

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 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 retired Police Chief Michael Beierschmitt's father who recently passed.

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
ABSENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

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

“Swearing In and Oath of Office to Police Officer Christopher Atkinson, Freehold Borough Police Department.”

Officer Atkinson was joined by his family for the Oath of Office, administered by Mayor Higgins.

Councilwoman Shutzer recognized the commitment needed by a police officers family and thanked them for their sacrifice.

Mayor Higgins recognized all of the officers and members of the Freehold Borough Police Department who were present.

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

“Approval of Minutes: Supplemental Minutes Agenda Review June 22, 2015 and Council Meeting December 7, 2015.”

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Councilman Griffiths.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Gasoline and Diesel Fuel per the New Jersey State Contract.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL PER THE NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing Tax Appeal Settlement RE: Block 51, Lot 1; 60 E. Main Street.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX TAPPEAL SETTLEMENT RE: BLOCK 51, LOT 1; 60 E. MAIN STREET.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing an Interlocal Services Agreement with the Borough of Englishtown Re: Certified Public Works Manager and Certified Recycling Coordinator.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF ENGLISHTOWN RE: CERTIFIED PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER AND CERTIFICED RECYCLING COORDINATOR.”

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Awarding a Contract for the Purchase of Road Maintenance Materials.”

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

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROAD MAINTENANCE MATERIALS.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Approving Subordination of Mortgage Given to Borough of Freehold Housing Rehabilitation Program Concerning RCA Case Number FBHRP06-36.”

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 APPROVING SUBORDINATION OF MORTGAGE GIVEN TO BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM CONCERNING RCA CASE NUMBER FBHRP06-36.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving the Mayor’s Nominations for Appointment to the Freehold

Borough Library Commission.”

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE FREEHOLD BOROUGH LIBRARY COMMISSION.

Councilman Schnurr stated the nomination is for Maureen MacCutcheon who will be filling the vacancy created by June Vawter.

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

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

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. Retirement of Lt. Michael Sweetman, Freehold Police Department, effective February 1, 2016.
- b. Promotion of Sgt. Ronnie Steppat to Lieutenant, Freehold Police Department, effective February 1, 2016.
- c. Reappointment of Paul Jensen to the Recreation Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2020.
- d. Resignation of Samantha Daesener, Violations Clerk, effective January 19, 2016.
- e. Resignation of Edward Keller as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Richardson Engine Company No. 2, effective December 31, 2015.
- f. Resignation of Michael Burtt as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Monmouth Hose Company, effective December 21, 2015.

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS NOS. 13A – 13F.

Councilman Griffiths offered his thanks and appreciation for their past service and congratulated Sgt. Steppat on his promotion.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 14 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications.”

- a. Solicitor License (Renewal), Tony Roach c/o Trinity Solar, going door to door to provide information regarding solar panels from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Saturday.
- b. Raffle License, 01-16, St. Rose of Lima School, 50/50 Raffle, 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM, 3/4/16, 51 Lincoln Place.
- c. Raffle License, 02-16, St. Rose of Lima, On-Premise Draw Raffle 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM, 3/4/16, 51 Lincoln Place.
- d. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Leonel Zaavendra Gil, Freehold.
- e. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Jacqueline Koleshnick, Freehold.
- f. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Hammond Batson, Freehold.
- g. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Javier De la Rosa, Freehold.
- h. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Alexis Guzman-Mosso, Freehold.
- i. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Jose L. Angeles, Freehold.
- j. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Alan Samoylovich, Freehold.
- k. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Vincente Pantaja, Freehold.
- l. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Eliazar Medes, Freehold.
- m. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Isabel Saldivar, Freehold.
- n. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Jose Caldera Acosta, Freehold.
- o. Taxi Owner License (1) – Marco’s Taxi
- p. Taxi Owner License (2) – Cris Taxi
- q. Taxi Owner License (1) – KB Taxi Services

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS NOS. 14A – 14Q.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 15 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 \$2,007,207.06 be paid as presented.

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

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

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

“Committee Reports.”

Councilman Schnurr reported the Public Library recently had a ribbon cutting for the Teen Book Nook on Monday, January 11th. Mayor Higgins was in attendance. This was made possible with a grant from the Education Foundation. Wednesdays at the library from 3:45 – 4:45, high school student volunteers provide homework help for students up to the 7th grade. New Jersey Devils will donate a portion of ticket sales to the Education Foundation, on any tickets purchased for the February 26th game.

Memorial Day Parade Committee will be meeting tomorrow. This is the first meeting of the year and the officers will be sworn in at that time.

