

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, December 3, 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 Sims opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

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

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

“Youth Police Academy Presentation (Chief Glenn Roberts).”

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the Youth Police Academy that was run by the Freehold Borough Police Department was a wonderful experience for all the children that participated in it.

Chief Roberts stated in years past he always knew that the Youth Police Academy was a really good program. It gives children in our community the opportunity to experience what law enforcement is all about. The other benefit is that it brought the community and the police department closer together. In the past few years he has worked very closely with Sergeant DeMuth, Sergeant Steppat and Officer Healey and the amount of time and effort they put into this program is truly amazing. He stated these are the three core police officers that run the program, but there are a lot of other officers who also put in their time as well. He also commended Officer Hobbs, Officer Werner, Officer Richmond, Officer Loksa and Sergeant Colaner who teaches several classes. This program is an entire team effort.

Chief Roberts read the Commendation for Community Achievement.

“Freehold Borough Human Relations Committee Humanitarian Award – Awarded to Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer.”

Mayor Higgins introduced Councilman Sims.

Councilman Sims stated tonight we have another special presentation that is not on the agenda. He asked Carol Lida, Reverend Frederickson and Christine Gregory up to the front of the room.

Ms. Lida stated she is the Chairperson for the Freehold Borough Human Relations Committee and the committee acts as a liaison for the community and they refer to the council when something is brought to their attention. When this year honoree’s name was submitted the decision was unanimous. This person is always involved and very available in the community. She is very loving, caring and she holds her own. This year’s award winner is Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer.

Ms. Lida read the Proclamation and presented it to Councilwoman Shutzer..

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she didn’t know what to say and that she was speechless.

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

Councilman Sims offered a motion to accept the minutes from Executive Sessions May 7, 2012, June 4, 2012, July 2, 2012, July 16, 2012, September 4, 2012 and October 1, 2012 and Supplement to Workshop Meeting November 19, 2012, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer.

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

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance No. 2012/14 Amending Chapters 16 (Land Use Procedures) and Chapter 18 (Zoning) of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey.”

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2012/14 AMENDING CHAPTERS 16 (LAND USE PROCEDURES) AND CHAPTER 18 (ZONING) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,” be and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to publish said Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press and that same shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on December 17, 2012 and that during the week of said meeting copies of the Ordinance shall be made available at the Clerk’s office to members of the general public who shall request same.

Councilman Schnurr stated this is our Master Plan and it has to be revised every five years. This allows perspective applicants that want to start up a business in town to submit sketch plans and conceptual site plans to the planning board and they can do this without spending money on an attorney or engineer. It also legitimizes home office use by defining precisely what that is. This plan also makes conditional uses of the following things: grocery stores and convenience stores, taxi and limousine services because of the necessary parking requirement. A grocery store and convenience store would require more parking over a retail store. This plan makes garages optional in the R-4 and R-5 residential zone as long as there is enough off street parking.

Councilman Newman stated this was discussed by the Land Use Committee and they had gone back and forth on one issue and he has re-thought his position on the sign regulation for motor vehicle service stations. He stated his problem with this is basically the size of the signs allowed in the downtown area. Currently the size of a sign can be 80 square feet. Most gas station signs are that big when you are driving down the highway on Route 9 and Route 33. Right now there are two ordinances that concern signs. We have a regular sign ordinance and we have a vision study that makes signs about half of the size of this and not as tall as the signs that are permitted here. So this would make a third standard for signs. He stated he liked what is in the vision study which was passed before he was elected on council. It was a thorough vision for what the downtown should look like.

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

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance No. 2012/15 Amending Chapter 10 (Vehicles and Traffic), Section 10.24 (Permit Parking Areas) of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold.”

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2012/15 AMENDING CHAPTER 10 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), SECTION 10.24 (PERMIT PARKING AREAS) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD,” be and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to publish said Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press and that same shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on December 17, 2012 and that during the

week of said meeting copies of the Ordinance shall be made available at the Clerk's office to members of the general public who shall request same.

Councilman Schnurr stated this ordinance will take the yearly parking fee in the Market Yard Parking lot from \$24.00 to \$48.00. The following year it will increase to \$72.00 and the year after \$96.00. The fee structure was discussed with the FCP and they came up with the fee structure. He listed the cost of the parking by area:

- Market Yard Parking lot \$48.00
- Court/Broad Street parking lot \$48.00.
- Broad/West Main Street parking lot for Freehold Borough residents \$120.00 non-residents is \$180.00

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

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance No. 2012/16 Amending and Supplementing Chapter 6 (Animals) of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey.”

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 an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2012/16 AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 6 (ANIMALS) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,” be and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to publish said Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press and that same shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on December 17, 2012 and that during the week of said meeting copies of the Ordinance shall be made available at the Clerk's office to members of the general public who shall request same.

Councilman Kane stated the fee to license dogs and cat will now be \$10.00.

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

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance No. 2012/17 Amending Chapter 16 (Land Use Procedures), Section 16.16.040 (Fees-Deposits and Other Charges) of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold.”

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2012/17 AMENDING CHAPTER 16 (LAND USE PROCEDURES), SECTION 16.16.040 (FEES-DEPOSITS AND OTHER CHARGES) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, ” be and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to publish said Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press and that same shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on December 17, 2012 and that during the week of said meeting copies of the Ordinance shall be made available at the Clerk's office to members of the general public who shall request same.

Councilman Schnurr explained these would be the fees an applicant would pay when coming before the Planning Board.

Councilman Newman stated there are a lot of ordinances regarding raising fees and he wanted the residents to know that these fees haven't been raised in a very long time.

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

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance No. 2012/18 Amending Chapter 2 (Registrar of Vital Statistics), Section 2.132.010 (Fee Schedule) of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold.”

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2012/18 AMENDING CHAPTER 2 (REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS), SECTION 2.132.010 (FEE SCHEDULE) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, ” be and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to publish said Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press and that same shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on December 17, 2012 and that during the week of said meeting copies of the Ordinance shall be made available at the Clerk's office to members of the general public who shall request same.

Councilman Kane stated these fees concern Vital Statistics. It will now cost \$15.00 for a certified copy of a birth certificate, marriage, civil union, domestic partnership and death certificate.

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

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Bond Ordinance No. 2012/19 Amending In Part Bond Ordinance #2012/5, Adopted on April 2, 2012, Providing for Various Road, Drainage and Parking Lot Improvements in and by the Borough of Freehold, in Order to Increase the Allocation of the Appropriation to Costs Permitted Under NJSA 40A:2-20; Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”

Councilman DiBenedetto 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 a Bond Ordinance entitled “BOND ORDINANCE #2012/19 AMENDING IN PART BOND ORDINANCE #2012/5 ADOPTED ON APRIL 2, 2012, PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD, DRAINAGE AND PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE ALLOCATION OF THE APPROPRIATION TO COSTS PERMITTED UNDER NJSA 40A:2-20; AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, ” be and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to publish said Bond Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press and that same shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on December 17, 2012 and that during the week of said meeting copies of the Bond Ordinance shall be made available at the Clerk's office to members of the general public who shall request same.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated this ordinance pertains to drainage on Bowne Avenue, Brentwood Avenue and Barkalow Avenue and the contract will be awarded to Earle Asphalt Companies.

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

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

“Resolution Awarding a Contract for Various Drainage Improvements.”

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

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR VARIOUS DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing Tax Appeal Settlement Re: Block 36, Lot 28.01, 31 West Main Street.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT RE: BLOCK 36, LOT 28.01, 31 WEST MAIN STREET.

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

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

“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey Waiving Interest and Penalties for Water/Sewer Regarding 35, 37, 39, 41, 45 Parker Street, Parker House Condominium Association.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY WAIVING INTEREST AND PENALTIES FOR WATER/SEWER REGARDING 35, 37, 39, 41, 45 PARKER STREET, PARKER HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION.

Councilman DiBenedetto explained that we will now be billing the association directly for these properties. This is for the first billing cycle only so they can have sufficient funds in the account.

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

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

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Actions:

- a. **Appointment of Thomas Klich as Electrical Sub Code Official/Inspector, Code Enforcement office, effective November 26, 2012.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTION NO. 15A.

Councilman Sims stated this will be a part-time employee that is replacing our current electrical inspector.

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

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

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. Precious Metals License – Gold2Cash, 597 Park Avenue.**
- b. Precious Metals License – Superior Rare Coinage, 41 East Main Street.**
- c. Precious Metals License – Gold Rush Gold Buyers, LLC., 566 Park Ave.**
- d. Precious Metals License – Crown Jewelry, 31 East Main Street.**
- e. Precious Metals License – Cash Exchange, 145 South Street.**
- f. Raffle No. 30-12, 50/50, Park Avenue Elementary School PTO, 1/26/12, 5:00 PM –8:00 PM at 280 Park Avenue.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS 16A – 16F.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Newman, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. 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 Councilman DiBenedetto:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$2,530,655.44 be paid as presented.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 18 on the Agenda as follows:

“Clerk-Late Communications”

There were none.

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

Al Michenfelder, Rug Mill, stated the Union Beach and Keansburg areas have been devastated and the only thing left standing is the police station. He suggested raising money and donating it to the Red Cross.

Mike Burt, Brookwood Drive, stated the town did a great job of keeping our streets clean during the emergency work that was done. He stated that JCP&L did a very poor job, they had no poles and no transformers for five days. The crews sat for three days because they weren't allowed to go out because they didn't fix their substations. He worked for JCP&L for 27 years and out of the 10 circuits in town only 2 circuits were rebuilt. Your underground system in downtown Freehold was put in the 1960s. Our system is outdated, it is old and obsolete. He spoke with crews

that came in from West Virginia, North Carolina and Michigan who said they never saw a system in such bad shape. We are going to see a lot more outages and a lot more time with the power out. Every since First Energy took over you can see the changes. Just look around a see how many poles are leaning. The trucks from First Energy are over twenty years old. He looked at the new equipment that came in from out of state.

Mr. Burt told Chief Roberts that Brookwood Drive is becoming a racetrack. They are doing 50 miles per hour down the road. He almost got run over by Eagle and Express taxi cabs. He also stated the cabs run the stop signs on Murray Street, Ellis Street and Fulton Street.

Dan Hoffman, 55 Conover Street, stated the back of his property faces the back of Freehold Commons and the apartments. He has had a problem which started around December 1, 2011 from garbage trucks emptying the dumpsters before 7:00 AM. He stated the Freehold Borough ordinance states that collection shall be done in a quiet and orderly manner between the hours of 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM. He called the garbage companies twice and they stopped for a little bit and then they started coming early again. He went to code enforcement and they said go to the police department and the police department said to go back to code enforcement. They come around 5:30 AM. He suggested putting a sign posting the times.

Mr. Bellina stated he will talk to Chief Roberts.

Councilwoman Shutzer asked who the garbage companies were.

Mr. Hoffman replied Freehold Cartage and Standard Waste Services. Mr. Hoffman stated he had another complaint about speeding on his street. He said Sgt. Colaner put a speed box up and the results showed there wasn't a significant amount of speeding, but there were people speeding. The study also showed that there were 4,200 cars going down the street on a daily basis. He asked if another study could be done on his street.

Chief Roberts stated that Sgt. Colaner worked extensively with Mr. Hoffman on both of these issues and he will talk to the traffic and safety officers to see if they can get out there and evaluate it.

Rich Fanello, 29 Broadway, stated he lives on the corner of Broadway and Murray Street and there have been two children hit by cars since he's been living there along with countless animals and when the court house changes prison shifts with the guards it becomes a raceway. He stated a few weeks ago there was a pit-bull that attacked a puppy. He believes it happened at 49 Broadway. The dog came across the street and mauled the puppy. He is very concerned with vicious dogs in the Borough.

JoAnna Parks, Bond Street, thanked Chief Roberts and the police department. She was trapped in her yard after the storm and they came by and cut her fence so she could get out.

Eva Sims, Hudson Manor, congratulated Councilwoman Shutzer. She also thanked Councilwoman Shutzer, Ron Griffiths, Mayor Higgins and her son, Councilman Sims for all of their help during the storm. They all came to check on the residents of Hudson Manor.

Rich Gatto, Downtown Freehold, stated the Land Use Committee puts in a lot of time and he appreciated the opportunity to sit in with them. Downtown Freehold did a lot of work adjusting the parking fees and signs. He stated they rewired or replaced over 100 Christmas decorations. The decorations are uniform and they have been economically updated with the latest LED technology and quality. They also bought 4 new sets of over the street decorations, which consist of stars and half moon. They installed 12 new power sources, all of these were off Main Street, and they had an order in for another 9 but due to the storm JCP&L was not able to get to them. He acknowledged Mike Page from the Court Jester who puts in an extraordinary amount of time on the Christmas decorations and winter plantings.

Jeff Friedman, 3 Broad Street, stated Saturday, December 8, 2012 is the Historic Preservation Commission Holiday House Tour starting at 5:00 PM through 7:30 PM. Tickets can be purchased at Borough Hall. Mr. Friedman agreed with Councilman Newman on the size of the signs for downtown gas stations, they are more than double the size of other signs that are allowed in the downtown area.

Barbara Oliver, 71 Center Street, stated she has 7 stray cats that live on top of her garage and she thinks they come from Bond Street. She would like animal control to come and trap them.

Angela Rissman and Pamela Sayegh, stated they were concerned that there was no traffic light on the corner of Throckmorton Street and Main Street. They waited seven minutes to cross the street.

Mr. Bellina stated we have made numerous requests to the NJ State Department of Transportation for a traffic light but their response from a few years ago indicated the only way a traffic light would be installed is if the MOM train line gets developed, which is not going to get developed any time soon.

Councilman Newman stated the traffic study that was done for the pedestrian bicycle plan also suggested a traffic light be installed at that intersection due to the accidents with pedestrians.

Mr. Bellina stated we will bring this situation up to the NJDOT again.

Yessenia Vargas, Investors Bank asked if the parking lot on Broad Street could be refigured to make the entrance a one way and the exit a one way.

Mr. Bellina stated we recently awarded a contract to rebuild and resurface that parking lot. It will not take place until next spring but over the winter we can sit down with our engineers and contractors and see if something like that is feasible.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

Mayor Higgins called upon the council for their comments.

Councilman DiBenedetto congratulated the Freehold Borough Police Department on their work on the Youth Police Academy. He congratulated the Sons of the American Legion on the Winterfest.

Councilman DiBenedetto announced the Downtown Freehold holiday events. He thanked Lee Deedmeyer, member of the musical group Mission Dance, who raised money for the residents of Union Beach and he took a group of people from Freehold to help with the clean up. Councilman DiBenedetto agreed with Mr. Michenfelder on his assessment of that area and agreed they are in dire need of donations.

Councilman DiBenedetto congratulated Councilwoman Shutzer. Councilman DiBenedetto wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated everything that was discussed tonight from public comments was written down and will be addressed. He thanked Mr. Burt for his comments on JCP&L. Councilman Kane stated he talked to workers from Oregon and they had similar comments.

Councilman Kane congratulated the police department on the Youth Police Academy. This is their fifth year and there were challenges on whether they would be able to have this program again, but the police officers stepped in and helped fundraise.

Councilman Kane congratulated Councilwoman Shutzer. For those that attended the Holiday Senior Party at the Elk's, if it wasn't for Councilwoman Shutzer these seniors may not have any type of holiday celebration.

Councilman Kane thanked Bill Madden and the Freehold First Aid Squad and he reminded the residents to donate to the first aid squad.

Councilman Kane wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Councilman Schnurr stated Wreaths Across America will be on Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 12:00 PM at Elk's Point. This event is sponsored by the Freehold Mason's Olive Branch Lodge. The Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual Blood Drive at 70 East Main Street on Saturday, December 8, 2012 from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. The Knights of Columbus will be selling Christmas trees and wreaths on December 8th and 9th and all of the proceeds from the Christmas tree sales will be donated. He also encouraged the residents to go out and donate to the various charities throughout the town.

Councilman Sims congratulated Chief Roberts and the police department on the Youth Police Academy. He congratulated Councilwoman Shutzer and thanked the Human Relations Committee.

Councilman Sims congratulated the Freehold Boro High School girl's gymnastic team on becoming State Champions. He urged the residents to partake in all of the holiday events coming up this month.

Councilman Sims stated that JCP&L is looking to raise their rates 1.2% to cover the costs from Hurricane Irene. He feels this is disturbing and appalling, because of their antiquated equipment we've had so many problems in our town.

Councilman Sims wished everyone Happy Holidays. He stated the intersection of Main Street and Throckmorton Street has been terrible since he was a little boy.

Councilman Newman stated there are a lot of holiday events going on in the coming weeks. The Holiday House Tour sponsored by the Historic Preservation Commission will be on Saturday, December 8, 2012.

Councilman Newman congratulated Councilwoman Shutzer. He also congratulated the police department. He also agreed with the necessity of putting a traffic light at the intersection of Throckmorton Street and West Main Street, he would like to see a traffic study done there.

Councilman Newman wished everyone a happy and safe Holiday season.

Councilman Sims stated he had just one more thing. He was approached by a member of the Freehold Soccer League who will be doing a toy drive for underprivileged children. There will be a drop off here at Borough Hall on Sunday, December 16, 2012 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Anyone wishing to donate should bring gifts wrapped and tagged with a description of the gift attached to it.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she was stunned, humbled and most appreciative for the kind words. She thanked the Human Relations Committee.

Councilwoman Shutzer congratulated the police department on their work on the Youth Police Academy. She thanked everyone for their kind words about the Holiday Senior Party, but wanted everyone to know that she does not do this alone. She thanked everyone that helped her and she also thanked the Elk's Club for donating their hall every year.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she received the 2nd Annual Report from Fire Chief Bailey. The number of calls the fire department responded to from November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012 was 648. She stressed that these firemen are all volunteers. She also commended the first aid squad. She urged the residents to donate over the holidays.

Mayor Higgins congratulated Councilwoman Shutzer for all of her hard work. In the Asbury Park Press a few weeks ago there was a letter to the editor from a utility worker who came to Freehold from Virginia to help with utility work after Hurricane Sandy. In his letter he stated that he has responded to many disasters throughout his career including Hurricane Katrina, but he was never treated so warmly and friendly as he was in Freehold, New Jersey.

Mayor Higgins stated the Latino Coalition and Graeme Preston Foundation for Life are holding a benefit on Saturday, December 15, 2012 at the First Presbyterian Church from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM. The donation is \$30.00 per person and includes dinner, dessert and entertainment. The donated funds will benefit a few local families that had catastrophic damage to their home during the storm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

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