

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, May 5, 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 Griffiths 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

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to accept the Council Meeting April 21, 2014 and was seconded by Councilman Sims.

On roll call Council Members Kane, Griffiths, 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. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

“Public Hearing of the 2014 Annual Budget of the Borough of Freehold.”

Mr. Bellina stated the public hearing has been advertised and this evening we can conduct the public hearing, however, we cannot adopt the budget because the county has not certified our tax levy. Without the tax levy we cannot get a precise tax rate and this may also affect our ability to adopt the SID Budget in a timely fashion. There may be a need to have a special meeting in June or change the meeting date to a later date to adopt the budget.

Mr. Gartz corrected Mr. Bellina, it is not our tax levy it's the assessed valuation.

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

Tom Baldwin, 3 Vought Avenue, asked if we would still stay under the 2% cap.

Mr. Bellina replied we are well within.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, 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:

“Freehold Center Partnership – Presentation of Proposed Pocket Park on West Main Street.”

Richard Gatto, Downtown Freehold, presented a proposal that has already gone before the Land Use Committee and Historic Preservation Commission. This proposed pocket park is on West Main Street and it is the area next to the old Al’s Bootery which is also Headquarters and it is referred to as Lion’s Park. It is actually owned by Mr. Kramer who owns the parking lot behind it and across the street where the dollar store is now located. We have been working with Michael Earle of the Earle Company and our engineer at Dynamic Engineering and basically we want to clean up the park. It is overgrown and a lot of people complain that it is overgrown and we would like to replace this area with stamped asphalt and do some drainage repairs. What we would like to do is mimic what occurs at the gazebo with music on the weekends. It would attract people to that part of Main Street. We would have the same set up and people could bring chairs up there. There would be no permanent fixtures. Two things you may notice are that we have decorative planters as well as inserts/footings for a potential portico. It would be an open portico and not gazebo style like we have on East Main Street. That would be part of Phase II. We want to make sure that this concept works because a portico is about \$11,000.00. We want to put the footings in so if we go to Phase II, it is all set to go up.

Councilman Sims asked if they planned on running electric to the portico.

Mr. Gatto said electric already exists there. He also stated that ideally they would like to replicate this concept on South Street. We have been trying to target the Roy Kay property which is basically fenced off right now. We continue with those efforts but haven’t been successful at this point.

Councilman Schnurr stated the location is private property.

Mr. Gatto and Mr. Mehr met with Mr. Kramer and he said whatever they wanted to do was fine.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated it would be a big improvement in that area.

Mr. Gatto has a meeting set up with Michael Earle to let him know where we are at and set up some kind of scope of what he is going to do for me so it is defined between me and him and I can provide you a copy of that. Kerry and Joe can request additional information if you like.

Councilman DiBenedetto asked if the asphalt was going to be painted.

Mr. Gatto stated Danny Megill recommended stamped asphalt such as you have in the crosswalks. That will last the longest.

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

“Racer’s Club Presentation.”

Al Michenfelder stated the most recent model winner, Alyssa, could not be present this evening but he will give her mother her gift card tomorrow. He also stated that he will not be retiring from the Racer’s Club; he is taking a year off because for the past 16 years he has been a caretaker to his wife. She has had Alzheimer’s for the past 6 years. There was a time he wanted to give up on Racer’s Club, twenty years without a vacation is no fun. He wanted to stay close to his wife and take care of her as much as he could. Now he will be able to travel and see his father in Florida. After the break Racer’s Club will meet once a month instead of four times a month. He is looking for children from Freehold Borough to join the club.

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

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Ronald Griffiths, Howard “Buddy” Russell, Carl N. Steinberg, Debra Vento and Jim (Leon) Mavroleon on the Occasion of their Induction into the Freehold High School Alumni Hall of Fame.”

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 RONALD GRIFFITHS, HOWARD “BUDDY” RUSSELL, CARL N. STEINBERG, DEBRA VENTO AND JIM (LEON) MAVROLEON ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR INDUCTION INTO THE FREEHOLD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI HALL OF FAME.

Councilman Kane stated these resolutions were presented last Thursday night at the induction ceremony. Councilman Ron Griffiths was one of the members inducted into the High School Hall of Fame. It was a great evening and he congratulated Councilman Griffiths and everyone that was inducted that night.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that we all feel the same way and we have a hero among us.

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:

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Bond Ordinance #2014/4 Providing for Various Road and Parking Lot Improvements, Appropriating \$990,000 Therefor and

Authorizing the Issuance of \$940,500 Bonds and Notes to Finance a Portion of the Costs Thereof, Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

Mr. Bellina stated we received word today that we were awarded a grant to resurface Marcy Street. We purposely left this out of this ordinance, not knowing that the State was going to give us anything this year. We will probably have to revisit and amend this bond ordinance soon, once we get the final number for redoing Marcy Street, which also means we will now go forward when applications become available for Murray Street.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Bond Ordinance entitled “BOND ORDINANCE #2014/4 PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD AND PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS, APPROPRIATING \$990,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$940,500 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY,” be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

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. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Bond Ordinance #2014/5 Providing for the Acquisition of Various Capital Equipment, Appropriating \$413,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$392,350 Bonds and Notes to Finance a Portion of the Costs Thereof, Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Bond Ordinance entitled "BOND ORDINANCE #2014/5 PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING \$413,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$392,350 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY." be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

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. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

"Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Bond Ordinance #2014/6 Providing for Various Water & Sewer System Improvements and the Acquisition of Vehicles and Equipment, Appropriating \$930,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$900,000 Bonds and Notes to Finance a Portion of the Costs Thereof, Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey."

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 a Bond Ordinance entitled "BOND ORDINANCE #2014/6 PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS WATER & SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING \$930,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$900,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY" be, and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to publish said Bond Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press and that same shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on May 19, 2014 and that

during the week of said meeting copies of the Bond Ordinance shall be made available at the Clerk's office to members of the general public who shall request same.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated these are improvements and acquisitions to our water and sewer utilities. It includes a pick-up truck; emergency generators for our water plant and Birch Drive pump stations; manhole rehabilitation and sewer improvements on Manalapan Avenue and Broad Street.

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 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, 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. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. **Resignation of Patricia Marone as Violations Clerk, Freehold Municipal Court, effective May 9, 2014.**
- b. **Appointment of Maximillian A. VonSauers as a probationary member of the Freehold Fire Department, Goodwill Hook & Ladder Company, effective May 5, 2014.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT/ACTION NOS. 13A
AND 13B.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that Patricia Marone was an excellent employee in our Courts and we wish her well.

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 Approving the Following Applications:

- a. **Precious Metal License, Cellwave, LLC, 10 West Main Street (Conditional approval, expiring on July 31, 2014).**
- b. **Massage Establishment License, Freehold Body Care, 4 East Main Street.**
- c. **MDA Walk-A-Thon, Freehold Letter Carriers, 6/29/14, 10:00 AM – 11:45 PM, starting in the Market Yard Parking Lot to East Main Street to South Street to Park Avenue to West Main Street ending back at the Market Yard.**
- d. **Vendor License, Weaser’s Ices, 5/5/14 through 10/25/14 from 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM. c/o Bruce Winland”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS NOS. 14A THROUGH 14D.

Mr. Bellina stated that originally the police department recommended that Cellwave, LLC not be granted a license, but after subsequent meetings and discussions with the applicant and the police department we are now satisfied and we will provide conditional approval that will expire on July 31, 2014. They will be monitoring their activity and if things go well, we will provide them a license for the rest of the year.

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:

“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 \$2,362,537.94 be paid as presented.

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:

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

Christine Gregory, 42 West George Street, stated there is a lot of litter in town. There are empty liquor bottles in the flower pots and there is a lot of litter in front of the Tex Mex Restaurant. She has also noticed people drinking in front of CVS and littering there as well. She stated Mayor Higgins and Councilman Griffiths attended the Arbor Day program at Park Avenue School. She thanked PBA 159 and Detective John Reiff for their donation which enabled them to buy eight \$25.00 Barnes and Noble gift certificates for the runner-ups in the poster contest. She also thanked Tina DeGulis and Rich Gatto for donating three \$50.00 gift certificates to the local restaurants, Federici's, Court Jester and Sweet Lew's for the grand prize winners. The program will also be done at St. Rose of Lima School once a date is set.

Mayor Higgins congratulated Ms. Gregory on the Arbor Day Program. It has gone from just planting a tree to a very educational program. He also took notice of the trash by Main and Court Street and appeared that either something fell off a truck or somebody dumped a few garbage bags. We do make an effort every morning and the Streets & Roads Department does go through town to keep the streets clean.

Tom Baldwin, 3 Vought Avenue, stated this past April marks the 10th anniversary of the opening the muster zone. He stated the months preceding were a very dark time for the city and for him personally. He does not feel the necessity of his annual report card this year because everyone has done an outstanding job but he does have the following suggestions for the mayor and council to consider:

1. A traffic light installed at the intersection of Main Street and Throckmorton Street.
2. Fix the clocks in front of the town hall and on Main and Court Street.
3. Streets need to be cleaned on a regular basis.
4. Grass and leaves should be kept in check on vacant lots and houses along with mosquito control.
5. Term limits for members of the governing body; three terms for a councilman and two terms for the mayor.
6. Name of Olde Freehold Day changed and when is their next meeting.

Councilman Kane stated the next Olde Freehold Day meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Barbara Oliver, 71 Center Street, stated there will be a blood drive at Bethel AME Church on May 10, 2014 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Bob Taylor, Kiawah Avenue, stated last year the mosquitoes were the worst ever and questioned if the county was spraying this year.

Mayor Higgins stated we passed a Resolution authorizing the spraying of mosquitoes in the Borough.

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

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 upon the members of the council for their comments.

Councilman Schnurr asked Mr. Bellina if he could have the pie charts that were done by the Finance Committee posted on the Borough website. He also printed out the newsletter for the Freehold Borough Public Library. The Memorial Day Parade Committee will be hosting a fundraiser starting on May 12th through May 15th at Federici's and the Court Jester and 15% of your bill will go towards the Memorial Day Parade.

Councilman Schnurr stated on May 17th the Freehold Borough Education Foundation will be having a bike drive where you can donate old bicycles from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Park Avenue School and the Freehold Learning Center.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated there will be a blood drive sponsored by the American Red Cross on Saturday, May 10th from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Bethel AME Church.

Councilwoman Shutzer congratulated the county on the opening of County Communication Center on Kozolski Road. Councilman Griffiths, Mayor Higgins and I were out there for the ribbon cutting on Tuesday. This is a spectacular communication center.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that at the last meeting she talked about a young woman in the girl scouts who is working on her Golden Award and she is looking to help any senior citizen in the Borough with spring clean-up and planting. She also will help with getting refuse to the curb on bulk collection day.

Councilwoman Shutzer told Mr. Taylor that she got tired of the mosquitoes and she planted geraniums in her garden and they were very effective. She explained to Mr. Baldwin that her late husband used to say there are three clocks on Main Street and not one of them works, can't you do anything about. Well she couldn't but hopefully they will listen to Mr. Baldwin. She was very impressed with Mr. Baldwin's wording when he explained about old Freehold and she hopes that we can do the same with Olde Freehold Day and forget the dark, shameful past and move forward working together.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated on May 18th from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM at Applebee's there will be a fundraiser for Olde Freehold Day.

Councilman Sims had no comment.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He congratulated Councilman Griffiths for his induction into the Freehold High School Hall of Fame and he also congratulated Mayor Higgins for being voted "Irishman of the Year".

Councilman Kane thanked Mr. Bellina, Mr. Gartz, Ms. Caruso and the Finance Committee for their work on the budget. He stated when you pay your borough tax bill there are five components, Municipal tax; K-8 Borough School tax; Regional High School tax; Monmouth County tax and Open Space tax. The Borough collects all the taxes and then dispenses them to the other taxing authorities. When someone files a successful tax appeal that money comes out of the municipal budget. The State of New Jersey legislated a 2% cap on all municipal budgets, however, in the past two years the State has increased their budget by 4% or more. They also collect taxes that are owed to municipalities; they used to be called energy taxes, today their called state aid. This money can also be used to balance their budget. Freehold Borough and the governing body

have taken the following steps to control our local budget: reduced personnel through attrition, we haven't laid anyone off or fired anyone; refinanced debt to lower interest rates; negotiated tougher contracts with our employees; entered into Interlocal agreements for joint services with the county and other surrounding towns; reviewed contracts for insurance to provide coverage at lower costs; entered joint purchase agreements with other entities to reduce costs and/or improve services; adjusted some user fees to cover actual costs. We have not reduced our services or curtailed needed capital investments for our infrastructure or equipment.

Councilman Griffiths stated in addition to running a great poster contest for Arbor Day in our elementary schools we recently had our commissioner's plant 50 Dogwood seedlings and 50 Red Oak seedlings. The seedlings were from the State Forestry Division but they are too small to be planted as street trees. We also received 100 Evergreen seedlings and we will be giving them away at Olde Freehold Day.

Councilman Griffiths stated the Human Relations Committee is meeting tomorrow night and they are working diligently on several projects. The Innovation Committee has begun to meet and they will be meeting later in May and the public will be given an opportunity to express their opinions through surveys on how we can improve the Borough website.

Councilman Griffiths thanked Councilman Kane for his great report on the Finance Committee.

Councilman DiBenedetto offered his condolences to the Woolford family. He asked for volunteers for the plantings in town on May 17, 2014. The Easter Egg Hunt had a wonderful day and there were a lot of kids there.

Councilman DiBenedetto congratulated Councilman Griffiths and all the inductees to the Freehold High School Hall of Fame. He also congratulated Mayor Higgins on being voted "Irishman of the Year" by the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated that he will be unable to attend the Applebee's fundraiser because he will be riding in a bike-a-thon for MS on May 18th and donations are appreciated.

Councilman Kane also thanked Toni Jones and Traci DiBenedetto for their help preparing the Resolutions.

Mr. Bellina stated Kathy Caruso's brother passed away suddenly last week and he asked everyone to keep her in her prayers.

Mayor Higgins thanked Councilman Kane for his thorough report on the Finance Committee. He also congratulated the inductees into the Freehold High School Hall of Fame, especially Councilman Griffiths and Carl Steinberg.

Mayor Higgins stated this past Sunday, Councilwoman Shutzer and I attended services at the First United Methodist Church and they were dedicating a new room at the church. After we left there we went to Reverend Frederickson's retirement service. Tomorrow, Mr. Bellina and I will be attending the Freehold Rotary Club meeting and we will be speaking about local government. This afternoon we heard from the Governor's office that our grant money is coming through for the Marcy Street and Route 79 project.

Mayor Higgins reminded the residents that May 17th is Clean-up Day in the Borough and there will be dumpsters at the Freehold Learning Center, Park Avenue School and the Borough Yard. He thanked Annette Jordan for all of her help in this. There will also be a shredder here at Borough Hall from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Mayor Higgins stated he has been holding several historical books on people who were from Freehold Borough and he asked that they be displayed in the trophy case.

Mayor Higgins stated Reggie Sims is our newest member of the Housing Authority and he has been going to the required training and he asked Reggie to give an update.

Reggie Sims stated the training has been very interesting and he just went to a conference last week in Atlantic City and the numbers are very disturbing coming out of Washington DC.

Ms. Higgins stated that Annette Jordan's brother, Joe Hawley, also passed away.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Sims moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto, with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:aj