

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 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 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:

“Approval of Minutes: Executive Sessions September 6, 2016 through December 19, 2016, January 7, 2017 and February 6, 2017; Council Meeting February 6, 2017.”

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

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Kane, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain Griffiths (12/19), absent Sims. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

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

“Participatory Budgeting Presentation (Councilman Ronald Griffiths).”

Councilman Griffiths presented information on the Participatory Budgeting Committee. He explained the idea is to engage the public in local government and democracy. The public will have the opportunity to tell the governing body how they should spend a portion of the budget. Councilman Griffiths thanked the Innovation Committee and introduced the members of the Participatory Budgeting Committee.

Members of the Committee gave a brief Power Point presentation on the history of Participatory Budgeting and how the committee will work in Freehold Borough. It was explained the projects will come out of the capital budget with a max of \$200,000 available and can not add any personnel or additional cost to the operating budget. The process will take place throughout 2017.

Councilman Griffiths thanked the committee members. He added any resident of Freehold Borough who is 14 years or older is able to submit ideas and are eligible to vote on the projects. This will engage the marginalized part of the community by bringing them together and allowing them to make decisions.

Councilman DiBenedetto asked when proposals will be submitted.

Councilman Griffiths stated the proposal deadline is April 15th. Acceptance of proposals will start very soon after hosting town hall meetings. High School students involved on the committee will have a chance to participate prior to summer break. Projects will be reviewed by the Innovation Committee to determine if it is indeed a capital project. It will then go to necessary Borough professionals.

Councilman DiBenedetto asked if proposals will be accepted from committees in town and property owners or only residents.

Councilman Griffiths stated a person can submit a proposal on behalf of a committee. He stated there was discussion on having businesses and/or landlords able to submit ideas. Councilman Griffiths stated that may be a problem reaching the landlords. He added the committee welcomes proposals from anyone, renters and undocumented residents as well.

Councilman Kane congratulated Councilman Griffiths and the committee. He stated Freehold Borough is the first municipality in New Jersey to start Participatory Budgeting. Councilman Kane stated a book entitled "Democracy Reinvented: Participatory Budgeting and Civic Innovation in America" is a great resource.

Councilman Griffiths added the process has been adopted by the country of Portugal and they are committing 1.3 Million Euros and the entire country can vote on how that money will be spent.

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

"Second Reading and Public Hearing: Revised Ordinance #2017/4 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey to Regulate and Enforce Towing, Road Service and Storage of Private Vehicles in 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 Griffiths:

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.

Councilman Schnurr 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 “REVISED ORDINANCE #2017/4 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO REGULATE AND ENFORCE TOWING, ROAD SERVICE AND STORAGE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES IN THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD” be, and same is hereby approved on second reading.

Councilman Schnurr reported this ordinance will update the towing rates so they are comparable to Freehold Township and makes the language less contradictory.

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:

“Resolution Extending a Contract for Refuse and Recycling Collection Services for a One (1) Year Period.”

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

RESOLUTION EXTENDING A CONTRACT FOR REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES FOR A ONE (1) YEAR PERIOD.

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 Authorizing the County of Monmouth Mosquito Control Division to Conduct Aerial Mosquito Control Operations Within the Borough of Freehold.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH MOSQUITO CONTROL DIVISION TO CONDUCT AERIAL MOSQUITO CONTROL OPERATIONS WITHIN THE

BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

Councilman Kane stated the aerial control is an effective process.

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:

“Revised Resolution Designating Official Holidays for the Employees of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth - 2017.”

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

REVISED RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR THE
EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH -
2017.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the change removes Friday, February 17th and replaces it with Monday, July 3rd.

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 Authorizing Settlement Agreement RE: Personnel.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT RE:
PERSONNEL.

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 the Following Applications:

- a. **Misc./Vendor License, Vita Group, LLC t/a Pizza Vita Food Truck, parking in Market Yard Lot (location designated by Freehold Borough Police Department), serving only guests who are exiting the**

- O'Rourke/Hoffman wedding reception at the American Hotel, 3/4/17, 10:30 PM to 12:30 AM. (All proper Board of Health and Fire Prevention Approvals/Licenses will be obtained). c/o Lindsey Hoffman**
- b. Unity Gathering and Walkathon for Solidarity, 3/5/17, 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM, starting at the First Baptist Church, 81 West Main Street to Broad St. to Court St. to Lafayette St. to Sheriff St. to the Market Yard Parking Lot (subject to hiring 2 to 3 police officers to escort the procession). c/o Matthew Mopsick**
 - c. Precious Metal License, Cash Exchange, 145 South Street.**
 - d. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Jahswill Obinna Okorom, Freehold.**
 - e. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Efren Morales, Freehold.**
 - f. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Mynor Rodriguez, Freehold.**
 - g. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Juan Gonzalez, Freehold."**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION NOS. 11A – 11G.

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:

"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 \$1,634,959.47 be paid as presented.

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:

"Clerk – Late Communications."

There were none.

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

"Items for Discussion:

a. Parade and Event Policies (Council President George Schnurr)."

Councilman Schnurr explained the desire to create a Parade and Events Policy to prohibit attendance and participation discrimination based on a number of different things. Councilman Schnurr provided the governing body and attorney with a handout and the attorney will draft a policy based on that.

Councilman Griffiths offered a motion to authorize the parade and events participation policy and was seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto.

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.

Kerry Higgins, Borough Attorney stated the policy will be memorialized at the next council meeting.

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

"Public Comments"

Mr. Sal Aversano, 24 Manchester Court Apt. 4, Freehold thanked Mayor and Council for approving his permits for playing music downtown.

Councilwoman Shutzer made a motion to close public portion, 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.

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

"Council Comments."

Councilman DiBenedetto thanked Councilman Griffiths and his Participatory Budget Committee for their work. Councilman DiBenedetto reviewed the March events going on Downtown and stated flyers were available.

Councilwoman Shutzer announced Meridian Health Group is offering free tax preparation for anyone within a designated income limit at the Meridian Health Resource Center in Freehold Raceway Mall. Councilwoman Shutzer stated on February 25th at the Reformed Church at 1:00 PM there will be a Black History Month program on black education. Councilwoman Shutzer reported she met with the seniors and reiterated First Responder Organizations do not solicit funds over the phone. She warned residents of a new phone scam where an innocent question is asked to record the resident's voice saying yes.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Councilman Kane thanked the Innovation Committee and is proud Freehold Borough is leading the way with the Participatory Budgets. He stated an open government and community engagement needs to be addressed.

Councilman Griffiths thanked the Innovation Committee members. Councilman Griffiths stated he has seen open government grow under Mayor Higgins with his weekly meetings. Councilman Griffiths reported Shade Tree Committee will be planting nearly 200 trees in the spring. He stated letters will be going out asking residents if they would like a tree and will agree to maintain it.

Councilman Schnurr reported according to studies people have the most faith and contact with their municipal government. He thanked the Innovation Committee and Councilman Griffiths for providing another example of why people will have more faith in local government than in any other level. Councilman Schnurr reported the Memorial Day Parade Committee will be holding a fundraiser at Perkins on March 21st. Councilman Schnurr announced he is speaking at the African American History Program on February 25th. Councilman Schnurr announced Foodstock is having a fundraising event at iPlay America on February 25th.

Mayor Higgins recognized the Innovation Committee and looks forward to see how this process will work. Mayor Higgins received a complementary email from someone who had dealings with Chief Roberts. Mayor Higgins thanked Chief Roberts for his work in the community and wanted to recognize his efforts. Mayor Higgins announced the upcoming St. Patrick's Day events and encouraged everyone to attend.

Mayor Higgins called for a motion to adjourn.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

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 7:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

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