

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, March 18, 2013 at 7:30 PM 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 Kane opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag. Mayor Higgins asked for a moment of silence in memory of Richard Shutzer, Ex-Fire Captain, Engine Co. No. 1 and Bunny Hammer, who was active in many committees and boards in Freehold Borough.

Roll Call

PRESENT	MAYOR J. NOLAN HIGGINS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DI BENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN RONALD GRIFFITHS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER
ABSENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

Councilman Kane offered a motion to accept the minutes from the Executive Session December 17, 2012 and Regular Meeting March 4, 2013, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; Councilman Griffiths abstained on Executive Session December 17, 2012 and Councilwoman Shutzer abstained on Regular Meeting March 4, 2013; Councilman Sims absent. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

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

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Rev. Dr. Andre McGuire on his 20th Anniversary as the Pastor of New Beginnings Agape Christian Center.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING REV. DR. ANDRE MC GUIRE ON HIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY AS THE PASTOR OF NEW BEGINNINGS AGAPE CHRISTIAN CENTER.

Councilman Schnurr stated he attended the church service on Sunday, March 17, 2013. Rev. Dr. Andre McGuire has served as pastor for 20 years and deserves recognition.

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

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

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2013/1 Amending Chapter 5.48 (Jewelry and Precious Metals), of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold.”

Mayor Higgins stated this Ordinance will be carried to a future meeting.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to carry this Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Kane:

Ms. Higgins explained the reason this ordinance is being tabled this evening is because there were some recommendations made regarding parts of the ordinance and if those recommendations are ultimately acted upon we will need to withdraw this ordinance and re-introduce it with the changes.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; 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 #2013/3 Amending Part of Chapter 5.92 “Licensing, Registration and Inspection Regulations for Rental Property and Operators” of the Revised General Ordinances.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There was no comment from the public.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

Councilman Schnurr 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 an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2013/3 AMENDING PART OF CHAPTER 5.92 “LICENSING, REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION REGULATIONS FOR RENTAL PROPERTY AND OPERATORS” OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES,” be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

Councilman Schnurr stated this ordinance reflects a change in inspection times which can now be done between the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr and Shutzer

voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman Sims absent. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2013/4 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A.40A:-45.14).”

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 an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2013/4 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:-45.14)” 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 April 1, 2013 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.

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

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

“Introduction of the 2013 Annual Budget for the Borough of Freehold, Establishing the Date for Public Hearing and Authorizing Publication of Required Notices.”

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2013 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD ESTABLISHING THE DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF REQUIRED NOTICES.

Mr. Bellina stated the public hearing for the budget will be held on Monday, May 6, 2013 at 7:30 PM.

Councilman Kane stated you will be seeing and hearing a lot about municipal budgets, these budgets have been nicknamed “post Sandy budgets”. He thanked Councilman Schnurr, Councilman Griffiths, Mr. Bellina, Mr. Gartz and Ms. Caruso for all of their hard work on the budget. There was tremendous damage done to the Borough during the hurricane and we also had three other significant events that were very also very damaging.

Mayor Higgins recognized the efforts of the Finance Committee and the municipal staff for all of their hard work on the budget.

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

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

“Resolution Endorsing the Submission of a Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.”

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

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE SUBMISSION OF A RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated this is an established fund which is for a tonnage grant that is made out to municipalities in order to encourage local sewerage separation and recycling programs.

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

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

“Resolution Approving Applications for Library State Aid.”

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS FOR LIBRARY STATE AID.

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

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

“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Amending Temporary Appropriations for 2013.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2013.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. (Police – Salaries and Wages)”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET. (POLICE – SALARIES AND WAGES)

Councilman Griffiths stated this is basically a housekeeping thing that is done at the end of the year where funds are moved from one area to another area to cover expenses.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. (Water-Sewer Utility Operating Fund)”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET. (WATER-SEWER UTILITY OPERATING FUND)

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. (Reserve for Snow Trust)”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET. (RESERVE FOR SNOW TRUST)

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

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

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Actions:

- a. Resignation of Kathleen A. Sheedy as Freehold Borough Municipal Prosecutor effective February 21, 2013.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTION NO. 16A.

Councilwoman Shutzer congratulated Ms. Sheedy on her attainment of judgeship at the Superior Court.

Councilman Schnurr stated this shows you back in the day when the prior council put her in that position they did something right.

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

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

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. Raffle License #9-13, (Tricky tray), Marlboro Educational Foundation, 4/8/13, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, at the American Hotel.**
- b. Vendor License, Piper’s Ice Cream and Duke’s Ice Cream, Operating an ice cream truck, 3/18/13-11/1/13 Sunday through Saturday, 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM.**
- c. Sidewalk Café License, Oyako Tso’s Japanese Restaurant, 6 West Main Street.**
- d. Sidewalk Café License, Federici’s Restaurant, 14 East Main Street.**
- e. Sidewalk Café License, J&G Innkeepers, t/a Court Jester, 16 East Main Street.**
- f. Poppy Sale, 3/18/13 – 12/31/13, American Legion Auxiliary Monmouth Unit #54.**
- g. Procession, Olive Branch Lodge No. 16, 6/15/13, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, starting at the Monmouth County Court House and ending at 2 Dutch Lane Road.**
- h. Outdoor Preview Party, Monmouth County Historical Assn., 70 Court Street, 5/18/13, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM.**
- i. Temporary Taxi Driver License, David Nassar, Freehold.**
- j. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Michael Nwachukwu, Freehold.**
- k. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Glenn Wolfson, Freehold.**
- l. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Cesar Morales, Freehold.**
- m. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Michael P. Fennen, Brick.**
- n. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Miriam Leticia Enamorado, Freehold.**
- o. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Leonel Zaavedra, Freehold.**
- p. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Efren Morales, Freehold.**
- q. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Elizabeth Hernandez, Freehold.**
- r. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Stephen Buda, Freehold.**
- s. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Ronald Phillips, Jr. Freehold.**
- t. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Maxima Phillips, Freehold.**

u. Taxi Owner License (1), Guadalupe Hinojosa, t/a Omega Taxi.”

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS NO. 17A – 17U.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 18 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 \$490,516.16 be paid as presented.

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

There were no items under late communications.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

“Items for Discussion:

- a. 2013 Capital Improvements.**
- b. Planning Board/Land Use Update”**

Item A. 2013 Capital Improvements

Mr. Bellina handed out a list of projects that are being contemplated for 2013 which basically came from our five year plan from the year before. He stated that the Borough funded Throckmorton Street last year for design which helped get us one grant from CDBG. We are still awaiting word from the NJDOT and at this point he doesn't want to forge ahead because it has taken them an awfully long time to make the final determination. They are usually done late in the year or very early in the year and this has just been a really long time. That is the big one we have on for this year. Jackson Terrace and McElwaine Drive were funded and designed last year, however, a few weeks ago we caught word from the County that we know they are putting in a traffic signal at Jackson Terrace and Rte. 537. There has been some discussion as to whether to make that portion of Jackson Terrace more in line with Jackson Street so that it is a safer intersection. At this point it is pointless for us to do that work until they are done with their project and he is hoping that it will be done next year. We will be doing a temporary repair in the interim to make it safer within the next few weeks.

Mr. Bellina stated what's not on the list that we showed last year was Phyllis Road; we had planned to submit our 2013 NJDOT grant request, however in our annual meeting with the gas company they indicated that they would be doing work on Phyllis Road probably in 2014 or 2015.

It would probably be best to hold off on that one too. In its place we will probably put Marcy Street for design only, which will probably be our next NJDOT project application. There is no sense funding construction this year because we made a request for Throckmorton Street last August and we still haven't heard. We have the McGackin Parking Lot for design only and we talked about starting to make improvements to our other parking lots. We received a lot of feedback on Avenue A and Avenue C that those roads are in very bad condition so if we were to design them this year then we could probably get out to bid by early spring next year. He would not recommend approving the construction because by the time we authorize the bond ordinance and pay for the design and by the time the design work is completed it will already be late fall and that is much too late to start the work. It would be best to try to advertise for bids early in the construction season.

Mr. Bellina stated this sidewalk program is not like the sidewalk program that we are accustomed to; this program is to make repairs throughout the town from the two storms. It includes the uprooting of the stumps and the repairs to the sidewalks. We talked briefly about Elks Point. We need to reach a conclusion on that so that amount of money may change a little bit. The estimate for Veteran's Park is \$300,000 and we are fine tuning that a little bit. We received a \$135,000 grant from the County Open Space and with that it is really not practical to think we would be able to undertake improvements this year. NJDEP review is required and we have two years to get the project done and hopefully we should be able to do that. If I'm wrong we can always make amendments at that time.

Mr. Bellina stated the equipment on the list follows our replacement program which we put in place awhile ago. After the storms we've realized we needed to assess our emergency generators. We've done that with the help of our engineers and we have a preliminary outline that requires a lot more work. We probably won't be ready for that until sometime in the spring or early summer.

Mr. Bellina stated this also does not include the fire department issues. They've reviewed their five year plan with us and we have to review that with the Public Safety Committee so they can make a recommendation to the Finance Committee and then the governing body. The timeframe for this will be about thirty days.

Item B. Planning Board/Land Use Update

Councilman Schnurr stated he wanted to acknowledge the volunteers of the Freehold Borough Planning Board. These people take the Master Plan that the council adopts and applies that plan to specific land use applications that are submitted before the board to consider. The planning board meets twice a month on Wednesdays from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. These folks spend a lot of time away from home to volunteer their time for you and that doesn't account for training that they have to go through. It also doesn't account for meeting preparation that sometimes includes visiting a site. Board membership is broken down as follows:

Class IV Members:

- Danielle Sims is the Chairperson. She works for the Engineering Department at Freehold Township and she was a former Zoning Board member.
- Adam Reich is Vice Chairperson. He is an architect with the NJ School Development Authority.
- Marjorie Geotz works at Weichert Realty.
- Robert Oakes is the owner of a residential and commercial construction company.
- Kevin Asadi is a land use attorney.
- William Barricelli was a former Zoning Board member.
- Kevin Lewis works in industrial construction.
- Susan Taylor works at RE/MAX Realty.

Class II Member:

- Gary Jackson, Freehold Borough Fire Official

Class III Member:

- Myself, the Class III Member is a member of the governing body.

Professionals Include:

- Frank Accisano, Planning Board Attorney.
- William Wentzien, Borough Engineer.
- Joseph Bellina, Administrative Officer who is helped by Traci DiBenedetto and Toni Jones.

The communication from the Historic Preservation Commission, Zoning Official and Code Enforcement has been greatly improved since Mr. Bellina and his team have taken on that responsibility.

This is a combined land use board which means the zoning and planning board are one board. State law allows us to do that. This was one of my recommendations that was made back in 2008 and it is a cost savings. Putting a good team together is really my primary role on the planning board. Councilman Schnurr makes the appointment recommendations to the mayor and council. All of these members look at the applications from a different point of view based on their skill sets and work and life experiences.

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

Carl Steinberg, 2 Monmouth Avenue asked what revision would be made on Ordinance No. 2013/2.

Ms. Higgins responded the word antiques would be removed from the definitions and regulations.

Mr. Steinberg questioned No. 20 from the Capital Improvements. He would like the Borough to ask the County to put black anodized light bulbs over on Jackson Street and Main Street. He asked why every application that relates to a barber or hair salon must go before the planning board.

Mr. Bellina stated they probably need a parking waiver.

Ms. Higgins stated Cosmo's Salon went before the board because they needed a parking waiver.

Councilman Schnurr stated this is one of the things the Land Use Committee is working on. Right now if you are trying to open a business downtown you have to come before the council, sometimes the Historic Preservation Committee and then the planning board, so we are thinking about cutting out a step.

Mr. Steinberg asked for an explanation of the Tonnage Grant Application.

Mr. Bellina explained there is a \$3.00 tax on all municipal waste and that money goes to the State and they award grants to municipalities based on their recycling efforts and practices. So in order to make that request of the State we have to adopt a Resolution authorizing it.

Mr. Steinberg stated he's visited many other towns and wondered why there wasn't a reclamation center at the Streets and Roads location on Center Street where residents could drop off appliances, metals and recyclables.

Mr. Bellina stated we currently have that now at the facility and the Borough is the regional site for electronics in Western Monmouth County.

Carol Lida, 27 Bennett Street, questioned if there were any regulations for fees on taxi cabs.

Ms. Higgins stated it is regulated and the fee must be posted in the taxi.

Christine Gregory, 42 West George Street, stated she attended the Downtown Dine-Around and she had a fantastic time. She thanked Rich Gatto for all of his work. She also mentioned on Friday, March 22, 2013 from 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM at the Park Avenue School, there will be volunteers from the Monmouth County SPCA and they will be presenting an anti-bullying presentation.

Sharon O'Brien, 3 Monmouth Avenue, stated she met with Mayor Higgins and Mr. Bellina a week ago and discussed commuter parking on Monmouth Avenue. There was a woman parked in front of her home 6 out of the 7 days last week with two other cars right behind her. These people are all commuters catching the bus into New York City. She stated we pay a lot of taxes in Freehold Borough and there must be some way to enforce this. The woman that parks in front of her home has a New York license plate and she is parked there for 12-15 hours a day.

Mr. Bellina stated he spoke with Captain Dispenza on this.

Chief Roberts stated the traffic safety officer is going to go out and evaluate the whole street and he will come up with some suggestions and solutions.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

Mayor Higgins stated that since our last meeting we have lost two members of our community who have served the Borough well, Richard Shutzer who was a member and ex-Fire Captain of Engine & Hose Co. No. 1 and he was also a Past Commander of American Legion Post 54 and Bunny Hammer who was very active in our community and served on our Library Commission and our school board.

Mayor Higgins stated the "Mayor's Wellness Campaign" is off to a great start. The first committee meeting was held last week. We have a very enthusiastic group of residents and professionals who came to the opening committee meeting. The first event will be a bicycle ride with the governing body on Sunday, April 14, 2013 at 1:00 PM and each subsequent month a program will be developed. These programs will deal with fitness, wellness or nutrition.

Mayor Higgins stated on Saturday, March 16, 2013, the Western Monmouth YMCA honored the Borough. Former Mayor Wilson and the governing body were recognized for their foresight in establishing the YMCA facility in the old Rug Mill and for their continued support of YMCA activities. The resolution that was presented is displayed downstairs.

Mayor Higgins stated the smallest St. Patrick's Day Parade was held in downtown Freehold. This was the second year for the parade and we had a very nice turnout. The committee estimated that we had three times the amount of people than we had the previous year. After the parade a program was held in front of the Hall of Records and then participants enjoyed our restaurants and downtown activities.

Mayor Higgins called upon the council for their comments.

Councilman Schnurr acknowledged the Freehold Borough Arts Council. They launched an online contest called "Out and About Borough Art". This idea highlights the art that surrounds us here in the Borough. They manipulated ten photos of Borough art work to make them a little less recognizable and they placed the images online and once a week the first fan to correctly identify what it is was rewarded with their choice of an arts council magnet. This was a creative way to engage residents to become more involved in their community history and aware of the art that resides here.

Councilman Schnurr stated there are two Memorial Day Parade fundraisers. The first is Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at the Fireside Grill and they will donate 15% of your pre-tax food bill to the parade. The other fundraiser will be at Foodtown and when you shop between March 22, 2013 and March 31, 2013 Foodtown will donate 5% of your purchase.

Councilman Schnurr stated there are several area businesses that were either new to the area or recently completed a renovation. These businesses held a "Ribbon Cutting Ceremony" with Mayor Higgins. Through the hard work of the planning board Subway, RE/MAX and Cozmo's have opened and their work has cultivated Freehold Borough into a business friendly environment.

Councilman Schnurr stated Freehold Borough was one of three honorees that were honored at the YMCA annual gala.

Councilman Schnurr congratulated Rev. Dr. McGuire on his 20 years of service to the New Beginnings Agape Christian Center.

Councilman Schnurr stated the Finance Committee has been working with our professionals in creating a responsible budget that takes into consideration the financial times that we are in, as well as recognizing the impact of the storms that occurred last year. He along with Councilman Griffiths attended a seminar hosted by Monmouth County regarding municipal government and its operations. It has been a pleasure working with Councilman Griffiths he has really applied himself to being a councilman and he makes an excellent addition to the council.

Councilman Schnurr recognized the passing of Bunny Hammer. She served the Freehold Borough Board of Education and the Freehold Regional Board of Education as a representative for Freehold Borough and her service to the community will be greatly missed. He offered his condolences to the Reich family.

Councilman Schnurr stated this meeting is very difficult for Councilwoman Shutzer and he spoke for everyone on council and the professional staff and said, "Sharon we all love you and it is my hope that this love by your extended family will see you through the days to come."

Councilwoman Shutzer expressed her thanks to everyone.

Councilman DiBenedetto offered his sympathy to Councilwoman Shutzer and her family, as well as, to Bunny Hammer and the Reich family. Ms. Hammer was a great volunteer to this community.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2013 at 10:00 AM at Park Avenue School. The rain date will be Saturday, March 30, 2013. The Colonial Basketball League 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders will be playing their championship game at Monmouth University on March 20, 2013 at 6:30 PM. He also congratulated Rev. Dr. McGuire on his accomplishments as pastor for the past 20 years.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated that "Irish Week" was a great success. He thanked Rich Gatto and the FCP for all of their efforts and time for making our town a more celebrated place this weekend. There is a new restaurant in town called Ginger, which features Indian cuisine on South Street which was very good.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated in light of the cold weather the Borough is extending the brush pick-up schedule to April 15, 2013 to allow residents to get some of their spring clean up done. The spring leaf collection will be in April and hydrant flushing will begin on April 16, 2013.

Councilman Griffiths offered his congratulations to Kathy Sheedy and the St. Patrick's Day Committee. He also thanked Rev. Dr. Andre McGuire.

Councilman Griffiths thanked our professionals, Mr. Bellina, Mr. Gartz and Ms. Caruso for their assistance on the difficult task of preparing the budget.

Councilman Griffiths offered his condolences to the Shutzer family and Bunny Hammer and the Reich family. After spending over 20 years with Richard Shutzer on Engine Company No. 1 he will be greatly missed.

Councilman Griffiths gave an update on the Shade Tree Commission. Following the storms a tree expert was retained by the Borough to identify which trees needed to be removed or trimmed and a detailed report was issued and the trees were ranked and prioritized. The governing body has received a lot of calls and requests for trees to be removed and some residents are asking for particular trees to be left. He stated the correct process is to contact Mr. Bellina and then he will transfer the information to Christine Gregory and the Shade Tree Commission and then they will set up the work orders. Following the bid process and the awarding of the contract we began work in February and work is now started and the contractors have been working on Fulton Street and along McDermott Street and Ford Avenue. Residents may see a trunk left because after the initial trimming is done the company will then come back to grind the stump. These are different operations and they do them in sequence. Questions regarding stumps have been raised and they will be removed as part of the sidewalk restoration plan. We are very pleased to report the enormous amount of brush and branches that were at the Borough yard. This debris has been processed into mulch by our contractor.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone for attending the meeting. When you see Councilwoman Shutzer up here you would never know unless you are close to the family or really know her you can't understand what she's been going through these past three years with Richard's illness. She is the ultimate professional and it was really hard watching her go through this period and never once was it displayed to the public. He thanked her for everything she has done for council and expressed his deepest condolences to her and her family. He also offered condolences to Lynn Reich and her family on the loss of her mother, Bunny Hammer. The entire family is very active in the community.

Councilman Kane thanked Mr. Bellina, Mr. Gartz and Ms. Caruso on their work on the budget. In the town of Mantoloking there were 550 homes and 250 of those homes are now gone. They were either wiped out or have been bulldozed at this point. It makes me think how they will do their budget. Where will that money come from for towns that experienced loss like that?

Councilman Kane congratulated Kathy Sheedy on her promotion to Superior Court Judge. He also congratulated the Freehold Borough Arts Council on the St. Patrick's Day

Parade.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Griffiths moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto, with All in Favor and Councilman Sims absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:aj