

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, October 3, 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 DiBenedetto 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
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

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

“Approval of Minutes: Executive Sessions June 6, 2016, June 20, 2016 and August 1, 2016; Council Meeting September 19, 2016.”

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

On roll call, Council Members Griffiths, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain Kane June 6, Schnurr and DiBenedetto August 1; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

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

“YMCA Presentation.”

Borough Administrator, Joseph Bellina introduced Mr. Mel O’Neal from the Freehold Borough YMCA, who was asked to present all the things the YMCA does for the community.

Mr. O’Neal presented a video to the Mayor and Council, which showed highlights of the summer camp program. Mr. O’Neal stated the teen employees that work at summer camp, usually become involved in other capacities throughout the year. Mr. O’Neal invited Mayor and Council to visit summer camp at any time. He thanked Mayor Higgins, Council and Mr. Bellina for their support over the years.

Mr. O’Neal described the Youth Government Program. Approximately 40 high school

students prepare to attend a conference at the State House in Trenton. The program encourages youth to take an interest in their community and gives them an opportunity to learn how legislation works. They create a Bill and if written flawlessly, the Bill could become New Jersey State law. Two current laws were written through this program. Mr. O'Neal invited Mayor and Council to come to a meeting and see first hand what the kids are doing. Mr. O'Neal stated financial support is always welcomed.

Mr. O'Neal reported on The Model United Nations Program. He stated it is similar to the Youth and Government Program but focuses more on the global issues. The delegates think about other countries and their problems. They propose solutions, bring their resolutions to a summit in Pennsylvania and try to get them passed.

Mr. O'Neal reported the programs are similar, but differ in their focus. He stated Model United Nations is preparing for their January Conference. The Youth in Government Conference is in April. Both groups meet weekly.

Councilman DiBenedetto reported Mr. O'Neal is the branch Director of the YMCA and attends a lot of Freehold Borough Recreation Meetings. He organizes the summer programs for the Borough youth which is an inexpensive summer for families. There are day activities and trips.

Mr. O'Neal explained some of the trips and listed other programs. He explained the objective to get the kids exposed to as many positive experiences as possible. On November 5th a few children will be visiting the African American Museum in Washington, DC. The other programs provided are Colonial Basketball, Chance 2 Dance, Stock Market Club, Summer Camp, Homework Assistance, Chess Club, Bridge Club, D.A.M.P., Open Gym, Thanksgiving Dinner, First Tee Golf and Christmas Cheer. He reported programs in development are Microsoft Partnership, Colonial Summer Basketball Clinic, Summer Food Service Program and Achiever's Program.

Mr. O'Neal thanked Mayor and Council and Mr. Bellina for their support stating if it weren't for them, many of these programs would not be possible.

Councilwoman Shutzer added the YMCA hosts the Seniors Program in partnership with SCAN, which has been very successful for the seniors. Councilwoman Shutzer reported previous Councilman Marc Levine always credited Mr. O'Neal and the Western Monmouth YMCA on giving Freehold the best bang for the buck. She stated that is still the case and it is appreciated.

Mayor Higgins congratulated Mr. O'Neal on a great program and the wonderful group of kids and seniors participating in the many programs. It is a fantastic program for the community and the mayor praised Mr. O'Neal and his team.

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

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Recognizing the

Daughters of Elks of the Lee B. Gibson Temple No. 1014.”

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 RECOGNIZING THE DAUGHTERS OF ELKS OF THE LEE B. GIBSON TEMPLE NO. 1014.

Councilman DiBenedetto congratulated the Lee B. Gibson Temple for all of the work they do for the Elks and thanked the Elks for giving back to the community.

Mayor Higgins reported this resolution was presented at a Regional Meeting at the Conley Lodge and he congratulated the Gibson Temple for all of their work in the community.

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 of the Borough of Freehold Opposing the November 8, 2016 Ballot Initiative in Supporting Freehold Raceway as a Gambling Venue, and/or Revenue Sharing Between New Jersey Casinos, Freehold Raceway and the New Jersey Horseracing Industry.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD OPPOSING THE NOVEMBER 8, 2016 BALLOT INITIATIVE IN SUPPORTING FREEHOLD RACEWAY AS A GAMBLING VENUE, AND/OR REVENUE SHARING BETWEEN NEW JERSEY CASINOS, FREEHOLD RACEWAY AND THE NEW JERSEY HORSERACING INDUSTRY.

Councilman Schnurr explained the Finance Committee made the recommendation for this resolution based on the fact that any casino gambling outside of Atlantic City must be 72 miles from Atlantic City. This initiative would preclude Monmouth Park and Freehold Raceway from availing themselves of any potential gambling revenue. Councilman Schnurr reported Oceanport is doing a similar resolution.

Councilman Kane added this is opposed because it takes the two tracks in Central New Jersey out of the equation and puts opportunities only up north.

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 Establishing a Policy for Tax Appeal Notification.”

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

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR TAX APPEAL NOTIFICATION.

Councilman Griffiths reported this to fulfill a requirement of the State’s Best Practices Rules.

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

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

“Resolution Approving the Mayor’s Nomination to the Human Relations Committee.

- a. Shauntele Patterson, term expires December 31, 2016.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR’S RESOLUTION TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

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

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

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. Appointment of Doreen Santos as a Substitute School Crossing Guard, effective October 3, 2016, pending completion of pre-employment background check.**
- b. Appointment of Genevieve Goldstein as a Substitute School Crossing Guard, effective October 3, 2016, pending completion of pre-employment background check.**
- c. Resignation of Kerry E. Higgins, Esq. as Assistant Prosecutor, effective September 30, 2016.**
- d. Appointment of Dylan C. Frampton as a member of the Freehold Fire**

Department, Engine Co. No. 2, effective October 3, 2016.”

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS 10A-10D.

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 Approving the Following Applications:

- a. Vendor License, Daniel Pittman, Jr., Mr. Softee Ice Cream, Monday – Saturday, 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM.**
- b. Raffle License, 24-16, Columbian Club of Freehold, Fair Share Raffle, 8:00 PM, 3/17/2017, 70 East Main Street.**
- c. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Jose Zamorano, Freehold.**
- d. Canning License, Freehold Elks Lodge #1454, 10/15/16, rain date: 10/29/16, intersection of East Main St./Center St./Spring St. and Broadway, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS 11A – 11D.

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:

“Approval of Bills.”

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$1,924,748.27 be paid as presented.

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. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

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

“Items for Discussion:

a. Review of the Best Practices Check List”

Borough Administrator, Mr. Joseph Bellina stated there are 20 fewer questions on this year’s Best Practices Survey. Those omitted were repetitive in nature. There were only 3 NO’s this year so Freehold is not close to having any aid jeopardized. The areas which were listed as deficient were collective bargaining issues and cannot be unilaterally addressed until the collective bargaining agreement is renegotiated at the end of 2017. Mr. Bellina stated the Borough is mindful of these points and Best Practices is looked at throughout the year to ensure compliance.

Councilman Griffiths stated this year was more important than past years because the Governor’s budget remarks included allowing the DCA and DLGS to raise the amount they would deduct from any municipality that did not meet the standard. Councilman Griffiths looked into the deductions and has not been able to find any explanation of how much state aid could be taken.

Borough Administrator Bellina suggested municipalities share their results with each other. It would provide administrators the opportunity to seek guidance on how towns achieve efficiencies in areas that have been found deficient.

Councilman Kane reported this survey started with 88 questions and is now down to 30. He stated there is a high percentage of questions the state does not adhere to. Councilman Kane stated a Rutgers student completed a Cap Stone project on the New Jersey State Best Practices worksheet. She researched and was able to document that the completed worksheet goes to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), which has had a tremendous reduction in their staff; they do not review the Best Practices Survey unless there is glaring deficiency. He stated it is a way for the State to reduce the Municipal State Aid that comes back to the towns.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this was a waste of time, money and man power. She said it is nothing more than dangling a carrot on a string to reduce State Aid and the string is always moved. Councilwoman Shutzer stated she will petition the new Governor to get rid of this program.

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

“Public Comments.”

Mr. Reimer Leuth, 1 Ann Street, asked if a letter could be sent to the car dealers who utilize the racetrack parking lot. When the dealership cars are picked up there are no dealer tags on the cars and they are racing up and down the side streets. There are no sidewalks on Ann Street and a lot of kids

are present. Mr. Leuth is fearful someone will get hit. He stated he has called the police several times and no one is stopping them.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she has noticed this on the highway, but has not seen it on West George Street.

Borough Administrator Bellina reported he will send the police chief to talk to the dealerships in uniform.

Councilwoman Shutzer added that half of Ann Street has been repaved and the other half will be done as well.

Mr. Leuth asked about the curbing.

Borough Administrator Bellina stated there was no reconstruction done. It was milling and repaving of the road to preserve it. In a few years when the road is reconstructed, the curbing issue will be addressed.

Ms. Carol Lida, 40 Hudson Street, thanked Mayor and Council, especially Councilman Griffiths for all the support he has given to Freehold Borough Human Relations Committee. She is proud to be part of the committee and stated they love what they do.

Mr. Al Michenfelder, 30 Jackson Street, remarked on some of the YMCA programs that he participates in and encouraged council members to join him. He stated the arts and crafts class is great and a class participant won 2nd Place at the Monmouth County Fair with her piece.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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:

“Council Comments.”

Councilman Schnurr congratulated Councilman Sims on the successful fundraiser for Fireman Reggie Sims. He could not believe how many people were in attendance. On Saturday, October 15th the Central Jersey Blood Bank is having a blood drive outside the District 11 Assembly offices on Main Street. Councilman Schnurr reported the Library has activities for the kids every day except Friday. Councilman Schnurr reported a valet parking plan is being worked on with the Downtown Partnership. The Land Use Committee will be presented with their ideas and the two groups will be collaborating on a solution. Councilman Schnurr reported the Memorial Day Parade Committee will be having a fundraiser at Federici’s on October 18th.

Councilman DiBenedetto reported the Town Wide Yard Sale did have bad weather this weekend and those that participated were thanked. He stated Spooktacular cornstalks will be placed next weekend and all of their activities will be starting up. Councilman DiBenedetto stated the Wednesday Night concerts are still going on and everyone is encouraged to come downtown and enjoy the music. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she is the liaison for the Office of Emergency Management. She assured everyone that any time there is a storm forecast; the town is in good hands.

Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina stated the week has been spent preparing for the storm by collecting fuel, ensuring all equipment is operable and the trucks are working. He stated he received notification the storm is moving left and expected to bear down more on the United States.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated any updates will be put out in email blasts and the Mayor will use the reverse 911 calls. She reported we also have a direct line to Jerry Riccardi from JCP&L, so we are well prepared but hopes we don't have to use any of it.

Councilwoman Shutzer reported Tuesday and Wednesday is the Flavor of Freehold. Tickets are \$20.00 and proceeds benefit Alliance Against Substance Abuse. She reported the Senior Bus Schedule is available and will be posted in all of the buildings. Councilwoman Shutzer addressed the issue of the brush being left in the street on McLean Street and Kiawah Avenue, brought to Council's attention by Mr. Taylor. After spending the day observing the area, she determined the clippings that are left are not from the bank. Several eye witnesses stated the neighbors are leaving the brush there.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone for coming. He reported the Best Practices has never been an issue for Freehold Borough because of the way the town is run. He stated under the direction of Administrator Bellina and with Ricky Gartz as CFO, Kathy Caruso as Assistant Finance Office and Traci DiBenedetto as Municipal Clerk, it is a highly functioning municipality. He thanked everyone for efforts.

Councilman Griffiths thanked the Human Relations Committee for efforts on the Senior Appreciation Day and the 9/11 Memorial. Both events were a huge success. Councilman Griffiths reminded everyone Homestead Rebates must be filed by November 16th based on your 2014 income tax.

Councilman Sims thanked everyone for their support of his brother Reggie. Councilman Sims announced he is a member of Monmouth County Crime Stoppers Board of Directors. He reported the board is asking all the municipalities in Monmouth County to support the organization and encouraged the Council to pass that resolution when it comes before them. Councilman Sims encouraged people to get involved in all the October activities in town.

Mayor Higgins reported he, Borough Administrator and four other people representing Freehold Borough attended a session sponsored by the Urban Land Institute. He reported they had the opportunity to meet with elected officials, developers and state planning representatives. It was a good opportunity to promote the Borough and make developers aware that Freehold Borough is alive and well.

Bill Madden, Board of Health announced there will be a Flu Clinic at Borough Hall on October 4th from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM.

Mayor Higgins called for a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Sims offered the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Griffiths.

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc