

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, August 6, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Higgins stated that the notice of the time, date and location of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 (Open Public Meetings Act).

Councilman Schnurr opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT	MAYOR J. NOLAN HIGGINS
ABSENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DIBENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JOHN NEWMAN
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER
ABSENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

Mayor Higgins recognized Captain Dispenza and Lt. Sweetman from the Freehold Borough Police Department.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 4 on the Agenda as follows:

“Presentation of Award from Valvoline to Al Michenfelder for 20 Years of Dedicated Service to the Racer’s Club.”

Councilman Kane presented the plaque to Al Michenfelder. He stated that Al has run the Freehold Racer’s Club for the past 20 years. This is a model car club that Al coordinates by getting free donations from various companies and Valvoline is one of his sponsors.

Al Michenfelder stated on his first night 20 years ago it was raining and he had 5 boys. But after a discussion with Jeff Jones from the Court Jester they thought of the idea of the Jester’s Challenge and to have the meetings at the library. It is now 20 years later and he has had 120 kids and 19 different winners of the Court Jester Challenge. He thanked his sponsors, Valvoline, Court Jester, the Earle family, Freehold Tire, the police department and especially his wife.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

“Bay Dock Holdings, LLC (Delray) Plan Amendment Presentation. (See Attachment)”

Gerry Sonnenblick, Esq., stated that Bay Dock Holdings, LLC, had an approval for 30 age-restricted units on Orchard Street. He thanked the Legislature for letting them convert these units to non-age restricted. They decided instead of converting these units they would make them 16 units in 8 duplex homes and not age restricted. He stated my client has also purchased some of the vacant homes across the street and we now have 4 of those homes and we are fixing up the road conditions on Orchard Street. We now need to amend our

stipulation and we are looking for your approval to move ahead and enter into the agreement and then we will have to come before the Planning Board for water, drainage, noise and lighting.

Ms. Higgins asked council to make a motion to agree to the proposed changes and the stipulation of settlement which would reduce the original approval from 30 age-restricted units to 16 non-age restricted units.

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

Councilwoman Shutzer made a motion to authorize the amendment to stipulation of settlement that was originally entered into in May of 2007 which would permit the alteration to the plans from the 30 age-restricted units to 16 non-age restricted units, subject to Planning Board review and approval, Councilman Kane seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she offered the motion because as Ms. Higgins said 16 non-age restricted units is better than 30 age-restricted units and they have approval for that.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to accept the minutes from the Workshop Meeting May 21, 2012 and Supplement to Workshop Meeting July 16, 2012 and was seconded by Councilman Kane.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 7 on the Agenda as follows:

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2012/12 Amending Chapter 8 (Garbage, Trash and Refuse Collection and Disposal) of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE #2012/12 AMENDING CHAPTER 8 (GARBAGE, TRASH AND REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD," be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

"Resolution Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-54, in the Amount of \$200,000, in Order to Finance and Reimburse Costs Related to Natural Disaster Recovery Efforts in the Borough of Freehold, Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey."

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-54, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000, IN ORDER TO FINANCE AND REIMBURSE COSTS RELATED TO NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY EFFORTS IN THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY.

Mr. Bellina stated there was a storm that came through town on July 28, 2012 that caused a lot of damage and destruction and there was a lot of work required to take down and remove the trees and remove the debris. The Borough made an application through the County Office of Emergency Management to the State of New Jersey for them to hopefully endorse a request to the Federal government for funding through FEMA which would help offset this. This measure allows us to pay for the emergency and aftermath over a five year period.

Councilman Schnurr asked if we would incur anymore debt.

Mr. Bellina explained at the end of the year we will take a look at our account balances and perhaps some of this \$200,000 can be retired immediately and be paid for so that we won't have to worry about making it up in ensuing years.

Councilman Schnurr stated that part of the funds that we are appropriating came about because we had a very mild winter and we didn't use a lot of funds for snow removal.

Mr. Bellina explained that part of the overtime costs that were incurred will come from

these funds.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 9 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey, Establishing Fees and Rates for Special Duty Assignments for Freehold Borough Police Officers.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING FEES AND RATES FOR SPECIAL DUTY ASSIGNMENTS FOR FREEHOLD BOROUGH POLICE OFFICERS.

Councilwoman Shutzer explained that this is the fee that will be paid when our police officers are hired by outside groups.

Councilman Schnurr stated the fees are commensurate with what the surrounding municipalities are paying.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey Authorizing Revised Developers Agreement Re: 75 Bannard Realty Group, Inc.”

Councilman Newman offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Schnurr:

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING REVISED DEVELOPERS AGREEMENT RE: 75 BANNARD REALTY GROUP, INC.

Councilman Newman stated 75 Bannard Realty Group will be tying into our sewer lines and they are also going to be upgrading that area and in exchange for the upgrading we are going to waive our connection fee.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Memorializing Business Establishment in Conformity with the Freehold Center Core Redevelopment Plan (FCC). (Top It Frozen Yogurt Bar)”

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

RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE FREEHOLD CENTER CORE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN (FCC). (TOP IT FROZEN YOGURT BAR)

Councilman Schnurr stated that Agenda Items No. 11 and 12 were discussed at the last meeting and they conform to the Freehold Center Core Redevelopment plan and basically our actions tonight allow the Planning Board to review these applications for approval.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Memorializing Business Establishment in Conformity with the Freehold Center Core Redevelopment Plan (FCC). (Subway)”

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

RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE FREEHOLD CENTER CORE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN (FCC). (SUBWAY)

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

Mayor Higgins stated Item No. 13 has been tabled.

Councilman Newman made a motion to table Item No. 13, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

On roll call Council Members Kane, Newman, Schnurr and Shutzer voted to table this resolution; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman DiBenedetto and Councilman Sims absent. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 14 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey Authorizing the Discharge of a Mortgage Re: RCA No. 06-45.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE DISCHARGE OF A MORTGAGE RE: RCA NO. 06-45.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 15 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey Authorizing the Discharge of a Mortgage Re: RCA No. 41.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE DISCHARGE OF A MORTGAGE RE: RCA NO. 41.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 16 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. **5K Run/Walk, West Monmouth Cares, Sunday, 10/7/12 from 7:00 AM – 10:30 AM.**
- b. **Crop Walk, Freehold Clergy Association, Sunday, 10/21/12, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM, starting and ending at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church.
c/o Hope Lutheran Church**
- c. **Temporary Taxi Driver License, Mohamed Elleithy, Old Bridge.**
- d. **Temporary Taxi Driver License, Alberto Sanchez, Bayville.**
- e. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Thomas M. Aellis, Freehold.**
- f. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Orcy Hernandez, Freehold.**
- g. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, John Gianforte, Freehold.**
- h. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Christian A. Perez, Freehold.**
- i. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Scott Brudahl, Freehold.**
- j. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Light Ikenna Okorom, Freehold.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the following Resolution except Application 16A which was tabled and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Newman:

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS 16B THROUGH 16J.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Bills.”

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$3,753,654.21 paid as presented.

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

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

Al Michenfelder stated there was cake in the back and everyone is invited to have a piece.

George Ridgeway, 40 Jackson Street, questioned Agenda Item No. 8, which was for the emergency funding to clean up the tree debris. He asked if there was going to be a resolution to help fund the people who lost a lot of food. He stated he called welfare, the Red Cross and Open Door and no one was able to help him replace the food that was lost. He questioned the future plans of something like this happening again.

Mayor Higgins stated unfortunately the Borough is not in the position to help. The Resolution that you heard was for storm clean-up, police cost, etc. Mayor Higgins stated that he had heard word on the street that there might be assistance from the Board of Social Services.

Mr. Bellina stated that JCP&L did have water and ice available at the local supermarkets. He stated that when everything gets assessed maybe a list can be made with agency names and phone numbers that people can call. Many years ago the welfare department was stripped from the local government and is now handled by the County.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that many homeowner's and renter's insurances cover replacement of food. The Monmouth County Food Bank might be able to help along with some of the local churches. Councilman Kane, Mayor Higgins and herself went to view the conditions at the Rug Mill Apartments and water and ice was delivered there.

Councilwoman Shutzer was absolutely appalled at the condition at the Rug Mill. She spoke to many of the residents. She pledged that something would be done. She stated that she cannot help with the food in your refrigerators, but something will be done to guarantee that you don't go through such an appalling experience again. They were in communication with JCP&L constantly right up until thirty minutes before the electricity came back on. Councilman Kane, Mayor Higgins and herself will be meeting with the owners of the Rug Mill to discuss this situation.

Marianne Earle, 89 Broad Street asked why the Borough cannot set-up an emergency program where people can go or call for help. We should also have something in place for food donations from the County Food Bank.

Ned Kusken, 30 Jackson Street, asked if there was mention of a back-up generator at the Rug Mill.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this was the basis of her discussion with the owner of the Rug Mill. She knows it was extremely dangerous because you couldn't see your hand in front of you in the hallways. She assured Mr. Kusken that this will be brought up tomorrow at the meeting with the owner of the Rug Mill.

Paul Vandever, 8th Floor, Rug Mill Apartments, stated when the power goes out and you need oxygen and insulin and your family has to drive over an hour to get to you, this is a very serious situation. The State does not mandate that these buildings have a generator. This has been an ongoing problem. When you walk in the hallways at the Rug Mill Apartments the halls have no air conditioning. This is the first time that he has come to a meeting. He stated the mayor is doing a great job.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that Mayor Higgins was in touch with CentraState Hospital for the mobile unit and had the situation continued on Tuesday, the mobile unit would have been parked at the Rug Mill to try to take care of some those issues. He definitely understands the situation at the Rug Mill and even though we have no control over this we will get change there.

Ms. Earle asked if the mobile unit could be on-call.

Mayor Higgins stated absolutely the mobile unit could be parked outside the Rug Mill, but this has been a learning experience.

Ron Griffiths, 86 East Main Street, President of the housing corporation that runs Hudson Manor, stated he knows what happens when the power goes out. Hudson Manor has an emergency back-up system. It doesn't cover the tenant's apartments but it does cover the common areas and gives lighting and air conditioning in the common areas. This system is 30 years old and they are in the process of looking for a new natural gas back-up system. It is very difficult when a senior building goes down. We have had to run extension cords for oxygen, we have to supply power for cell phones and we have to turnaround and run lines to charge electric wheelchairs. All of this should be included in your talk with the owner of the Rug Mill. He also offered his assistance if the governing body needed it. Mr. Griffiths stated the response was much better this time and they were only without power for 24 hours this storm and the Borough was much more organized during this storm.

Christine Gregory, 42 West George Street, publically acknowledge Councilwoman Shutzer, who explained to her where she could get free ice and water at Shoprite; Councilman Newman who walked her around town last Monday evening to survey the damage; Councilman Schnurr who called her and left a message to see if she was okay and Mayor Higgins who met with her also. She thanked every Borough employee, the police and fire departments.

Al Michenfelder stated the Freehold Voice was covering the young lady who was winning swimming Olympic medals and he suggested there be a town parade or proclamation for her.

Barbara Oliver, 71 Center Street, stated she is very aggravated with the Code Enforcement Department. She finds it awfully hard to believe that Code Enforcement would wait until someone is looking to buy her properties that they find things wrong with them and yet they haven't done anything about the properties across the street. She feels Code Enforcement is prejudice.

Gerry Ricciardi, JCP&L, stated Freehold Borough experienced a catastrophe last Saturday night. He gets a pit in his stomach whenever he sees Mayor Higgins' name on his cell phone. He stated the entire town came together and we were lucky because the damage only happened in one spot. Freehold Borough and Freehold Township were the epicenter of this storm. There were hundreds of trees down, approximately 50 poles were broken, there was spans of wire down everywhere. The best thing that was done was the daily meetings so that everyday we had everybody in the same room at noon talking about it. We had access to so many different crews because the damage only happened here in Freehold. He pledged that he is here to stay and he will do whatever necessary to make this a great partnership.

Annette Jordan stated she wanted to compliment the leadership of this town, the police department and emergency services for the work they did last week.

Carol Lida, 27 Bennett Street, thanked everyone for the work that was done and the efficiency that it was done. She asked what the emergency management number was because she got no answer on the number she called.

Mayor Higgins asked if she remembered the number.

Ms. Lida didn't remember the phone number but she will get back to the Mayor.

Mayor Higgins recognized Fire Chief Ryan Bailey and Bill Madden, First Aid Department.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

Mayor Higgins read the following statement:

"Members of the governing body and fellow residents, the evening of July 28, 2012, began as any other Saturday night. While most of us were watching the beginning of the London Olympic Games a violent storm unlike any of us had ever seen in the past caused massive property destruction, loss of power and telephone service and caused life as we know it in our community to come to a quick and definitive stop. Within minutes of the arrival of the storm our fire pagers were announcing trees into homes, an entrapment in an automobile, whole trees and branches blocking streets, flooding, loss of power, alarm calls, wires down and all types of calls for service.

Our volunteers left their families and homes to come to the aid of their neighbors and visitors to our town. Our police department, street department and water department all responded in the manner which we knew they would in the time of such a disaster.

Three calls were placed by me in the first few minutes of the storm. I notified our Administrator, Joe Bellina, our Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, Hank Stryker and Gerry Ricciardi JCP&L Area Representative. Administrator Bellina responded and somehow found his way into town that evening. OEM Director Stryker responded immediately to the fire house and Gerry was in cell phone contact throughout the evening. Our emergency operations center was opened in the firehouse.

In addition to our Freehold Borough emergency responders our neighboring police and fire departments responded with much needed assistance. By midnight our emergency management team had met in the upstairs meeting room of the firehouse. A local state of emergency was declared and each of our departments was at work assessing the damage and organizing for our recovery.

At daybreak on Sunday the extent of damage was clear. All our residents in nearly every street in the Borough were affected by the storm, homes were severely damaged and we were without power. Coincidentally our emergency management team had met on Tuesday, prior before the storm for an update and review of our operations should an emergency occur. Little did we know that our OEM meeting that day would be of immense value that Saturday night. A planning meeting was scheduled for Sunday at noon to determine our next strategy for the day. Attending this meeting were our Emergency Management Team, Administrator Bellina, OEM Director Stryker, Financial Officer Ricky Gartz, Borough Attorney Kerry Higgins, our police administrators, our fire chief, Street Department Supervisor, Fire Official Garry Jackson, Water Department Supervisor, our Water Plant Operator, representatives from Monmouth County OEM, Monmouth County Administrator Teri O'Connor, JCP&L representatives, NJDOT, Freehold Township Mayor Ammiano, Freehold Township Administrator Pete Velesi, Freehold Township Public Works Supervisor, NJ State Police OEM, Monmouth County Sherriff and several members of our governing body. A work group that day of nearly 40 people.

Because of the danger of people on the street among live wires and the need for a safe work environment for the many tree companies and utility crews a dusk to dawn curfew was put in place. Each agency had been working through the night clearing street and answering calls for service. JCP&L organized and began the daunting job of restoring power. First, trees had to be removed and scene safety established. The Borough called in additional tree companies for help and JCP&L brought in outside contractors to assist. Within hours we could see progress in opening streets and the start of power restoration. Planning meetings were again held on Monday and Tuesday with representatives from all the departments and agencies working on clean up and power restoration. Our outside tree contractors continued to assist in the removal of the trees and clean up of debris. The County assisted by providing their tree crew for several days. As devastating as this storm was to our community we are fortunate in many ways. Miraculously, we did not have a reported injury during the storm, or the clean-up except for a report of a vehicle striking a utility truck.

Because this storm was so localized we did not have to compete for resources and crews. A county or regional storm would have delayed our recovery for at least several days. By our planning meeting on Tuesday most of the streets were open and much of the power was restored. The curfew was lifted and our emergency teams were not faced with the large numbers of safety concerns. We moved from phase one of our operations to phase two where we will continue to clean up and have repairs made to our utilities and streets. Our damage assessments have been filed with the County and we have written to our State and Federal officials asking for help with the expense of the clean up.

Our recovery and restoration was remarkable, by Tuesday evening most power was restored. A time that JCP&L predicted but I never thought was possible in the beginning stages of this incident. On Monday afternoon when I walked down West Main Street a woman stopped me and said to me in a rather hushed and most concerned tone, Mayor what has happened to our town? My reply to her was we will be okay, we are on our way back. This was a team effort in every

sense, I am so proud of our Borough staff, our police and fire departments, our first aid squad, our public works staff, our citizens and all those who assisted in so many ways and everyone's efforts. Thoughts and patience while Freehold recovered and I extend to each of you, our residents, and best thoughts to everyone involved. Thank you."

Councilwoman Shutzer stated how proud she is to be a resident in this community. As she walked around her own neighborhood and as we all went out and walked around other neighborhoods we saw Freehold come together. She quoted her mother, "Out of everything bad, comes something good." All of the residents she talked to felt the same as she did in thinking, what happens to one of us happens to all of us. She has never seen more obvious proof of that than during this storm. The Mayor's speech covered everything and everybody. There is nothing she could say to add to his speech except a heartfelt thank you. She also thanked the Mayor for all of his work.

Councilwoman Shutzer reminded the residents that on Tuesday, August 7, 2012, the police department is sponsoring a National Night Out downtown in the Hall of Records parking lot. It starts at 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. She also thanked the police department for the wonderful Police Academy which had their graduation on Friday, August 3, 2012. In the midst of everything that happened they carried on and it was a wonderful experience for those kids that participated. She also thanked the Graeme Preston Foundation for Life for their \$5,000 donation to help fund the academy.

Councilwoman Shutzer thanked Gerry Ricciardi because when he made a presentation to the governing body three months ago there were some people who were skeptic, and she was one of them and he made her eat her words. She commended all of the workers at JCP&L.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she will be meeting tomorrow, August 7, 2012 with the owner of the Rug Mill and you have her word that she will do everything she can to help the residents there.

Councilman Newman stated that only a few weeks ago the town celebrated Olde Freehold Day which was a day filled with community unity and then we had this storm and saw people come out and helped each other. He thanked the police and fire departments, the first aid squad and our public workers here, Mr. Bellina, Mayor Higgins and JCP&L, everyone did a great job. He echoed the feelings described by Mayor Higgins and Councilwoman Shutzer. He reminded everyone that there are still dangerous situations going on. His car got hit on Sunday by a limb that was hanging from a tree from the weekend before. So he reminded the residents to be careful because there are still limbs hanging down.

Councilman Newman reminded the residents that Tuesday, August 7, 2012, is National Night Out, Wednesday is Live from Freehold, Thursday is a concert and Friday is the farmer's market. There is a new play at Center Players, it's an original production written by the people there and is a take-off of Little Red Robin Hood.

Councilman Schnurr stated he was going to speak tonight as a resident of Freehold Borough instead of a councilman. He was very thankful that no one got injured or killed this past week. When you go around town it is hard to believe that no one got hurt. He is grateful that we have a fire department the he feels is the best in the State. We have experience and manpower to do the job each and every time they are called upon. He is also grateful for the police and first aid squad who do the common things, uncommonly well. He is grateful that JCP&L lived up to their promise. He is grateful that Monmouth County helped us out the way they did and the NJDOT was out there a lot. He is also grateful that the Borough has a streets and roads and water and sewer departments that worked as hard as they did. These people worked for 20 hours straight and still continue to this day working a lot of overtime to be able to clear the roads of debris. He is grateful

that we have an Administrator and a staff that rise to the occasion every time the situation called for it. He is grateful that we have an OEM that has the experience that Hank Stryker has. Most importantly he is grateful that Mayor Higgins is the Mayor of Freehold. He knows what needs to be done especially at a time like this.

Councilman Schnurr stated the main thing is that we are open for business. When you drive down Main Street it looks like nothing happened.

Councilman Schnurr asked if the reverse 911 information could be put into the water bills.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He congratulated Al Michenfelder on his 20 years of service to the Racer's Club. He thanked the police department for all their work on the Youth Police Academy. The academy was entering their second week when the storm hit and they only lost one day and they managed to do everything they needed to do along with the extra work from storm. He also thanked the Graeme Preston Foundation for their donation.

Councilman Kane stated a few weeks ago when there was the storm on South Street and we talked about the response from JCP&L who would have thought that we would have a stronger more devastating storm a few weeks later and while he was sitting in that meeting on Sunday afternoon and being in a room with 40 people each one with their own job it was amazing. He thanked Gerry Ricciardi from JCP&L, Mayor Higgins, Joseph Bellina, the police and fire department. Chief Ryan Bailey made all of his captains in the four departments do an inventory of their departments so that no matter what the fire department will be ready to go at a moments notice. He thanked Bill Madden and everyone at the First Aid Squad. He reminded all the residents to donate to the first aid squad.

Councilman Kane stated that 10 years ago the Boro High School came out with a bumper sticker that said, "You Can't Hide That Boro Pride" and this past week showed the pride of the people in this town.

Mayor Higgins stated this was such a team effort and it shows what you can go in a group. In addition to all of the activities in the Borough our fire department was called into Freehold Township twice this week on a mutual aid call for structure fires and we also had a second alarm fire at the Boro High School with a fire on the roof. He congratulated Fire Chief Bailey, Bob Taylor and the entire fire department for their outstanding work these last few weeks.

Councilwoman Shutzer wished Happy 52nd Anniversary to the Taylors!

Mayor Higgins stated there will be a prayer service on the steps of Borough Hall on Sunday August 11, 2012 at 7:00 PM. There will be more information to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:aj