

**MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 18, 2011 WORKSHOP MEETING
HELD AT 7:00 PM
51 WEST MAIN STREET
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728**

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Michael Wilson, Councilman Michael DiBenedetto, Councilman Kevin Kane, Councilman John Newman, Councilman George Schnurr, Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer and Councilman Jaye Sims.

Absent: None

Also present were Business Administrator Joseph B. Bellina, Borough Attorney Kerry E. Higgins, Captain Glenn Roberts and Borough Clerk Traci L. DiBenedetto.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

Councilman Kane offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption, opposed none, absent none, abstain none. Mayor Wilson declared the Resolution adopted.

3. ROUTINE TRANSACTIONS-SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA (See Attachment I).

See the permanent minute book for the minutes and the resolution book for the attachments.

4. NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE COMMITTEE PRESENTATION.

Councilman Kane explained the Neighborhood Pride Committee asked him to read the following letter to clear up some confusion and misinformation regarding the Freehold Borough Library:

“As you know because the Borough has its own library we are not part of the county library system. The Borough can not become part of the county system while maintaining its own library. Borough residents may utilize the county system, however,

to check out materials or use certain resources an individual must pay an annual fee for that privilege. Our beautiful and historic library is an asset to our community, however, many residents particularly students wish to tap into the vast resources available at the county library system. The annual cost for an individual to join the county system is an obstacle to many. Freehold Borough is the county seat and home to many county offices most of which are tax exempt. Approximately 20% of our tax base is comprised of tax exempt county property. We do have a great relationship with the county and they have always been good neighbors. The annual fee for individuals to use the county library system is a hardship to many, especially the students. Recognizing this and based on our close relationship, the NPC wanted mayor and council to make a plea to the county to allow Borough residents to opt into the county system at a reduced rate. The committee based its request on many factors including Freehold status as the county seat with resulting a high number of tax exempt properties. The request was reasonable, courteous and non-confrontational. That is the important part. At no time did the NPC suggest or recommend the closure of our Carnegie Library. Their action was merely an overture to the county to see if the Freeholders would consider any relief from the annual fee. The committee feels that this is within its mission to protect, preserve and foster pride in our neighborhoods and our community.”

Councilman Kane explained the members of the NPC went to the library meeting and discussed this with them. They just wanted to go on record that at no time did they suggest that we close our library.

5. GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS. (SEE ATTACHMENT II.)

Kerry Higgins, Borough Attorney, explained that we did not have an actual policy regarding this. She has submitted a proposed policy of guidelines for a group that wants to place information on the web site. These postings are limited to announcements informing residents about upcoming community events. These would be charitable, educational, cultural or recreational events that would be taking place in Freehold Borough or sponsored by a Freehold Borough – based organization, group or person. The announcements are not intended for promotion of profit-based events. The announcements should be limited to 100 words of text only. These will go to Pat Ruegger under Mr. Bellina’s supervision and will placed on the web site accordingly.

Ms. Higgins stated the other policy refers to when elected officials want to place an announcement on the web site or do an e-mail blast. This would be for informational purposes only with much of the same conditions as previously indicated. These could contain updates on committee actions, council actions, grants received, public works updates. They should be authored or posted by the council person assigned to that committee. They are not to be used to “claim credit” but to inform the residents. Ms. Higgins suggested listing these announcements “From the Desk Of” to inform the residents who the announcement is coming from. These announcements should be sent to Mr. Bellina and he will pass on to Pat Ruegger.

Ms. Higgins sent out some examples of how other towns do this. If everything looks good, we can adopt a resolution approving the policies.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she likes the idea “From the Desk Of”.

Councilman Newman stated the set up of this is a great idea to give out information to people and try to keep it as pure as possible. The ultimate fear is to have something put together by tax payer money and for the residents is to gain something out of it and put your name on something just to put it on.

Councilman Kane stated the feedback from the public regarding these e-mail blasts is phenomenal. “From the Desk Of” is a great idea.

Ms. Higgins stated the basic, general information should be an e-mail but if your committee is working on something, it is appropriate for it to come from that council person who is liaison to that committee.

Mayor Wilson stated he agrees with the guidelines that have been discussed. The main thing is to make sure it is informational and non-political. If the governing body is in agreement, Mayor Wilson would like to move ahead with a resolution for the next meeting.

Councilman Newman questioned if we needed a resolution or if it could just be a standard policy.

Ms. Higgins replied that it could just be a written policy.

Councilman Schnurr stated he would like it to be a resolution.

Mayor Wilson polled the council on whether they wanted to adopt a resolution or have it be a written policy.

The majority of council voted to have the Guidelines for Community Event Announcements be a written policy.

Ms. Higgins stated she will make the changes and it will be posted.

Councilman DiBenedetto offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption seconded by Councilman Sims:

- 6. EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
 - A. PERSONNEL MATTERS.**
 - B. LITIGATION.**
 - C. CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS.**

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption, opposed none, absent none, abstain none. Mayor Wilson declared the Resolution adopted.

7. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Kane moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer, with All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Traci L. DiBenedetto, RMC
BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD