

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, May 20, 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, followed by a moment of silence.

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
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

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

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2013/5 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey Amending and Supplementing Chapter 13 (Public Services), Section 13.04 (Water and Sewer Service Systems) of the Revised Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There was no comment from the public.

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

Councilman DiBenedetto 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 #2013/5 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 13 (PUBLIC SERVICES), SECTION 13.04 (WATER AND SEWER SERVICE SYSTEMS) OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY,” be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

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

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

“Public Hearing on the Amendment to the 2013 Municipal Budget.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There was no comment from the public.

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, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

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

“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Approving Self Examination of the Budget.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING SELF EXAMINATION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. Bellina read the first section of the Resolution.

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

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

“Resolution Adopting of the 2013 Annual Budget of the Borough of Freehold.”

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTING OF THE 2013 ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

Councilman Kane thanked all of the Borough professionals, Joseph Bellina, Richard Gartz, Kathy Caruso and the Finance Committee for all of their hard work on the budget.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing Agreement with the County of Monmouth for the Open Space Grant Program.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH FOR THE OPEN SPACE GRANT PROGRAM.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent none. 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 Supporting the use of a “No Passing Zone” on Route 33 in the Borough of Freehold as Recommended by NJDOT.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD SUPPORTING THE USE OF A “NO PASSING ZONE” ON ROUTE 33 IN THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AS RECOMMENDED BY NJDOT.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing Appropriation of Funds for the 2013 Memorial Day Parade and 2013 Olde Freehold Day.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE 2013 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND 2013 OLDE FREEHOLD DAY.

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

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

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Actions:

- a. Resignation of Robert Lithgow, Jr. as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Engine & Hose Company No. 1, effective May 20, 2013.**
- b. Appointment of Vivian Huston as Substitute School Crossing Guard, Freehold Borough Police Department, effective May 20, 2013.**
- c. Appointment of Robert Nelson as Part-time Plumbing Subcode Official, effective May 20, 2013.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTIONS NO. 11A – 11C.

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

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

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. Memorializing Street Closing License, New Hope Baptist Church Gospel and Community Fest, 5/18/13, 12:00 PM to 4:30 PM, closing First Street from Center Street to Factory Street. c/o Rita Moore**
- b. Sidewalk Café License, Texas Mexican Restaurant, 3 West Main Street.**
- c. Vendor License, Weaser’s Ices, May through October, 2013 from 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM. c/o Bruce Winland**
- d. Block Party, 5/25/13, 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM, from 22 Fulton Street to 27 Fulton Street. c/o Kelley Temple**
- e. Life Chain Prayer Vigil, St. Rose of Lima Church c/o Jim Meyer, 6/2/13, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM, along South Street sidewalk in front of St. Rose.**
- f. Bingo License No. 1-13, St. Rose of Lima Sports Association, Saturday Nights, 7:15 PM to 10:00 PM, 51 Lincoln Place, beginning June 1, 2013 through May 31, 2014.**
- g. Bingo License No. 2-13, St. Rose of Lima Church, Monday Nights, 7:15 PM to 10:00 PM, 51 Lincoln Place, beginning June 3, 2013 through May 26, 2014.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS NO. 12A – 12G.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the hours of Weaser’s Ices which is 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM be reflected on the Agenda.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, 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:

“Approval of Bills.”

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 the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$4,033,848.40 to be paid as presented.

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

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

There were no items under late communications.

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

“Memorial Day Parade Activities (Councilman George Schnurr).”

Councilman Schnurr stated the 2013 Memorial Day Parade will commence at 9:45 AM on Monday, May 27, 2013 starting at Brinckerhoff Avenue and Main Street with a flag-draped casket accompanied by active military personnel from various branches of the armed forces. This casket will be pulled along the parade route to remind us why we are all there. Representatives of various veterans groups will begin marching down Main Street at 10:00 AM followed by the rest of the participants.

Councilman Schnurr named the five veterans organizations in the Freehold area:

- American Legion Post #54
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4374
- Marine Corps League Cpl. Philip A. Reynolds Detachment #203
- Jewish War Veterans Post #539
- Disabled American Veterans Chapter #74

Councilman Schnurr stated the theme of this year’s parade is “Honoring Our Fallen Heroes”. The theme was decided by the Marine Corps League who is the lead veteran organization this year. The grand marshal was also selected by the Marine Corps League and it will be Cpl. Patrick Dennis Bell, he is 25 and from Freehold Township. Cpl. Bell enlisted in December 2008 and went to recruit training in Parris Island on December 28, 2008. Shortly after he was mobilized to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was deployed in September 2011. Cpl. Bell was wounded in combat on December 6, 2011 from an IED and returned home in April 2012. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion and the Marine Corps League. Cpl. Bell was married to Alma Stephany Bell on January 12, 2011.

Councilman Schnurr stated the reviewing stand master of ceremonies will be Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina. Carol Lida, a member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church choir and member of the Human Relations Committee, will sing the national anthem at the reviewing stand and Rick Scott, a cantor at St. Rose of Lima Church will sing the national anthem at the beginning of the parade.

Councilman Schnurr stated in keeping with tradition several Freehold Borough streets will be renamed to honor veterans. McLean Street will be renamed Cpl. John A. Felton Street – USMC; Hull Avenue will be renamed Cpl. Edmond M. Rohan Avenue – USAF; and Murray Street will be renamed Cpl. Philip A. Reynolds Drive – USMC.

Councilman Schnurr stated we are honored to have a flyover from Gerard Norkus, the owner of Freehold Foodtown, with two vintage aircrafts that will go over the parade route. The parade has grown exponentially through the years under the direction of our many dedicated volunteers, most notably Chairperson Alice McCobb, who is the glue who holds everything together. He thanked her for all of our hard work, not just now, but throughout the entire year. This year represents the 25th year that Alice has been chairperson. One of the areas in which she does is setting up restaurant fundraisers and these fundraisers for the parade help finance the bands that you see in the parade.

Councilman Schnurr stated there will be a fundraiser from May 20th – May 23rd and Federici's, Metropolitan Café and The Court Jester will donate 15% of your pretax food bill to the Memorial Day Parade.

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

“Committee Reports.”

Councilman Schnurr congratulated Councilwoman Shutzer on her awards from the last meeting from the NJ League of Municipalities and the Freehold First Aid Squad. He also thanked the Freehold Borough Police Department and Chief Roberts for the community outreach program.

Councilman Schnurr stated he is trustee for the Freehold Borough Education Foundation and they've announced their 2013 Bicycle Education Program. This program will be held on May 30, June 5, June 6 and June 10, 2013. This is in partnership with the NJ Bike and Walk Coalition and the target audience is for 4th grade students in the Freehold Borough school district. The idea is to help students become competent and confident cyclists. The NJ Bike and Walk Coalition will offer half day outdoor instruction programs and activities for all 4th grade students.

Councilman Schnurr stated the NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency which is the same group that offered the Homekeeper Program which is still in existence, is hosting a seminar for anyone who is having a hard time make their mortgage payments. The seminar will be at the Toms River Intermediate School on Hooper Avenue in Toms River on June 29, 2013 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Councilwoman Shutzer congratulated Councilman Sims for getting the Youth Government Program involved in the essay contests sponsored by the NJ League of Municipalities. Daniel Gross, a member of the Youth Government Program was a finalist in the contest.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that several of the governing body attended the annual Arbor Day Ceremony at the Freehold Learning Center. This was a lovely ceremony and she thanked Chairwoman Christine Gregory for all of her work.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the outreach program was initiated by Chief Roberts and he spoke to me about meeting with the seniors in the Borough about safety issues. Our seniors are being targeting by scammers and just this past week there were two incidents that reported in the Borough. So far Chief Roberts and I have met with the residents of the Rug Mill and Hudson Manor.

Councilwoman Shutzer asked everyone to keep the Oklahoma tornado victims in their prayers.

Councilwoman Shutzer asked if at the next Workshop Meeting we could discuss some issues with the abandoned homes in town.

Mr. Bellina stated he will get a list of the abandoned homes and get information as to the efforts we've done to try and make them look better.

Councilman Sims thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He thanked Councilwoman Shutzer for her nice words regarding the essay contest. The Youth Government Program will be at the June Workshop Meeting. This year we are graduating 4 seniors from this group and there will be some shuffling around of officers within the group. Kayla Ciok, one of our youth government students will be going out to Indiana to participate in a problem solving contest regarding mathematics.

Councilman Sims thanked Chief Roberts on the Community Outreach program. He also congratulated the officers that participated in the bicycle tour that supported the fallen officers.

Chief Roberts stated the officers rode from Delran, NJ to Washington DC.

Councilman DiBenedetto thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He stated on Saturday, May 18, 2013 we had Rich Gatto and Taylor and Taylor's Landscaping along with some individuals from town who came out and did some planting. He also recognized Bill Mehr, Marianne Earle, Jeff Friedman, Christine DeGoulis and Christine Gregory for their help.

Councilman DiBenedetto announced the Downtown Freehold summer events. He also congratulated Mayor Higgins on the Mayor's Fitness Program.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated our youth programs will be running this summer. We had some young men from Liberty Park step up to help and we are revamping the parks. There will be an instructional basketball league for kids. The dates will be announced at a later date. Our summer program sponsored by the YMCA will be starting up again.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the Historic Preservation Commission was involved with the signage for the new sneaker store called Headquarters.

Councilman Griffiths stated the Shade Tree Commission is in the process of making an application for a grant. The purpose of this grant will be to do a proper electronic inventory of all of the trees in the Borough. One of the benefits of this will be it will show us the value of the Borough owned tree. It will possibly give us reimbursement from FEMA in the future if that occurs. The Shade Tree Commission wants to get into the tree planting business but they know they cannot until fall, so they agreed to the inventory which is another one of their goals. They are doing a lot of work and will start fundraising projects soon. Chairwoman Christine Gregory came up with a slogan called "It's cool to be shady." This slogan will be on t-shirts with art work done by Leslie Daly. We encourage everyone to purchase them.

Councilman Griffiths stated the Shade Tree Commission worked with the 21st Century Afterschool Program and they did a great job. We sat there for hours reading 80 children's essays and deciding on who the winners were going to be. This wasn't easy but we got through it and he thanked Rich Gatto and the downtown restaurants who donated the prizes for the essay winners.

Councilman Griffiths also thanked Chief Roberts for the Community Outreach Program. Not only is he doing the program for the seniors, he will be starting a program this summer on the first and third Mondays of the month for residents who want to ask questions, similar to the program the Mayor does on Thursdays.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated we have done a lot of work lately down the shore in Bay Head, Mantoloking and Normandy Beach, but to see the devastation from the Oklahoma tornadoes, is heartbreaking.

Councilman Kane congratulated Chief Roberts for all of his work and thanked him for his upcoming project with meeting with residents. He also congratulated Mayor Higgins and Annette Jordan on the 2nd Annual Boro-wide Clean-up. There was a lot of activity; people were out cleaning their yards.

Councilman Kane thanked Councilman Schnurr for his detailed report of the Memorial Day Parade. Everyone looks at Memorial Day as a three day weekend and the start of the summer. Most people do not stop to reflect on what it is all about. He encouraged everyone to see the Point Service at Elks Point and while you are watching the parade try and reflect on all the veterans and active military who have sacrificed so much for your freedom.

Mayor Higgins thanked Annette Jordan and the following groups who participated in the 2nd Annual Boro-wide Clean-up:

- YMCA Youth Leaders – cleaned and planted flowers at Vineyard and 4th Street Parks, with the help of Mel O'Neal
- Park Avenue School Student Council – planted flowers at the entrance of Veterans Park, with the help of Kelly Hobbs
- Olde Freehold Day Committee – cleaned Saunder's Park
- Girl Scout Brownie Troop 2780 – planted flowers at the library, with the help of Tracey Edwards
- Recreation Committee members Sue Grietz, Lynn Reich and Sheryl Mott worked on several areas
- Paul Sepe manned the dumpster at Park Avenue School
- Bob Jordan, Audrey Evans and little league parents planted flowers at the little league field.

Mayor Higgins stated on Saturday, May 18, 2013 he had the pleasure of representing the Borough at the Monmouth County Historical Association at the opening of an art exhibit. This was a great night; they auctioned off a portrait which brought in \$22,000.00 for the historical association. He acknowledged three of our local businesses who helped make this a very special night, they were: Especially For You Florist, Metropolitan Café and Taylor and Taylor Landscaping.

Mayor Higgins stated the dates for the Youth Police Academy are set and residents can come in and start picking up applications. He also recognized Chief Roberts for doing "office hours" this is a great service to have available for our residents.

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

Al Michenfelder, 30 Jackson Street, stated voting was done last Friday and the group has a young lady that belongs to the 21st Century Afterschool Program. She is an A+ student and has been a big help. He also thanked two new companies who helped the Racer's Club.

Carol Lida, 27 Bennett Street, thanked whoever was responsible for submitting her name

to sing the National Anthem and she is looking forward to doing it. The Memorial Day Parade is a historical event that she grew up with and she hopes that many people will come and enjoy it.

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

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Shutzer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto, with All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

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