

AGENDA FREEBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

October 21, 2026

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES –September 15, 2026

PUBLIC CONCERNS (Time limit 3 minutes per issue)

Building Permit for 43 Smithfield Lane – Solar roof panels – **Approval needed**

FREEBURG FIRE COMPANY REPORT –

MAYOR'S CONCERNS – Richard “Bud” Bickhart

COMMUNITY CENTER COORDINATOR REPORT – Trent Hoffman

September 2026 Rental Income Report

Roof Repairs Repair Project – Update: insurance adjuster has reviewed damages, Received \$9,085.68 from Insurance claim. [Trent Hoffman to schedule repairs.](#)

Hometown Hero Banners & Holiday Lights – November 13 & 14, 2026 Banners to be taken down and holiday lights to go up. [Rec. Assoc. providing all labor for this project.](#)

REPORT FROM BOROUGH MAINTENANCE – Rob Heddens, John Stuck

REPORT FROM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) – Josh Owens and Wanda Kantz

September 2026 Monthly Report from OPS (OPS services began 10/27/25)

2024 Local Share Account (LSA) Grant Request for Sewer Lining

- 2024 LSA Grant submitted for Market Street lining, project cost \$464,308.65. Received 100% of grant request, project to begin late Summer/Fall 2026.
- Review of project quotes – **Approval needed**

2025 Appropriations Project – Received award for \$750,000 Match amount waived.

- **Engineering Services Proposal (not covered by state funding) – \$37,000.00** Approved 7/21/2026

REPORT FROM MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – Thomas Gingrich

Water Leaks – All detected leaks have been repaired.

2026 Local Share Account (LSA) – Working on project planning

2027 Appropriations Request – Waiting on award announcement

REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE – Catherine Dent (Chair), Angela Weaver, Thomas Gingrich

Outstanding bills to be paid, October 2026 – **Approval needed**

Liquid Fuels Payments

- East New Market & Willow/Church Street guiderails – **Chemung Supply \$10,458.50** (Approved bid amounts \$11,941.00; savings of \$1,482.50) – **Approval needed**

Committee Meeting –

Virtual Meeting with Senator McCormick's Office – Site tours being scheduled with Sen. Lynda Culver and Rep. David Rowe. [Possible dates: Nov 13, 12, 13 or 16](#)

Solar Field Discussion – Community Information Meeting held July 30, 6 pm. Water Supply Protection framework prepared by HRG for proposal to Brookfield Renewable/Urban Grid.

- Counteroffer received from Brookfield/Urban Grid; Borough Council/FMA not agreeable.
- Special legal representation approved: James Podgorney of Salzmans Hughes., P. C.
- James Podgorney directed to negotiate with Brookfield. [Discussion of email and document.](#)

2027 Budget review – [Copies attached for council review.](#)

- [Discussion of millage increase – Currently 12.0 mills. Discussion. If no change, then resolution needed. If increase is approved, advertisement of ordinance approval is needed.](#)
- **Approval needed to advertise 2027 budget**

Employee Training Opportunities

- **Wanda Kantz**, DCED Scholar training, Finance & Budget; September 29, 9 to 10:30 am

Employee Review – Evaluations in process

Electric Supplier Rate Review – Current contract ends January 12, 2027. [New supplier – Catalyst Power, \\$0.10948/kWh for 42 months, effective January 12, 2027](#)

PUBLIC FACILITIES, SERVICES & SAFETY – Regina Moyer (chair), Angela Weaver, Tom Gingrich

Manhole at 405 East Market Street – [Manhole riser is a possible fix for this issue. Estimated cost of repair \\$550.00](#) – **Discussion, possible approval needed**

South South/Front Street Storm Drain – **Discussion, possible approval needed**

2026 LSA Statewide Grant – Community Center Improvements, 0% match. Working on Application

- Roof Repairs – Equity Roofing (CO-Stars approved vendor) contacted for quotes.
- Gym Renovations

Basketball Backstops – Revised quote, price increase. **Discussion and possible approval**

DCED Multi-Modal Transportation Fund – Project for this grant round is paving Willow St from Rt. 35 to Front St, Front St from Willow to S Whitetop, S Whitetop to Rt. 35. Application submitted July 30, 2026.

- Verbal funding approval received from Senator Culvers office for special funding program.

2026 County Aid Project – 2026 Project is to patch potholes, \$550.00, project submitted.

East Front Street Bridge Replacement Project – Received DCED Multimodal Grant for \$164,700.00 based on R.K. Webster engineered design for Precast Concrete Box Culvert Bridge (engineered design cost \$39,900.00).

- All grant documents have been received. Engineer’s project update presented and bridge opened for one-lane traffic only.

West Front Street Bridge Replacement Project – Quote for engineered plan from Stahl Sheaffer engineer Ben Showers, \$14,000.00, was tabled 10/22/2025. Looking into other options. PennDOT suggested re-topping bridge at estimated cost of \$40,000.00, but this not recommended in the inspection report (also doesn’t include abutments). Engineered plan needed to apply for grants.

- Mark Raup from LIVIC provided a verbal estimate for a project description of \$6,000, an engineered plan estimate of \$14,000.00.

PennDOT TIP Program – All other bridges added to PennDOT TIP program for funding assistance.

Regionalized Police Force – [Discussion, proposed service rates and agreement available for review.](#)

ORDINANCES & PLANNING – Tabbetha Vanhorn-Price (Chair), Erica Stephenson, John Wiegler

Committee Meeting – October 15, 2026

Borough Master Projects Plan – 10-Year Master Projects Plan being developed to assist in grant planning and to keep future borough council on task – Discussion

Borough Ordinances Review/Update – Reviewing several ordinances.

- **Controlling Animals Ordinance** – **Review and approve for advertisement**
- **Quality of Life Ordinance** – **Review and approve for advertisement**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Erica Stephenson (Chair), Tabbetha VanHorn Price

Committee Meeting – October 15, 2026

Trick or Treat Night – October 31st, from 6-8 pm

Comcast Franchising Agreement – Franchise Agreement being reviewed.

Freeburg Commons Planning – Received DCNR grant match of \$23,700.00. Borough match (50%) is \$23,700.00. First Study Committee meeting held.

CORRESPONDENCE

NEW BUSINESS

Letter to PPL Regarding Recurring Power Outages – [Discussion](#)

Thank You Letter for Snow Blower Donation

2027 Meeting Dates – **Approval needed for advertisement**

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, SOLICITOR, EMPLOYEE CONCERNS

NEXT BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday, November 17, 2026

APPROVAL OF ADJOURNMENT