

The Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Sunday, January 3, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Municipal Clerk Traci DiBenedetto stated that 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).

Ms. DiBenedetto invited Police Chief Glenn Roberts to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone was asked to remain standing for a moment of silence.

Ms DiBenedetto introduced Honorable Kathleen J. Sheedy to administer the Oath of Office to J. Nolan Higgins.

Judge Sheedy remarked that she is honored to officiate the swearing in of three dedicated public officials; Mayor Nolan Higgins, Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer and Councilman Giffiths. They are intelligent, caring, selfless individuals who dedicate countless amounts of time to make sure the citizens of Freehold receive the best services for the best price. Freehold is lucky to have these individuals representing the Borough.

Judge Sheedy administered the Oaths of Office of Mayor to J. Nolan Higgins, Councilwoman Shutzer and Councilman Ronald Griffiths.

Mayor Higgins thanked Judge Sheedy for attending. Mayor Higgins expressed it was honor to have her at the meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing 2016 Professional Services Contract with William T. Wentzien, PE, LS of Abbingon Engineering for Borough Engineering Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2016 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH WILLIAM T. WENTZIEN, PE, LS OF ABBINGTON ENGINEERING FOR BOROUGH ENGINEERING SERVICES.

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 Authorizing 2016 Professional Services Contract with Kerry E. Higgins, Esq. for Borough Legal Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2016 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH KERRY E. HIGGINS, ESQ. FOR BOROUGH LEGAL SERVICES.

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:

“Resolution Authorizing 2016 Professional Services Contract with Dilworth Paxson LLP for Borough Bond Counsel Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2016 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DILWORTH PAXSON LLP FOR BOROUGH BOND COUNSEL SERVICES.

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 2016 Professional Services Contract with Suplee, Clooney & Company for Borough Auditor Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2016 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY FOR BOROUGH AUDITOR SERVICES.

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

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

“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Municipal Prosecutor for the Year 2016: Brian T. Wilton, Esq.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE YEAR 2016: BRIAN T. WILTON, ESQ.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Newman, Schnurr 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 Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Borough Substitute/Alternate Prosecutor for the Year 2016: Kerry E. Higgins, Esq.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING BOROUGH SUBSTITUTE/ALTERNATE PROSECUTOR FOR THE YEAR 2016: KERRY E. HIGGINS, ESQ.

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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Public Defender for the Year 2016: Jonathan Lomurro.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE YEAR 2016: JONATHAN LOMURRO.

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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nominations and Appointments for the Year 2016:

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|---------------|
| a. | Deputy Clerk | Joseph B. Bellina | 1 year |
| b. | Treasurer and Collector
Water & Sewer Rents | Richard J. Gartz | 1 year |

c.	Deputy Treasurer	Kathleen Caruso	1 year
d.	Borough Historian	Kevin Coyne	1 year
e.	Board of Health	William McGonigle	4 years
f.	Emergency Management:		
	Henry Stryker	Coordinator	3 years
	Daniel Megill	Dep. Coordinator	1 year
	Chief Glenn Roberts	Public Safety	1 year
	Chief Robert Taylor	Fire and Rescue	1 year
	Joseph B. Bellina	Damage Assessment	1 year
	Traci L. DiBenedetto	Shelter and Welfare	1 year
	Mathew Young	Fire Prevention Rep.	1 year
	J. Nolan Higgins	(Ex-Officio)	1 year
	Captain (FFAS) or		
	Duly Authorized	First Aid Squad	1 year
	Margaret Jahn	Health Department	1 year
	Sal DeJesus	Streets & Roads	1 year
	Joseph Floudas	Water Department	1 year
	Mike Baker	Water Plant	1 year
g.	Fire Prevention Bureau:	(State License Required)	1 year
	Mathew Young	Fire Official	
h.	Human Relations Committee	Carol Lida	3 years
		Gianna Dell’Omo	3 years
		Christine Gregory	3 years
		Annette Jordan, School	
		Board Liaison	1 year
i.	Historic Preservation Committee	Barbara Wagner	3 years
		Kevin Coyne	3 years
		Adam Reich	3 years
		Gregory Clark	3 years
j.	Housing Authority	Stella Mayes	5 years
		Reginald Sims, Mayor’s	
		Appt.	1 year
k.	Lake Topanemus Commission	Roger Kane	3 years
l.	Library Commission	Miranda Scott	5 years
		Mary Carey (Mayor’s Appt)	1 year
m.	Memorial Day Parade Committee	Alice McCobb, Chairperson	1 year
		Amanda McCobb	1 year

	Bernard Weinstein	1 year
	John Mazekien	1 year
	Ken Pulchlopek	1 year
	Sidney Blacknall	1 year
	Walter Kowalski	1 year
	Nick Gardner	1 year
	Tim Rohan	1 year
	Ruth Wall	1 year
	Michelle Merwin	1 year
	Steven Gardner	1 year
	Jim Barnett	1 year
	Michael Otto	1 year
n.	Municipal Alliance	
	Sharon Shutzer	2 years
	Jeff Friedman, Co-Chair.	2 years
	Maureen MacCutcheon	2 years
	Police Dept. Designee	1 year
	Rocco G. Tomazic, Superintendent	
	Freehold Borough Schools	1 year
	Eva Carella, FHS Counselor	1 year
o.	Planning Board	
	Marjorie Goetz	4 years
	Garry Jackson	1 year
	Jamie Bennett, Alt. 2	2 years
p.	Shade Tree Commission	
	Gail Morrissey	5 years
	Brooke Sherman	5 years”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2016.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr 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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing the Affirmative Action Officer for the Year 2016: Joseph B. Bellina.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 2016: JOSEPH B. BELLINA.

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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing the Community Development Representative and Alternate for the Year 2016: Joseph B. Bellina, Richard J. Gartz and Daniel Megill.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE FOR THE YEAR 2016: JOSEPH B. BELLINA, RICHARD J. GARTZ AND DANIEL MEGILL.

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 Appointing Freehold Borough Special Police Officers for the Year 2016.”

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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FREEHOLD BOROUGH SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2016.

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:

“Election by Council of President for Year 2016: Councilman Jaye Sims.”

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

ELECTION BY COUNCIL OF PRESIDENT FOR YEAR 2016: COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS.

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:

“Mayor’s Appointments of Council Committees for 2016:

COMMITTEE	CHAIR			
Finance	Kane	Griffiths	Schnurr	
Personnel	Shutzer	Sims	DiBenedetto	
Public Works	DiBenedetto			
Health and Welfare	Kane			
Recreation	DiBenedetto			
Code Enforcement	Kane			
Municipal Court	Sims			
Public Safety	DiBenedetto	Sims	Griffiths	
Land Use	Schnurr	DiBenedetto	Kane Alt., Sims”	

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

“Appointment of Council Representatives for the Year 2016:

Committee	Representative
Advisory Council on Aging	Sharon Shutzer
Board of Education	Sharon Shutzer
Freehold Center Partnership	Michael DiBenedetto
Historic Preservation	Michael DiBenedetto
Human Relations	Ronald Griffiths
Lake Topanemus	Kevin Kane
Library	George Schnurr
Memorial Day Parade	George Schnurr
Planning Board	George Schnurr
Shade Tree Commission	Ronald Griffiths
Alliance Against Drugs	Sharon Shutzer
Emergency Management	Sharon Shutzer
Youth Government	Jaye Sims”

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 19 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Providing Notice of 2016 Meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold.”

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

RESOLUTION PROVIDING NOTICE OF 2016 MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

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 Authorizing the Renewal and Continuance of Bonds for Officials Required to Have Bonds for the Year 2016.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL AND CONTINUANCE OF BONDS FOR OFFICIALS REQUIRED TO HAVE BONDS FOR THE YEAR 2016:

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 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Designating the Depositories Wherein all Public Monies and Other Funds of the Municipality Shall Be Kept.”

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 DESIGNATING THE DEPOSITORIES WHEREIN ALL PUBLIC MONIES AND OTHER FUNDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL BE KEPT.

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 Designating Official Newspapers for Year 2016: Asbury Park Press, News Transcript and Star Ledger.”

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

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR YEAR 2016:
ASBURY PARK PRESS, NEWS TRANSCRIPT AND STAR LEDGER.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 23 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes, Assessments and Water/Sewer Accounts for 2016.”

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 FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED ON DELINQUENT TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND WATER/SEWER ACCOUNTS FOR 2016.

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:

“Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Distribution of Meeting Agendas and Minutes.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DISTRIBUTION OF MEETING AGENDAS AND MINUTES.

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. 25 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Designating Official Holidays for the Employees of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, for the Year 2016.”

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

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, FOR THE YEAR 2016.

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. 26 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Freehold.”

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

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. 27 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Providing for 2016 Temporary Budget Appropriations.”

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

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR 2016 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS.

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. 28 on the Agenda as follows:

Resolution Authorizing Dental Insurance Contract”.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DENTAL INSURANCE CONTRACT.

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 acknowledged audience guests: Former Mayor Roger Kane, Former Mayor Mike Wilson, Former Councilwoman Lynn Reich who also serves on Recreation Commission, former Councilman and current Historian Kevin Coyne and Jane Kaye who serves on the Library Commission. Mayor Higgins welcomed members of the Freehold Township governing body; Mayor Tom Cook, Committeeman Lester Preston, Jr. From District 11 Assemblywoman Elect Joann Downey, Chief of Staff Joe Libutti, Assemblyman Elect Eric

Houghtaling, from the Borough of Belmar Mayor Matt Doherty. Freehold Borough Police Chief Glenn Roberts. From the Fire Department; 2nd Asst. Chief Robbie Bailey, newly elected Department President Craig Nimick, former Chief Robert Taylor. Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina, Borough Attorney Kerry Higgins, Municipal Clerk Traci DiBenedetto, Prosecutor Brian Wilton who is also Mayor of Lake Como. Borough Engineering team Bill Wentzien, Vince Creevy and Steve Kiselick. Planning Board members Adam Reich and Danielle Sims. Memorial Day Parade Committee; Alice, Amanada and Pat McCobb. Bill Hakim former member of Board of Education. Gianna Dell'Omo from the Human Relations Committee, Ellen Kane Board of Health. From the Historic Preservation Committee; Kevin Coyne, Muriel Smith, Gil Burgess and Barbara Wagner. From the Shade Tree Commission Christine Gregory and Cheryl Greenfield. From Spooktacular Judi Guy and Rich Kane, Allan Goldberg the Borough Photographer. From Open Door Sandy Taylor.

Mayor Higgins stated the following:

“Council President Sims, members of the Freehold Borough Governing Body, Mayor Wilson, Mayor Kane, residents, honored guest, Borough professionals and friends; welcome to Scudder Hall. We appreciate your presence at the Annual Reorganizational meeting of your governing body. Another year brings new challenges and also new opportunities. Your Council and I are here to listen and serve our fellow Freehold residents, our business community and all those who visit our hometown.

You have heard the roll of appointments to our many volunteer boards, commissions and committees. Without the devoted service of these individuals, many names which you hear at our organizational meetings, this borough would not be the place we treasure as our hometown.

This past Wednesday afternoon, we welcomed David Fisher. A graduate of Princeton University, now a resident of Germany to this chamber, recently dedicated and now with a fitting tribute and memorial to Dr. Nathaniel Scudder. Dr. Scudder resided just a short distance from where we gather this afternoon. He was a patriot, a signer of the Articles of Confederation and the only member of the Continental Congress to be killed in action during the revolution. Our guest, David Fisher, is a direct descendant of Dr. Scudder. His grandson, eight generations removed, from his historic ancestor. During David's visit, we shared our admiration of the founding generation. I thought how proud Dr. Scudder would be to know that so many years later, his descendant would visit this home of representative government, the principal for which Dr. Scudder and many of his Revolutionary generation paid the supreme sacrifice. While we celebrate our history with memorials and dedications, we are mindful of our future and are continually looking for ways to provide services to our municipality. You can always ask questions or seek help by reaching out to this governing body. Through the Mayor's office hour, a casual visit in town or school, an email, a telephone call; we are here to address the needs of our community.

This year we will continue with our ongoing Capital Improvement projects and welcome back to Freehold members of the Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel who will assist in evaluating our planning and development process. Our Police Department, Fire Department, Street and Water Departments, Office of Emergency Management, and all municipal departments are at the ready if called to respond.

I personally thank my wife Christine, my family and professional colleagues. Without their support and understanding I could not be seated here today. Joining with us today are our daughters Jessica and Allison, grandchildren Bexley and Calli our Sons-in-Law Scott and RJ, my brother Greg, his wife Eileen, my niece and nephew Emily and James, and several of my co-workers; Mark Sweeney, Chad Dougherty and Richard Mount. My niece just returned from a semester in Europe and we are happy to have her back in Freehold safe and sound.

Also, I thank and recognize the work and dedication of our Administrator Joe Bellina, our Clerk Traci DiBenedetto, Borough Attorney Higgins, Chief Financial Officer Richard Gartz, Police Chief Roberts, Fire Chief Taylor, our Department Heads and the entire Borough Staff for their dedication to our municipality.

Finally, I congratulate my friends and colleagues, Councilwoman Shutzer and Councilman Griffiths. I look forward to working with them and all our elected members and staff during this term. It is indeed an honor and pleasure to serve with all the dedicated members of this governing body. Friends, you have our best wishes for a happy, healthy and safe new year. “

Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer stated the following:

“I want to give a word of appreciation to Judge Sheedy. Kathy, thank you so much. It was such an honor to be sworn in by you. I have the greatest respect for you. Thank you.

In 1966, soon after I moved to New Jersey from my native West Virginia, a group of teacher friends and I came from Ortleigh Beach where we lived to Freehold for dinner at the American Hotel. I can remember sitting at a table in the corner of a small dining room thinking to myself, “Where in the world are we?” Little did I know that 6 years later I would meet the love of my life, move to Freehold, buy a home and have a daughter. Additionally, I could never have imagined that I would come to love this town and its residents as I do, or that 50 years later, I would be sitting at this table having been sworn in again as a councilperson. Truly life has changed through the years: I lost Richard, our daughter has grown up and is raising our two grandsons, my service on the school board transitioned to service on the governing body, faces of leadership have changed, etc. But there are many constants – things that have not changed and that continue to be very important in my private and public lives.

I continue to love life in our beloved Freehold. Since Richard passed away, many people have asked me if I plan to sell my home and move away. My response is and always has been, “Why would I leave?” I live in a wonderful neighborhood in a wonderful town. My mother used to say that she had very little money but she was the wealthiest person in the world because she had a loving family, wonderful and loyal friends, and good health which allowed her to continue helping others. My mom was right. What she said about herself applies to all of us. Our town, like so many others, is financially challenged, but we are a family of wonderful and loyal citizens. We are a community bound by our successes and our problems. Many people working together keep this community going on a daily basis, and they should be thanked and congratulated.

First and foremost, our employees, our professionals and our volunteers are second to none. At a recent gathering of employees, I said that they really do make us look good, and for that I am very appreciative. Our professionals and especially Joe Bellina and Kerry Higgins and Traci DiBenedetto guide us and keep us functioning within the law. Thank you. I say it every year, but it is absolutely true that this town could not function without our volunteers; our fire department, our first aid squad, our school board and every committee and commission are staffed by volunteers. We are humbled by and very appreciative for your service. Thank you.

I would be remiss if I did not say a huge thank you to our police force who continue to protect us during this time of unrest. It is never easy to be a cop, but it is especially difficult during this time of cop bashing. As I always say, we thank the families of our cops, firefighters and first aiders because it can't be easy for them to send their loved ones out into harm's way every day. Thank you.

And, of course, we thank our veterans and all of those serving in the Armed Forces today for making possible our right to live in a free country.

We have lost many people this year, but two stand out in my mind. Barney DiBenedetto epitomized the spirit of a small town. He was a colorful leader and mentor who touched the lives of a myriad of people, young and old. Augie Daesener was not only a business person in town, but he served in other leadership capacities most notably as one of the primary forces behind Hudson Manor and as a Councilperson. We miss them both but we continue to tell stories and to celebrate their lives. In this same spirit, I would ask that you hold former Mr. Everything George Kelder and his family in your hearts and your prayers as they continue to struggle with life's final stages.

I want to thank all of you who have supported us through thick and thin and who understand that we are not miracle workers but rather hard-working, sincere people who are committed to doing what is best for our Freehold. We are all humbled by the faith you have placed in us. Congratulations to my running mates Nolan Higgins and Ron Griffiths. They are not only the biggest men I know, but they are the smartest, fairest and sincerest men I know. I am so honored to have had my name on a ballot with you. My fellow councilpersons are to be commended as well. I thank all of you for the time that you give and work that you do. As a colleague and as a resident, I appreciate your dedication. Congratulations, Jaye, on your election as Council President. We, as a town, are truly in good hands.

And my family. Carey, Brian and Brady, you are my pride and joy. I thank you for your support, I respect you for the choices you have made in your lives, and I love you with all of my heart. I continue to be inspired by each of you. Thank you.

I will close as I always do, with an Apache prayer for all of you in the New Year:

May the sun bring you new energy by day, may the moon softly restore you by night, may the rain wash away your worries, may the breeze blow new strength into your being, may you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life."

Councilman Ron Griffiths stated the following:

"I'd like to comment on what Sharon mentioned about Augie Daesener, an old time friend for ages. Augie was one of the youngest council members ever elected in Freehold Borough. He put a crusade together that he wanted to build a parking garage in Freehold, because he thought we lacked parking. Ironically today we are still discussing parking in Freehold Borough.

As I begin my second term as a member of this Council, I have to thank a lot of people. First always would be my wife Nancy. Three years ago I promised her I would only serve one term. I intended to keep that promise. It was she who understood how much I have enjoyed the Borough and its people. And without any prior discussion between us, she let me out of my promise. I thank you for that. I thank my son, Matthew, for being present today. Also my sister Lynn and her husband Jim and my nieces Heather and Shannon. I want to thank my wife for the opportunity to run and the voters who made it possible for me to be here to get sworn in today.

I thank you, Honorable Kathy Sheedy for administering the oath of office. I also extend my thanks to all the committee and commission members I have worked with the last three years. Freehold Borough is so fortunate to have residents who care enough to volunteer their time and energy. I am especially impressed with the people I have worked with on the Shade Tree Commission, The Human Relations Committee and the Ad Hoc Innovation Committee. I could run a list, but they'd probably turn that timer over on me if I started reading names.

As a member of the Public Safety Committee I want to thank our police department, volunteer first responders' first aid and fire department. They all serve and protect and have my thanks. I want to thank our professionals. They are as you have heard dedicated and incredibly helpful to the governing body and our citizens. We're blessed with professionals who believe in Freehold Borough. Their assistance, guidance and advice are exemplary and appreciated.

Governance would be a lot harder without Joe Bellina, Ricky Gartz, Kerry Higgins, Traci DiBenedetto, Kathy Caruso, Bill Wentzien and all of their staffs. I also wish to thank our Public Works Department. Sal DeJesus and his people are unsung heroes who quietly do a great job in all kinds of weather. Mike Baker and the Water Department also deserve our praise and thanks. They work daily in an antiquated building with less than optimum equipment, yet they see that when we turn on the faucet we have clean and safe water. Thank you.

I am both thankful and humble to be back in this seat for the next three years. You've put your trust in three candidates you elected in November. We thank you. The Borough is confronted with many serious issues, but I believe we can find effective and creative solutions. I will continue to work for an open and transparent local government. We need a government that engages our citizens and encourages them to participate in the decisions of our town.

For those that attend our meetings on a regular basis, you know that I am a strong advocate of changes at the State level. I will climb on my soapbox for a few moments. You need to know that our town is being denied more than \$1 million in energy and business taxes annually. The State has failed to fully fund the School Finance Reform Act of 2008. If fully funded, our aid to education would be increased by nearly \$2 million annually. The State is taking these funds to plug holes in their budget. When the State fails to provide the funds, it means schools and the Borough must either cut funding from important services or increase property taxes. So if you are not happy with your property tax bill, realize that the governor and legislators are costing your town over \$3 million every year, because they can't manage their budget. Locally we've paid our share for our employee's pensions, we're maintaining an aged infrastructure and we balance our budget as we provide vital municipal services. We are seeking new sources of review to control property taxes. Everything is on the table; municipal impound lots, marked parking meter, redevelopment plans under the ULI. However until both sides of the aisle in Trenton drop their political agendas and begin to work for the people, our struggles are going to continue as every local municipal leader knows.

In my list of thanks I cannot overlook the other people sitting at this table. All of these elected officials have more experience than I do. Three years ago they welcomed me and helped me. They have been my mentors and sounding board. Each of them has helped me along the way. I am grateful to each of you for your assistance and I look forward to continuing to work with you. And to all of you, a Happy New Year."

Councilman George Schnurr stated the following:

"I want to thank you all for coming out today to help us start the new year with our reorganization meeting with the swearing in of Mayor Nolan Higgins, Councilwoman Shutzer and Councilman Griffiths.

I was driving to work last week and I heard on the radio an advertisement for a financial institution. At the end of the ad there was disclaimer that said past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results. We've all heard this. While this is true of financial products, it's been my experience that when it comes to people, just the opposite is true. Past performance is indicative of future results. When it comes to Nolan, Sharon and Ron, I know this to be true, but more importantly so do you. That is why they were overwhelmingly reelected in November. I want to publicly congratulate all three and their families on their election victory in November. I'd like to congratulate newly elected Council President Jaye Sims. Who has the respect and admiration of the entire Council. I want to thank the volunteers who serve on the many boards and committees and volunteer organizations in Freehold Borough such as the fire department and first aid. Many members of these boards, committees and volunteer organizations are here today. The people who serve on these boards, committees and volunteer

organizations make a difference in Freehold Borough every day. Thank you for all you do and thank you for making a difference in our community.

I'd also like to thank Freehold Borough Police Chief Glenn Roberts, for your leadership and protection in serving our residents and visitors in what has become a difficult policing environment throughout the United States. The police department has our respect and admiration. Glenn, please pass along our thanks.

Freehold Borough is not only run by Mayor and Council and our various committees. We have excellent professionals and personnel that perform the day to day business here in town. I'd like to take this time to publically thank Freehold Borough Administrator Joe Bellina and all the employees who work for him for all of their service to Freehold Borough. Traci DiBenedetto is the friendly face the public sees when they come into Borough Hall every day. Her professional demeanor sets the tone on how business is conducted. I'd like to thank our CFO Ricky Gartz for keeping our finances in order. I'd like to thank our attorney Kerry Higgins for all her work during the year. The professionals that I just mentioned; Business Administrator, Municipal Clerk, Attorney and CFO have been given a lot to do this year. I am going to call them the Mission Impossible team for Freehold Borough. I wanted express my thanks to the Mission Impossible Team in a way you won't forget. (Councilman Schnurr plays Mission Impossible theme song).

Last but not least, I wanted to thank my family for their support and sacrifice. It is not just yours truly that serves Freehold, but also the rest of my family as well. My wife Diane has unconditional veto power over my role as member of the governing body. I say this each and every year to remind her of the power she wields in our household. I include you Diane, in the Mission Impossible Team because she knows I am husband impossible. All of us on the governing body believe in Freehold Borough and pledge to devote our time and energy in keeping Freehold a great place to live, work and visit. I look forward to working with the entire council and residents of Freehold Borough during the upcoming year. Happy New Year to all of you."

Councilman Michael DiBenedetto stated the following:

"I want to welcome you all and thank you for spending your time with ours. All of the previous speakers touched all the subjects, but I want to thank; all of all professionals for their guidance and their service, for our volunteers that come out and make decisions for the betterment of our community and town. For the voters of Freehold who had the intelligence to bring back the three people that were sworn in today. Mayor Higgins, Councilwoman Shutzer and Councilman Griffiths, I look forward to working with the three of you again this year. You bring so much to the table and I am glad you are back for another term.

Last but not least, I thank my wife for allowing me to serve. As we start our new year, I wish you a happy and healthy and may the best days of 2015 be the worst in 2016. Thank you."

Council President Jaye Sims stated the following:

"Unfortunately, I'd like to begin on a somber note. I ask you all to take a moment of silence, I lost a friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Ocean Township Police Department, Captain Earl Alexander was tragically killed the other night in a car crash. Please take a moment and keep his family and police department in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

Greetings and Happy New Year to you all. I'd like to congratulate Mayor Higgins, Councilwoman Shutzer and Councilman Griffiths on your reelection. You've heard us all thank our families, but I think we should take it a step further. I think all of us should stand up and

actually give our families a round of applause for their dedication and their allowing us to be here in office. Thank you to all of our families.

To all of our honored guests welcome again. To all of our professionals starting with Joe on down, thank you all for your work. 2015 has been a bit of a rollercoaster for all of us one way or another. Somehow we found a way to struggle through and still stand tall at the end of the year. It is a will and testament to us all and a testament to you all as people. Lots of luck to you all in 2016. I'd like to thank my colleagues for electing me as Council President. Finally I have just been inspired by some recent developments and events and I wanted to be brief, but I would like to end with this quote. This quote comes from Henry Ford, "Coming together is the beginning. Staying together is progress. But working together is success".

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. God Bless you all. Thank you.

Councilman Kevin Kane stated the following:

"I'd like to congratulate Nolan and Sharon and Ron on your reelection. There was never any doubt in my mind, but you still have to go through the process. Congratulations Jaye on Council President. This is our opportunity every year to thank everyone. As I say every year, this room is what makes this town tick. When you heard the mayor go around and introduce all of our professionals and volunteers, this is what makes Freehold Borough run. I would like to thank everyone from Borough Hall; Joe, Kerry, Traci and Ricky. The Public Works Department and our Police Department, all the professionals that make this town run day in and day out. There are a lot of things that happen in Freehold Borough. People from other towns come and make it a point to come here to participate in some of the events. We have the Spooktacular where the windows are painted every year. On the cover of Kevin Coyne's book it shows window paintings from the 1940's. There is a lot of tradition, but it takes the volunteers to make this stuff happen. If you look around this room, you are the people that make it work. I would like to thank the volunteers and I appreciate everything you do. Keep up the good work.

This past Fall I had the privilege and opportunity to run for Monmouth County Clerk. Even though it was unsuccessful, it was an experience I'll never forget. Monmouth County is a big county. There are 53 towns in Monmouth County. We made a lot of great friends throughout the county. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank family and friends and everyone that helped out through the process, especially my wife Ellen. She was the driving force behind the entire campaign from day one. There are a lot of great people throughout the county. But two people we became very friendly with, after chairman Vin Gopal talked us all into it, myself and Ellen, Eric and Linda Houghtaling and Joann and Steve Downey got together to talk about how we were going to attack this. We went right to the Jester and the six of us sat there and had dinner. After we convinced ourselves we weren't totally crazy and talked about how much fun it was going to be. I'm proud to tell that Eric Houghtaling and Joann Downing get sworn in next Tuesday and there are some issues they are starting to work on with Chief of Staff Joe Libutti that will have a profound impact on the residents of Freehold Borough. They are going to be doing some great things and I really look forward to working with you guys and congratulations. Please give them a big hand too.

I want to wish everyone a very happy, healthy, safe and prosperous new year. Take the time to go out of your way on a daily basis and make the day better for someone else. Pay it forward. Go out of your way to put a smile on someone's face, hold a door, say thank you, give compliments. This world is a crazy place we live in so take the time to make someone's day better. It will make you feel better and make you a better person. Thank you all for coming and have a great new year.

Mayor Higgins introduced his Aunt Marion, who he previously neglected to introduce.

Mayor Higgins asked any military veterans or those currently serving to please stand and be recognized.

Mayor Higgins announced following the meeting, Abbington Engineering is hosting a community gathering at Park 33 and all of our friends and guests in the Freehold Community are invited. Abbington Engineering was thanked.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc