

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Tuesday, September 5, 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).

Council President George Schnurr opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence for Fireman Michael Scanlon, Sally Dalik, Bud Bordon and Freeholder Ted Narozanick who have all passed away since the last meeting.

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: Supplemental Minutes June 5, 2017 and June 19, 2017; Council Meeting August 7, 2017.”

Councilman Kane offered a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Councilman Griffiths.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Griffiths, Schnurr, Shutzer and Sims voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain Kane June 5, 2017; absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

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

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2017/8 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: Robertsville Road and Oak Street.”

Mayor Higgins opened the meeting to the public.

There were no comments

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

Councilman Sims 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 an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2017/8 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: ROBERTSVILLE ROAD AND OAK STREET” be, and same is hereby approved on second reading.

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. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing Tax Appeal Settlement Re: Block 20 Lot 17; 21 Bowne Avenue.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT RE: BLOCK 20 LOT 17; 21 BOWNE AVENUE.

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 Waiving the Fee for the Borough Wide Yard Sale.”

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

RESOLUTION WAIVING THE FEE FOR THE BOROUGH WIDE YARD SALE.

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 the Purchase of a Code Enforcement Vehicle.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A CODE ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE.

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 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Revised Compensation Payment to Jaclyn Reiman Upon Her Separation From Employment.”

Councilwoman Shutzer 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 REVISED COMPENSATION PAYMENT TO JACLYN REIMAN UPON HER SEPARATION FROM EMPLOYMENT.

Councilwoman Shutzer explained the new payment is \$79 more than previously approved for additional Comp Time.

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 read Item No. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Actions:

- a. **Appointment of Kelly Ketcham as Municipal Court Clerk, effective September 18, 2017.**

- b. Military Service Leave of Absence for Maximillian VonSauers as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Engine Hose Company No. 1, from August 2, 2017 to June 1, 2018.**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTIONS: 10A-10B.

Councilwoman Shutzer welcomed Ms. Ketcham and thanked Mr. VonSauers for his military service and wished him well.

Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina commented on the exceptional recommendation received for Ms. Ketcham and added he believes she is a good fit.

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. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Elizabeth Cilia-Torres, Freehold.**
- b. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Cynthia Riker, Freehold.**
- c. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Jhonathan Quinto, Freehold.**
- d. Open Space Pace Parade, 9/16/17, beginning in front of the Hall of Records, down West Main Street to Freehold Raceway, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM.**
- e. Halloween Spooktacular Jack-O-Lantern Night, 10/28/17, Hall of Records and Court Street from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM.**
- f. Halloween Spooktacular Parade, 10/29/2017, starting on Manalapan Avenue and ending on Lafayette Place, 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM.**
- g. Raffle License #21-17, Freehold High School, Draw Raffle, 12/12/17, 7:30 PM, 2 Robertsville Road.**
- h. Raffle License, #22-17, BPOE #1454 Freehold Elks Lodge, Draw Raffle, 9-23-17, 6:00 PM, 73 East Main Street, Freehold.**
- i. Raffle License #23-17, BPOE #1454 Freehold Elks Lodge, Merchandise Raffle, 12/10/17, 6:00 PM, 73 East Main Street.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION NOS: 11A – 11I.

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 \$5,295,212.96 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”

Ms. Christine Gregory, West George Street expressed her dismay on property taxes and especially her recent water bill. She questioned why there is a minimum usage fee of 6,000 gallons, why it changed from units used and why it is so high. She stated she is a conservationist and would never be able to use 6,000 gallons per quarter. She suggested a penalty to residents that overuse water frivolously such as filling pools, power washing houses and watering lawns.

Mayor Higgins responded it is the policy of the governing body to enact a basic fee that covers the overhead of operating the water plant and to spread the overhead out to all customers.

Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina confirmed the policy. He explained the chemical prices consistently increase and capital improvements are planned to ensure the safety of the water supply. Mr. Bellina explained the new meters are sensitive enough to capture actual usage so residents using more will be paying more.

Councilman Schnurr added the price per gallon goes up based on usage. He explained Nestle pays more per gallon than a resident.

Ms. Gregory received an envelope from the Innovation Committee and thanked Councilman Griffiths for putting two letters in the same envelope to save paper and postage. She announced one of her ideas submitted to the committee will be considered for the Participatory Budget.

Ms. Elizabeth Santoro, 44 Broadway introduced herself as a new resident and stated she hopes to get more involved in the community. Ms. Santoro said she enjoys living in town and walking to the downtown district and hopes the town can provide more and improve downtown. Ms. Santoro detailed an issue she has had with neighbors playing loud music. She thanked Councilwoman Shutzer and Officer Ruegger for their assistance. Ms. Santoro stated she would like to start a petition to have landlords keep better care of their rental properties.

Councilman Griffiths explained the Quality of Life Hotline for residents. He explained complaints or concerns can be reported on this hotline and they will be addressed by Code Enforcement.

Councilman Griffiths made a motion to close public portion, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto.

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. 15 on the Agenda as follows:

“Council Comments.”

Councilman Sims had nothing to report.

Councilman DiBenedetto thanked Ms. Santoro for attending and wanting to make Freehold her home. Councilman DiBenedetto stated everyone mentioned in the moment of silence brought something to Freehold and made the world better. He hoped they rest in peace.

Councilwoman Shutzer praised the contributions and expressed sadness for the loss of four great people. Councilwoman Shutzer reported the senior meeting schedule is available and stated the Alliance Against Substance Abuse is sponsoring a Yard Sale at Freehold Township Municipal Building on September 30th from 8:00 AM – Noon. Tables are available. Councilwoman Shutzer announced the Borough will have a shredding day on September 30th 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Councilwoman Shutzer announced concerts are still going on and the schedules can be found in the lobby. Councilwoman Shutzer reported there are three bills for stray cats and residents should call animal control if they have stray cats in their area.

Councilman Kane welcomed Ms. Santoro and offered condolences to the families of those Freehold recently lost. Councilman Kane announced the Participatory Budget Meeting will be Monday, September 11th at 7:00 PM.

Councilman Griffiths offered condolences to those the community recently lost. He announced the upcoming events provided by the Human Relations Committee; 9/11 Ceremony on September 11th at 8:30 and Senior Appreciation Day on Sunday, September 17th which will include music, food and an antique appraiser. Councilman Griffiths announced voting for the Participatory Budget projects will start at a Town Hall Meeting on Monday, September 11th at 7:00 PM. Thirteen ideas will be presented. Councilman Griffiths thanked Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina and Mayor Higgins for their support of this program, which is the first in the state of New Jersey. Councilman Griffiths referenced a recent article in the News Transcript which listed only 4 of the 13 projects. There will be 13 suggested projects on the ballots which can be obtained at the Town Meeting, the Clerk's Office or on line. Voting will be open until September 17th.

Councilwoman Shutzer added the Latino Festival will be on Saturday, September 16th as well as the Open Space Pace activities. The Parade of Horses beings at the Hall of Records at 11:00 AM and ends at the Racetrack where additional activities and fun are planned.

Councilman Schnurr thanked Councilman Griffiths for his hard work on the Participatory Budgeting. He also thanked him for having the 9/11 Ceremony. Councilman Schnurr offered condolences to those who recently passed, especially Ted Narozanick who always had something thoughtful to say about public service. Councilman Schnurr announced the town wide Yard Sale is October 7th with a rain date of October 8th. Councilman Schnurr reminded everyone that school resumes this week and encouraged everyone to be careful while driving. He announced the Library's program schedule including homework help. Councilman Schnurr reported there will be an Open House on Saturday, September 9th of the Bennett Street School. He stated the building was almost demolished by a previous owner and he is so happy with the restoration and end product of this owner occupied building.

Mayor Higgins added the Open House of Tona Executive Suites is Saturday, September 9th at 1:00 PM and encouraged everyone to visit. He stated Tona Construction did an outstanding job renovating the building. Mayor Higgins stated he is very excited to welcome this family owned business to the Borough. Mayor Higgins asked for an update on Schiverea Avenue improvements.

Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina reported the repairs to the road started four weeks ago and are nearly complete. He added the milling and paving is done quickly.

Mayor Higgins asked for a report on the Veterans Park renovation, adding this is a project the Youth Government proposed five years ago.

Mr. Bellina stated the base-work for the trails is being completed and equipment has all been ordered. The bases for the playground equipment and exercise stations are being stalled.

Mayor Higgins stated the commencement of paving Hudson and Bennett Streets will begin in the fall if weather cooperates.

Mr. Bellina confirmed weather is a factor and reported a meeting is scheduled for September 14th with the contractor. He stated he will have a better idea of the work schedule after that meeting.

Mayor Higgins stated he has been monitoring weather conditions this past weekend and was in contact with Mr. Bellina, Councilwoman Shutzer, the OEM liaison and they are watching weather closely this time of year. Mayor Higgins stated thoughts are with fellow Americans in Texas and Louisiana and wishes them well during their struggle to recover.

Mayor Higgins called for a motion to adjourn.

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

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 7:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc