

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, July 15, 2013 at 7:35 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 Sims opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence for the passing of former Police Captain Michael DiAiso.

#### 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

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to accept the minutes, with one correction, under Best Practices, Item A, #5; should read \$250.00, instead of \$250,000, from the Workshop Meeting of June 17, 2013, seconded by Councilman Sims.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none, Councilman Kane abstained, absent none. 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 Renaming Freehold Borough Council Chambers in Honor of Nathaniel Scudder.”**

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD RENAMING FREEHOLD BOROUGH COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN HONOR OF NATHANIEL SCUDDER.

Councilman DiBenedetto explained there was a presentation at the last council meeting by the Borough historian, Kevin Coyne about Nathaniel Scudder. Nathaniel lived in a home where the Freehold Fire Department and Borough Hall are now located. He was one of two delegates from New Jersey to sign the Articles of Confederation and was the only member of the Continental Congress to die in battle in the Revolutionary War.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated that he backs the renaming of Council Chambers 100 percent.

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:

#### **“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2013/10 Appropriating \$50,000 from the Water-Sewer Utility Capital Fund Surplus for Engineering Services for the Emergency Generator Project in and by the Borough of Freehold in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”**

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 an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2013/10 APPROPRIATING \$50,000 FROM THE WATER-SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL FUND SURPLUS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

FOR THE EMERGENCY GENERATOR PROJECT IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY” be, and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to publish said Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press and that same shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on August 5, 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.

Councilwoman Shutzer explained that we learned the hard way that we need to update some of our generators and there was a recommendation from the State that we especially do that at the water plant, even though we didn’t have any problems there. Hopefully we will be prepared if something else happens.

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:

**“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2013/11 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth Amending Chapter 10 (Vehicles and Traffic), Section 10.12.150 (Parking at the Market Yard Municipal Parking Lot).”**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2013/11 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AMENDING CHAPTER 10 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), SECTION 10.12.150 (PARKING AT THE MARKET YARD MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT” 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 August 5, 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.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated this is the recommendation from the Partnership Board and the Advocate. The hours will be from 8:30 -11:30 AM and from 2:30-4:30 PM for permit holders. There will be white spaces for 3 hour parking. Our signs will be corrected and hopefully this will make the flow and turnover of the Market Yard and other lots better for our downtown business people. Other recommendations will be taken into consideration at a later date.

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. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Accepting the 2012 Fiscal Year Audit Report as Prepared by Suplee, Clooney and Company.”**

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2012 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT REPORT AS PREPARED BY SUPLEE, CLOONEY AND COMPANY.

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 Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) Special Services Vehicle per the New Jersey State Contract.”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) SPECIAL SERVICES VEHICLE PER THE NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT.**

Councilman Sims stated this vehicle will be for the Fire Department with a joint service with our Fire Bureau. It will replace two aging vehicles on our fleet; the current Fire Police vehicle and a Fire Bureau vehicle.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated that the vehicle will also serve the residents of Freehold as it will have a plow, making it a multi-purpose vehicle.

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 the Purchase of One (1) Dump Truck Vehicle per the New Jersey State Contract.”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) DUMP TRUCK VEHICLE PER THE NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT.**

Councilman DiBenedetto stated this will replace one of our older dump trucks and it also comes with a plow.

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 Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) Pick-up Truck per the New Jersey State Contract.”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) PICK-UP TRUCK PER THE NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT.**

Councilman Griffiths stated that basically this truck is a replacement.

Councilman Schnurr stated that all the trucks were budgeted for and were approved by the Finance Committee.

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 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Approving Subordination of Mortgage Given to Borough of Freehold Housing Rehabilitation Program Concerning RCA Case Number FBHRP11-94.”**

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD APPROVING SUBORDINATION OF MORTGAGE GIVEN TO BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM CONCERNING RCA CASE NUMBER FBHRP11-94.

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:

**“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey Authorizing the Discharge of a Mortgage Re: Case No. 58.”**

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE DISCHARGE OF A MORTGAGE RE: CASE NO. 58.

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. 14 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Providing for the Insertion of Special Items of Revenue in the 2013 Budget of the Borough of Freehold Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:-87(Chapter 159).” (Library)**

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE IN THE 2013 BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:-87 (CHAPTER 159). (LIBRARY)

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. 15 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Providing for the Insertion of Special Items of Revenue in the 2013 Budget of the Borough of Freehold Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:-87(Chapter 159).” (Police Youth Academy)**

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE IN THE 2013 BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:-87 (CHAPTER 159). (POLICE YOUTH ACADEMY)

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. 16 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey Requesting Change in Title, Text, or Amount of Appropriation Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-85.”**

Councilman Griffiths 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, REQUESTING CHANGE IN TITLE, TEXT, OR AMOUNT OF APPROPRIATION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-85.

Councilman Griffiths stated that basically it is an adjustment or correction to the 2013 Budget amounts that were based on the 2012 projections.

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. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Confirming Registrar Appointments.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING REGISTRAR APPOINTMENTS.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that our Registrar is retiring and the appointments are as follows: Antoinette Jones as Registrar, Traci L. DiBenedetto as Deputy Registrar and Mary Cruz as Alternate Deputy Registrar.

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

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

**“Resolution Confirming Personnel Actions:**

- a. Appointment of Robert Lithgow as a probationary member of the Freehold Fire Department, Good Will Hook & Ladder Company, effective July 15, 2013.**
- b. Appointment of John Zuber as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Engine & Hose Company No. 1, effective July 15, 2013.**
- c. Resignation of Kevin Asadi as a member of the Freehold Borough Land Use Board, effective July 15, 2013.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTIONS NO. 18A – 18C .

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that she just had a long discussion with Kevin Asadi who served as a member of the Land Use Board for several years and he has moved out of town. We thank him for his service.

Councilman Schnurr said that Kevin brought a valuable insight as a Land Use attorney when they were discussing various applications and he will be missed.

Councilman DiBenedetto would like to thank Kevin for his service to his town and welcomed back Robert Lithgow.

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. 19 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:**

- a. **Raffle License #19-13, Freehold HS PTSO, 10/12/13, 3:00 PM at Freehold High School.**
- b. **Hometown Revival, 8/31/13, 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Rain date 9/7/13, at Liberty Park. c/o Minister Brian Major.**
- c. **Temporary Taxi Driver License, Jaime Gonzalez, Howell.**
- d. **Temporary Taxi Driver License, Samantha Polverino, Freehold.”**

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolution subject to approval of insurance for Application No. 19B – Hometown Revival and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer:

Mayor Higgins stated that Minister Major is in the audience and he will give a brief overview of the Hometown Revival planned for August 31, 2013.

Minister Major explained they are a ministry working with all the local churches to deal with family values and some of the issues going on in the streets today. He said that Freehold Borough is his hometown and so they are calling it Hometown Revival. He said that he and his wife’s family are rooted here.

Minister Major stated they are also working with the Police Department to try and open the door so they can be on the street to help the poor spiritually, physically and be there in the trenches so they can save our community so that it will be safer for everyone.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS NO. 19A – 19D.**

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. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Approval of Bills.”**

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$4,135,844.93 be paid as presented.

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

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

**“ Clerk - Late Communications.”**

There were no items under late communications.

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

**Items for Discussion:**

- a. **Towing Regulations.**

**ITEM A. TOWING REGULATIONS.**

Ms. Higgins stated that the Public Safety Committee met with Chief Roberts to review the Towing Ordinance and to discuss various ways of handling the regulations so that it is less confusing to all concerned. Several recommendations were suggested by the Public Safety Committee.

Ms. Higgins stated that she will draft an ordinance with the issues discussed and will give that to the chief and governing body to review.

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

**“Committee Reports.”**

Councilman Schnurr stated the fundraisers for next years Memorial Day Parade will start soon.

Councilman Schnurr congratulated our Administrator, Joe Bellina. On June 20, 2013 he, along with other administrators around the county, was honored by the State Assembly for their work during Hurricane Sandy. Councilman Schnurr stated that Joe and his staff did great work during all of the storms last year, not only during Hurricane Sandy. Councilman Schnurr continued that he feels this is quite a deserving honor and he thanked Mr. Bellina for the hard work, especially when a lot of residents were without power and looked to Borough Hall for answers.

Councilman Sims added that Mr. Bellina was in town everyday during the storm. He stated that it is a testament to the hard work that Mr. Bellina does here.

Councilman Schnurr stated that on July 4<sup>th</sup> there was a reading of the Declaration of Independence in front of Borough Hall. From his perspective it adds more meaning to the holiday when you actually read the words written by our Founding Fathers. He thanked Borough Historian Kevin Coyne, as well as Mayor Higgins, for orchestrating this event.

Councilman Schnurr stated that on July 4<sup>th</sup> there was also our Annual Freehold Raceway Concert and Fireworks display and he would like to thank the Freehold Center Partnership and the CEO Rich Gatto, Tina and all the sponsors for putting on a great show as usual.

Councilman Schnurr stated that on the economic development front you may have noticed new construction in the back of Foodtown on the Jerseyville Avenue side between Foodtown and the liquor store; that is the site of the American Granite Design new showroom and warehouse. It is a company that has been there for a number of years and they are expanding their facility at the Jerseyville Avenue location. This application was approved by the Planning Board earlier this year. Another Planning Board application that is nearing completion is the development of the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office which actually is in Freehold Township. This project includes a 29,000 square foot facility that has 400 parking stalls. When completed that office and its employees will be an economic shot in the arm for that area.

Councilman Schnurr stated that the New Jersey Department of Transportation (DOT) has notified the Borough as well as surrounding communities that there will be a construction project that will consist primarily of pavement rehabilitation along 17 miles of Route 9 from Symmes/Ryan Roads in Manalapan all the way up to Woodbridge. The only part that will not be involved is the bridge that goes over the Raritan River. The project will start this summer and it will be completed in the fall of 2014.

Councilman Schnurr stated that Olde Freehold Day will be held on July 20, 2013 at Lake Topanemus. You can park at the Courthouse and shuttle buses will take you to Lake Topanemus. You can also park at Applegate School and take the path that goes from the school to the lake. Councilman Schnurr stated that he looked forward to seeing everyone there on Saturday.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that the Advisory Council on Aging is not meeting for the summer. However, when the meetings resume the times will be changed from the third Wednesday of each month at 4:00 PM to the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM. We will again alternate our meeting spots starting with the YMCA in September, moving to Monmouth Court and then Hudson Manor and doing the rotation three times. We now have a committee that has decided the month of September will be called Senior Citizen’s Month and hopefully there will be some really nice activities going on. She neglected to mention this to Council, but they would like to have their first meeting in September at Hudson Manor with the bus available to take any Borough senior to the meeting. It is handicapped accessible and a lot easier to get to then this room. We hope to join with the folks at Hudson Manor and have everyone come there for our meeting. You will hear more about that after Council discusses it and approves it.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that on September 8<sup>th</sup> we hope to have a Senior's Activity Day in the County parking lot between the Hall of Records and the shopping mall. Our Human Relations Committee is going to take the reins on that. You will hear more about this. The Mayor's Wellness Committee will also be having some activities for the seniors.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the Board of Education hired people to conduct a study on demographics and the study shows the Borough is getting bigger and outgrowing space. We will keep you posted. We need to remember that the Board of Education is autonomous and will be making decisions themselves and keeping us posted.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the Alliance which is shared by the Borough and the Township had a successful fundraising golf outing on June 24<sup>th</sup>. We want to thank Jeff Friedman from the Borough for being there to help us and we want to thank all of our sponsors. We raised about \$12,000 which all goes to provide programs on substance and alcohol abuse. We have some exciting things planned for the fall with some great workshops set up for students and parents in the high schools. The programs go to our intermediate schools as well. We encompass not only substance abuse but bullying and self esteem. Councilwoman Shutzer thanked Mike DiBenedetto and Ricky Gartz for representing the Borough that day as golfers.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that was the end of her committee reports; however, at the last workshop meeting she brought up the issue of neglected properties around town. We continue to be open for suggestions and she thought it was interesting that Cape May is discussing the same kind of problems and they are instituting fines; we already have that in place. One of our options is to increase fines for folks who don't follow the rules. We appear to be doing all the right things, but we need to be vigilant. She asked that the public continue to report any neglected properties to Code. We have so many residents who take wonderful care of their properties and it is a shame that we have a few who are blights on the neighborhood simply from neglect.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered her condolences to the family of Michael DiAiso. She worked with Michael when he was our Police Captain and for a while as Acting Chief. He died suddenly and it was a shock to everyone. We are keeping him and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Councilwoman Shutzer respectfully requests Councilman Griffith to put on the next workshop the issue of the Shade Tree Ordinance which governs what the residents' can do to the trees in front of their houses. She thinks that we need to look at the ordinance again in light of the damage done to people's property by storms. She thinks the ordinance is at least 15 years old.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that the Walter J. Conley Lodge will hold it's Annual Bar-B-Que this Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> in memory of Elijah "Slick" Jenkins who was tragically killed in a fire at that facility several years ago.

Councilwoman Shutzer congratulated Joe, Kathy Caruso, Ricky Gartz and the Finance Committee on the audit report which was excellent. It is nice not to see the litany of recommendations we've had in the past.

Councilwoman Shutzer announced that on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM at New Beginnings Agape Church there will be a prayer service for Trevon Martin. Councilwoman Shutzer stated that she is sure there will be prayers for peace and understanding on everyone's part.

Councilman Sims thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He stated that a boy scout approached us for his Eagle Scout project. That project was just completed and is an extension of the library shelves in the basement of our public library and he did a beautiful job. Councilman Sims is waiting for the scout to get back to him so he can be invited to a council meeting and be recognized and receive honors for his project. He also thanked Rich Gatto who was very instrumental in helping getting some materials donated so the young man could complete his project.

Councilman DiBenedetto welcomed everyone. He stated that public works is out aggressively cleaning the streets; we are still cleaning up some areas that incurred damage from the storm. We are now in brush mode this month. Because of the heat, Councilman DiBenedetto suggested that the crews could possibly start earlier and leave earlier.

Councilman DiBenedetto said we will be having our Borough Yard sale again this year; the date has not been set yet.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated Recreation sponsored over 20 kids in Little League this year and we are looking to sponsoring some Borough kids for Pop Warner.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the YMCA has been working with us for the summer program which is going along great. Mel O'Neal planned the program and the children are out playing, going on trips and swimming. It is a great thing for the kids.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated that the Partnership and the Historic Preservation Commission work hand in hand and have opened up some new businesses in downtown Freehold through the aggressive recruiting by the Partnership. Wednesday nights we still have Freehold Idol; Thursday nights we have great bands. The fireworks were a great success and there was a

pretty big crowd. The Farmer's Market is open on Fridays; they have flowers, vegetables, honey and other goods.

Councilman DiBenedetto thanked everyone for coming out tonight and wished Minister Major all the best.

Councilman Griffiths added his congratulations to the two new members of the Fire Department adding that actually Mr. Lithgow is returning.

Councilman Griffiths stated that he thought the honor that Mr. Bellina and several other administrators got was well deserved.

Councilman Griffiths stated he was happy that in the 132 pages of the audit to read that one line that said the results of our test disclose no instances of non-compliance or other matters that are required to be reported under the government auditing standards. That always makes life easy for us up here. That is due to our professionals and their staffs and we thank them very much for the work they do throughout the year to keep us straight and to make sure that everything is done according to law.

Councilman Griffiths stated that in regards to the Shade Tree Commission the Commission is working towards getting t-shirts available to fundraise at Olde Freehold Day. They will be setting up a table.

Councilman Griffiths stated he agreed with Councilwoman Shutzer's remarks and there is a need to re-look at that ordinance. The Commission recognizes that and the Commission has made some suggestions and will review the ordinance. We are going to take a look and come up with procedures that will be customer friendly to the people of Freehold Borough when they have a problem with their trees.

Councilman Griffiths thanked everyone for coming out this evening.

Councilman Kane stated that he would also like to thank everyone for coming out this evening. He stated that he would also like to thank Joe, Ricky and Kathy. They do a great job.

Councilman Kane stated that Health and Welfare is off for the summer but they will fire back up with the Rabies Clinic in September.

Councilman Kane offered his condolences to the family of Mike DiAiso. Mike was a cop with the Borough for a very long time.

Councilman Kane wished to publicly congratulate Mr. Bellina and also to congratulate the Mayor. Danny Megill was the one who picked up that Hurricane Sandy looked like it was going to hook into New Jersey rather than going out to sea as hurricanes normally do here. Danny brought that to Joe Bellina and Mayor Higgins' attention and the OEM started meeting a week before the storm, and that put us way ahead of the curve. They all did a great job.

Councilman Kane announced that JCP&L came out with tips for the heat wave we are experiencing. If you know of someone elderly who lives by themselves check on them; make a phone call or knock on the door. It only takes a couple of minutes.

Councilman Kane stated that Olde Freehold Day is this Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. It is advertised from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM but the hours have been slightly expanded. There is also an adjustment to the parking that Councilman Schnurr announced. The first two options remain the same; the shuttle from the Courthouse and the path from Applegate School. There is a third way; you can go down Robertsville Road, past the entrance to the pond, and follow the directions to where hay wagons will take you to the back of the pond. The vendors and the musicians will be allowed to park inside the pond for logistic purposes.

Councilman Kane stated we have a problem, but it is a good problem to have. Ronnie Davis who is the Music Director for Olde Freehold Day has so many bands committed to play that we don't have the room for them and we have had to extend the hours. The first band will kick off at 9:30 AM and the last band will finish between 5:00 – 6:00 PM. For those of you who don't know Ronnie Davis is very sick with cancer and it is a day to day situation. He is trying to reserve all his energy in order to attend Olde Freehold Day. All these musicians are coming as a thank you and a tribute to Ronnie and every single one of the bands are playing for free.

Councilman Kane stated there is also going to be a Battle of the Restaurants. It is going to be a tremendous day and everyone is encouraged to come out.

Councilman Kane thanked Brian Major for all that he is doing.

Ms. Higgins stated that she wanted to thank Councilman Sims ahead of time as he will be driving shuttle buses the entire day for Olde Freehold Day.

Mayor Higgins stated that we held our annual reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th and we had one of our largest groups of attendees. It was a great ceremony and it was another success this year.

Mayor Higgins stated that former Councilman Coyne led a Borough Historic Walk the weekend before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We thought if we had 15-20 people attend it would be a huge

success, it turned out we had 54 people attend. We are very pleased and we are talking about doing this again in the fall.

Mayor Higgins stated that he would like to recognize Garry Jackson for the fire safety work that he does at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. Garry does this year after year, working with the police department, fire department and the first aid squad. He also works with the fireworks vendors to make sure everything goes off safely. He is a “behind the scenes unsung hero of this event”. Mayor Higgins stated that Garry does a great job for us every year and for the record he wanted to recognize him.

Mayor Higgins stated he would like to congratulate Mr. Bellina for his award at the State Assembly. It was a very proud moment for a mayor to sit in the balcony and to see on the floor of the Assembly our Administrator receive that award.

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

Michael Federici, Federici's Restaurant, 14 East Main Street, stated he was here to object to the Parking Ordinance approval for the Market Yard. He stated that it does not ease the available parking for patrons. He feels that business will fall off if no solution is found as the Market Yard is overly congested, especially on Friday and Saturday nights.

He read a prepared plan which suggested different hours which he feels will ease the congestion in the Market Yard and he hopes that these hours will prevent overnight parking, residential parking and prevent parking being used for unrelated business purposes.

Mr. Federici indicated that he would email a copy of the plan he had just read to the Mayor.

Mr. Thomas Baldwin, 3 Vought Avenue, asked who was responsible for the area on Throckmorton Street between Bowne Avenue and Monmouth Avenue. There is a large ditch full of water. He feels it is a health hazard.

Mr. Bellina replied that it was the railroads right-of-way and that he would look into it.

Mr. Baldwin also suggested that Olde Freehold Day be renamed and called Freehold Day.

Minister Brian Major further stated that he is trying to reach every church in the community; so far he has met with six of fourteen churches. He is hoping to create more synergy in the community, to use a volunteer pool, and to protect our seniors and children. He is willing to work with council in any way he can to help the community come together.

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

#### 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, Councilwoman Shutzer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM, seconded by Councilman Sims with All in Favor.

---

ANTOINETTE JONES  
CLERK'S ASSISTANT

AJ:llc