

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Higgins introduced Cameron Costanza, Youth Government Mayor 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 Sims 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 minutes from the Council Meeting March 2, 2015 and was seconded by Councilman Sims.

Mayor Higgins announced that Clare Celano, reporter at the News Transcript has announced her retirement and this will be Clare's last official meeting. He also introduced Jerry Riccardi, area representative from JCP&L.

Mr. Riccardi thanked Mayor Higgins for recognizing him and stated that it was a very long and snowy winter but they did fine in regards to the Borough electrical service.

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 stated we are going to move ahead and jump to Item No. 6 on the Agenda.

#### **“Presentation by Police Chief Roberts Honoring Debbie Kane, Crossing Guard.”**

Chief Roberts stated that tonight the police department would like honor one of our crossing guards, Debbie Kane. In the police department Monica Saperstein handles the administration of the crossing guards and often he hears her on the phone talking with residents who are complimenting the crossing guard and very often the same name keeps coming up, Debbie Kane.

Chief Roberts read the award, which stated that her work goes above and beyond her job.

Mayor Higgins recognized all of the crossing guards who were in the audience.

Mayor Higgins stated we are going back to Item No. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Presentation by Kathy Mulholland and the Freehold Borough Youth Government.”**

Councilman Sims stated that tonight we have a brief presentation that was handled by our Youth Government and Kathy Mullholand, who is our library assistant. Ms. Mulholland was not in attendance. Councilman Sims introduced the Youth Government members who were in the audience: Alyssa Correia, Georgia Brooker, Nicole Ray, Mackenzie Parke, Emily Ruegger, Eric Correia, Michael Ruegger, TJ Ray, Cameron Costanzo, Ricky Coyne and Kayla Ciok.

Councilman Sims stated all of these students attended Freehold Borough public schools and they are a tribute to our school system. In collaboration with the Youth Government Program and the library, the youth government put together a little booklet of the parks and playgrounds here around town. Each member wrote a small “blurb” about each park and it is for visitors who would like basic information about the town. It shows the history of the Borough’s parks. There are also other booklets that Mrs. Mullholand made up that are at the library.

Councilman Sims stated their trip to Washington DC is coming up and they will be going down for a full day. Included in the trip will be a tour of the Capitol Building and possibly a tour of the White House.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated as liaison to the Recreation Commission, he thanked the Youth Government Program for all of their hard work on the booklet.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she will also the booklet to her senior meeting.

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

**“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2015/2 of the Borough of Freehold Establishing and Adopting the Abandoned Property Rehabilitation Act (N.J.S.A. 55:19-78 ET. SEQ.) and Amending Chapter 8.40 (Property Maintenance), Section 8.40.050 (Maintenance of Vacant/Abandoned Properties) 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 Schnurr offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2015/2 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING THE ABANDONED PROPERTY REHABILITATION ACT (N.J.S.A. 55:19-78 ET. SEQ.) AND AMENDING CHAPTER 8.40 (PROPERTY MAINTENANCE), SECTION 8.40.050 (MAINTENANCE OF VACANT/ABANDONED PROPERTIES) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD,” be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

Councilman Schnurr stated as Mayor Higgins indicated this is an ordinance to establish an abandoned property rehabilitation act. The Borough as of right now incurs costs to deal with the problems of vacant and abandoned buildings and this ordinance will impose a fee in conjunction with the registration of vacant and abandoned structures to pay for costs associated with the vacant building.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated we are not the only town with many abandoned properties.

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 Item No. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2015/3 Amending and Supplementing Chapter 5.64 (Peddlers and Solicitors), 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 Councilman Griffiths:

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 Sims:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2015/3 AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 5.64 (PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS), OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.,” be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading; and

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;

**“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2015/4 Amending and Supplementing Chapter 13.04 (Water and Sewer Service Systems), of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold.”**

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

Councilman DiBenedetto 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 Sims:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2015/4 AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 13.04 (WATER AND SEWER SERVICE SYSTEMS), OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.,” be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading; and

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 #2015/5 Amending in Part Bond Ordinance No. 2013/6 Adopted on June 17, 2013, Providing for Various Road, Parking**

**Lot, Sidewalk and Park Improvements in Order to Amend the Appropriation and Purpose, 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 Councilman Griffiths:

**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 Sims 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 #2015/5 AMENDING IN PART BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2013/6 ADOPTED ON JUNE 17, 2013, PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ROAD, PARKING LOT, SIDEWALK AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS IN ORDER TO AMEND THE APPROPRIATION AND PURPOSE, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY,**” be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading; and

Councilman Sims stated this is just an amendment to the ordinance, there is no debt being added on.

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 Ordinance #2015/6 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 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 #2015/6 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

APPROPRIATION LIMITS TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK,” 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 6, 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.

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:

**“Introduction of the 2015 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 2015 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 will be April 20, 2015.

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 Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget (Road Repair & Maintenance to Reserve for Snow Trust).”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET (ROAD REPAIR & MAINTENANCE TO RESERVE FOR SNOW TRUST).**

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. 14 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget (Current Fund: Contribution to Accumulated Absences to Reserve for Accumulated Absences Trust; Water-Sewer Utility Operating Fund: Salaries and Wages to Reserve for Accumulated Absences Trust).”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET (CURRENT FUND: CONTRIBUTION TO ACCUMULATED ABSENCES TO RESERVE FOR ACCUMULATED ABSENCES TRUST; WATER SEWER UTILITY OPERATING FUND: SALARIES AND WAGES TO RESERVE FOR ACCUMULATED ABSENCES TRUST.

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. 15 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget (Landfill/Solid Waste Disposal Costs – Other Expenses to Road Repairs and Maintenance – Other Expenses).”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET (LANDFILL/SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL COSTS – OTHER EXPENSES TO ROAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE – OTHER EXPENSES.

On roll call Council Members Kane, Griffiths, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; Councilman DiBenedetto and Councilman Sims abstained; 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 2015.”**

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 2015.

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. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Approving Change Order Number 1 for the Elks Point Memorial Park Improvements.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1 FOR THE ELKS  
POINT MEMORIAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS.

Councilman Schnurr stated the amount was increased by \$1,942.25 for the Elks Point restoration that was done last year.

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. 18 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Approving Change Order Number 1 for the Repaving of Jackson Terrace and McElwaine Drive.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1 FOR THE  
REPAVING OF JACKSON TERRACE AND MC ELWAINE DRIVE.

Councilman Sims stated the changes were not what we originally appropriated for.

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. 19 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing the Borough of Freehold to Participate in Intra-County Mutual Aid Assistance Agreements with Participating Units in the County of Monmouth.”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD TO PARTICIPATE IN INTRA-COUNTY MUTUAL AID ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS WITH PARTICIPATING UNITS IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH.

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. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Adopting the Monmouth County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as an Official Plan of the Borough of Freehold.”**

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MONMOUTH COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AS AN OFFICIAL PLAN OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this allows us to help other towns and be reimbursed by FEMA.

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. 21 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing Agreement with Urban Land Institute for a Technical Assistance Panel.”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH URBAN LAND INSTITUTE FOR A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PANEL.

Councilman Schnurr stated in January we had a workshop meeting regarding this and this is the Resolution authorizing the agreement between the Urban Land Institute and Freehold Borough and it will cost approximately \$15,000.00.

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. 22 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 Griffiths:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION FOR LIBRARY STATE AID.**

Councilman Schnurr stated every year we have to apply for Library State Aid.

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. 23 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing the County of Monmouth Control Division to Conduct Aerial Mosquito Control Operations within the Borough of Freehold.”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH CONTROL DIVISION TO CONDUCT AERIAL MOSQUITO CONTROL OPERATIONS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.**

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this is done every year.

Councilman Sims asked if it would be possible to do an email blast before they spray.

Mr. Bellina stated we will as long as we are notified prior to the spraying.

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. 24 on the Agenda as follows:

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

- a. Appointment of Aaron E. Owens as Police Officer, effective upon successful completion of pre-employment testing.**
- b. Appointment of Christopher Atkinson Police Officer, effective April 2, 2015.”**

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

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS NO. 24A – 24B.**

Mr. Bellina stated the reason why there are two different start dates is because Mr. Atkinson has to go to the Police Academy and it starts on April 16<sup>th</sup>, according to the accreditation standards he must be hired at least 2 weeks before for in-service training. As for Mr. Owens, he’s already been through the academy, he’s “field ready” and as soon as he goes through the pre-employment testing and gives his present employer notice we will pick a start date for him.

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. 25 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:**

- a. Raffle License #6-15, Year-round Pull Tabs, St. Rose of Lima PTA, 4/1/15 – 3/31/16 PM.**
- b. Raffle License #7-15, Basket Raffle, Freehold Borough Music Parents Association (FBMPA), 4/24/15, 5:00 PM – 11:00 PM, Park 33.**
- c. Raffle License #8-15, 50/50, Borough Music Parents Association (FBMPA), 4/24/15, 5:00 PM – 11:00 PM, Park 33.**
- d. Canning, Freehold Borough Youth Government, 3/29/15, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Intersection of Main Street and South Street.**
- e. Canning, Freehold Council 1672, KOC, 4/18/15, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Intersection of East Main Street, Center Street/Spring Street and Broadway.”**

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS NOS. 25A – 25E.**

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 26 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 \$935,421.74 be paid as presented.

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. 27 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Clerk – Late Communications.”**

There were none.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 28 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Committee Reports.”**

Councilman Schnurr stated there is nothing to report on the Library other than what was discussed earlier about the State Aid. As for the Planning Board, American Granite came in last week to amend their site plan because back in 2012 they came before the planning board and were approved for an addition and a few other things. They didn't add the addition and they changed some of the parking configurations.

Councilman Schnurr stated the Memorial Day Parade Committee is hosting a fundraiser on March 24<sup>th</sup> at Fridays Restaurant. The committee is very ahead of schedule, the Grand Marshall has been picked and both Master's of Ceremonies have also been picked. He will discuss the parade in more detail when it gets closer.

Councilman Schnurr thanked Councilman Kane and Councilman Griffiths for working very hard on the budget.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated as liaison for Public Safety, he welcomed the two new police officers. As for Public Works, we do recognize all of the potholes from the horrible winter that we've had. There are also some bricks that are loose downtown. On March 28<sup>th</sup> the Recreation Commission is hosting the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 AM.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the FCP had its Election last week, Larry Metz was voted in as Chairperson, Bill Mehr is Vice Chairperson, Mike Page is Treasurer and Marianne Earle is Secretary. This is a big week Downtown due to St. Patrick's Day. On March 18<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup> the Downtown is hosting the Flavor of Freehold, it costs \$10.00. The Bar Crawl will be on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 PM – 11:00 PM, those tickets are \$40.00 for scotch and \$20.00 for beer.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the Historic Preservation Commission has met and they are excited about some new businesses which are coming to town in the near future.

Councilman Sims stated the Youth Government Program, as you saw this evening has finished a project with the library and several of the members also participate in the library teen mentoring program. They also came and helped at the Senior Holiday Party.

Councilman Sims congratulated Clare Celano on her retirement and wished her the best of luck. He also congratulated Kerry Higgins on being honored by the Monmouth County Girl Scouts and Councilman Kane as being honored as "Irishman of the Year".

Councilman Kane congratulated Kerry Higgins and wished Clare Celano the best of luck on her retirement. As liaison to the Lake Topanemus, he explained to the residents about the Christmas trees in the center of the pond. The company that is doing the weed eradication explained that they are not killing the fish, but something is going on. They suggested that the commission create manmade reefs and it was their suggestion to take the Christmas trees and attach cinder blocks to them and place them on the ice. When the ice thaws it will create a habitat for the fish. Councilman Kane thanked Clare Celano for doing a great story in the News Transcript about this.

Councilman Kane stated the public hearing for the budget is going to be on April 20, 2015. He thanked Councilman Griffiths, Mr. Bellina, Mr. Gartz and Ms. Caruso for all of their help in preparing the budget.

Councilman Griffiths thanked the professional staff in preparing the annual budget. This is a monumental task and we couldn't do it without them. He also thanked Clare Celano for all of her work in the Borough. He also thanked all of the Public Works employees, this has been a very long winter.

Councilman Griffiths stated the Human Relations Committee is working very hard on a Volunteers Day, which should be sometime in June. He also thanked the Shade Tree Commission who is working very hard on their Arbor Day Program.

Councilwoman Shutzer welcomed the two police officers, we are very familiar with both and we are extremely happy to have them. The Advisory Council on Aging will meet tomorrow morning at 10:00 AM at Hudson Manor. The Board of Education is struggling with overcrowding and money issues and at this time the students at Park Avenue Elementary are taking the PARCC Test. The Freehold Alliance Against Drugs continues to meet and provide programs for Township and Borough Intermediate Schools and High Schools and we are very happy to know that Rich Gatto and the Downtown have agreed to have their October Dine-Around to benefit the Alliance Against Drugs.

Councilwoman Shutzer congratulated Debbie Kane and all of our crossing guards, they do a wonderful job and at least the weather is getting a little bit better. The St. Patrick's Day Parade was wonderful, and she thanked the Arts Council. She also thanked Streets and Roads on the work they've done all winter, she's heard so many good things about them.

Councilwoman Shutzer congratulated Kerry Higgins for being named "Woman of Distinction" by the Monmouth County Girl Scouts and also Councilman Kane as "Irishman of the Year". She wished Clare Celano the best of luck and she will be missed.

Mayor Higgins recognized Kerry Higgins and stated what a great program the Girl Scouts is. Yesterday was our St. Patrick's Day Parade which continues to grow in publicity and popularity. It was a great event and he thanked Mr. Bellina for helping coordinate it with public works. Warm weather is upon us and the Mayor's Fitness Campaign will be under way soon. Lynn Reich has a calendar started for bike rides, events at the pond and some walks and in May we will have our Annual Clean-up Day.

Mayor Higgins asked for public comments.

Christine Gregory, 42 West George Street, thanked Clare Celano for all of her work. She also thanked her for all of the articles that she's written about her, the Shade Tree Commission and the passing of her father.

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, Kane, Schnurr, Griffiths, 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.

Councilman Sims offered the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

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.

The council meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC  
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:aj