

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 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 DiBenedetto opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence in memory of Barney DiBenedetto who recently passed away.

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 welcomed Richard O'Connor, Esq. who is filling in for the Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins.

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

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Sister Daniel Marie McCarthy.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING SISTER DANIEL MARIE MCCARTHY.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated Mayor Higgins presented this to Sister McCarthy at Church over the weekend.

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. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Andy J. Gao on the Occasion of His 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 ANDY J. GAO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ATTAINMENT OF THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT.

Councilman Schnurr stated Andy's project consisted of planning, building and deploying new computers at Freehold Borough YMCA. It took about six months to complete and cost around \$3,000.00 which was entirely fundraised. This was quite an effort and the YMCA uses these computers everyday. Andy Gao did a great job.

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:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Antoinette Jones.”

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 ANTOINETTE JONES.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that she and Mayor Higgins presented this to Toni at her going away party. She was a loyal employee and will be missed. We wish her well.

Councilman Schnurr stated Toni did a fantastic job as secretary to the planning board.

Joseph Bellina, Borough Administrator stated that Toni had worked for the Borough a number of years ago and had resigned from the position and the compliment that Mr. Bellina received was that she wanted to come back.

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

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2015/15 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey Amending in Part Ordinance #2014/15 for Renewal of Municipal Consent to Comcast of Monmouth County to Construct, Connect, Operate and Maintain a Cable Television and Communications System in the Borough of Freehold, Monmouth County, New Jersey.”

Councilman Schnurr 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 #2015/15 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING IN PART ORDINANCE #2014/15 FOR

RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO COMCAST OF MONMOUTH COUNTY TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY” be, and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be, and she is hereby authorized to publish said Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press, and that same shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting to be held on September 21, 2015, 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.

Mr. Bellina explained the ordinance that was originally adopted a year ago was transmitted up to BPU and they made one minor change. Once this ordinance is adopted it will go back to BPU.

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 Professional Engineering Services with Abbington Engineering for Emergency Generator Project.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH ABBINGTON ENGINEERING FOR EMERGENCY GENERATOR PROJECT.

Mr. Bellina explained that earlier we approved to fund the project and we expanded the scope of that. All of the well houses will have generator capacity. However, we have to do some redesign to the bid specs before we go back out to bid so that is what this covers, as well as the construction inspection as they are being installed over time.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated that we are doing this, in part, because it was recommended when we went through an inspection by the state soon after the storms that we had.

Mr. Bellina stated, regarding the water plant, the firm that we have hired has been there to take a physical assessment so hopefully in about 4 or 5 weeks we will get a report for the Finance Committee to review.

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 Borough Officials to Submit a Grant Request for the State of New Jersey Body Worn Camera (BWC) Assistance Program.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOROUGH OFFICIALS TO SUBMIT A GRANT REQUEST FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BODY WORN CAMERA (BWC) ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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 Amending Authorization of Tax Appeal Settlement Re. Block 37, Lot 14: One Broad Street.”

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

RESOLUTION AMENDING AUTHORIZATION OF TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT RE. BLOCK 37, LOT 14: ONE BROAD STREET.

Councilman Griffiths stated this is the recommendation of the tax assessor to make the appropriate adjustment.

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 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Authorizing Block 84, Lot 65.08: 81 Orchard Street, to be Excluded from the Official Tax Sale List for 2015.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AUTHORIZING BLOCK 84, LOT 65.08; 81 ORCHARD STREET TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE OFFICIAL TAX SALE LIST FOR 2015.

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 Appropriation of Funds for the 2015 Spooktacular Events.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE 2015 SPOOKTACULAR EVENTS.

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

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

“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold Authorizing Water/Sewer Billing Adjustment.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AUTHORIZING WATER/SEWER BILLING ADJUSTMENT.

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 Awarding a Contract for the Purchase of One (1) Vacuum Leaf Loader.”

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

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) VACUUM LEAF LOADER.

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

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

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Approving Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses, September 18, 2015 – June 30, 2016.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
FREEHOLD APPROVING RENEWAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing the Borough of Freehold to Adopt the 2015 Emergency Operations Plan.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD TO ADOPT THE
2015 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN.

Councilwoman Shutzer explained we had an OEM meeting in which we were told what was required and what has changed. The plan has been accepted.

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 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Authorizing the Freehold Fire Department to Apply for Eligible Organization Status as a Type 2 Training Facility as Recognized by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and Designating an Authorized Liaison.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
FREEHOLD AUTHORIZING THE FREEHOLD FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY
FOR ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION STATUS AS A TYPE 2 TRAINING FACILITY AS
RECOGNIZED BY THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY AND
DESIGNATING AN AUTHORIZED LIAISON.

Councilman Griffiths explained this resolution allows our volunteer fire department to go forward with a request to the State for eligibility to become a Type 2 Training Facility. These are for classroom trainings that will allow them hold class at our fire department as opposed to having to travel.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing Amendment to the Agreement Between the Borough of Freehold and Freehold Borough P.B.A., Local #159, January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AND FREEHOLD BOROUGH P.B.A., LOCAL #159, JANUARY 1, 2015 TO DECEMBER 31, 2017.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this was something we inadvertently left out of the agreement so we are revising it.

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 Borough of Freehold Urging Revenue Sharing Between New Jersey Casinos, Freehold Racetrack, and the New Jersey Horseracing Industry.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD URGING REVENUE SHARING BETWEEN NEW JERSEY CASINOS, FREEHOLD RACETRACK, AND THE NEW JERSEY HORSERACING INDUSTRY.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this is something that could profoundly affect our area. This is something we all need to be involved in.

Councilman Schnurr stated this doesn't just concern the racetrack but it is a loss of all of these horse farms in the surrounding area. This isn't just a "Freehold Borough" issue. It affects Monmouth, Mercer and Ocean Counties.

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 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Approving Subordination of Mortgage Given to the Borough of Freehold from Rug Mill LLC.”

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 APPROVING SUBORDINATION OF MORTGAGE GIVEN TO THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD FROM RUG MILL LLC.

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 Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. Resignation of Antoinette Jones, effective August 28, 2015.**
- b. Appointment of Michael B. Crawford as a Member of the Freehold Fire Department Juniors Program, effective September 8, 2015.**
- c. Termination of Daryl Fisher as a Substitute Crossing Guard, effective September 8, 2015.**
- d. Appointment of Victoria Krauss as a Substitute Crossing Guard, effective September 8, 2015.**
- e. Appointment of Arlene O’Rourke as a full-time Crossing Guard, effective September 8, 2015, pending successful completion of pre-employment physical examination.**
- f. Appointment of Peter Laurino as a Substitute Crossing Guard, effective September 8, 2015, pending successful completion of pre-employment physical examination.**
- g. Appointment of Debbie Pizzuti-Still as Substitute Crossing Guard, effective September 8, 2015, pending successful completion of pre-employment physical examination.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS ITEM NO. 21A – 21G.

Councilman Schnurr noted Item C., the appointment of a junior fireman, and recognized the great work that Lenny Maxfield is doing with the juniors program.

Councilman Griffiths stated that 4 of these cadets have joined our fire department as regular members.

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 Approving the Following Applications:

- a. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Christopher P. Baleano, Freehold.**

- b. Memorializing the Hometown Revival/Family Fun Day, 8/29/15, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Liberty Pak, c/o Rev. Brian Major.**
- c. Miscellaneous License: Sal Aversano, Musician, Playing Guitar on the Walkway in the Market Yard Parking Lot (between the Court Jester and American Hotel), 9/14/15 to 11/1/15, Monday – Thursday, 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (Conditions: will not block pedestrian egress and will not block pedestrian egress and will not perform on nights when there is an event downtown).**
- d. Block Party, 9/19/15, 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Kiawah Avenue from Lincoln Place to Hull Avenue, c/o James Hurley.**
- e. Block Party, 9/19/15, 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Broad Street from Manalapan Avenue to Yard Avenue, c/o Leroy Smith.**
- f. Open Space Pace, Starting at Sheriff Street, Continuing Down Main Street and Ending at the Freehold Racetrack, 9/19/15, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., c/o Brett Taft.**
- g. St. Rose of Lima Lord of Miracles Procession, 10/24/15, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Starting in the St. Rose Parking Lot (McLean Street) to Randolph, Lincoln, Cottage, Hull, Kiawah, and Ending Back in the St. Rose Parking Lot on McLean Street, c/o Rev. James Conover.**
- h. Halloween Spooktacular Parade, 10/25/15, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., starting on Manalapan Avenue and Ending on Lafayette Place.**
- i. Raffle License #16-15, Freehold High School PTSO, Draw Raffle, 11/17/15, 7:30 p.m., 2 Robertsville Road.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS ITEM NO. 22A – 22I.

Mayor Higgins recognized Sal Aversano who is musician listed under Item 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. 23 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Bills”.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$3,290,955.64 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. 24 on the Agenda as follows:

“Clerk – Late Communications”.

There were none.

Mayor Higgins asked for comments from the public.

Sal Aversano thanked mayor and council for approving his application to play his music in the Market Yard.

Christine Gregory, 42 West George Street, asked if the Borough could have some type of pattern for street sweeping. For example, every other month when the street sweeper is coming, we could have some type of alternate side of the street parking.

On another matter, Ms. Gregory stated she would like to see all of the crossings painted. It has become very difficult to cross Main Street, especially at Brinckerhoff Avenue, Lincoln Place and McLean Street.

Mr. Bellina stated we are still in the middle of painting/stripping. The guys come in overnight to do that. The forecast has not been favorable so we will probably be starting it up again next week. Mr. Bellina stated we have been advised against doing the mid block crosswalks. The street sweeper is a difficult task. Some larger cities do the alternate side of the street parking, such as Trenton, but it is very hard to police. The Borough has some streets that already prohibit parking on one particular side of the street. Practically speaking, with the cut back in staff and manpower, the volume of sweepings that we generate is down from what it was 10 years ago. Some towns have even abandoned their street sweeping programs. The street sweeper is the most difficult piece of equipment in a municipal fleet to maintain. Our sweeping is pretty much relegated to those times of the year when we pick up brush and leaves.

Councilman Griffiths suggested putting out an email blast for when the Borough will be street sweeping. Perhaps that would help. Mr. Bellina will look into coordinating a schedule by sections, all dependant on weather forecasts, availability of personnel, etc.

Ms. Gregory acknowledged the brush pick ups scheduled for October. She questioned if residents that are leaving their brush out now, long before the scheduled pick up, will be fined. There was an announcement in the News Transcript stating that fines may be incurred.

Mayor Higgins responded that the fine system is not being enforced. October 1st the street department will be on the street and it takes a full month for them to go around town. They are doing as much as they can to get everything up without fining the residents. Councilwoman Shutzer added that some of the brush being left out is by tree companies and some of the debris on Park Avenue has been left by the state.

Robert Taylor, 13 Kiawah Ave announced that school started today and Kiawah Avenue is in need of a police presence before and after school. Usually when a police car rides with them, the kids don't stop and get into trouble. Mr. Taylor expressed his desire to have police at dismissal time to follow the 50+ kids that walk together down the street.

Chief Roberts responded that there were patrol cars in the area in the morning and afternoon. The cars are circling consistently, but if there is something specific happening, call and the cars will respond. The car is probably only a block away.

Councilwoman Shutzer described her recent experience. The older kids from Intermediate school walk down the middle of the street, like a posse. They do not move from the street for oncoming traffic and Councilwoman Shutzer was forced to pull over to allow the crowd to pass her. Chief Roberts assured Mr. Taylor this issue would be on the patrol's list.

Councilman Kane agreed that this has been an issue for years. He also added he has seen a quick response by the police anytime they have been called.

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 asked for Council Comments

Councilman Schnurr reported there is an art gallery opening, with a ribbon cutting at 4:00 on Saturday, September 19th. Residents were also reminded that school has started, and everyone should be careful driving as we are a walking district. The library and the schools have great after school programs and help with homework. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of them.

Councilman DiBenedetto thanked Mayor and Council and the entire Freehold community for their support during a difficult time.

Councilman Sims had nothing to report.

Councilman Kane offered condolences again to the DiBenedetto family. Freehold Raceway will host the 4th Annual Open Space Pace which is designed to bring awareness of the horse racing industry in this area. Freehold Raceway needs help. Profits at harness racing tracks in other states are going through the roof because they offer gambling (slot machines) on premises. The day's events begin with a horse parade at 10:30, followed by a full day of racing and vendors at the race track. Support the event and help the racetrack. Councilman Kane reminded everyone of the Spooktacular events.

Councilman Griffiths offered his condolences to the DiBenedetto family. Councilman Griffiths added he sent a letter to District 11 State Senator regarding support of additional gambling at Freehold Raceway and was told by Senator Beck that she knew of interest by Monmouth Park but they had not heard about Freehold being interested. Everyone is encouraged to let them know of our support for Freehold Raceway.

Councilman Griffiths wished Toni luck in her new position. The Human Relations Committee will be holding their Senior Appreciation Day on Sunday, September 20th from Noon to 5 PM. The event features a DJ, live music, five Freehold Idol contestants and Joyful Noise from The Methodist Church. Crafters and vendors will also be there.

Councilman Griffiths reiterated that we all need to drive carefully as school is back in session. Happy Holidays to all of our Jewish friends on the upcoming holidays.

Councilwoman Shutzer expressed her condolences to the DiBenedetto family. Mr. O'Connor was recognized and is always welcome. Councilwoman Shutzer is in support of the slot machines coming into the Racetrack and feels the Governor is looking at North Jersey and a proponent of moving the gaming to the northern part of the state and he is ignoring us. One large farm in Monmouth County has already shut down. The Open Space Pace is a wonderful family day the track and there is something for everyone.

Councilwoman Shutzer announced the free Rabies Clinic on Thursday from 6:00 PM-7:00 PM. The Art Gallery is opening on Saturday, with a ribbon cutting at 4 PM. The gallery displays are all by local artists. October 13th and 14th there will be a Dine Around downtown benefitting the Freehold Township/Freehold Borough Alliance Against Substance Abuse. The organization provides programs for the schools, programs for people at risk of addiction. Currently 12 restaurants are participating. Tickets are \$20.00. Thank you to the Human Relations Committee for all of their hard work on the Senior Appreciation Day.

Mayor Higgins reported this summer was a very busy and successful season for our downtown. As seen in the agenda, there are a number block parties and events planned for September and October and we continue to have a vibrant downtown. Enjoy what Freehold Borough has to offer. Condolences were expressed to the DiBenedetto family. Mayor Higgins wished Sal good luck with his downtown performances.

Mayor Higgins said Freehold Raceway is certainly a concern for all of us. The Mayor and Mr. Bellina visited Senator Beck's office and expressed concerns on the future of the industry and the outlying businesses associated with the horse racing industry.

Mr. Bellina reported on a Wall Street Journal article which focused on the gambling legislation proposed for North Jersey. A staggering statistic is that 40% of all revenue received in Atlantic City comes from Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Mayor Higgins added the state is committed to making Atlantic City work, but at the expense of Central Jersey.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the motion to Adjourn, seconded by Councilman Griffiths with all in favor.

The council meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc