

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, March 6, 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).

Councilwoman Shutzer 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
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JAYE SIMS

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

**“Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting February 21, 2017.”**

Councilman Griffiths 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 Sims; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

Mayor Higgins introduced former Mayor Michael Wilson, who was inducted as a gold member into the 2005 New Jersey State League of Municipalities Mayors Hall of Fame and Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer, a member of the 2013 New Jersey State League of Municipalities Elected Officials Hall of Fame. Mayor Higgins called on Councilman DiBenedetto and his wife Cindy to join them.

Former Mayor Michael Wilson stated it was an honor to recognize Councilman DiBenedetto on his 20 years of service to Freehold Borough Council and welcomed Councilman DiBenedetto to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Hall of Fame.

Councilwoman Shutzer explained what the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Hall of Fame is. She noted Councilman DiBenedetto started as an elected official in 1997 and has continued his service for 20 years. Councilwoman Shutzer noted this award is not automatic. Someone thought enough of Council DiBenedetto’s work to nominate him. Councilwoman Shutzer also recognized his wife Cindy and thanked her for her support. Councilwoman Shutzer presented Councilman DiBenedetto with an Elected Officials Hall of

Fame Certificate and thanked him on behalf of the citizens in Freehold Borough for his years of service.

Assemblywoman Joann Downey congratulated Councilman DiBenedetto and announced on behalf of the State of New Jersey they were proud to induct Councilman DiBenedetto into the Elected Officials Hall of Fame.

Mayor Higgins recognized Councilman Schnurr who nominated Councilman DiBenedetto for this honor. Mayor Higgins also recognized the family and friends who attended the meeting to support Councilman DiBenedetto.

Councilman DiBenedetto thanked everyone for attending. He stated it is honor and he is grateful for everyone's patience and understanding. Councilman DiBenedetto stated he tries to give back and thanked the firemen and police who continually give back to the community. He thanked those he has served with, past and present and the two mayors he has served under. Councilman DiBenedetto thanked the citizens who have elected him for the past 20 years and feels it is an honor and privilege to serve Freehold Borough.

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

**“Presentation by the Freehold Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse to Nancy Alas, Freehold Intermediate School Student – Design Winner of the Billboard Contest.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer asked Freehold Borough Mayor Nolan Higgins, Freehold Township Mayor Lester Preston, Alliance Co-Chair Jeff Friedman and Alliance Committeeman Billy Anderson to join her. Councilwoman Shutzer explained schools were encouraged to design a billboard with a warning about the use of marijuana. A winning billboard was chosen and has been installed on Route 537. Funding was provided by a grant from the State of New Jersey. The winner was from Freehold Intermediate School. Nancy Alas and her family were introduced.

Mr. Friedman explained the mission of The Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse is to help promote and educate on the ills of drug abuse. Mr. Friedman thanked Miss Alas and expressed his appreciation.

Councilwoman Shutzer presented Miss Alas with a certificate and a \$100 Visa Gift Card.

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

**“Resolution Supporting Assembly Bill A222, “New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act”, and Urging the Assembly Appropriations Committee to Approve Same for a Full Assembly Vote.”**

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

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ASSEMBLY BILL A222, “NEW JERSEY LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION BOND ACT”, AND URGING THE ASSEMBLY

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO APPROVE SAME FOR A FULL ASSEMBLY VOTE.

Councilman Schnurr reported Item 6, for the Assembly Bill and Item 7, for the Senate Bill are for the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act which would authorize the issuance of \$125 million in general obligation bonds to cover capital projects for libraries.

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 Supporting Senate Bill S2171, “New Jersey Construction Bond Act”, and Urging the Senate Committee(s) to Approve Same for a Full Senate Vote.”**

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

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SENATE BILL A2171, “NEW JERSEY LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION BOND ACT”, AND URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE(S) TO APPROVE SAME FOR A FULL SENATE VOTE.

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 Authorizing License Agreement with D & M Fireworks, LLC, RE: 2017 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: 2017 FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the fireworks will be July 2<sup>nd</sup> with a rain date of July 9<sup>th</sup> at Freehold Raceway.

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 Authorizing and Adopting the Parade and Events Policy.”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND ADOPTING THE PARADE AND EVENTS POLICY.**

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 the Following Personnel Appointments/Actions.”**

- a. Appointment of Steven Ambrosino as a Patrol Officer, Freehold Borough Police Department, effective March 6, 2017, pending successful completion of pre-employment testing and completion of the Police Academy.**
- b. Appointment of Christian Cabot as a member of the Freehold Fire Department’s Junior Firefighter Program, effective March 6, 2017.**

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

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS: 10A-10B.**

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. Raffle License #7-17, St. Rose of Lima Church, Off Premise 50/50, 7/1/2017, 10:00 PM, 16 McLean Street.**
- b. Raffle License #8-17, St. Rose of Lima Church, On Premise 50/50, 6/27/2017 – 7/1/2017, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, 16 McLean Street.**
- c. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Sergio Saavedra Torres, Freehold.**
- d. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Jose Ismael Dominguez Martinez, Freehold.**
- e. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Jose Caldera Acosta, Freehold.**
- f. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Frank Ciccone, Colts Neck.**

- g. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Maxima Phillips, Freehold.**
- h. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Bernabe Pantoja, Freehold.**
- i. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Bernabe Galvan, Freehold.**
- j. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Sergio Perez-Cuatelatl, Freehold.”**

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION NOS. 11A – 11J.**

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 \$2,209,514.07 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:

**“Public Comments”**

Mr. Bill Madden, Freehold First Aid Squad, thanked Councilwoman Shutzer for the donations she makes to the First Aid Squad via Valentines to her friends, family and volunteers. Mr. Madden reported the oxygen filling station at the squad needs to be replaced and will cost \$20,000 - \$25,000. He asked for help with grants or donations.

Mr. Billy Anderson, South Street, congratulated Councilman DiBenedetto for all of the work he has done over 20 years and hopes he will continue.

Councilman Sims made a motion to close public portion, 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.

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

**“Council Comments.”**

Councilman Sims congratulated Councilman DiBenedetto and his family and reported he is honored to be serving next him.

Councilman DiBenedetto thanked everyone for attending and thanked all of the Borough professionals and volunteers that make the Council look good. Councilman DiBenedetto thanked former Mayor Michael Wilson for all of his guidance through the years and thanked the current Mayor and governing body for their support.

Councilwoman Shutzer congratulated Councilman DiBenedetto and thanked him as a resident and colleague. Councilwoman Shutzer announced the governor’s budget includes flat funding for the schools. She explained that leaves Freehold Borough approximately \$41 Million underfunded while other school districts in New Jersey are overfunded. Councilwoman Shutzer reported the Board of Education is meeting about the already overburdened school district. She encouraged all citizens to pay attention to the news and be willing to plead the School Board’s case in Trenton. Councilwoman Shutzer reported the Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse will be meeting Wednesday at noon, all are welcome to attend, get involved and see the wonderful programs that are helping students and families.

Councilman Kane thanked Assemblywoman Downey for attending the meeting. He congratulated Councilman DiBenedetto and Cindy on his great honor. Councilman Kane reported Councilman DiBenedetto has been a fireman for 30 years and worked on nearly every committee in town. Councilman Kane thanked him for his work and the service he has provided to the community.

Councilman Griffiths stated it is a pleasure to serve with Councilman DiBenedetto. Councilman Griffiths reported for seven consecutive years the State’s Budget Aid for Education to Freehold Borough has been flat. He stated \$308,000 will have to be cut from the school board budget, they are short 50 teachers and residents are over taxed \$2.3 Million because of the Aid to Education short-funding by the State. Councilman Griffiths reported the Innovation Committee has been forming a Citizen Participatory Budgeting Committee. The first Town Hall meeting will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM to explain the program. A second meeting is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Councilman Griffiths explained the program and the benefits of transparency, democracy and shared ideas.

Councilman Schnurr congratulated Councilman DiBenedetto. Councilman Schnurr reported Little League opening day is April 8<sup>th</sup>. The Memorial Day Parade Committee is holding a

fund raiser at Perkins on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Councilman Schnurr reported the Library has an afterschool homework assistance program and students have access to computers and Chrome Books, which are the same ones used in the schools.

Mayor Higgins thanked Assemblywoman Downey for attending tonight to honor Councilman DiBenedetto. Mayor Higgins offered condolences to the Steinberg Family for the loss of Eleanor Steinberg. Mayor Higgins reported March 12<sup>th</sup> is the St. Patrick's Day Parade at noon, all are encouraged to participate and enjoy the start of St. Patrick's Day week. Mayor Higgins reported several town officials attended reading sessions at the schools in honor of Dr. Seuss Day. He stated the students and teachers in the Freehold School system are so dedicated. Mayor Higgins congratulated Councilman DiBenedetto on his well deserved honor. He stated he has much respect and admiration for Councilman DiBenedetto and all he has done as a councilman, businessman and resident.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC  
BOROUGH CLERK

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