

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, March 21, 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).

Councilman Schnurr 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
ABSENT	COUNCILMAN RONALD GRIFFITHS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

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

“Approval of Minutes: Executive Sessions February 17, 2015 and March 2, 2015; Council Meeting March 7, 2016.”

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

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

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

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2016/1 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey Amending Chapter 5.48 (Jewelry And Precious Metals), of the Revised General ordinances of the Borough of Freehold.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments.

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, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent Griffiths. 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 #2016/1 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 5.48 (JEWELRY AND PRECIOUS METALS), OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.” be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

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

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2016/2 Of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey, To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and To Establish A Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14).”

Councilman Kane 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 “INTRODUCTION OF AND AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH ORDINANCE #2016/2 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14),” 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 4, 2016 at 7:00 PM 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, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent Griffiths. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2016/3 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey Amending and Supplementing Chapter 10 (Vehicles and Traffic), Section 10.08.040 (Traffic Regulations – Stop Intersections), and Amending Chapter 10.44 Schedule IX (Stop Intersections) of the

Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold Re: East George Street and Stokes Street.”

Councilman DiBenedetto 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 #2016/3 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 10 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), SECTION 10.08.040 (TRAFFIC REGULATIONS-STOP INTERSECTIONS), AND AMENDING CHAPTER 10.44 SCHEDULE IX (STOP INTERSECTIONS) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD RE: EAST GEORGE STREET AND STOKES STREET,” 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 4, 2016 at 7:00 PM 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.

Councilman Schnurr asked if there was an estimated time of completion.

Joseph Bellina, Borough Administrator responded there needs to be a second reading and public comments. He estimated it will be at least 30 days.

Councilwoman Shutzer reported this request was initiated by residents. A study was preformed and it was determined to be necessary.

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

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

“Introduction of the 2016 Municipal Budget Notice 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 Councilwoman Shutzer:

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGET NOTICE FOR THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, ESTABLISHING THE DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF REQUIRED NOTICES.

Councilman Kane reported the public hearing of the Municipal Budget is set for May 2nd.

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

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

“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Amending Temporary Appropriations for 2016.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2016.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget (Current Fund).”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET (CURRENT FUND).

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget (Current Fund & Water-Sewer Utility Operating Fund).”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET (CURRENT FUND & WATER-SEWER UTILITY OPERATING FUND).

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

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

“Resolution Rejecting Bids for Emergency (Standby) Generators.”

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

RESOLUTION REJECTING BIDS FOR EMERGENCY (STANDBY) GENERATORS.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing Tax Appeal Settlement RE: Block 114, Lot 10; 16 Barkalow Avenue.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT RE: BLOCK 114, LOT 10: 16 BARKALOW AVENUE.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing License Agreement with FR Park Racing, LP RE: 2016 Fireworks Display.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH FR PARK RACING, LP RE: 2016 FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing License Agreement with D&M Fireworks, LLC RE: 2016 Fireworks Display.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH D&M FIREWORKS, LLC RE 2016 FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

Councilman DiBenedetto reported the date is set for Sunday, July 3rd with no rain date.

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

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

“Resolution Memorializing the Mayor’s Appointment to the Freehold Borough Planning Board:

- a. Jeffrey Friedman, Alternate Number 2, Term expires December 31, 2016. Fills a current vacancy.”**

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

RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT TO THE FREEHOLD BOROUGH PLANNING BOARD.

Councilman Schnurr welcomed Jeff Friedman to the board.

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

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

“Resolution Memorializing the Mayor’s Appointment to the Freehold Borough Historic Preservation Committee:

- a. Carl Steinberg– Term expires December 31, 2016. Fills a current vacancy.”**

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

RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT TO THE FREEHOLD BOROUGH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE.

Councilman DiBenedetto welcomed Mr. Steinberg back to HPC. Councilman DiBenedetto stated he has a wealth of knowledge and was also our town Historian at one time.

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

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

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. **Appointment of Jaclyn M. Reiman as Municipal Court Clerk, effective March 28, 2016.**
- b. **Appointment of Walter Yovanny Cruces Cochachis as a probationary member of the Freehold Fire Department, Good Will Hook & Ladder Company, effective March 21, 2016.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS 18A-18B.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims (18B) voted its adoption; opposed none; absent Griffiths, abstain Sims 18A. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

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

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. **Raffle License, 12-16, Freehold Elks Lodge #1454, BPOE Elks, Inc., Prize Raffle (Trip to Aruba), 12 PM – 6 PM, October 2, 2016, 73 East Main Street.**
- b. **Bingo License, 01-16, St. Rose of Lima Church, Mondays, 6:00 PM-11:00PM, June 6, 2016 – May 29, 2017.**
- c. **Bingo License, 02-16, St. Rose of Lima Church, Saturdays, 6:00 PM-11:00PM, June 6, 2016 – May 29, 2017.**
- d. **Vendor License, American Legion Post #54, Poppy Sale from 3/1/16 – 12/31/16.**
- e. **Canning License, Knights of Columbus Council 1612, April 23, 2016, East Main St/Center St/Spring Streets and Main Street/South Street, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.**
- f. **Latino Festival of Monmouth County, 9/17/16, rain date: 9/18/16, 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Hall of Records Parking Lot. c/o Latino Coalition of NJ Foundation.**
- g. **Sidewalk Café License, Federici’s, 14 East Main Street.**
- h. **Sidewalk Café License, Alycia’s Bistro, 52 West Main Street.**
- i. **Sidewalk Café License, Oyako Tso’s, 6 West Main Street.**
- j. **Sidewalk Café License, Texas Mexican Rest., 3 West Main Street.**
- k. **Sidewalk Cafe License, Court Jester, 16 East Main Street.**
- l. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Juan S. Gonzalez.**
- m. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Vicenta Pantoja.**
- n. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Jose Caldera Acosta.**
- o. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Edgar Pantoja.**
- p. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Perla Pantoja.**
- q. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Bernabe Galvan.**
- r. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Sergio Saavedra Torres.**
- s. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Pedro G. Corralesbraun.**

- t. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Kathleen M. Flores.**
- u. **Temporary Taxi Driver License, Bernabe Pantoja, Freehold.**
- v. **Temporary Taxi Driver License, Mohinder Braich, Freehold.**
- w. **Peddler/Vendor License, Mayra Maduro, Snoopy's Ice Cream, Monday – Sunday, 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM.**
- x. **Peddler/Vendor License, Francisco DeJesus, Mayra's Ice Cream, Monday – Sunday, 1:00 PM- 8:00 PM.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS 19A-19X.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Bills.”

Councilman Kane 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 the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$662,670.10 be paid as presented.

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

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

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 22 on the Agenda as follows:

“Items for Discussion

a. Freehold Kruisers (Kruise Night)

Mayor Higgins reported the Freehold Kruisers have expressed an interest in holding a Kruise Night during the 2016 summer season.

Mr. Peter Zakulkiewicz, President of Freehold Kruisers Car Club, read a letter which outlined the Clubs request. The Freehold Kruisers would like to hold a Kruise Night in Downtown Freehold once a year. The Kruisers are requesting July 28th from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Designated parking for

antique cars from Throckmorton Street to Freehold Grill on Main Street will be needed. Police event signage restricting parking will be needed. Coverage under Borough Insurance, electricity from the Hall of Records for the DJ and use of the Hall of Records Parking lot on Main Street to park antique and classic cars is also requested. In the past Borough Streets and Roads provided barricades for the parking lot. Freehold Kruisers hope that the businesses and community will enjoy this family event. Kruise Night ran successfully for 21 years in Freehold and the Kruisers have experience in running this event.

Mr. Gatto from Downtown Freehold stated there was a concert scheduled for July 28th.

Mr. Zakulkiewicz stated the Kruisers are open to any that is available.

Councilman DiBenedetto suggested a discussion be held with Freehold Center Partnership to get the opinions of the downtown businesses.

Mayor Higgins explained an answer can not be given tonight as information needs to be gathered from the Police Department and downtown businesses.

Attorney, Kerry Higgins stated once potential dates are agreed upon, if Mayor and Council are in favor of the event, the Kruisers can then be informed of what they need to do get approval from the County.

Councilman Schnurr questioned the insurance coverage.

Mr. Bellina stated in the past the Borough has covered the event.

Councilman DiBenedetto asked how many participants are anticipated.

Mr. Zakulkiewicz responded in the past they have had 70-100 cars. The event at Chic-Fil-A in Howell gets 200 cars. The event in Freehold attracts more spectators than participants.

David Shaw of Freehold Kruisers, thanked Mayor and Council for entertaining the idea of hosting a Kruise Night again. He stated like other aspects of Freehold, Kruise Night has a historical significance, it is an event landmark. People in the antique and classic car community always knew about Freehold Kruise Night. Mr. Shaw asked that they not be held responsible for events by people who are not in the classic car community that caused this event to stop. Mr. Shaw asked that consideration be given to the historical importance of bringing Kruise Night back, even for only one night per year.

Mr. Shaw suggested if overflow parking is needed, they will explore using the county lots on Lafayette Street. The Kruisers understand more traffic is not needed on the weekends and think scheduling for a Tuesday or Wednesday would satisfy all parties. He asked Mayor and Council to please consider approving the request.

Mayor Higgins announced this matter will be looked into and the Kruisers will be contacted.

b. Historic Preservation Commission Procedures’

Mayor Higgins reported he and Mr. Bellina attended the last HPC Meeting. The committee was asked their thoughts on changing the process for applicants that have a conforming sign permit, to eliminate the requirement to go before HPC. Several complaints had been received from applicants coming into town to establish businesses. The burden of coming before HPC was delaying their application, costing money and holding up the business. Freehold wants to maintain a business friendly environment and encourage business and professionals to come into town.

Councilman Schnurr reported it was cleared with Historic Preservation Committee and discussed at the recent Land Use Meeting. The Chairperson will be reviewing signs even if they conform.

Mr. Bellina added this process is only a request. It needs to be vetted thoroughly to make sure it is legal. That has not happened yet, but will be.

Mayor Higgins reported if council is to proceed, it will require an ordinance change. Mayor Higgins asked for discussion.

Councilman Schnurr stated he is fine with changing the ordinance. He does suggest that even if a sign conforms, the applicant may want to seek input from the HPC, if time allowed. There are people with a lot of knowledge and good design ideas and can offer valuable insight.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated more applications came before HPC for signs. Potential businesses want less steps when opening their business. He reported Historic Preservation Committee members are very caring about the town and want to preserve the historical buildings. The ordinance change will help the business person coming into town if it is a conforming sign.

Attorney Higgins stated she will look into what needs to be done.

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

“Committee Reports.”

Councilman Schnurr reported the Land Use Committee will be meeting after this meeting to review the Freehold Center Partnership budget as well as the some fine tuning for the SID Ordinance, no comments can be made at this time.

Councilman DiBenedetto had not comments.

Councilwoman Shutzer welcomed Jacklyn Reiman as a new employee in the Municipal Court. Her resume stood out among the others.

Councilwoman Shutzer announced there is a program for any Freehold Borough senior run by SCAN, every Tuesday at 10:00 AM at the YMCA on Jackson Street. They provide art lessons and a lot of activities and interaction. Councilwoman Shutzer reported there is free tax preparation

assistance for seniors provided by AARP at Bethal AME Church every Tuesday at 10:00 AM. No appointment is needed.

Councilwoman Shutzer announced the McGackin Award will be held at the Knights of Columbus on May 20th. Invitations will be going out on April 1st. All are welcome. Honorees include the Police Dept., Fire Dept., First Aid, Little League, Knights of Columbus and the Elks for their charitable acts.

Councilwoman Shutzer reported the First Aid Auxiliary will be holding a pancake breakfast this Saturday and First Aid Cadets will be selling Easter Plants at their headquarters on Spring Street.

Councilwoman Shutzer announced she, along with school administrators and members of the Board of Education recently met with newly elected assembly members. They toured the schools and relayed the need for tax relief for the much needed building program. Mayor and Council and the Board of Education are doing everything they can to get help from the state, which is deserved.

Councilwoman Shutzer announced the Alliance Against Substance Abuse is holding their annual Golf Outing in June. More information will be follow. Councilwoman Shutzer asked everyone to keep Barbara Oliver in their prayers as she is in the hospital. She also announced the Little League parade is April 16th.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Councilman Sims reported the Youth Government is planning a 5K Race at Lake Topanemus on April 2nd. This is a fundraiser for their trip to the Statue of Liberty.

Miss Christa Reilly and Miss Georgia Brooker from Youth Government announced information on their plans to hold a teen program with their school's SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) club and Peer Leadership. It is called "You Got Brains", which is a teen save driving initiative. The logo, "It Just Takes One" can be seen on car magnets and around some local businesses.

Councilwoman Shutzer suggested they provide information in writing about the program and it can be added to the Borough Website and included in the Municipal Email blasts.

Miss Reilly stated they also hope to have an information booth at the Youth Government 5K Run.

Councilwoman Shutzer suggested to do the same at Kruse Night and Councilman Kane suggested a booth at Olde Freehold Day.

Councilman DiBenedetto suggested handing out flyers during the groups canning day.

Miss Reilly and Miss Brooker offered their thanks for the suggestions.

Mayor Higgins opened the floor to public comments.

Joan Leuth, Ann Street, stated a real estate agent spoke at the public hearings held regarding the school budget. She suggested using the old school on Broad Street. Ms. Leuth had not seen this idea in any news articles and wondered if it had ever been considered.

Councilwoman Shutzer responded the building on Broad Street, as well as several other buildings in the Borough, were investigated for classroom space by the Board of Education. Unfortunately, there are many state mandates for a school and the costs of updating existing structures is cost prohibitive. Not every building can meet the requirements of a school, even if the building was a prior school.

Mr. Jeff Friedman, 3 Broad Street thanked Mayor and Council for his appointment to the Planning Board. He gave thanks to the Police Department and Mayor and Council for their support of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and all of the events. He explained how Irish Week came about, taking March from a virtual dead month in town to a thriving week of events. The Elks hosted the parade after party and raised nearly \$5,000 for their charities and the Arts Council raised over \$2,000 for their programs.

Mr. Friedman also thanked the police for their assistance in transporting the Easter Bunny back to Borough Hall after the Easter Egg Hunt at the Park Avenue School. Mr. Friedman suggested the Youth Government present their safe driving program to the Alliance and see what funding the Alliance can provide for their initiative.

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, Kane, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; absent Griffiths. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins recognized Boy Scout Nicholas Stevens, 11 Brentwood Avenue, who is in attendance to complete a requirement for Merit Badge. He is with Troop 18 at St. Rose. Mayor Higgins invited Mr. Stevens to sit in his seat for a picture with Mayor and Council. Mayor Higgins gave Mr. Stevens the gavel and asked him to close the meeting.

Mr. Stevens hit the gavel and adjourned the meeting with Mayor Higgins at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc