

The Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Sunday, January 5, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Higgins welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated the following:

“Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Borough of Freehold and to this chamber now designated as Scudder Hall in memory of one of Freehold’s patriots who was killed during the American Revolution.”

Mayor Higgins stated that 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.

Reverend William Frederickson of First Baptist Church gave the invocation, followed by a moment of silence.

The Oaths of Office were administered to Councilman Kevin Kane by Mayor Higgins and Councilman Jaye Sims by Monmouth County Freeholder John Curley.

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. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing 2014 Professional Services Contract with William T. Wentzien, PE, LS for Borough Engineering Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2014 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH WILLIAM T. WENTZIEN, PE, LS FOR BOROUGH ENGINEERING SERVICES.

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 Authorizing 2014 Professional Services Contract with Kerry E. Higgins, Esq. for Borough Legal Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2014 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH KERRY E. HIGGINS, ESQ. FOR BOROUGH LEGAL SERVICES.

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 Authorizing 2014 Professional Services Contract with Dilworth Paxson LLP for Borough Bond Counsel Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2014 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DILWORTH PAXSON LLP FOR BOROUGH BOND COUNSEL SERVICES.

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 2014 Professional Services Contract with Suplee, Clooney & Company for Borough Auditor Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2014 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY FOR BOROUGH AUDITOR SERVICES.

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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Municipal Prosecutor for the Year 2014: Brian T. Wilton, Esq.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE YEAR 2014: BRIAN T. WILTON, ESQ.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Newman, Schnurr 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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Borough Substitute/Alternate Prosecutor for the Year 2014: Kerry E. Higgins, Esq.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING BOROUGH SUBSTITUTE/ALTERNATE PROSECUTOR FOR THE YEAR 2014: KERRY E. HIGGINS, ESQ.

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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Public Defender for the Year 2014: Jonathan Lomurro.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE YEAR 2014: JONATHAN LOMURRO.

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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nominations and Appointments for the Year 2014:

- | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|---------------|
| a. | Deputy Clerk | Joseph B. Bellina | 1 year |
| b. | Treasurer and Collector
Water & Sewer Rents | Richard J. Gartz | 1 year |
| c. | Deputy Treasurer | Kathleen Caruso | 1 year |

d.	Borough Historian	Kevin Coyne	1 year
e.	Board of Health	Vicki Warnock	4 years
		William Madden	4 years
		Ellen Kane	4 years
f.	Emergency Management:		
	Daniel Megill	Dep. Coordinator	1 year
	Chief Glenn Roberts	Public Safety	1 year
	Chief Daniel Megill	Fire and Rescue	1 year
	Joseph B. Bellina	Damage Assessment	1 year
	Traci L. DiBenedetto	Shelter and Welfare	1 year
	Garry Jackson	Fire Prevention Rep.	1 year
	J. Nolan Higgins	(Ex-Officio)	1 year
	Peter DeNicola, Captain or		
	Duly Authorized	First Aid Squad	1 year
	Margaret Jahn	Health Department	1 year
	Sal DeJesus	Streets & Roads	1 year
	Harry Burt	Water Department	1 year
	Mike Baker	Water Plant	1 year
g.	Fire Prevention Bureau:	(State License Required)	1 year
	Garry Jackson	Fire Official	
h.	Human Relations Committee	Sheryl Mott	3 years
		Jane Fields	3 years
		Rev. William Frederickson	3 years
		Tammy Ciok	3 years
		Rabbi Edward Friedman	3 years
		Susan Greitz, School Board	
		Liaison	1 year
		Annette Jordan, Alternate	1 year
i.	Historic Preservation Committee	Dick Dalik	3 years
		Rovert Sive	3 years
		Gil Burgess	3 years
		Adam Reich	2 years
		Nelson Kuperberg	1 year
j.	Housing Authority	Frances McDaniel	5 years
	(Mayor's Appt.)	Reginald Sims	2 years
k.	Lake Topanemus Commission	Edward Daley	3 years
		Dr. C. Gregory Jewell	1 year
l.	Library Commission	June Vawter	5 years
		Barbara Jenette	1 year
m.	Memorial Day Parade Committee	Alice McCobb	1 year

	Amanda McCobb	1 year
	Jim Donechie	1 year
	Bernard Weinstein	1 year
	John Bosco	1 year
	John Mazekien	1 year
	Ken Pulchlopek	1 year
	Sidney Blacknall	1 year
	Walter Kowalski	1 year
	Nick Gardner	1 year
	Tim Rohan	1 year
	Ruth Wall	1 year
	Michelle Wall	1 year
n.	Municipal Alliance	
	Jeff Friedman	2 years
	Marvin Krakower	2 years
	Rocco G. Tomazic, Superintendent, Freehold Borough Schools	1 year
o.	Planning Board	
	Adam Reich	4 years
	Robert Oakes	4 years
	William Barricelli	4 years
	Garry Jackson	1 years
	Annette Jordan (Alt. 2)	2 years
p.	Shade Tree Commission	
	Christine Gregory	5 years”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2014.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr 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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing the Affirmative Action Officer for the Year 2014: Joseph B. Bellina.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 2014: JOSEPH B. BELLINA.

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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing the Community Development Representative and Alternate for the Year 2014: Joseph B. Bellina, Richard J. Gartz and Daniel Megill.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE FOR THE YEAR 2014: JOSEPH B. BELLINA, RICHARD J. GARTZ AND DANIEL MEGILL.

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:

“Election by Council of President for Year 2014: Councilman Michael DiBenedetto.”

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

ELECTION BY COUNCIL OF PRESIDENT FOR YEAR 2014: COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DIBENEDETTO.

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:

“Mayor’s Appointments of Council Committees for 2014:

COMMITTEE	CHAIR		
Finance	Kane	Griffiths	Schnurr
Personnel	Shutzer	Sims	DiBenedetto
Public Works	DiBenedetto		
Health and Welfare	Kane		
Recreation	DiBenedetto		
Code Enforcement	Griffiths		
Municipal Court	Sims		

Public Safety	Kane	DiBenedetto	Sims	
Land Use	Schnurr	DiBenedetto	Griffiths	Alt., Sims”

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

“Appointment of Council Representatives for the Year 2014:

Committee	Representative
Advisory Council on Aging	Sharon Shutzer
Board of Education	Sharon Shutzer
Freehold Center Partnership	Michael DiBenedetto
Historic Preservation	Michael DiBenedetto
Human Relations	Ronald Griffiths
Library	George Schnurr
Memorial Day Parade	George Schnurr
Planning Board	George Schnurr
Shade Tree Commission	Ronald Griffiths
Alliance Against Drugs	Sharon Shutzer
Emergency Management	Sharon Shutzer
Youth Government	Jaye Sims”

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

“Resolution Providing Notice of 2014 Meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold.”

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

RESOLUTION PROVIDING NOTICE OF 2014 MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

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:

“Resolution Authorizing the Renewal and Continuance of Bonds for Officials Required to Have Bonds for the Year 2014.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL AND CONTINUANCE OF BONDS FOR OFFICIALS REQUIRED TO HAVE BONDS FOR THE YEAR 2014:

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. 21 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Designating the Depositories Wherein all Public Monies and Other Funds of the Municipality Shall Be Kept.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD DESIGNATING THE DEPOSITORIES WHEREIN ALL PUBLIC MONIES AND OTHER FUNDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL BE KEPT.

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. 22 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Designating Official Newspapers for Year 2014: Asbury Park Press, News Transcript, Star Ledger and Times of Trenton.”

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

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR YEAR 2014: ASBURY PARK PRESS, NEWS TRANSCRIPT, STAR LEDGER AND TIMES OF TRENTON.

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. 23 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes, Assessments and Water/Sewer Accounts for 2014.”

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 FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED ON DELINQUENT TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND WATER/SEWER ACCOUNTS FOR 2014.

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. 24 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Distribution of Meeting Agendas and Minutes.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DISTRIBUTION OF MEETING AGENDAS AND MINUTES.

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. 25 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Designating Official Holidays for the Employees of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, for the Year 2014.”

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

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, FOR THE YEAR 2014.

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. 26 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Freehold.”

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

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. 27 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Providing for 2014 Temporary Budget Appropriations.”

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

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR 2014 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS.

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 introduced the following members of the audience: Former Freehold Borough Mayor, Michael Wilson; Sue Sweetman, former Councilwoman and Chairperson of the Housing Authority; George Kelder, former Councilman; John Curley, Freeholder; Red Bank Councilman, Ed Zipprich; Mayor of Lake Como, Michael Ryan; Police Chief Glenn Roberts, Members of our Fire Department, Chief Megill, Current Department President and Ex-Chief Mike Burt, our Ex-Chiefs, Bob Taylor and Ryan Bailey; our Fire Department Chaplain, Reverend Frederickson, who also serves on the Human Relations Committee; from the Freehold First Aid Squad, President Jim McAllister and Chaplain Dianne D’Anna; Joseph Bellina, Administrator; Kerry Higgins, Borough Attorney; Traci DiBenedetto, Borough Clerk; our new Prosecutor, Brian Wilton; Jonathan Lomurro, Public Defender; our auditor from Supplee, Clooney and Company, John Swisher; our former Zoning Board Attorney, Vincent Halleran; Frank Accisano, Planning Board Attorney; members of our Youth Government; Bill Wentzien and Steve Kiselick, Borough Engineers; Rich Gatto, CEO, Downtown Freehold; Vin Capell, Danielle Sims, Freehold Borough Planning Board Chairperson; Memorial Day Parade Committee, Alice, Amanda and Pat McCobb; Municipal Alliance Co-Chairperson, Jeff Friedman; Historic Preservation Committee member, Gil Burgess; Shade Tree Commission and Human Relations Committee member, Christine Gregory; Carol Lida, member of the Human Relations Committee; Jean Holtz, Downtown Freehold Board Member and Chairperson of the Freehold Borough Education Foundation; Board of Health member, Ellen Kane; Freehold Borough Board of Education, Bill Hakim and also Annette Jordan; from our Housing Authority Reggie Sims, our Borough photographer Allan Goldberg, from Freehold Open Door Sandy Taylor and Joanna Parkes, from the Conley Lodge, past Exalted Ruler Sid Blacknall; Freehold Racer’s Club, Al Michenfelder and my wife Christine Higgins.

Mayor Higgins asked for all members of the audience who are in the military or are a veteran to stand up and be recognized. Mayor Higgins asked for a round of applause for the military.

Mayor Higgins asked for public comment.

There were none.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE 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 Kevin Kane stated the following:

“This is a treat; I don’t think I have ever gone first, ever! I would like to thank the voters of Freehold Borough for allowing Jaye and I to come back for another term. It was an interesting year to say the least, with the way the elections worked. To see the kind of faith that the voters of Freehold Borough had in Jaye and I was very humbling. I would like to thank the voters of Freehold. Walking in the door right now is former Freehold Township mayor, Anthony Ammiano.

If it wasn’t for our spouses and family we wouldn’t be encouraged to even entertain the idea of running for public office. There is a lot of meetings involved, there is a lot of time away from home and without that support we wouldn’t be able to do what we do for you. So I would like to thank all of our families for the support and help in getting re-elected. It is a total team effort along with our colleagues up here. It takes everyone to go out and make this happen, and I would like to thank all of you also for all of that.

We talk about a team and it was a total team effort this year. There was some reorganization in our local club. I would like to thank my Campaign Manager, Annette Jordan and our Treasurer, Danielle Sims for keeping it all straight throughout the craziness.

We say this every year but if you look around, when Mayor Higgins was going through the public acknowledgements, this room is why Freehold Borough is as great as it is. All of the volunteers, you saw all the names being mentioned. If it wasn’t for the people in this room things wouldn’t happen. Busy people make things happen. Every single one of you are busy and still find the time to volunteer and work on whatever committee or in most cases multiple committees, so I want to thank all of our volunteers. Let’s give them one more round of applause.

Along with the volunteers it takes the efforts of tremendous professionals and we are really blessed with a great team of professionals, Joe Bellina our Administrator, Kerry Higgins our Attorney, Traci DiBenedetto our Borough Clerk, Glenn Roberts our Police Chief, Danny Megill the Fire Chief, Ricky Gartz our CFO. The list goes on and on, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our professionals.

I am going to be brief, I am so glad Nolan recognizes the military. This time of the year everyone is starting to calm down a little bit from the holidays, but it gets so crazy during the so called holiday season. This year you pretty much took Thanksgiving, since it was a little bit later, and put it by the side so that everyone could focus on buying gifts for Christmas. Everybody gets so caught up, and is anyone else tired about hearing about the Target fiasco, with compromised debit cards. It is all based on spending money on gifts. I saw something on TV and someone was being interviewed and he asked what is the greatest gift you could get and the guy looked the interviewer dead in the eye and said the greatest gift I could get is the freedom to live in this country. Think about that, we assume we can just go on doing whatever we do. It is an assumption here, but freedom comes with a price and if you take a look at the people in the military who protect us and give us that right you will see the tremendous sacrifice that they give. I would like to take this opportunity to ask the veterans and active military to stand up one more time and give them another round of applause. I watched an interview where Matt Lauer was interviewing the five medal of honor recipients for this year and he went through and asked them a lot of tough questions but at the end he says you know when people come up and they

talk to you what should people say to you. Their response was they received the most satisfaction when people come up and said thank you for your service.

I had the opportunity of being on the USS Nimitz during the first week of December with my son-in-law and my brother-in-law. We got to sail on the aircraft carrier from December 5th – December 12th from Pearl Harbor to San Diego. It was the most incredible experience. They encourage you to talk to people and we were in ready rooms with the pilots and we watched jets take off and land just like you see in the movies. That ship was scheduled for a six month deployment. When they left San Diego they went to South Korea at the time when things in North Korea were about to explode. This ship was sitting with their fleet in South Korea. They left there and did a three month tour in the Persian Gulf and supplied air support for the ground troops for three months during Operation Enduring Freedom. They finished their three month deployment and they were coming home and the next day they said hold on we have a situation in Syria and were re-routed them to the Red Sea for six weeks and they were there to just help Syria make the right decision. From there they went to Naples, in total they were out for 260 days. When we watched the ship come in to Everett, Washington, which is their home port, there were 40 new babies that the sailors did not see because they were born during the deployment. That is just one ship in our entire military. We do not do enough for our military and I am making the commitment to do more for our military and just a simple thank you for your service allows us to do what we do and enjoy the freedoms that we have. Again, thank you very much to our veterans and any active military that is here today.

Thank you very much for coming out and have a great New Year.”

Councilman Jaye Sims stated the following:

“Good afternoon and Happy New Year to everybody. I would like to thank you all for coming out today. This day would not be possible if not for a few people that I would like to recognize at this time; first I would like to thank my beautiful wife, Danielle, thank you for coming today and for continuing to always be there for me and to show your support, I love you. I am really truly blessed to have you in my life. During the last term, Danielle and I received a true blessing, the birth of our twin girls, Mackenzie and Madison. They have really made these last two years fun. My life has completely changed with them and there isn't a day I couldn't imagine without them. Daddy loves you girls.

As Councilman Schnurr has always said, “It's not just the councilperson you elect; you elect the family as well.” Without all of their support, I would not be sitting up here today. To the rest of my family, especially my siblings, Pam, Joe, Jerry, Reggie, Nicky, Gabe, Jackie, Chris and Ashley, I say a huge thank you. You have all made huge sacrifices of your time whether it would be to watch our girls for Danielle and I or for just an ear to talk to when needed. To my mother, Eva, who is sitting in the front, I have a huge thank you for you for showing your support. I want to say thank you for the many lessons in life that you have taught me. It is because of you that I've been the parent I am to my kids. Thanks mom and I love you. To my other mother and father, Bunny and Art Reiman, I want to say thank you as well. You have always been there for me whether it is just advice, support or just to show your overall love. I can't thank you both enough for the time that you've given me. Finally, to my nieces and nephews, Cidney, Cierra, Camryn, Kayla, Gabriel and Nicholas, Uncle Jaye loves you all and thank you for all of your help. I am also proud to announce that in June I will be an uncle again, I have a beautiful niece coming and I am anticipating the arrival.

Besides my family I have some other people here today that I would like to thank you for coming out and showing their support. First, Freeholder John Curley thank you for accepting the honor of swearing me back into office. It is truly appreciated. You've always been a phone call away from me and on behalf of me and my family, thank you again for sharing in this special

day. I also have some co-workers here in the audience, Barry and Stu, thank you for showing your support and being good friends at work.

To my running mate, Councilman Kevin Kane, this marks our third time at it. I couldn't think of a better running mate to have. When I first got on council and ran my first election with Kevin there were still many lessons for me to learn, but Kevin never let that affect our focus. On a lighter note the Kane/Sims family was big already to begin with but since our previous election, I think we've grown in numbers quite a bit. Kevin and Ellen, again I just want to say thank you for always accepting Danielle and I and making us feel welcome as part of the Kane family.

2013 was another challenging year again in the Borough. We have continued to work to provide the necessary services to our residents while staying below the 2% cap. To all my colleagues up here on council, it has been a pleasure working with you all for another year and I look forward to begin working with you this year. Thank you all and thank you for all of your support.

To all the workers here in Freehold Borough starting with Borough Hall, you are all very hard workers. It starts with our administrator, Joe Bellina, your hard work and persistence always pays off and it sets the tone with the rest of our workforce. Our CFO, Ricky Gartz, and our borough attorney, Kerry Higgins, your jobs are not easy ones but time and time again you seem to make it flawless and easy. To our clerk, Traci DiBenedetto, I said this last year and I will say it again, sometimes I think Traci sleeps here, thank you for the many jobs and tasks that you do. On a personal note, back in June, Traci also became a parent of twins, so it has been fun for the past year leading up to that, sharing experiences and stories with Traci. Recently I asked her if any of the stories or advice that we spoke about were on point and she firmly said yes.

To our fire department, a huge thank you for all that you do. Under the leadership of Chief Dan Megill, the fire department continues to move forward into the 21st century. I would also like to acknowledge our new First Assistant Chief, Robert Taylor. Robert is a third generation firefighter in our department. His father, Robert "Bob" Taylor is in the audience today and is soon to be a 53 year active member of the fire department. So Bob and Sandy, I know this is a proud time for you, enjoy it and congratulations to your family. To our Second Assistant Chief, Steve Pullen, I wish you luck in the coming year. To our new Department President Mike Burtt, who I also call dad at times, Mike I wish you luck as you begin your tenure as president.

To the first aid department, I see Jim McAllister and Dianne D'Anna in the audience, thank you for coming and good luck with your organization in the upcoming year. To the rest of the volunteers in this town, I can't say enough, you all make different sacrifices and help this town run.

Our police department under the direction of Chief Glenn Roberts, will begin an accreditation process this year. This is a nationally recognized achievement. I can say on behalf of the council, Chief we all look forward to helping you achieve this goal and good luck to you and your staff this year on another successful year.

There is one highlight of this past year that I will never forget; I had the opportunity in May to meet President Obama in Asbury Park with my brother, Reggie. We battled the rainy weather and stood for many hours but we had the opportunity to shake hands with the President.. It was an experience that I will never forget.

To the Youth Government, my other children as I call them, some of you are here today, my two nieces, Cydney and Cierra Sims, this is a great group of Borough youth. They recently took part in a holiday toy drive, which they came up with the idea themselves. They selected six needy families here in the Borough and we came here on a Sunday morning and wrapped gifts and then distributed the gifts to the families. It was a very humbling experience and I was glad I was here to experience that with the youth government.

Finally the new year is here and I am sure this council will face a new line of challenges, from keeping the budget balanced, improving our road infrastructure, to tax property revaluations and to the many requests of needs from our departments. All of the decisions will be tough but make no mistakes about it; this council will as always continue what is best for the residents of this town.

I would like to leave you with a final story. There was a little boy at a concert and the people were being escorted into their seats. The little boy and his family's seats were very high up on the bleachers. So the little boy said to the usher, I don't think I can make it up that high, he was scared to make the climb. The usher picked the boy up and carried him up to his seat and the little boy watched the concert with his family. The moral of the story was the little boy was me. Mom, I'm still climbing and I haven't stopped. Thank you."

Council President Michael DiBenedetto stated the following:

"With four more people to go and the games on, I will try to be as brief as I can. Distinguished guests, family, friends and the Borough community, I welcome you to our Reorganization Meeting of 2014. A meeting which puts some of our key personnel, whether it be professional or volunteers, into place so we can set sail into 2014.

I would like to congratulate Councilman Kane and Councilman Sims for their re-election and their service to our community. I would also like to congratulate and thank their families for allowing them to serve our community. Not only to make this a better place for their families to be raised, but a better place for our community and people to live in.

To all of our professionals, under the leadership of Joseph B. Bellina, not to be repeating, and to all of our Borough family, I wish you a happy and healthy 2014. The jobs they do go far beyond, job employment, they are an outstanding group of staff that we have here at the Borough, I wish them the best and encourage them to continue on to serve the Borough of Freehold the way you have and it will be a better place to live in.

To all of our volunteers, I wish you a happy, healthy and safe 2014. If there is anything you need, call upon us, we are here for you. We do know the countless hours and the time that you put into your jobs as volunteers and we sincerely thank you for being there for us. To the volunteers on our boards being re-elected today, I thank you for coming out and sharing your time with us and making this, as I say, a better place to live in.

I am glad to see 2013 go. There were some positive things that happened last year and they came to us through the devastating storm we had, I want to congratulate our mayor, for the way he stepped up. I also congratulate our professionals for the way they stepped up. At a devastating time in our lives, not only were we looking at the news, we were the news. We not only counted on the State, we also counted on our County, which was there for us. I also congratulate the community for stepping up and helping each other. It was very difficult juggling a hat between a fireman and a councilman, it was a horrific time in our lives and I congratulate the challenges that were met by this council and our professionals, but you as a community. Many people were in need and there were many people who had their hands out looking for help and there was always three or four people helping them. I congratulate you all as a community for that. There are a lot of intelligent, caring and sharing people out there, please step forward, we would love to have you come serve on our committees and commissions and help us.

Again, thank you all for coming out, I wish you the best in 2014."

Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer stated the following:

“First, on a personal note, 2013 was a traumatic year for my family and I want to take this time to thank everyone for the support and outpouring of love we experienced. Many acts of kindness touched our hearts and lifted our spirits during this devastating time. I feel a sense of relief as we bid farewell to the year.

On a positive note, Freehold Borough’s professionals, our employees and our volunteers are second to none and I am profoundly grateful for each one. During difficult times, we watch as Freehold Borough’s spirit rises, and we all become a family working together to meet the challenges. A huge thank you to all who served.

In 2014, we will continue to face challenges, solve problems and yes, walk, ride and paddle with our mayor as we do everything we can to protect and improve the quality of life for our residents.

Congratulations, Kevin and Jaye. Freehold made the right choices. Thank you to my fellow council members and the mayor for all of your hard work on behalf of the residents we serve. A very special thank you to my family and all of your families without whose support we could not serve.

Finally, some things never change so I close with this Apache Blessing which I offer you each year, “May the sun bring you new energy by day; may the moon softly restore you by night; may the rain wash away your worries; may the breeze blow new strength into your being; may you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life.”

Thank you.”

Councilman George Schnurr stated the following:

“I would like to thank all of you for coming out today to help us start the new year with our Reorganization Meeting and the swearing in of Councilman Jaye Sims and Councilman Kevin Kane.

I would like to congratulate newly selected Freehold Borough Council President Mike DiBenedetto who has the respect and admiration of the entire council. I would like to publicly congratulate Jaye, Kevin and their families on their election victory in November. Jaye and Kevin are both leaders by definition and role models by the example that they set.

Councilman Jaye Sims is a tireless worker on behalf of Freehold Borough residents. He has earned everyone’s respect by the hard work and effort he puts into his job. Jaye’s work ethic makes him a role model by the example he sets for the rest of us. If you want to see an example of what I’m talking about, go on to the internet and type in Councilman Jaye Sims on any of the popular search engines, hit the search button and see what happens, the screen just fills up. The number of times he’s mentioned is a reflection of the hard work he puts into his job. Congratulations, Jaye and thank you for being such a great role model.

Councilman Kevin Kane is a leader in the true sense of the word. An example of what I mean is as follows: I’ve worked with Kevin for six years on the Finance Committee, even though Kevin is the chairperson of the Finance Committee he has not once in those six years used his position as chairman to get his way on something. People define leadership in a lot of different ways. One of the ways that I define it is, when you are in charge of something you show them you are the leader by the way you conduct yourself. That is what Councilman Kane is all about. Congratulations Kevin and thank you for being a leader on this council.

In the new year I look forward to getting down to work and collaborating with all people of good will to deliver solutions on the critical issues of importance to Freehold Borough. In a small town like ours when all is said and done, there are just folks like you and us here on the governing body that come up with ideas and try to implement these ideas. While on the subject of people who put these plans into action, I want to thank the people who serve on the various boards, committees and service groups. Many who are represented here, today. They know

what I know that serving your community is not only the best gift you can give to yourself, but it is also the best gift you can give to your community. We know the feeling you get inside when you know you're making a difference and I would like to thank you all for making that difference.

The swearing in of First Assistant Chief Robert Taylor was on January 1, 2014 and I would like to thank him and Fire Chief Dan Megill and Second Assistant Chief Steve Pullen and Fire Department President Mike Burt for their service to our community. I would also like to thank President of our First Aid, Jim McAllister for him and his group's efforts to help keep us safe. I would also like to thank Police Chief Glenn Roberts and his men for their leadership and protecting and serving the residents and our visitors.

Freehold Borough is not only run by the mayor and council and the various committees, we have excellent professionals and personnel to perform the day to day business here in town. I would like to take the time to thank Freehold Borough Administrator, Joe Bellina and the employees that work for him, especially Traci DiBenedetto, Borough Clerk, Toni Jones, her assistant and Linda Cottrell who are the friendly faces that people see when they come to Borough Hall. A lot of times people come to Borough Hall and they have some sort of problem and they are the first people they see. Their professional demeanor sets the tone for the office.

Last year was really a tough year for our economy. Our Borough Administrator, Joe Bellina and our CFO, Ricky Gartz, did a tremendous job in finding ways to stretch our tax dollar and I would like to thank you both for your hard work and your continued hard work in keeping our finances in order. I would also like to thank our Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins, for all of her work during the year. She worked double duty for most of the year as our Municipal Attorney, as well as, our Prosecutor, when our Prosecutor, Kathy Sheedy was appointed Judge. Thank you Kerry for working all those countless hours.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our snowplowing team that kept Freehold Borough's roads open this week.

In addition, I would like to thank my family for their support and sacrifice. It is not only "yours truly" that serves Freehold; it is the rest of my family, as well. The truth is, if it wasn't for them I couldn't be up here. My wife, Diane, has been very understanding and has unconditional veto power over my role as member of the governing body. I say this each and every year to remind her of the power she wields in our household.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank Mayor Nolan Higgins for his leadership in this past year. Many of us have played organized athletics. We all have had good team mates. Every once in a while you get someone on your team that makes everyone else play that much better and that guy is Mayor Higgins.

All of us on council believe in Freehold and pledge to devote our time and energy in keeping Freehold a great hometown, whether the issue is crime prevention, policing downtown, economic development, fiscal responsibility, providing for infrastructure improvements or improving the quality of life for our residents, I look forward to working with the mayor and the entire council and their professionals and the residents of Freehold Borough during the upcoming year. Thank you and Happy New Year."

Councilman Ron Griffiths stated the following:

"As I complete my first year on the council, I would just like to echo what you've heard here. It sort of sounds like a mutual admiration society, but it is sincere. I have been mentored by everyone at this front table and our professionals who do an outstanding job. I would simply like to say thank you and Happy New Year."

Mayor Higgins stated the following:

“Councilman Kane recognized Deputy Mayor from Freehold Township Anthony Ammiano when he came in, welcome. We are very fortunate to have a great governing body as our neighbors. We share many services with them, they are always there for us during storms or when we need somebody to talk to. Anthony and his group is always there and I would like to thank you and recognize you for a great working relationship between our municipalities.

I would also like to recognize the person who I speak to almost on a daily basis, our Administrator, Joe Bellina. He is here weekends, holidays, days off, Christmas, New Years, whenever snow is in the air. His job is not a 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday job and Joe I just like to recognize the many, many hours that you’ve given to us.

I congratulate and welcome back Kevin and Jaye to the governing body. It is certainly an appropriate time to thank all of our professionals, our staff, our committees, our volunteers and all of the departments who work on a daily basis to provide the services which you expect and deserve from your municipality.

This past year our Borough was awarded the prestigious “Great Place in New Jersey Award” by the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association. Our downtown remains vibrant and is a destination for many looking for an all-American small town setting.

This year we are very pleased to report the expansion of the Nestle Plant which is underway. This will insure a long term commitment to a very important member of our corporate community.

Our police, fire and first aid squad, street and water departments and Office of Emergency Management are there for us during storms, brutally hot weather and fierce winter cold. In the first several days of this new year our departments have responded to a snowstorm and last evening a power outage which affected portions of our downtown. We will continue to work on your behalf both fiscally and as providers of necessary services. Roads must be repaired, the water system must function, equipment must be replaced and upgraded and vital services must be provided to you. This governing body recognizes its responsibilities to you and will work in your interest.

The mayor’s office hour program which was started two years ago will continue again this year. Over 100 office hour sessions have been held and have provided a place for one on one meetings with your government. Although not all issues are resolved, this program has been successful in many areas. The community clean-up program, Memorial Day Parade, our Fourth of July events, which include the reading of the Declaration of Independence, from the steps of this building, Olde Freehold Day, Spooktacular events, the Mayor’s Fitness Campaign and the McGackin Award among other programs and excellent services will be provided by our commissions and committees and they will continue again this year.

On behalf of your entire Borough of Freehold family, you have our best wishes for a safe and healthy New Year.”

Reverend Frederickson closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

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