

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 7:00 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).

Police Chief Roberts opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag. Mayor Higgins asked for a moment of silence.

Roll Call

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

Mayor Higgins welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated:

“Welcome everybody it has been several meetings and several weeks to try and get everyone here. We are happy to see a room full of people here tonight.”

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

**“Presentation of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring the Greater Freehold Area Pop Warner National Champion Midget Cheerleading Team.”**

Councilman Schnurr read the certificate and he asked Marianne Forte, Assistant Coach to come up and she presented the certificates to the cheerleaders.

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

**“Presentation of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Head Coach Kelly Craig and the Freehold Boro High School Field Hockey Team Central Jersey Group IV Sectional Champions.”**

Councilman Kane stated that the mayor and council made a decision back in 2006 that if at any time one of the teams from our high school went into a state championship situation and came back with the state championship trophy, we were going to honor them with a parade through town and also bring them up to a council meeting in front of mayor and council and recognize each one individually. He is proud to say that since 2006, every year we’ve been able to do this with teams from the high school in various sports.

Councilman Kane read the certificate and he invited Ms. Linda Jewell, Principal of Freehold High School and Head Coach Kelly Craig up and they presented the certificates.

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

**“Presentation of Commendations by Freehold Borough Police Chief Glenn Roberts to Ptl. James Richmond, Ptl. Keith Bailey, Ptl. Mark Garahan, Ptl. Walter Perski and Ptlw. Zandra Vega.**

Mayor Higgins stated this is a very special presentation and the asked Council President DiBenedetto and Police Chief Glenn Roberts.

Councilman DiBenedetto called up Ptl. James Richmond, Ptl. Mark Garahan and Ptl. Walter Perski. He stated that Ptl. Keith Bailey and Ptlw. Zandra Vega could not be in attendance this evening.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated that as policemen they are required to take various training that you hope you would not have to perform but on October 13, 2013, October 21, 2013 and November 29, 2013 this training was put to use.

Police Chief Roberts stated throughout the year, the police respond to many, many first aid calls. Some are good and some are not so good, but it is really nice to be able to recognize these officers for performing a life saving event.

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

**“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Thomas P. Hartman, Sr., on 50 Years of Service to the Freehold First Aid and Emergency Squad.”**

Councilman Kane read and presented the Resolution to Thomas Hartman. This is an honor for me; we go way, way back. We have such a terrific first aid squad and it is because of people like you.

Mr. Hartman thanked everyone and stated it has been a pleasure serving Freehold Borough and Freehold Township all of these years.

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

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING THOMAS P. HARTMAN, SR., ON 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE FREEHOLD FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY SQUAD.**

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

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

**“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Nora H. Steele.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer stated a few Sundays ago, Councilman Schnurr, Mayor Higgins and I presented this to Nora Steele at a service at Bethel AME Church. The church was honoring her for her many years of service. Councilwoman Shutzer read the Resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING NORA H. STEELE.**

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

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

**“Freehold Borough Education Foundation Update (Jean Holtz).**

Councilman Schnurr introduced Jean Holtz, Chairperson of the Freehold Borough Education Foundation which she is a trustee of.

Ms. Holtz stated the Freehold Borough Education Foundation is a private, non-profit organization and their mission is to plant seeds of educational excellence by supporting creative teaching efforts, innovative student development activities and enhanced community and school partnerships. We carry our mission out by raising money through non-traditional resources and turn that money back into grants for teachers of the three schools in Freehold Borough, Park Avenue School, Freehold Learning Center and the Intermediate School.

Ms. Holtz stated they had a very successful year. They had their first annual 4<sup>th</sup> grade bicycle education program. It was interesting to learn that there are a lot of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who do not know how to ride a bike so we had to move the program to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We had certified instructors come in and they spent four days working with the students, so that every 4<sup>th</sup> grade student learned how to ride a bike safely.

Ms. Holtz stated they were also offered a 2 for 1 match from the Peter J. Sharp Foundation. If we raised \$10,000.00 at our end of the year appeal, he would give us \$20,000.00. We thought raising \$20,000.00 in Freehold Borough would be very hard, but without much effort we were able to raise almost \$12,000.00 so we will be getting the \$20,000.00 match. What that means is for the next three years we will be able to underwrite the bicycle program, provide \$10.00 for every 2<sup>nd</sup> grader to buy books during the in school book sale and we also have money now to underwrite for our mini grant programs.

Ms. Holtz stated this year we gave out \$15,000.00 in grants for teachers who used it for books, resources and programs. One of the exciting grant proposals we received this year was for the Freehold Borough Public Library. We were able to give them \$1,500.00 so that they could purchase new computers.

Councilman Griffiths offered a motion to accept the minutes from the Reorganization Meeting of January 5, 2014, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer.

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

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

**“Resolution Authorizing Payment of Length of Service Award Program Benefits. (Freehold Fire Department)”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM BENEFITS. (FREEHOLD FIRE DEPARTMENT)**

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

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

**“Resolution Authorizing Payment of Length of Service Award Program Benefits. Freehold Fire Aid & Emergency Squad).”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM BENEFITS. (FREEHOLD FIRST AID & EMERGENCY SQUAD)**

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

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

**“Resolution Authorizing Submission of Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Extension January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014.”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE FISCAL GRANT EXTENSION JANUARY 1, 2014 TO JUNE 30, 2014.**

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

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

**“Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:**

- a. Appointment of Kathryn Krause as Municipal Court Administrator, effective February 25, 2014, pending completion of the New Jersey Civil Service process.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS 14A.

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

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

**“Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:**

- a. Appointment of Johnny Saada as part-time Special Police Officer, Class II, effective February 18, 2014.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTIONS NO. 15A.

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

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

**“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:**

- a. Raffle License #12-14, Super 50/50, St. Rose of Lima Church, 6/21/14, 10:00 PM, 16 McLean Street.**  
**b. Precious Metals License, Buy N Sell City, 14 West Main Street.**  
**c. Vendor License, Myra’s Ice Cream, Operating an ice cream truck, 4/14 – 9/30/14, Sunday through Saturday, 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM.**  
**d. Temporary Taxi Driver’s License, Sukhandan Sannasee, Millstone.**  
**e. Temporary Taxi Driver’s License, Angel Cruz, Freehold.**  
**f. Temporary Taxi Driver’s License, Evelio Morales, Freehold.**  
**g. Temporary Taxi Driver’s License, Vicenta Pantoja, Freehold.**  
**h. Temporary Taxi Driver’s License, Jorge Lazaro Rodriguez, Jackson.**  
**i. Temporary Taxi Driver’s License, Bernabe Pantoja, Freehold.**  
**j. Temporary Taxi Driver’s License, Juan S. Gonzalez, Freehold.**  
**k. Permanent Taxi Driver’s License, Ronald Phillips, Freehold.**  
**l. Permanent Taxi Driver’s License, Maxima Phillips, Freehold.**  
**m. Permanent Taxi Driver’s License, Amanda Robles, Freehold.**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS NO. 16A – 16O, EXCEPT APPLICATION NO. 16F WHICH WAS TABLED IN AGENDA REVIEW.

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

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

**“Approval of Bills.”**

Councilman Kane 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 the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$662,023.47 be paid as presented.

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

There were no items under late communications.

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

**“Capital Projects Review.”**

Councilman Griffiths made a motion to table this item until the next meeting on March 3, 2014, seconded by Councilwoman Shutzer, with all in favor and Councilman Sims absent.

Councilman Griffiths stated the reason we are tabling this Resolution is because the snow has kept us from holding the finance meeting that we need to review it.

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

**“Committee Reports.”**

Councilman Schnurr stated the Library is purchasing “Chrome Books”, which is the same technology that the students are using in the schools. We had our ground breaking last Saturday for the renovating of Elk’s Point. Weather permitting we WILL be starting as soon as possible. The Memorial Day Parade fundraising will be getting back on track, as well.

Councilman Schnurr stated the Land Use Committee has been working on the CVS Parking Lot. We will be mirroring the same hours as we are using for the Market Yard Lot. We are also continuing on with having one centralized location for garbage dumpsters for the businesses back there. He thanked Rich Gatto for attending all of the meetings.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated Elk’s Point is having a fundraiser and if anyone would like to purchase a brick and have it engraved in honor or memory of someone. The small brick costs \$150.00 and the larger bricks cost \$350.00 and has the seal of the branch of service on the brick.

Councilwoman Shutzer welcomed Ms. Krause and Mr. Saada to the Borough. These appointments do not come lightly, we do a lot of interviewing and a lot of thought goes into this. The Advisory Council on Aging was supposed to meet this morning but due to the weather it was cancelled.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated as to the Board of Education and a grandparent of students attending our public schools, not enough can be said for the programs being done by the Education Foundation. The Freehold Alliance Against Drugs meeting was held here in Freehold Borough and a copy of the minutes and the agenda will be on file in the clerk’s office. On Thursday,

February 20, 2014 at Red Bank Regional High School from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM there will be a speaker from the prosecutor's office about the horrible plague of drugs in our communities. She asked everyone to save the date of July 1, 2014; it will be the Alliance annual golf outing at Knob Hill Country Club.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the Office of Emergency Management met last week and the report will also be on file in the clerk's office.

Councilman Kane stated the finance meeting will be on Thursday, February 20, 2014, and we will be working on this year's budget, capital review and projects. Tonight was a great night for public safety. He congratulated the police chief and the police department for their commendations. He stated in the room this evening was 250 years of experience from the first aid squad. The Board of Health is also meeting on Thursday.

Councilman Kane congratulated both teams represented here tonight. He was happy to see Principal Jewel in the audience. Freehold High School is ranked academically and their sports programs generate state champions in various teams year after year.

Councilman Griffiths stated snow has made it impossible for him to make any reports; his committee's have not been able to meet. He also congratulated all of the recipients of the Resolutions this evening. It's a proud moment for us to see the work of our volunteers and our professionals.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the Historic Preservation Commission has granted some approvals and we are anticipating some new businesses coming into town. The Historic Preservation Commission has done a wonderful job with keeping businesses conformed to the nice look we have downtown. The Freehold Center Partnership is working on the Court Street/CVS Parking Lot. The new cards for spring and summer will be out shortly.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the Recreation Commission has the YMCA basketball leagues and they are in full bloom. The children play on Saturdays and Wednesday nights. The date for the Easter Egg Hunt has not been decided yet but as soon as it is decided he will announce it.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the Public Works Department has been very busy. We do have salt left and he did apologize because a few snowstorms ago we did have a few pieces of our equipment go down and our roads were a little sloppy. The employees in this department are working very hard and they are doing the best they can.

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

Bill Madden, Trustee, Freehold First Aid, gave a run down of how busy the squad has been. They've answered 3,803 calls and logged 9,376 hours. It is amazing what their group is doing out there. Last month he went down to the building for an hour and a half and he came back home for lunch, when he walked in he called his wife and she didn't respond so he went downstairs and he took one look at her and he knew something was wrong, so he immediately called the squad and within four minutes the ambulance arrived along with 3 police officers. He was so happy with the quick response from the first aid and police department. He stated the squad is always looking for volunteers and donations.

Jim McAllister, President, Freehold First Aid, stated he was born the same month that Bill Madden joined the first aid squad.

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

There being no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Shutzer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM, seconded by Councilman Griffiths, with all in favor and Councilman Sims absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

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TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC  
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:aj