the original agreement was amended and that there is an officer presence in the borough from 7A-1A daily.
- C. Jim Swartz questioned if meter tickets are still written.
 - 1. Chief Fabec confirmed that they still are ticketing.
- D. Jim Swartz inquired about enforcement of snow removal of sidewalks.
 - 1. It is the responsibility of the Director of Public Safety.

IV. Vacant Council Seats

- A. **Motion** by Josh James to appoint Jeanine Mazurowski to a vacant council member chair. Seconded by Stephanie VanTine. **Motion carried 5/0.**
- B. **Motion** by Sally Riley to appoint Sara Conroy to a vacant council member chair. Seconded by Stephanie VanTine. **Motion carried 5/0.**
- C. Mayor Zack Gent proceeded to complete the oath of office for the two new council members.
- D. Sara Conroy and Jeanine Mazurowski took seats and participated in meeting moving forward.

FREEPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL
Special Meeting | January 22, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

V. Vacant Auditor Position

- A. **Motion** by Josh James to appoint Jim Swartz as the third borough auditor. Seconded by Sally Riley. **Motion carried 5/2**
 - a) Rick Fennell - yes
 - b) Lori Miller - yes
 - c) Sally Riley - yes
 - d) Stephanie VanTine - yes
 - e) Josh James – yes
 - f) Sara Conroy - no
 - g) Jeanine Mazurowski - no
- B. The decision was made that we are NOT going to have an external auditor as was approved at 1/2/24 meeting.

VI. Vacant Planning Commission Seat

- A. No letters of interest were received for the planning commission seat.
- B. Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of every month
- C. **Motion** by Sally Riley to table the planning commission seat until the February meeting. Seconded by Josh James. **Motion carried 7/0.**

VII. Review Borough Appointments

- A. Borough appointments will remain as appointed at the 01/02/24 regular meeting.

VIII. UCC Appeals Board Appointment

- A. **Motion** by Rick Fennel to postpone the UCC Appeals Board appointment until the February meeting. Second by Sally Riley. **Motion carried 7/0.**

IX. Resolution #2024-3: Pennvest Letter of no prejudice

- A. Item dismissed. Rob Horvat identified that this was passed in October 2023.

X. Revisit 2024 Storage Unit Fee Schedule

- A. **Motion** by Lori Miller to reduce the storage unit fee to \$100 a month for the year 2024. Seconded by Sally Riley. **Motion carried 7/0.**
- B. For those renters that paid January's fee, the excess money will be credited to their next month's rent.
- C. Anyone who canceled their unit rental will have first offer at new price.

XI. Armstrong County Treasurer Office as Tax Collector

- A. **Motion** by Rich Fennell to have Armstrong County Treasurer's Office collect Borough taxes for the 2024 spring taxes. Seconded by Josh James. **Motion carried 7/0.**

FREEPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL
Special Meeting | January 22, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

XII. Citizen Comments

- A. Council requests to have two citizen comment sections moving forward. One at the beginning of meeting to address agenda items and one before close to discuss all items.

XIII. Adjourn

- A. **Motion** by Stephanie VanTine to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. Second by Josh James.
Motion carried 7/0