

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, July 18, 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 Griffiths 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 DI BENEDETTO
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:

“Approval of Minutes: Executive Sessions March 16 – September 21, 2015, Council Meeting June 6, 2016, Special Meeting June 29, 2016.”

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

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

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

“Donation by Freehold Elks Lodge #1454 to the Freehold Fire Department and Freehold First Aid Squad.”

Councilman DiBenedetto introduced Mr. Ken Pulchlopek, Exalted Ruler and Ms. Patricia Hamilton, President of Freehold Elks Lodge #1454.

Mr. Pulchlopek announced the Freehold Elks is making donations to Freehold Fire Department and Freehold First Aid Squad. Mr. Pulchlopek thanked the two volunteer organizations for all of their work and encouraged everyone to respond to their donation solicitations. Mr. Robert Taylor accepted on behalf of Freehold Fire Department and Mr. William Madden and Mr. James McAllister accepted on behalf of Freehold First Aid Squad.

Mayor Higgins thanked the Elks Lodge for their generosity and congratulated them on their recent Flag Day Ceremony.

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2016/8 Amending and Supplementing Chapter 10 (Traffic) Section 10.12.030 (Parking Prohibited at All Times on Certain Streets) Chapter 10.44, (Traffic Schedules), Schedule II, (No Parking) of Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey”

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 #2016/8 AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 10 (TRAFFIC) SECTION 10.12.030 (PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES ON CERTAIN STREETS) CHAPTER 10.44, (TRAFFIC SCHEDULES), SCHEDULE II, (NO PARKING) OF REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY.” 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 shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on August 1, 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.

Councilwoman Shutzer explained the ordinance is a result of a resident’s complaints and requests.

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

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2016/9 Amending Chapter 8 (Garbage, Trash and Refuse Collection and Disposal), Section 8.24.030 (Collection) of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold.”

Councilman Griffiths 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 #2016/9 AMENDING CHAPTER 8 (GARBAGE, TRASH AND REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL), SECTION 8.24.030 (COLLECTION) OF THE REVISED

GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD” 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 shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on August 1, 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, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr, and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain none; absent Sims. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

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

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Detective Sergeant Andrew DeMuth and Detective Lieutenant Michael Sweetman on the Occasion of Their Retirement from the Freehold Borough Police Department.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING DETECTIVE SERGEANT ANDREW DEMUTH AND DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT MICHAEL SWEETMAN ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR RETIREMENT FROM THE FREEHOLD BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Councilman DiBenedetto thanked the retirees for the service to the community and wished them a happy and healthy retirement.

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

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

“Resolution Accepting the 2015 Fiscal Year Audit Report as Prepared by Suplee, Clooney & Company.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2015 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT REPORT AS PREPARED BY SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY.

Borough Administrator, Joseph Bellina reported there were no comments or recommendations in the audit.

Councilman Schnurr reported the positive audit is testament of the fine job done by CFO Richard Gartz and Borough Administrator Joe Bellina.

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

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

“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Authorizing a \$700 Change Fund To Be Utilized for Olde Freehold Day Committee on July 23, 2016 (or Rain Date).”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A \$700 CHANGE FUND TO BE UTILIZED FOR OLDE FREEHOLD DAY COMMITTEE ON JULY 23, 2016 (OR RAIN DATE).

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

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

“Resolution Approving Change Order Number 1 for the Repaving of Marcy Street.”

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1 FOR THE REPAVING OF MARCY STREET.

Councilman Schnurr reported this represents a \$8,962 net decrease to the original contract.

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

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

“Resolution Approving Change Order Number 1 for the Repaving of Murray Street.”

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1 FOR THE REPAVING OF MURRAY STREET.

Councilman Schnurr reported this change represents a \$20,119.14 net decrease from original contract.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) All Terrain Litter Vacuum per the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System (MCESCCPS).”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) ALL TERRAIN LITTER VACUUM PER THE MIDDLESEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM (MCESCCPS).

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) Utility Equipment Trailer via the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Cooperative Pricing System (MCESCCPS).”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) UTILITY EQUIPMENT TRAILER VIA THE MIDDLESEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM (MCESCCPS).

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Two (2) Traffic Attenuators 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 TWO (2) TRAFFIC ATTENUATORS PER THE NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT.

Councilman Schnurr asked if these will be replacements or additions to what is currently in place.

Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina explained these are brand new and are required to be on every state street. The Safety Committee recognized this as the number one piece of equipment needed.

Councilman DiBenedetto added it makes work zones safer.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) Pick-Up Truck per the New Jersey State Contract.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) PICK-UP TRUCK PER THE NEW JERSEY STATE CONTRACT.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing Additional Engineering Services for Previously Approved Project (Well Number 3/10) with Abbington Engineering (William T. Wentzien, PE).”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADDITONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PROJECT (WELL NUMBER 3/10) WITH ABBINGTON ENGINEERING (WILLIAM T. WENTZIEN, PE).

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

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

“Resolution Approving the Mayor’s Nomination for Appointments to the Innovation Committee, (Terms expire December 31, 2016).

- a. Joseph Deroba
- b. Ronald DeMarco
- c. Michele Gibson
- d. Joseph McArdle
- e. Annette Jordan
- f. Don Schaffner
- g. Joan Leuth
- h. Reimer W. Leuth”

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE INNOVATION COMMITTEE (TERMS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2016) 18A – 18H.

Councilman Griffiths reported this is an adhoc committee that will be studying a new program entitled Participatory Budgeting, which allows residents to vote on how a portion of the budget is spent. This does not result in an increase to the budget.

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

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

**“Resolution Approving an Appointment to the Freehold Housing Authority:
a. William Cannon, term expires December 31, 2017 (Fills Unexpired Term of
George Kelder).”**

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE FREEHOLD HOUSING
AUTHORITY: 19A.**

Councilwoman Shutzer thanked Mr. Cannon for his willingness to serve.

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

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

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. Appointment of Jeanne Howlett as Municipal Court Clerk, upon completion of medical clearance, effective July 18, 2016.**
- b. Resignation of Russell Scott King as a member of the Water & Sewer Department, effective July 15, 2016.**
- c. Approval of Intergovernmental Transfer of Kenneth Volkmann from Marlboro Township to Freehold Borough, effective July 18, 2016.**
- d. Appointment of Vincent Hynes, Jr. as a probationary member of the Freehold Fire Department, Good Will Hook & Ladder Company, effective July 18, 2016.**
- e. Appointment of Daniel Xavier as a probationary member of the Freehold Fire Department, Richardson Engine Company No. 2, pending successful completion of physical examination, effective July 18, 2016**
- f. Appointment of Gunnar Larsen as a probationary member of the Freehold Fire Department, Richardson Engine Company No. 2, effective July 18, 2016.”**

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

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS - 20A-
20F.**

On roll call, Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain DiBenedetto-20A; absent Sims. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

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

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. **Raffle License, #19-16, St. Rose of Lima Church, 16 McLean Street, 50/50 Raffle, 1:00 PM, 10/23/16.**
- b. **Raffle License, #20-16, Freehold High School PTSO, 2 Robertsville Road, On-Premise Raffle, 12/13/16.**
- c. **Freehold Area Crop Walk, Freehold Clergy Association, 10/16/16, 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM. Participants on sidewalks only.**
- d. **Permanent Taxi Driver License – Laurence Hecker, Toms River, NJ.**
- e. **Temporary Taxi Driver License – Gladys Ferrante, Brick, NJ.**
- f. **Temporary Taxi Driver License – Benjamin Martinez, Brick, NJ.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS – 21A-21F.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 22 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 \$2,958,186.79 be paid as presented.

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

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

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 24 on the Agenda as follows:

“Items for Discussion:

- a. **Master Plan Re-Examination – Racetrack Parking Lot Area.**

Borough Administrator, Joseph Bellina, introduced Mr. Joe Layton from Maser Consulting who will introduce the Master Plan Re-Exam on the land adjacent to the Racetrack. Mr. Layton has authored the last two Master Plans for Freehold. Mr. Bellina acknowledged the dire state of horse racing in New Jersey. Freehold Racetrack used to have 10,000 visitors per day compared to the current average of 600 per day. The future of the Racetrack is unknown. Mr. Bellina announced in the two previous master plans, alternate uses for the land were introduced to make it more versatile when and if the track were to ever cease operation. There have been no discussions with the track and there is no indication that they will cease operation. Possible uses of the track, which is partly located in Freehold Township, have been car dealerships, conference center and exhibit hall. The parking lot is currently an R-10 Zone which can accommodate a lot of homes, which would have a negative impact on the already crowded schools. Mr. Bellina reported there will not be affordable housing, rather a senior housing approach.

Mr. Layton reported the area is 13 acres from Phyllis Street to Ann Street and Park Avenue to Manalapan Avenue. Mr. Layton met with a sub-committee of the Planning Board and the following suggestions were made:

Along Park Avenue, up to 250 feet deep by 550 feet across, be zoned for commercial use for small retail shops. In total 27,300 sq. ft. of commercial space which translates into two CVS type stores or 10 strip mall type stores.

The remainder of the property should be zoned for age restricted uses including; age restricted housing, single family detached townhomes or condominiums, senior care facilities, adult day care, nursing home, assisted living and memory care. Mr. Layton added Freehold Borough is very attractive to seniors based on the available mass transit, healthcare facility close by and a vibrant downtown which can be walked to.

Councilman Schnurr asked what if nothing is done, how many homes can be put there?

Mr. Layton responded approximately 50 homes can be built by a developer.

Mr. Bellina added this is all contingent on the Racetrack selling the property, which has not even been brought up.

Councilman Schnurr asked if a senior facility would be interested in the commercial use on the other side of the lot. He is unsure about that use and would like to hear from the residents.

Councilwoman Shutzer reported Mayor and Council are trying to be proactive. There is nothing being planned despite the rumors. She explained this is just an examination of possibilities to protect the residents.

Councilman DiBenedetto announced the commercial use would exclude all night diner or gas station. Commercial use would be more a light retail, mom and pop service.

Councilman Kane reported surrounding states that have old harness tracks have introduced gaming, such as slot machines, which has increased their profits. Those tracks are now doing better

than ever. Freehold Racetrack is owned by Penn Gaming, a Pennsylvania company, and has not been successful with Trenton. Council is being proactive and taking a look at what could be done if the racetrack decides to close. He reported everyone would like the racetrack to stay the way it is, but options need to be considered.

Mayor Higgins opened the floor to the public.

Ms. Angelia Scarnessi, 8 Phyllis Road asked why residents were not notified of this discussion so more people could attend. No one new this was going to be discussed and she is very upset.

Borough Administrator, Joseph Bellina clarified this is only a report review. No action is being taken. He assured Ms. Scarnessi that if any plan was to be put in place, residents would be notified when Council Meetings and Planning Board Meetings had it on their agendas, as is required. He explained Mayor and Council welcome comments and ideas from the neighbors prior to council and planning board meetings, which is not required.

Ms. Scarnessi does not understand why the two women she spoke to at Borough Hall did not know this subject would be on the agenda. She did not get information until Mr. Bellina called her back. She asked why everyone doesn't know about the agenda?

Mr. Bellina explained the clerk that answers the phone does not know every aspect of the business being done. Their job is to collect the taxes and water payments.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins reported this is very preliminary. Mr. Layton presents the Master Plan Review to Council for their consideration. The next stage would involve the public, but it is not at that point yet.

Councilman Schnurr reported the Land Use Committee recognized the potential problem and asked for the report. Ideas were exchanged and the report was completed. Residents will be notified prior to any ordinance.

Mr. Ford Smith, 4 Phyllis Road asked if a park was considered. He does not feel more stores are needed.

Councilman DiBenedetto reported there was talk about a retirement center with recreation facilities such as a walking trail. In the past there were talks with the racetrack about making that land a park. Racetrack management changed and they backed away from the plan.

Borough Attorney Kerry Higgins reported it is private property and zoned R10 which would allow 50 houses to be built there. If it were to be a park, the Borough or County would have to purchase the land.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 25 on the Agenda as follows:

“Public Comments.”

Mr. Reimer Leuth, 1 Ann Street asked Councilman Schnurr what was the purpose of the recent Downtown SID Ordinance.

Councilman Schnurr gave a detailed description on how the Freehold Center Partnership started and how the money is raised by tax revenue and donations. One of the jobs they were tasked with was to promote events and activities in Freehold Borough, including the fireworks on the July 4th. There were discussions regarding the Partnership moving the fireworks to Freehold Raceway Mall which is located in Freehold Township. The Land Use Committee felt they needed to look into Freehold Center Partnership and make them a better organization. This was done by reviewing the Borough Ordinance, State Statute and By-Laws. Inconsistencies were found. The new Ordinance addresses three issues; Mayor Higgins and Councilman DiBenedetto will have voting rights, the elections will be run through the Freehold Borough Clerk's Office and a Governmental Standard Audit will be required.

Councilwoman Shutzer added she is not on the Land Use Committee and not part of the "we". She stated she would have handled the fireworks differently and noted the Borough has been sued twice over voting procedures. She voted in favor of the ordinance for those reasons. She stated downtown is vibrant and thriving. She said it is time to put this to bed and move one.

Mr. Barry Fisher, South Street, commended Mayor, Council, Administrator Bellina and Attorney Higgins on finally doing something. Mr. Fisher said it is time to get this behind us. To do that, he is putting his OPRA requests on hold, knowing the audit is being done. He is meeting with the restaurants to try to come together.

Mr. Garry Jackson, 34 Lawrence Place, asked if the new tax bill reflects the recent reassessment. His land assessment went up \$20,000, with no improvements made.

Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina replied the new assessment will not take effect until next year and residents will be notified in November what their new assessments are. He was instructed to contact the Tax Assessor for clarification.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 26 on the Agenda as follows:

"Council Comments."

Councilman Schnurr thanked the Recreation Commission for the Fireworks display at the Racetrack. It was the most crowded he has ever seen. Recreation did a great job in organizing and

executing the event. After what happened in Nice, France, he suggested closing Park Avenue when the guests are exiting. There were thousands of people with cars driving through. Councilman Schnurr reported he was recently at the Habitat for Humanity Open House on Center Street. He commented how nice the houses are and it is great that Habitat has chosen Freehold Borough for their home.

Councilman Schnurr reported he is fed up with what is happening with police departments across America. He stressed the police are there to protect us and questions what we are doing to protect them. Councilman Schnurr stated more needs to be done to support our police officers. He suggested a Resolution be created to send to the Federal Government requesting Title 18, Code 249 the Hate Crimes Act, include offenses against police officers as hate crimes.

Councilman DiBenedetto agreed with Councilman Schnurr and asked that prayers be said for all law enforcement officers. They need all the help and support they can get. Councilman DiBenedetto reported the Recreation Commission takes great pride in providing the fireworks and they did a great job this year. Mr. Jeff Friedman is doing a great job with the events downtown and everyone is encouraged to come down and enjoy the music and events.

Councilwoman Shutzer asked Lt. Wodell to let the Police Department know they are appreciated and everyone is concerned for their safety. Councilwoman Shutzer commended the Recreation Commission on putting on a great display with the 4th of July fireworks. The next day the reading of the Declaration of Independence was a wonderful program as well. Mayor Higgins, Mr. Bellina and Kevin Coyne were thanked for putting that together.

Councilman Kane congratulated Recreation Committee on the fireworks and Mayor Higgins, Mr. Bellina and Mr. Coyne for the reading of the Declaration of Independence. It is a great way to celebrate. Councilman Kane thanked the Elks for their generous donations to Freehold Fire Department and Freehold First Aid Squad. Councilman Kane thanked Mr. Bellina, Mr. Gartz and Ms. Caruso for a great audit report. Councilman Kane reported the partnership between employees, residents and volunteers is what makes Freehold Borough work well, which was the thought behind the original Olde Freehold Day. He stated we need to partner with the Police and all the first responders and assist when we can. Councilman Kane announced the 40th Anniversary Olde Freehold Day is Saturday, July 23rd from 12 – 6 at Lake Topanemus. The committee has done a great job.

Councilman Griffiths reported the Human Relations Committee and Shade Tree Commission will have a table at Olde Freehold Day. Councilman Griffiths stated the State of New Jersey is denying Freehold Borough over \$1 Million per year in what used to be called the Energy Tax and \$2 Million per year from School Funding Reform Act. That is all money that could reduce taxes. Councilman Griffiths agrees that Council needs to do whatever they can for the Police Department and commended them on doing a wonderful job with community relations. Councilman Griffiths stated gun laws need to be looked at and there is a Bill being introduced to stop selling guns online. He stressed there needs to be sensible, reasonable gun laws.

Mayor Higgins expressed to Lt. Wodell that the thoughts of this community are with the Borough Police Department and law enforcement throughout the country. Mayor Higgins asked the residents to thank any officers you see on the street.

Mayor Higgins called for a motion to adjourn.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Griffiths.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc