

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, March 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Higgins stated that the notice of the time, date and location of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1975 (Open Public Meetings Act).

Councilman Kane opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to accept the minutes from the Council Meeting March 3, 2014 and was seconded by Councilman Griffiths.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Griffiths, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; 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 Honoring Sean Thomas Forte, Harrison Joseph Goldstein, Andrew Peter Borchardt, and Michael Kevin Siniakin on the Occasion of Their Attainment of the Rank of Eagle Scout.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING SEAN THOMAS FORTE, HARRISON JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN, ANDREW PETER BORCHARDT, AND MICHAEL KEVIN SINIAKIN ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR ATTAINMENT OF THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT.

Councilman Schnurr stated the work that these Eagle Scouts have done spanned from working on Oakley Farm House in Freehold Township, Durand Park and Allaire State Park. Harrison Goldstein made display stands and pedestals for art projects for the organization called 180 Turning Lives Around in Hazlet, New Jersey. The art projects were displayed at the New Jersey Statehouse and other locations throughout New Jersey to help educate and

increase awareness of domestic violence. All of these young men worked very hard and deserve this honor.

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

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

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Reverend Willie Thorpe.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING REVEREND WILLIE THORPE.

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

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she presented this Resolution with the mayor on Saturday, March 15th to Reverend Thorpe.

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

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance No. 2014/1 Amending and Supplementing Chapter 10 (Vehicles and Traffic), Section 10.12 (Parking Generally) of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold Prohibiting the Parking of Unregistered Vehicles.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

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 an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2014/1 AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 10 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), SECTION 10.12.150 (PARKING GENERALLY)” be, and same is hereby approved on second reading.

Councilman Kane stated this ordinance coincides with the automatic license plate reader.

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

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

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance No. 2014/2 Amending Chapter 8.40 (Property Maintenance Code), Section 8.40.040A (Certificates of Occupancy) of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

Councilman Griffiths 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 an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2014/2 AMENDING CHAPTER 8.40 (PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE), SECTION 8.40.040A (CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD” be, and same is hereby approved on second reading.

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

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2014/3 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A.40A:-45.14).”

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 an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2014/3 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:-45.14)” 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 April 7, 2014 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.

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:

“Introduction of the 2014 Annual Budget for the Borough of Freehold, Establishing the Date for Public Hearing and Authorizing Publication of Required Notices.”

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2014 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD ESTABLISHING THE DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF REQUIRED NOTICES.

Councilman Kane stated the public hearing for the 2014 Annual Budget will be held on Monday, May 5, 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. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Awarding a Contract for an Employee Assistance Program (EAP).”

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

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR AN EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP).

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 Authorizing of an Emergency Purchase for an Emergency Generator to be Installed at the Court Street Pumping Station.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING OF AN EMERGENCY PURCHASE FOR AN EMERGENCY GENERATOR TO BE INSTALLED AT THE COURT STREET PUMPING STATION.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated due to Hurricane Irene, the super cell and Super Storm Sandy, we were down a generator at this pump site and the county was generous enough to lend us theirs until we were able to purchase our own.

Councilman Schnurr stated the Court Street Pumping Station services the Monmouth County Jail.

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 Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget.” (Transfer to Accumulated Absences and Streets and Roads-Salaries and Wages)

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET.

Councilman Kane stated Agenda Item Nos. 13, 14 and 15 are in direct relation to the snow this winter. These are budget “housekeeping” items to pay for the snow removal.

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 Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget.” (Transfer to Accumulated Absences)

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET.

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 Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget.” (Transfer to Snow Transfer)

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET.

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, Amending Temporary Appropriations for 2014.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS 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. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing Professional Engineering Design Services for Capital Improvement Projects with William T. Wentzien, PE.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS WITH WILLIAM T. WENTZIEN, PE.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated these improvement projects will be on Avenue A and Avenue C.

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. 18 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving Application for Library State Aid.”

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION FOR LIBRARY STATE AID.

Councilman Schnurr stated we apply yearly for State Aid for the 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. 19 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 FBHRP 05-12.”

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

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 FBHRP 05-12.

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 Waiving the Health Permit Fees for Olde Freehold Day – 2014.”

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

RESOLUTION WAIVING THE HEALTH PERMIT FEES FOR OLDE FREEHOLD DAY – 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 Approving the Mayor’s Nominations for Appointment to the Freehold Borough Library Commission:

- a. Barbara Jenette – January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016**
- b. Mary Carey – January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. (Mayor’s Designee)”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING MAYOR’S NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE FREEHOLD BOROUGH LIBRARY COMMISSION.

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 Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. Resignation of Karl Sten as School Crossing Guard, Freehold Police Department, effective March 11, 2014.**
- b. Appointment of Dawn King as full-time School Crossing Guard, Freehold Borough Police Department, effective March 17, 2014.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS NO. 22A AND 22B.

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 Approving the Following Applications:

- a. Sidewalk Café License, Oyako Tso, 6 West Main Street.
- b. Sidewalk Café License, Federici’s Restaurant, 14 East Main Street.
- c. Sidewalk Café License, Sweet Lew’s Café, 6 East Main Street.
- d. Sidewalk Café License, A Little Bit of Cuba Dos, 2 East Main Street.
- e. Sidewalk Café License, Market Yard Grill, 18-20 East Main Street.
- f. Vendor License, Myra’s Ice Cream, Operating an ice cream truck, 4/1/14 – 9/30/14, Sunday through Saturday, 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
- g. Taxi Owner’s License, (12), Robert Livingston, t/a Leon’s Taxi.
- h. Taxi Owner’s License (1), Guadalupe Hinojosa, t/a Omega Taxi.
- i. Taxi Owner’s License (2), Hristos Kontzialis, t/a Cris Taxi.”

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS 23A THROUGH 23I.

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:

“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 \$403,807.55 be paid as presented.

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

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

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 26 on the Agenda as follows:

“Items to be discussed:

- a. **Innovation Committee – Councilman Ronald Griffiths.”**

Councilman Griffiths stated in our current fiscal environment the governing body recognizes the need to be creative and innovative. Tonight we are announcing a new ad hoc committee called the Innovation Committee. We want to empower the citizens to participate in

their government by studying issues and offering recommendations. These groups will be given specific tasks. They will do things like review the current method of operation, identify customers and stakeholders, seek their input, identify successful programs on best practices, identify barriers for better efficiency, gather data to represent baselines, brainstorm potential solutions, conduct cost and benefit analysis and make recommendations to the governing body. Some of the possible subjects for this ad hoc committee include improving our Borough website, the use of social media, energy aggregation, renewable energy, energy conservation, regionalization of government services and new volunteer programs. The committee will consist of volunteers and the council liaison will work with them as a non-voting member. Our primary goal is to provide the best delivery of services in the most efficient manor. Our secondary goal is to engage our residents and business owners in government decision making. We will immediately begin soliciting volunteers for our first project, which will be the improvement of the Borough website.

Mayor Higgins called upon the members of the council.

Councilman Schnurr congratulated Councilman Griffiths on the Innovation Committee. This is a great idea and it can touch on just about anything. He also congratulated the Freehold Borough Arts Council on the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He stated the Memorial Day Parade Committee has a fundraiser at Fridays Restaurant on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 from 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM.

Councilman Schnurr stated the Freehold Borough Library offers homework help to students from Kindergarten through 7th grade on Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM. This service is offered by local high school honor students.

Councilman Schnurr stated the Freehold Borough Education Foundation has a few things coming up. On Sunday, April 27th the members go and help work the New Jersey Marathon. This marathon runs up and down the coast, we go to Deal and assist and they give the foundation a donation from the money that was made from the marathon based on how many people came and helped. This is one of the biggest fundraisers for the Education Foundation. He stated on June 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th the foundation will be running the bicycle program again with the 4th graders in our local schools.

Councilman Schnurr stated on May 17th we will be getting bikes that people no longer want and they will be donated to the school.

Councilman Schnurr stated work is under way at Elk's Point and the work should be done by Memorial Day. The idea is to make a maintenance free Elk's Point. He explained part of Phase II for Elk's Point is going to be a World War II monument that is roughly 8' x 10'. Bricks can be purchased to help purchase the monument.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that Brian Sullivan from the Art's Council asked her to remind the residents that the Arcadian Chorale Snowflake Songs will be presented on Sunday, March 23, 2014 at 4:00 PM at St. Rose of Lima. The Advisory Council on Aging is meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at Hudson Manor at 10:00 AM. Any senior citizen from the Borough is welcome to attend. At that meeting they will be discussing a cell phone scam alert and assistance with tax preparation.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated at the V.F.W. corn beef dinner the ROTC cadets from Colts Neck High School were sponsoring Operation Shoebox New Jersey. This program involves filling a shoebox with necessary items for military personnel. On Wednesday, March 19, 2014 in the Howell Municipal Offices the Freehold Regional High School District is having a town hall meeting and anyone who is in the district is welcome to attend.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated our local school district is being faced with some dramatic changes that need to be made to accommodate our school district. She has been in touch with them and they will be presenting the program several times. They know that they have our support for what is needed.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the Freehold Alliance Against Substance Abuse met this week and they are forging ahead with many programs. One program was held last Friday night called Girls Night Out. She also thanked Rich Gatto for scheduling her to speak with the FCP on behalf of the Alliance regarding the golf fundraiser.

Councilman Sims stated the group of young people that recently came up and gave a presentation of their project called "Project SALUD" took first place in the State competition on Saturday and they will be advancing to the national competition in June in Iowa at Iowa State University. The group's main focus is to help the Latino population with healthcare issues. Our Youth Government, on April 27th will be hosting a car wash from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM behind the firehouse. The money from this fundraiser will be used to attend Washington DC next year in the spring.

Councilman Kane wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. He congratulated the Arts Council. He also congratulated Mayor Nolan Higgins for being voted "Irishman of the Year" by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The award ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at the Our Lady of Mercy in Englishtown.

Councilman Kane stated this past weekend we held a charity basketball tournament to benefit the community YMCA and he congratulated Mel O'Neal and Richie Lomurro who did a great job organizing it. He also congratulated Jeff Ward, his team won the tournament.

Councilman Kane stated we introduced the 2014 Budget and the public hearing will be held on May 5, 2014 and he thanked Mr. Bellina and Mr. Gartz for putting together a great budget. He also thanked Councilman Griffiths and Councilman Schnurr who serve with him on the Finance Committee.

Councilman Kane stated the annual spring rabies clinic will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014.

Councilman Griffiths stated the Shade Tree Commission will be receiving 200 free trees that they are going to nurture for a growing season or two until they are big enough to be planted. They are still working on the 5th grade poster contest for Arbor Day.

Councilman DiBenedetto congratulated Councilman Griffiths on the Innovation Committee and wished him luck. He also congratulated him on being inducted into the Freehold Boro High School Hall of Fame on May 1, 2014.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated that it has been a very tough winter for public works, but we've been lucky and have had enough salt the entire time. There have been complaints about residents and businesses not clearing their sidewalks and fines were handed out. We are a walking community and next year we may have a better plan to get people to shovel their sidewalks quicker. The roads are being looked at for potholes and when the weather temperatures come up we can repair them the proper way.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the Recreation Commission meets tomorrow night and we will be discussing the date for the Easter Egg Hunt. The FCP budget was passed and 85 new planters will be placed throughout the town. The Court Street Parking Lot was finished. As for the Historic Preservation Commission, we met and there were some minor applications, one was for

Gola Restaurant, they want to move the location of the front door. We also discussed “corporate colors”, this was a long discussion regarding correct colors being used downtown.

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

Ms. Carol Lida, 27 Bennett Street, stated how difficult it was to cross Sherriff Street and Main Street and why wasn't there a crosswalk. She asked if it was possible to get one.

Mr. Bellina replied this is a State road and they won't give us permission.

Councilman Schnurr stated he saw a study that showed if you put crosswalks at places that are not intersections it gives the pedestrian a false sense of security that the people are going to stop. The studies have shown that there is a higher incidence of pedestrian deaths when they have those kinds of crosswalks.

Mr. Bellina stated he would like to get input from Chief Roberts and from the residents.

Mr. Rich Gatto, Downtown Freehold, stated they are going to submit a letter to the postal system requesting additional post office boxes in the downtown area. If anyone has any ideas where to put these boxes they should get in touch with him.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

Mayor Higgins called for a motion to adjourn.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Griffiths.

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

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