

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE FREEBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL**

September 3, 2026

Approved September 15, 2026
--

The council of Freeburg Borough, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, held a special meeting on this date in the meeting room of the Freeburg Community Building. Members of the council present were: Catherine Dent, President, presiding; Angela Weaver, Regina Moyer, Erica Stephenson, Thomas Gingrich and John Wiegle.

Others present were: Mayor Richard "Bud" Bickhart and Wanda Kantz.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

This special Freeburg Borough Council meeting is to discuss issues regarding the Washington East Solar Project.

Solar Field Concerns – There is a solar field being built around the Borough's water supply system, which includes our well and water treatment plant. There are very serious concerns regarding storm water run-off and possible pollution to our wells. There was a public meeting for Washington township residents to review the East & West Washington township solar field projects on Wednesday, April 29th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Fortunately, Thomas Gingrich attended this meeting and discovered the concerning issues involving our water system. Catherine Dent has sent letters to all of our Federal, State and local representatives and congressmen regarding the concerns. Joshua Owens & Joshua Satteson have reached out to DEP and the EPA regarding our concerns also. Thomas Gingrich made a motion to have Attorney Cravitz send a letter to the solar field company stating our concerns and requesting they attend a future Council meeting to discuss our concerns to put them on notice, Regina Moyer seconded and the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion (5/19/26). Attorney Cravitz sent a letter to the solar field company. A response was received from Brookfield Solar, asking for a retraction of our letter. A solar field information meeting was held on Monday, June 29th at 7 pm at the Community Center building, with 50 people in attendance. A second informational meeting was held on July 30, 2026 at 6 pm with over 120 community members in attendance. Brookfield Renewable US representatives were present to share an overview of the project and answer questions. After the meeting, Brookfield Renewable requested a water supply protection agreement draft of what the Freeburg Community would like to have as an assurance for the water protection. This agreement was drafted by Catherine Dent, Thomas Gingrich, Joshua Satteson, Joshua Owens and Attorney Matthew Cravitz. The agreement was presented to Borough Council to review. Thomas Gingrich made a motion to approve the submission of this agreement to Brookfield Renewal US with a deadline of September 4, 2026, with a written response, Regina Moyer seconded, and the Borough Council members unanimously approved the motion (August 18, 2026). **Catherine Dent submitted the agreement to Brookfield Renewable U.S. at 11:45 am on August 19, and at 3:20 pm the same day received a response prepared by Brookfield's legal team. After review of the Brookfield Renewable U.S. agreement, the Borough Council and the Freeburg Municipal Authority are not agreeable to this recent agreement and would like to negotiate this agreement with more favorable terms for the Freeburg community. Copy of the agreement was presented to council members to review.**

Solar Field Subcontractor Issues – The subcontractors for the Brookfield Renewable U.S. solar field projects have been drawing water for the Fire Co. dry hydrant at the carnival grounds without any permission, driving large water truck across the main water supply line at the lower carnival grounds entrance, and driving dump truck on the borough streets. **Catherine Dent has spoke with the subcontractor supervisor about the concerns the borough has with the recent actions and the supervisor has promised to make the necessary changes to protect our**

borough's infrastructure. The Freeburg community will continue observe for any issues regarding the sub-contractors.

Approval of Legal Representation for Solar Field Agreement Negotiations – Salzmann Hughes, P. C. - Catherine Dent presented a retainer agreement with Salzman Hughes, P. C. Attorneys at law, this firm came highly recommended by the FMA water engineers, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG). The attorney estimated a max cost for legal services at \$5,000.00. After discussion, ***Erica Stephenson made a motion to enter into the Special Council Representation agreement with Salzmann Hughes, P. C. for negation purposes with Brookfield Renewable U. S. regarding the Washington East Solar Agreement, Angela Weaver seconded and the Borough Council member unanimously approved the motion.*** Catherine Dent will sign and submit the representation agreement to Salzmann Hughes, P. C. **Copy of the agreement was presented to council members to review.**

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA & AMENDMENT TO AGENDA FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration, if needed, of a motion for additional agenda item(s) that need to meet one of the following criteria: emergency business, matters arising within the past 24 hours, minor business raised during the meeting, or agenda changes approved by majority vote (with expressed reasons for the amendment item being stated for the minutes and the same to be posted the next business day).

COUNCIL, MAYOR, SOLICITOR, CONCERNS –

The next meeting of the Borough Council will be Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 7 pm.

A motion was made by Thomas Gingrich, seconded by John Wiegler to adjourn. Motion carried. The Borough Council meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Wanda Kantz, Borough Secretary