Councilman Schnurr thanked Danielle Sims for all of her service as Chairperson of the Planning Board and announced the new Chairperson is Adam Reich and Vice Chairperson is Bill Barricelli. All professionals remain the same.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the Public Safety Committee recently met and discussed items such as Precious Metal Licenses, body worn cameras and possibility of increasing police hiring due to the number of retirements. Councilman DiBenedetto asked Councilman Griffiths to explain his idea of “Safe Spots” on-line sales.

Councilman Griffiths described the idea of creating a “Safe Spot” for people who are arranging sales through on-line sites like Craig’s List, to do it in a spot that is safe for both the seller and buyer. Areas such as outside the Police Station where there are lights and cameras should be considered.

Councilman DiBenedetto asked Chief Roberts to provide an update on the Police Department Accreditation.

Chief Roberts reported the on-site inspection of the police department will take place Wednesday and Thursday. A press release was published in the Asbury Park Press and the public is invited to read that or visit the Facebook and Twitter pages. Contact information is included, any public comments, concerns, criticisms or compliments can be given directly to the assessors and they will be included in the report.

Councilman DiBenedetto reported the Public Works Department is ready to go for predicted winter storm Friday into Saturday.

Councilman DiBenedetto announced Recreation winter leagues are going strong. Some events are being planned for the Spring. Please keep Sheryl Mott, Chairperson in your prayers as she gets better.

Councilman DiBenedetto reported the Freehold Center Partnership has met and is looking ahead to spring events and more beautification projects such as the one recently done at Gere Park.

Historic Preservation Committee is quiet with a few applications. A grant recipient is actively being sought.

Councilwoman Shutzer reported under Personnel, the new Police Officer Chris Atkinson, is welcomed. She reported the Advisory Council on Aging has a meeting in February. Board of Education is still awaiting word from the Commissioner of Education.

Councilwoman Shutzer provided a list of what the Freehold Alliance Against Drugs Abuse accomplished during 2015. The golf outing is being planned and is scheduled for Monday, June 6th and all are encouraged to attend. Councilwoman Shutzer announced the Emergency Management will meet tomorrow to plan, just in case the snow storm materializes.

Councilman Kane reported Code Enforcement is realigning due to the retirement of Hank Stryker on February 1st. The Finance committee will be meeting in the next two weeks. Board of Health met last week and Bill Madden will be 2015 Chairman with Bill McGonigle will be Vice Chairman.

Councilman Kane announced Lake Topanemus is doing well. He noted it was beneficial the Christmas Tree/block project was done last year because there has not been any ice this year.

Councilman Griffiths reported the Shade Tree Commission has not met yet, but announced the free tree seedlings grant program is available. Application must be in by Friday, February 12th. Human Relations has not met yet this year.

Mayor Higgins opened the floor to public comments.

Mr. Baldwin, Monmouth Avenue, gave his annual assessment of the Mayor and Council. He is pleased with the present Mayor and Council. Mr. Baldwin would like to see a traffic light installed at Main Street and Throckmorton Street or have a traffic officer present during rush hours. Mr. Baldwin feels the name Olde Freehold Day should be changed. It celebrates a time in history that should be forgotten. The clock in front of Borough Hall is not working and he would like to see it repaired. He is willing to contribute \$100 towards its repair.

Mr. Baldwin thanked Lt. Sweetman and is forever grateful for his assistance when his wife became ill at the Police Station. Mr. Baldwin stated Lt. Sweetman and another officer went above and beyond to assist him. He wished him well in his retirement and congratulated Sgt. Steppat on his promotion.

Mayor Higgins responded the traffic light at Throckmorton has been reviewed before.

Mr. Bellina added the MOM Line was an issue. Mr. Bellina offered to write letters to necessary parties to address the issue again.

Councilman DiBenedetto added there was also an issue with the streets not lining up correctly. A light would require the removal of quite a few parking spaces which would be a detriment to the businesses in the area. It was suggested making that a one way street leaving town and having all incoming traffic use Broad Street to Manalapan Ave and installing a light at Manalapan Ave. and West Main Street.

Mayor Higgins reported the clock repair was investigated and would cost over \$6,000. The clock may be removed, but the Rotary Club was approached about sponsoring the project.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION:

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

Councilwoman Shutzer recognized the group of students in the audience and offered to remain after the meeting to answer any questions they may have.

The students from Communications High School which is part of the Monmouth County Regional School District were in attendance as part of a class project to report on a local town meeting.

Mayor Higgins welcomed the students and introduced the other vital people at the meeting; Business Administrator Joe Bellina, Attorney Kerry Higgins, Police Chief Glenn Roberts and Municipal Clerk Traci DiBenedetto.

Mayor Higgins called for a motion to adjourn.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc