

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, June 17, 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 DiBenedetto opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence for the passing of Mr. Bellina's mother.

Roll Call

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

Councilman Sims offered a motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 3, 2013, seconded by Councilman Griffiths.

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

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

“Presentation of Certificates – 4th Grade Students, Park Avenue Elementary.”

Eight fourth-grade students from Park Avenue Elementary School were honored at a statewide awards ceremony held at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey on June 5, 2013 in recognition of their second-place finish in the Stock Market Game. All of the students are members of teacher Wendy Buchanan's class for gifted and talented children.

The Stock Market Game is sponsored by the Securities Industry and Financial Market Association (SIFMA) Foundation, which is dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of financial markets. Students are given \$100,000 in fictitious money to invest in the market, and SIFMA keeps track of how their stocks perform. In the fall of 2012, the fourth graders earned equity of \$103,546.20 and achieved second place among 72 elementary schools participating in the New Jersey Southern Division. In the spring of 2013, the fourth graders earned equity of \$106,124.87 and achieved second place among 156 elementary schools participating.

Councilwoman Shutzer presented each student with a certificate in honor of their accomplishments from Mayor and Council.

Mayor Higgins announced that Item 6 would be held for the moment.

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

“Racers Club Presentation (Al Michenfelder).”

Mr. Michenfelder presented awards to two students who made model cars for Racers Club. He thanked Court Jester, Freehold Tire, Performance Unlimited, Lukoil, K&M Filters, Freehold Ford, Valvoline and the American Legion for their support over the years.

He also thanked Terry from the Freehold Library for allowing him to display the cars the students have made for the past 21 years; he thanked Ms. Lillie Hendry for allowing the Racer's Club to meet at the Broad Street School for the past 5 years and he thanked the parents of the members of the Racers Club.

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

“Freehold Borough Youth Government (Councilman Jaye Sims).”

Councilman Sims presented the Youth Government to the audience. He thanked the parents and told them they had some fine young men and women sitting before the Council.

Councilman Sims thanked Mayor Higgins, Councilwoman Shutzer, and Youth Advisor, Daniel Gross for their support.

Councilman Sims then called up and introduced each member of the Youth Government, announcing the accomplishments of each member, including honors and scholarships.

Councilman Sims also introduced the new members of the Youth Government.

Mayor Higgins congratulated the members of the Youth Government and remarked that it was a terrific program and thanked and congratulated Councilman Sims for getting the program up and running. He said it is an obvious success and there are a great number of enthusiastic young people in the community who have chosen to participate in the program.

The names and offices of each member of the Youth Government are available in the Borough Clerk’s Office.

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

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Bond Ordinance #2013/6 Providing for Various Road, Parking Lot, Sidewalk and Park Improvements and Construction, Appropriating \$1,107,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$566,000 Bonds and Notes to Finance a Portion of the Costs Thereof, Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”

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 Sims:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman Kane absent. 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 a Bond Ordinance entitled “**BOND ORDINANCE #2013/6 PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD, PARKING LOT, SIDEWALK AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND CONSTRUCTION, APPROPRIATING \$1,107,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$566,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY,** be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

Councilman DiBenedetto explained that the money will fund construction of Throckmorton Street, design work on Marcy Street, the McGackin Triangle Parking lot, Avenue A and Avenue C, engineering and construction of sidewalks, and engineering and construction at Veterans Park.

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

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

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Bond Ordinance #2013/7 Providing for the Acquisition of Various Equipment, Appropriating \$120,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$114,000 Bonds and Notes to Finance a Portion of the Costs Therefor, Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey.

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments from the public.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman Kane absent. 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 a Bond Ordinance entitled “BOND ORDINANCE #2013/7 PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING \$120,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$114,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREFOR, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY”, be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

Councilman Di Benedetto explained this would allow the Borough to replace some of the depleted work force equipment.

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

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

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Bond Ordinance #2013/8 Amending in Part Bond Ordinance No. 2012/5 Adopted April 2, 2012, as Amended by Bond Ordinance No. 2012/19 Adopted on December 17, 2012, Providing for Various Road, Drainage and Parking Lot Improvements, in Order to Increase the Appropriation Therefor by \$51,659.03 for a Total Appropriation of \$731,659.03, to Increase the Allocation of the Appropriation to Costs Permitted Under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20, and Reappropriating \$51,659.03 in Excess Bond Proceeds Not Needed for Their Original Purposes in Order to Finance the Cost Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the 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 Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman Kane absent. 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 a Bond Ordinance “2013/8 AMENDING IN PART BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2012/5 ADOPTED APRIL 2, 2012, AS AMENDED BY BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2012/19 ADOPTED ON DECEMBER 17, 2012, PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD, DRAINAGE AND PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION THEREFOR BY \$51,659.03 FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$731,659.03 TO INCREASE THE ALLOCATION OF THE APPROPRIATION TO COSTS PERMITTED UNDER N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20, AND REAPPROPRIATING \$51,659.03 IN EXCESS BOND PROCEEDS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO FINANCE THE COST AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

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

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

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Bond Ordinance #2013/9 Providing for Various Water-Sewer System Improvements and the Acquisition of Equipment, Appropriating \$370,000 Thereof, Authorizing the Issuance of \$262,000 Bonds and Notes and Reappropriating \$91,343.81 in Excess Bond Proceeds Not Needed for Their Original Purposes in Order to Finance a Portion of the Cost Thereof, Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the 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 Councilwoman Shutzer:

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

Councilwoman Shutzer 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 a Bond Ordinance entitled “BOND ORDINANCE #2013/9 PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS WATER-SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING \$370,000 THEREFOR, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$262,000 BONDS AND NOTES AND REAPPROPRIATING \$91,343.81 IN EXCESS BOND PROCEEDS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COST THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY,” be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

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

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

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Robert “Bob” McDaid on Receiving the Monmouth Council Boy Scouts of America, 2013 Western Monmouth “Good Scout” Award.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING ROBERT “BOB” MC DAID ON RECEIVING THE MONMOUTH COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, 2013 WESTERN MONMOUTH “GOOD SCOUT” AWARD.

Councilman Schnurr explained that Bob McDaid is the owner of iPlay America.

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

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

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring the Freemasons on Their 50th Anniversary of the Laying of the Olive Branch Lodge #16’s Cornerstone.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING THE FREEMASONS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAYING OF THE OLIVE BRANCH LODGE #16’S CORNERSTONE.

Councilman Schnurr stated there was quite a turnout for the 50th Anniversary and that Freemasons from all over the State of New Jersey were present for the ceremony.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing Fireworks Display – Freehold Center Partnership.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FIREWORKS DISPLAY – FREEHOLD CENTER PARTNERSHIP.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the Fireworks will be held on Thursday, July 4th weather permitting. The rain date will be Friday, July 5th.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; Councilman Kane 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 Approving Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses, July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014.”

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

Councilman DiBenedetto explained that he will abstain from voting on this Resolution as his brother is the owner of a liquor store in town.

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD APPROVING RENEWAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES, JULY 1, 2013 – JUNE 30, 2014.

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

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

“Resolution of the Governing Body of the Borough of Freehold in Support of the Preservation of Tax Exempt Financing.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESERVATION OF TAX EXEMPT FINANCING.

Councilman Griffiths explained that Congress is considering taking away the exemption for municipal bonds and if we have to pay federal taxes on bonds it is going to clearly hamper our ability to raise funds at a low rate.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing Building Permit Fee Reduction for the Monmouth County Historical Association.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZATION BUILDING PERMIT FEE REDUCTION FOR THE MONMOUTH COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

Councilman Schnurr explained that we have a policy to waive the permit fee for non-profit organizations not to exceed \$600.00.

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

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

“Resolution Waiving the Health Permit Fee for Olde Freehold Day – 2013.”

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

RESOLUTION WAIVING THE HEALTH PERMIT FEE FOR OLDE FREEHOLD DAY – 2013.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 19 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing Clothing Bin Agreement.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CLOTHING BIN AGREEMENT.

Councilman Sims explained that each clothing bin will have signage indicating they are for the Freehold Borough Youth Police Academy.

