

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, July 20, 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).

Councilwoman Shutzer opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence for Jack Higgins, Ms. Higgins father.

#### 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 introduced Hakeem Holmes; he is a summer intern working in various municipal offices.

Mayor Higgins introduced Jerry Riccardi, JCP&L.

Mr. Riccardi stated he noticed there was a power outage that affected the downtown business area on Saturday, July 11, 2015 from 7:30 AM – 3:08 PM. Mr. Riccardi explained they had a failure of the conventional underground system, where a molded vacuum interrupter failed. This is a fancy term for a fuse failure. This fuse protects the transformer or the primary depending on which side the fault is on so there isn't a catastrophic failure. There were approximately 112 customers without power along East and West Main Street, but surprisingly we only received 17 calls.

Mayor Higgins stated this is the second incident in this underground transformer area. It appears to be effected by the elements. Is there anyway to protect this equipment to prevent this in the future.

Mr. Riccardi stated you cannot totally enclose it because it needs to breathe. This equipment is air cooled. This wasn't because of weather; it looks like the device failed.

Chief Roberts stated the proper road detours were set up and from our end, it went very smooth. The power came back on sooner than we anticipated.

Councilman Sims stated he was at the first incident which was due to a fire and the foreman stated back then that the equipment was antiquated. Is there anything being done about new equipment?

Mr. Riccardi stated after that first incident he was told that equipment wasn't old and it was installed in 2008. That equipment was not antiquated, but we are always evaluating our system and we look for deteriorating equipment.

Councilman Griffiths stated this has nothing to do with this incident, but a telephone pole was replaced in the Market Yard Parking Lot behind Federici's Restaurant. The one pole is at a 30 degree angle and the other pole is perfectly straight but the wires have never been removed from the one to the other.

Mr. Bellina stated he thinks it was a Verizon pole.

Mr. Riccardi will look at it later tonight and he will send Mr. Bellina an email.

Councilman Sims stated there is the same thing on Robertsville Road. There are new poles that were put up but the older poles haven't been taken out. These poles run from Route 79 to Oak Street.

Councilman Sims offered a motion to accept the minutes from Council Meetings May 4, 2015 and May 18, 2015, seconded by Councilman Griffiths.

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. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Gerald K. Norkus as the Monmouth Council, Boy Scouts of America 2015 Good Scout Award Recipient.”**

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

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING GERALD K. NORKUS AS THE MONMOUTH COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA 2015 GOOD SCOUT AWARD RECIPIENT.**

Councilman Schnurr stated Mr. Norkus attended St. Rose where he earned his Eagle Scout through Troop 18 which is a Freehold Borough based boy scout troop. He's been involved in a number of organizations, most notably with the hospital and Red Cross and he is well deserving of this award.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated he also does the fly-over on Memorial Day in his vintage airplane.

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:

**“Proclamation of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Declaring July 2015 as Marijuana Awareness Month.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer stated as a representative to the Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse she has asked the co-chairman of the alliance, Jeffrey Friedman, to come tonight and accept the Proclamation from Freehold Borough.

Mr. Friedman recognized the hard work of the staff at the Freehold Health Department and also the teachers that are part of the alliance who work with the students on a day to day operation.

Mayor Higgins stated Mr. Friedman is opening an art gallery above CVS on West Main Street, this is a very exciting use of the space and he wished him luck.

Mr. Friedman stated they were looking to open the first week of August but they've had some mechanical problems, the air conditioning unit needs to be replaced. It will be an art gallery, it is a private enterprise, and it is not part of the Arts Council. They will feature local artists.

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

**“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Bond Ordinance #2015/12 Amending in Part Bond Ordinance No. 2014/6 Adopted on August 4, 2014, Providing for Various**

**Water/Sewer Utility Equipment and the Acquisition of Various Water/Sewer Utility Equipment, in Order to Increase the Appropriation Therefor by \$280,000 for a Total Appropriation of \$1,210,000 to Increase the Authorized Bonds and Notes to be Issued to Finance a Portion of the Costs Thereof by \$266,000 for a Total Debt Authorization of \$1,166,000, to Increase the Allocation of the Appropriation to Costs Permitted Under N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20, and to Expand the Scope of Improvements to Include an Engineering Study of Water Plant for Electrical and Mechanical Upgrades, and the Purchase of a Generator for Patriots Point Pump Station, 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 DiBenedetto:

**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 a Bond Ordinance entitled “BOND ORDINANCE #2015/12 AMENDING IN PART BOND ORDINANCE NO. 2014/6 ADOPTED ON AUGUST 4, 2014, PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS WATER/SEWER UTILITY EQUIPMENT AND THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS WATER/SEWER UTILITY EQUIPMENT, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION THEREFOR BY \$280,000 FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,210,000 TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED BONDS AND NOTES TO BE ISSUED TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF BY \$266,000 FOR A TOTAL DEBT AUTHORIZATION OF \$1,166,000, TO INCREASE THE ALLOCATION OF THE APPROPRIATION TO COSTS PERMITTED UNDER N.J.S.A. 40A:2-20, AND TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF IMPROVEMENTS TO INCLUDE AN ENGINEERING STUDY OF WATER PLANT FOR ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL UPGRADES, AND THE PURCHASE OF A GENERATOR FOR PATRIOTS POINT PUMP STATION, 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. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2015/13 Amending Chapter 8.36 (Noise), Section 8.36.040 (Prohibited Acts).”**

Councilman Sims 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 an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2015/13 AMENDING CHAPTER 8.36 (NOISE), SECTION 8.36.040 (PROHIBITED ACTS),” be, and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE 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 after the next Workshop Meeting 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 Sims stated this will be discussed at a later date.

Mr. Bellina stated we have to determine when the next Workshop Meeting is and then we will schedule the public hearing after that.

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:

**“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2015/14 Rescinding and Deleting Chapter 5.44 Gasoline Service Stations.”**

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 a Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2015/14 RESCINDING AND DELETING CHAPTER 5.44 GASOLINE SERVICE STATIONS,” be, and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE 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 after the next Workshop meeting 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.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this will also be discussed at the next Workshop Meeting.

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 Accepting the 2014 Fiscal Year Audit Report as Prepared by Suplee, Clooney & Company.”**

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2014 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT REPORT AS PREPARED BY SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY.

Councilman Kane stated we received our audit report and everything was very good, it was a clean audit and he thanked Mr. Bellina, Mr. Gartz and Ms. Caruso.

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:

**“Resolution Increasing the Bid Threshold and Appointing a Qualified Purchasing Agent, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3a and N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et. seq.”**

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

RESOLUTION INCREASING THE BID THRESHOLD AND APPOINTING A QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3A AND N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 ET.SEQ.

Councilman Griffiths stated there was a State law increase and the State Treasurer authorized that bid thresholds for municipalities that have qualified purchasing agents are now authorized to go from \$36,000 to \$40,000.

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. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing Tax Appeal Settlement Re: Block 72, Lot 4; John E. Riehl.”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT RE: BLOCK 72, LOT 4; JOHN E. RIEHL.

Councilman Griffiths stated this is a settlement of a property tax appeal.

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 Waiving the Fee for the Borough Wide Yard Sale.”**

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

RESOLUTION WAIVING THE FEE FOR THE BOROUGH WIDE YARD SALE.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated you are entitled as a resident for two yard sales a year; this will not be deducted from the two that you are entitled to. The date is Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

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 a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Borough of Freehold and the Communication Workers of America, Local 1032.”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AND THE COMMUNICATION WORKERS OF AMERICA, LOCAL 1032.

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 a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Borough of Freehold and the Superior Officers Association.”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AND THE SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION.

Councilman Sims thanked Mr. Bellina for his work on this.

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. 16 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) Backhoe/Loader per the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System (MCESCCPS).”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) BACKHOE/LOADER PER THE MIDDLESEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM (MCESCCPS).

Councilman DiBenedetto stated we will be replacing a 2000 backhoe loader that has served its time.

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. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

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

- a. **Appointment of Christopher Atkinson as a Patrolman, Freehold Borough Police Department, effective July 20, 2015.**
- b. **Appointment of Sara Ann Lofland as a full-time School Crossing Guard, Freehold Police Department, effective July 20, 2015.**
- c. **Resignation of Dawn King as a School Crossing Guard, effective July 20, 2015.**
- d. **Appointment of Veronica Masi as a member of the Freehold Borough Housing Authority, effective July 20, 2015 to fill the unexpired term of Sigridur Thordarson to December 31, 2019.**
- e. **Appointment of Robert Sweet as Equipment Operator, Streets & Roads Department, effective January 1, 2015.**
- f. **Appointment of Michael DeTullio as a Truck Driver, Streets & Roads Department, effective January 1, 2015.**
- g. **Appointment of Devern Corbett as part-time Water Plant Operator, effective July 20, 2015.**
- h. **Appointment of Brian Sapienza as a Seasonal Employee, Streets & Roads Department, effective July 20, 2015.**
- i. **Appointment of John Saada as full-time Class II Special Police Officer,**

**effective July 20, 2015.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS NO. 17A – 17I.

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 the Following Applications:**

- a. Freehold Area CROP Walk for Hunger, 10/18/15, 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM, 3 mile or 1 mile routes beginning and ending at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. c/o Rev. Dr. Patricia Medley, Freehold Clergy Association.**
- b. Temporary Taxi Drivers License, Jaime Gonzalez, Howell.**
- c. Temporary Taxi Drivers License, Pedro Cisneros Lara, Freehold.**
- d. Permanent Taxi Drivers License, Gloria Juarez Hernandez, Lakewood.”**

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 19 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 \$3,248,524.56 to 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. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Clerk – Late Communications.”**

There were none.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 21 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Presentation by Community Grants Planning and Housing RCA Program.”**

Mr. Bellina introduced Corinne Markulin and Randy Gottesman from CGP&H who are community granters and planners. CGP&H is the firm that administers our regional contribution agreement program. The current program has been in place for 12 years and we are approximately 2/3rds of the way through. Every once in a while it is good to inject energy and enthusiasm into it.

Ms. Markulin distributed some homeowner outreach material. The material included a quick overview of the program. This program is for low and moderate income homeowners to bring their homes to code. The program provides up to \$17,000 for repairs or the replacement of a major system. Since 2011 we’ve had 132 homeowners show interest in the program. We’ve invited all of them to apply and 37 have submitted applications. Many of them were ineligible for various reasons. But it is now time to build up the applicant pool again. The program is extremely beneficial to the homeowners. Not only do they receive financial assistance, they also receive a program inspector who does a household inspection and who also oversees the bidding process, construction process and repairs. This is a 10 year, zero percent forgivable loan. There is no monthly payment, no cost to apply and it’s fully forgiven in 10 years if you maintain occupancy and title. It is open to all residents and it is very beneficial to seniors who are on a fixed income.

Ms. Markulin stated this information is on our website and included in the quarterly water bills. There is also information on our main webpage at [www.cgph.net](http://www.cgph.net). We also encourage local contractors to participate in the program. With the improvements we try to do Energy Star Systems, which gives them an opportunity to lower their utilities.

Councilman Griffiths asked about how they get their funding.

Ms. Markulin replied it is a regional contribution agreement. So the funds actually come from Freehold Township.

Mr. Gottesman stated we are about 80% completed but we would love to have more applicants. We have gone through everyone on the list.

Councilman Schnurr asked for the obstacles for why people are not applying or when they do apply why do they get rejected.

Ms. Markulin stated one of the obstacles is they refrain from applying because they think it is too good to be true. Sometimes with seniors their adult children talk them out of it because even though it is a 10 year forgivable loan, if they pass away during the 10 years the adult children don't want to be bothered with the payback. There is also a 7 page application and sometimes people don't want to fill out such a large application. The reason why we get applications and they are determined ineligible is because their over income or they don't have sufficient equity in the property.

Councilman Griffiths asked is there any agency that can assist them with the 7 page application.

Ms. Markulin replied that we offer to assist them. We also have a bi-lingual staff.

Ms. Higgins, Esq., stated they've really cleaned up our program which was in a state of disarray.

Mayor Higgins asked for comments from the public.

Sandy Taylor, 13 Kiawah Avenue, stated she is still having the problem she had the last couple years with the school bus being parked on the side of her home. She has asked Code Enforcement and they wrote a letter to the owner of the apartment. The driver of the bus came to Code Enforcement today and told them she does not have to move the school bus. In years past, you've always taken care of this but this year nothing is happening. The question she has is if you are allowed to park a school bus in your front yard. The bus is there from 6:00 PM – 7:00 AM. Then she is gone from 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM and then she is there all day and on the weekends. From every window in her home she sees the bus. She drives for Frog Bridge Camp. Where are my quality of life rights?

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this bus has commercial plates and it is owned by Shamrock Bus Co., and it is used by Frog Bridge Camp. Councilman Sims and myself went over and looked at the situation and there is no place where Ms. Taylor can sit in her home where you don't see the bus. It is in the woman's front yard because her apartment opens onto the back yard that faces Lincoln Place. So the bus is sitting in a driveway in her front yard which is Ms. Taylor's side yard.

Ms. Taylor stated code sent a letter to the driver of the bus and then she came to the code office and told them she is not going to move it.

Chief Roberts asked if the bus had 6 wheels.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated it is a small school bus.

Chief Roberts asked if it is there overnight.

Ms. Taylor responded it is there all night long.

Councilman Kane stated as liaison to code enforcement he will look into this.

Chief Roberts stated that he will have Sergeant Santana look into it.

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, Schnurr, Griffiths, 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 offered his deepest condolences to Ms. Higgins on the loss of her father. There has been a lot of discussion lately in the media from Mr. Donald Trump on what he considers who is a hero and who is not and he thinks anyone that puts on a uniform and serves our country is a hero and so by definition your father was a hero.

Councilman Schnurr congratulated the Recreation Commission and everyone involved on the fireworks display. He was there, even with the drizzle, he heard a lot of great comments from the people around him.

Councilman Schnurr commended Chief Roberts on his very comprehensive monthly report. In his travels this year he's asked many other elected officials in other communities and in several different counties for a copy of their monthly police chief report so he could compare them. Because of the subject matter most were not comfortable in providing it but from what he's seen it usually only shows the crime statistics where Chief Roberts is a lot more thorough.

Councilman DiBenedetto offered his condolences to Ms. Higgins on the loss of her father. He also thanked the Recreation Commission for stepping up and helping out with the fireworks, along with Mr. Bellina and the mayor. It turned out to be a great night.

Councilman DiBenedetto urged all residents to come downtown for the summer concerts.

Councilman Sims welcomed Ms. Higgins back and wished everyone a good night.

Councilman Kane offered his condolences to the Higgins' family; Kerry's father was a great guy. The fireworks at the racetrack were the best he's ever seen in all his years in Freehold. He congratulated Mr. Bellina, Mayor Higgins and Kevin Coyne and everyone involved with the reading of the Declaration of Independence. It has been the 12<sup>th</sup> year and it is a great thing to see.

Councilman Griffiths offered his condolences to Ms. Higgins, Jack was a great guy and he will be deeply missed. Comments were made tonight on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the Borough of Freehold. He wanted you to know it is 135 pages long, the State only requires us to sign off that we read 1 page of it. He did read the whole thing and he's impressed as always with the work done by our CFO, Ricky Gartz and Assistant CFO, Kathy Caruso. He would also like to address Mr. Bellina's work with the PBA and CWA contract and the Superior Officers Association contract. During these economic times and with what's going on in the State of New Jersey, negotiating a contract with any labor union or association is not an easy thing. He thinks our business administrator did a fantastic job.

Councilman Griffiths stated the Human Relations Committee is working on the Senior Appreciation Day here in September. Starting in August and September there will be people coming around "hugging" the Borough trees. They will be measuring the diameter of the tree as well as to record the species of the tree, condition of the tree and their doing that because their creating an i-Tree Inventory and that inventory will let them plan for 5, 10 and 15 years out for planting, removal and trimming of trees in the Borough.

Councilwoman Shutzer congratulated and thanked Mr. Bellina for his work on the audit and contract negotiations. She offered her deepest condolences to Ms. Higgins. The fireworks were wonderful this year and congratulations to the Recreation Commission.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated last week she went to the dine-around and for \$10.00 you get to sample food from the restaurants downtown. On October 13, 2015 there will be another one and the proceeds will go to benefit the Alliance Against Substance Abuse.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated in today's Asbury Park Press there was an article and the heading read, "The Best Things in Life Are Free", the article continues with seven activities that won't break the bank and inside one of those seven activities happens to be our downtown concert series.

Mayor Higgins offered his deepest condolences to Ms. Higgins. He recognized and thanked the Recreation Commission and Mr. Bellina on the fantastic fireworks. The audit was mentioned and he read it cover to cover and the Borough had a great audit. Our auditors do a very thorough job. Congratulations again to Mr. Bellina, his staff, the Finance Committee and the governing body on a clean audit.

Mayor Higgins stated the window to our left has been blocked off; this is part of our Scutter Hall project. Nelson Kuperberg has been working on graphics that will go on these panels. He has approved the final version of the graphics and they should be installed shortly. The Urban Land Institute is due with a preliminary report in the next few weeks. We are also planning a second meeting with the people from the Urban Land Institute; they are very interested in our downtown.

Mr. Bellina stated we received bids on Thursday for various roadway repairs contract. This bid came in within our budget and we will look to do a Resolution at the first meeting in August. We spoke with the low bidder who was Earle Asphalt Company and they are looking to start sometime in late August or early September.

Mr. Bellina stated the housing numbers came out last week and Ms. Higgins and I have a meeting set up with Randy Gottesman from CGP&H who was here earlier and we've never had a housing plan. What this plan does is defend the town in the event of a builder's lawsuit. We probably won't do this until the end of this year.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the motion to Adjourn, seconded by Councilman Griffiths:

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 8:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC  
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:aj