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

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

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Actions:

- a. Appointment of Christopher Atkinson as a Special Police Officer, Freehold Borough Police Department, effective June 17, 2013.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTIONS NO. 20A.

Councilwoman Shutzer welcomed Officer Atkinson.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 21 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. Block Party, 6/22/13, 3:00PM – 9:00 PM, Rhea Street to top of Avenue A and Avenue C., c/o Rononda Hickman**
b. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Luis Herrera, Howell.
c. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Rafael Urioste Flores, Trenton.
d. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Bernabe Pantoja, Freehold.
e. Taxi Owner Licenses (2), Leon’s Taxi, 57 West Main Street, Freehold.”

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS 21A THROUGH 21 E.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 22 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Bills.”

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 the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$579,819.17 to be paid as presented.

Councilman Sims and Councilman DiBenedetto stated they will be abstaining from one of the line items; the LOSAP Insurance for the Fire Department because they are both members.

Mayor Higgins stated that for the record, even though he will not be voting, he also participates in the LOSAP Insurance Program.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; oppose none, Councilman DiBenedetto and Councilman Sims abstained on the line item regarding the LOSAP Insurance Program, Councilman Kane absent. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 23 on the Agenda as follows:

“ Clerk - Late Communications.”

There were no items under late communications.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 24 on the Agenda as follows:

Items for Discussion:

- a. Best Practices Update.**
- b. Presentation of Nathaniel Scudder by Freehold Borough Historian Kevin Coyne.**
- c. Abandoned/Foreclosed Properties in Freehold Borough – Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer.**

ITEM A. BEST PRACTICES UPDATE.

Councilman Griffiths explained the State sends a list of questions every year. This past year the list contained 50 questions. If a sufficient number of these questions are not answered in the affirmative, the State can and will withhold money from Municipal Aid. We are trying to do our due diligence every year to make sure that all of the questions that are asked are given a yes answer to the best of our ability. The questions are not given in advance.

Councilman Griffiths stated he has actually nicknamed the program, the “Gotcha” program because that is the intent, as far as he can see. If it was truly a best practices program they would give you the best practices up front, the reasons why it’s the best practice, the implementing tools, the methodology and they would give you bench marks. But they don’t do that. They just send it to you. He thinks they actually hope that you answer enough “no” questions that you will lose between one and five percent of your Municipal Aid.

Councilman Griffiths stated the questions that we had to answer “no” to last year are being resolved.

RE: Question 5: We will be drafting a pay-to-play ordinance that will reduce the amount to \$250.00 dollars as an allowable business entity contribution.

RE: Question 7: Everyone on the governing body has attended training. We will adopt a resolution that will establish a requirement that all elected officials attend, on an annual basis, at least one course covering the responsibilities and obligations of elected officials.

RE: Question 20: This question concerns surplus in the annual budget. That is still being studied. We hope to come up with a number with parameters that will show what kind of surplus we intend to try to keep at the end of each year.

RE: Question 39: The answer is now “yes”, the personnel/human resources office maintains records that account for all leave time earned and used by employees.

RE: Questions 42 and 43 have to do with maintaining records and the answer for both is “yes”.

RE: Question 45: This has to do with Workers Compensation Law and is still under review.

Councilman Griffiths explained these things that the State throws out at us are essentially unfunded mandates that they want us to meet, and yet they don’t make it easy. One of the questions this year was 180 words in length. He stated the governing body is doing their due diligence and making every effort to make sure that they can answer “yes” to all the questions we’ve seen, but within a month we’ll get a new set of questions.

Ms. Higgins stated that it should be noted that we passed this year and we did not get a funding cut and have never had a funding cut.

Councilman Sims stated that he was glad that we could put this issue to bed by tweaking a few things and move gracefully on before the State hits us with something else. He thanked the Finance Committee for their time and effort they put into this matter.

Mayor Higgins stated that appropriate resolutions would be prepared in the future.

ITEM B. PRESENTATION ON NATHANIEL SCUDDER BY FREEHOLD BOROUGH HISTORIAN KEVIN COYNE.

Freehold Borough Historian Kevin Coyne gave a presentation on Nathaniel Scudder. He explained that Nathaniel Scudder was one of the 47 signers of the Articles of Confederation which was the document under which this country was run until the Constitution was adopted in 1789.

Mr. Coyne stated Borough Hall stands on historic grounds and research shows that Nathaniel Scudder's house was probably exactly where we are standing. He asked the governing body if the council chambers could be renamed Scudder Hall.

Mayor Higgins remarked that Nathaniel Scudder is buried at Old Tennent Cemetery. After he was killed, his body was brought back to Freehold for funeral services. Pictures were found of the family homestead years later and we can triangulate with St. Peter's Church in the background and we believe his family homestead was right about where the firehouse is or right about where this building sits.

Phase II of this project is an attempt to collect prints, maps and historical pieces that we can use to decorate the hall. Many municipal buildings are decorated with historical pieces germane to the area so if the Council approves and we name the council chambers Scudder Hall our next phase of this process is going to be to go out and solicit pieces to decorate the walls, not just of Nathaniel Scudder but of members of the governing body, pictures of Freehold, maps and so forth. We hope to get this process started during the summer or early fall.

Mayor Higgins continued that he appreciated Mr. Coyne coming up tonight and he will respectfully ask the governing body to consider a resolution for the next meeting naming this room Nathaniel Scudder Hall.

ITEM C. ABANDONED/FORECLOSED PROPERTIES IN FREEHOLD BOROUGH – COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER.

Councilwoman Shutzer has had several residents complain to her about homes in their neighborhood that appear to be abandoned and she has seen this herself as she drives around town. She thinks that it is a shame that residents who try so hard to keep up their properties have to be subjected to other properties that have grass up to the waist and are not repaired.

Councilwoman Shutzer asked the governing body what their suggestions might be.

Councilman Griffiths replied that he has been doing some reading on the subject and said it was interesting to find different approaches that work. He is not recommending either one of them but in Mt. Airy, North Carolina for instance, the code enforcement officer goes to the owner of the property and makes a personal appeal in a friendly manner and they are getting voluntary compliance within 15 days on the average. Meanwhile, in Miramar, Florida, they've taken a totally different approach. The first visit is by the Police Department and they usually have voluntary repairs done within 10 days. These are two different approaches.

Councilwoman Shutzer replied that she thinks that these approaches are excellent ones if they work. She feels the frustration from the Code Enforcement Department is that they have so much trouble tracking down the homeowners.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she was very impressed with code enforcements knowledge of the houses that are vacant and what needs to be done. She said that it just seems so wrong that there is not something more the Borough can do.

Ms. Higgins told the council members that she would schedule a meeting to see what else can be done to address the ongoing situation.

Mayor Higgins asked Police Chief Roberts if he had any police perspective.

Chief Roberts said they have been keeping an eye out and if they see anything they will file a report and forward it to code.

Mayor Higgins thanked Councilwoman Shutzer for bringing up the topic as he knows that it is a topic of interest to many of our residents.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 25 on the Agenda as follows:

“Committee Reports.”

Councilman Schnurr stated that as everyone knows the Memorial Day Parade is over and as of July the committee will start over for next year. They will keep everyone informed as to what unfolds.

Councilman Schnurr stated at the last Planning Board meeting there was a minor subdivision on McDermott Street but the headline was stolen by Nestle. Both Freehold Borough and Freehold Township granted a use variance to Nestle because the plant is in both towns. He stated that Nestle is bringing back the bottling plant that was abandoned in 2000 and will be brewing both Taster's Choice and Clasico and that will fully utilize the plant in Freehold. Nestle will be investing \$40 million dollars in the plant and in the equipment.

Councilman Schnurr feels this is a win for our community. They use more water than anyone else and it is one of the highest rates here in town. He stated we should thank Nestle for having faith in our community and investing in our community. In other matters for the Planning Board, the CITGO gas station on South Street will be going through an \$850,000 dollar renovation. On June 26, and July 10, there will be a couple of groups coming before the Board about the Sofia Homes and Delray holdings. Once those projects are done Orchard Street will look a lot different.

Councilman Schnurr stated they will be repaving the CVS parking lot and the idea is that once the paving and the reconstruction of the lot is done, they will have a centralized garbage system just like they have for the Market Yard.

Councilwoman Shutzer introduced the President of the Board of Education, Annette Jordan who was in the audience and that she was remiss earlier in not introducing Rocco Tomasic, the Superintendent of Schools who was also in the audience.

She stated that she had copies of the Award Ceremony that was held for the Borough kids in the K-8 district. It was a quite impressive long list of kids beyond the ones who were here tonight who have achieved great things in our school district and we commend the district for all that is going on.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that she, Mayor Higgins and Councilman Sims spoke last Friday at the Career Day sponsored by the 21st Century Club that meets after school. She stated it was quite enjoyable and she thanked that group and the schools for inviting them.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that the graduation ceremony for the Intermediate School is Friday, June 21, 2013.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that she would like to commend the Court Street Association for their celebration of Juneteenth last Saturday. There was a wonderful program at the school and there were actresses who portrayed Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman. It was quite well done and was well received by all who were there. Councilwoman Shutzer stated that she attended the celebration with Mayor Higgins and Councilman Sims.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that as the Mayor said it is with great sympathy that we announce the passing of Joe Bellina's mother. On a happier note our Clerk, Traci DiBenedetto delivered her twins yesterday; a boy and a girl and all are doing well.

Councilman Shutzer stated she would like to take this opportunity to welcome Antoinette "Toni" Jones and Linda Cottrell. We appreciate them for filling in for Traci and we thank them very much.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 4:00 PM, there will be a Council on Aging meeting, this will be the last one until September.

Councilwoman Shutzer thanked Chief Roberts for reaching out to all of the seniors in town about the scams that are occurring.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that the main fundraiser for the Freehold Alliance Against Drugs is a golf outing which is being held Monday, June 24, 2013 at Knob Hill Country Club. It is the way that most of the money that is spent on programs for our youth in schools is raised.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that on Friday morning there was an Office of Emergency Management meeting. All of the department heads were there and it was quite enlightening. It was convened by Hank Stryker, Office of Emergency Director (OEM). They spoke about the plan that is in effect if we have another catastrophic event and each department head spoke about their needs and how they are in line to proceed. With the exception of a couple of concerns on the part of the First Aid, with which we are dealing, we are in very good shape.

Mayor Higgins stated he would like to add that Detective Sergeant DeMuth was with us at the Park Avenue School Career Day and had a great message for the youngsters and he did a fantastic job.

Chief Roberts stated that he would extend the Mayors thanks to Detective Sergeant DeMuth.

Councilman Sims had no reports on the Committees listed but again would like to thank the Youth Government for being here tonight. He stated that he looked forward to working with them all again in the future.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated that our sidewalk programs will be starting up. Work has been done work on West George Street and Phyllis Street. Our Streets and Road Department get involved by setting new sewer pipes and setting out the lines. They also removed some stumps that are in the area. Councilman DiBenedetto asked the public to report any clogged drains they see. Councilman DiBenedetto stated that our recreation program is going to be up and running soon in partnership with the YMCA.

Councilman DiBenedetto announced the fireworks display will be on Thursday, July 4, 2013. He also announced that the summer concerts are every Thursday night at 7:30 PM, and Freehold Idol is Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated there were no applications for Historic Preservation thus he had no report.

Councilman DiBenedetto thanked Toni Jones and Linda Cottrell for helping out and offered his niece, Traci DiBenedetto congratulations on the birth of her babies.

Councilman Griffiths offered congratulations to Traci DiBenedetto and added that as a parent of twins, as is Jaye Sims, he knows what they'll be going through for the next year.

Councilman Griffiths added his condolences to Joe Bellina on the loss of his mom. He stated that it was not something that was unexpected but it is never accepted easily.

Councilman Griffiths stated that he would like to thank Al Michenfelder for the 20 some years plus that he has been running the Racer's Club.

Councilman Griffiths added that he would also like to say his congratulations to the very talented 4th graders.

Councilman Griffiths stated that he would especially like to thank the Youth Government for their work on the Veteran's Park grant and also for managing to stay awake during this meeting.

Councilman Griffiths stated that there will be a meeting of the Shade Tree Commission this Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 6:30 PM and that one of the projects for the summer will be the sale of t-shirts. The purpose of the sale is to raise funds as our funds are rather depleted because of the storms. We hope to use this money to do some planting next spring for those who want to have trees put on their property between the sidewalk and the curb. Anyone who wants to come to the meeting is always welcome.

Mayor Higgins stated said this past weekend there was some very sad news with the death of Joe's mother and some very exciting news with the birth of Traci's twins.

Mayor Higgins continued and stated that he wanted to recognize Toni Jones and Linda Cottrell. He stated that Mr. Bellina called them on Sunday, and without hesitation, on a moment's notice they are here tonight helping us out and helping Traci. We don't have our Clerk, we don't have our Administrator and our Council President is away. It seems like we're missing three of our players but everybody stepped right up. It speaks well of the Borough and of our staff and I'd like to recognize Toni and Linda for coming in and helping Traci and helping us out on a moment's notice.

Mayor Higgins stated it continues to be a busy time in the Borough; our restaurants are busy, schools are finishing their academic year, walkers are enjoying our streets and neighborhoods and there is energy in the air. Last weekend the Freehold Fire Department, I'm very pleased to say, was awarded best overall unit at the Avenel's Fire Department 100th Anniversary.

Mayor Higgins stated that Freehold Intermediate School will be having their graduation ceremony on Friday and the graduates have the congratulations of the Governing Body. The Borough Youth Police Academy is starting in July. A Borough walk with Borough Historian Kevin Coyne will be held on Sunday, June 30th, at 1:00 PM. We will meet at Borough Hall, listen to Kevin tell us about the events, the places, the people, the past as we walk along our streets. Olde Freehold Day will be held on July 20th and Councilman Kane and his committee are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Pond.

Mayor Higgins stated this past week Jersey Central Power and Light hosted a meeting for Mayors to meet the new president of Jersey Central Power and Light, James Fakult, and to see the improvements made to their website. He encouraged all of our residents to visit the First Energy, JCP&L website so that we are all familiar with the updates and the information available and how to notify Jersey Central Power and Light in the event of an outage. It is important to send in your

outage information even though a whole neighborhood may be out. The individual reporting helps JCP&L to gather the information needed for an efficient response to an outage.

Mayor Higgins stated our tree contractor continues to work. We hope to start removing large stumps which could not be removed by our equipment, by mid July. The Open Space Pace will be held at Freehold Raceway on Saturday, September 21, 2013. This is a great way for us all to come out to support horse racing, farming, and its associated professions.

Mayor Higgins stated to begin your day on July 4th, he suggests sharing the spirit of the holiday in a special way. Our annual reading of the Declaration of Independence, which began in 2004 in memory of Freehold Attorney, Sam Sagotsky will be held on the steps of Borough Hall at 9:00 AM. Please be there at 8:30 AM if you wish to read a section of the Declaration. He encouraged all to attend. The words of the Declaration are so meaningful when read aloud by members of our community and visitors who attend this event. You will truly appreciate the matters which precipitated our battle for independence and the beauty of Jefferson's words which are still so meaningful 237 years later.

Mayor Higgins recognized Nestle for their commitment to Freehold Borough by investing \$40 million in their plant. We are very pleased to have Nestle commit to remaining in the Borough. In addition to the capital improvements made at the plant, several new jobs will become available. Nestlé's presence in our Borough speaks not only well for their current business operation, our Borough infrastructure and public services, and the company's future, but for the Borough as well.

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

Barbara Oliver, 71 Center Street said that she was having a problem with stray cats.

Ms. Higgins said that Animal Control will be notified.

Ms. Oliver announced that Bethel Church is welcoming their new Pastor this Saturday and the community is welcome to attend.

Christine Gregory, 42 West George Street stated that Earle Asphalt did a fantastic job.

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

There being no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Shutzer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto, with All in Favor and Councilman Kane absent.

ANTOINETTE JONES
CLERK'S ASSISTANT

AJ:llc

