

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, February 5, 2018 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 Sims opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence for Mr. Jim Brown, a very active member of the Knights of Columbus and Boy Scouts of America, who recently passed away.

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: Reorganization Meeting January 7, 2018”

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

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. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Authorizing the Pavilion at Veterans Park be Named – The Lewis Brothers’ Pavilion.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AUTHORIZING THE PAVILION AT VETERANS PARK BE NAMED – THE LEWIS BROTHERS’ PAVILION.

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.

Councilwoman Shutzer announced various Veterans' groups were invited to help honor the Lewis Brothers at tonight's meeting and asked any veterans to stand and be recognized for their service. Councilwoman Shutzer explained how the dedication for Buddy Lewis and his brothers was decided with the assistance of Borough Historian Kevin Coyne. She asked Mr. Coyne and the children of the six Lewis Brothers to join her. Councilwoman Shutzer read the Resolution and gave a brief history of Veterans Park as well as the new renovations that were designed by the Freehold Borough Youth Government which are currently being completed. Councilwoman Shutzer explained a formal dedication will take place at the park once the renovations are completed. Council presented the family with the Resolution and gift for Buddy Lewis to let him know where he is loved and respected and an entire community is hugging him.

Mr. Steven Lewis thanked Mayor and Council on behalf of his family. He stated he is honored to accept the Resolution on behalf of his father, Bigerton Buddy Lewis, the only living Lewis brother. He stated his father is humbled to be sharing this honor with brothers; Augustus, Donald, Alexander and Payton. Mr. Lewis thanked the Lord for bringing them all back home. He thanked Mayor and Council for the honor and thanked his grandson Jesus for initiating the dedication. Mr. Lewis asked everyone to keep his father in their prayers.

Rev. Sparks of Bethel AME Church thanked Mayor and Council and Mr. Coyne for making this possible. He stated it is a blessing from God that Mr. Lewis is still here, surrounded by family that loves him. He stated these six brothers made a difference and God saw fit that all six brothers came back to their mother, when so many serving in WWII didn't return. Rev. Sparks thanked Freehold for sharing Veterans Park with this family.

Mr. Kevin Coyne remarked that Buddy Lewis is among the greatest men he has every met and expressed as a reporter and writer, it was wonderful to talk to him and get his thoughts. Mr. Coyne stated no one sent more to WWII from Freehold than the Lewis family.

Mayor Higgins recognized everyone that was present tonight and announced the dedication of the pavilion will be held in early April, when the park is completed. He stated he looks forward to seeing everyone there. Mayor Higgins recognized Mr. Coyne for his written work that brought to life the stories of the town's WWII Veterans and acknowledged all of the Freehold Veterans.

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2018/1 Amending and Supplementing Chapter 18 (Zoning) of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey.”

Councilman Schnurr 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 a Bond Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE #2018/1 AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 18 (ZONING) OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, 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 March 19, 2018 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.

Councilman Schnurr explained the Land Use Committee reviewed building and lot coverage regulations and decided to recommend the change after comparing the rules of other municipalities.

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 Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Austin M. Colbert, David P. Dong and Robert J. Schandall on the Occasion of Their Attainment of the Rank of Eagle Scout."

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING AUSTIN M. COLBERT, DAVID P. DONG AND ROBERT J. SCHANDALL ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR ATTAINMENT OF THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT.

Councilman Sims reported he attended the event and presented the Scouts with their Resolutions. He stated the event was very nice and congratulated the Eagle Scouts on their achievements.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated it is bittersweet that on the night we honor Eagle Scouts, we are also remembering the passing of Jim Brown who was very involved in the Boy Scouts of America.

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 Acknowledging Compliance with the Core Redevelopment Plan Re: Block 62; Lot 42: 23 South Street (11x17 Revised Plan Under Separate Cover).”

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

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING COMPLIANCE WITH THE CORE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN RE: BLOCK 62 LOT 42: 23 SOUTH STREET (11X17 REVISED PLAN UNDER SEPARATE COVER).

Councilman Schnurr reported this is in reference to the plan to convert 23 South Street to two one-bedroom apartments and one two-bedroom apartment. He added there is adequate parking.

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 recused himself from the next item due to a conflict. Council President Shutzer presided.

Councilman DiBenedetto also recused himself due to a conflict.

Council President Shutzer read Item No. 9 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing the Demolition of Building Within the Core Redevelopment Zone and Historic Preservation District Re: Block 41; Lot 18: 49 East Main Street.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDING WITHIN THE CORE REDEVELOPMENT ZONE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DISTRICT RE: BLOCK 41; LOT 18: 49 EAST MAIN STREET.

Councilman Schnurr read the entire Resolution; a copy of which is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Council President Shutzer stated she is conflicted. She stated she did her homework and can't drive by the building without feeling nauseous. Council President Shutzer stated again how conflicted she is.

Councilman Schnurr stated no one on Council wants to tear the house down. He explained the applicant presented evidence and testimony on their problem; and stated the decision is the lesser of two evils.

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

Mayor Higgins and Councilman DiBenedetto returned to the dais.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 10 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 and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Sims:

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, 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 Authorizing the Release of Performance Guarantees (South Freehold Realty, Block 71; Lots 21-25).”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES (SOUTH FREEHOLD REALTY, BLOCK 71; LOTS 21-25).

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:

“Resolution Approving Participation with the State of New Jersey Federal Grant Program Administered by the Division of Criminal Justice, Department of Law and Public Safety – Safe and Secure Communities Program.”

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY – SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.

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:

“Resolution Authorizing a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough of Freehold and the Police Benevolent Association, Local 159.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AND THE POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, LOCAL 159.

Councilman Schnurr thanked Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina and Borough Attorney Kerry Higgins for the involvement in the negotiations.

Councilman Kane agreed.

Councilwoman Shutzer thanked them for a very sound agreement.

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. 14 on the Agenda as follows:

Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. **Tyler Jordan as a member of the Freehold Borough Recreation Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2022, effective February 5, 2018.**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS NOS. 14A.

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:

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. **St. Patrick’s Day Parade, 3/11/18, Main Street from McLean Street to Bennett Street, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. c/o Downtown Freehold.**
- b. **Canning License, Freehold Fire Department, Good Will Hook and Ladder Company, 3/30/18, 3/31/18 & 11/23/18, 11/24/18, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, intersection of East Main St./Center St./Spring St. and Broadway.**
- c. **Freehold Borough Little League Opening Day Parade, 4/7/18, 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM, beginning on Main Street in front of the Fire House to Center Street to Third Street, ending at the little league fields.**
- d. **Misc. License, Sal Aversano, Musician, playing guitar in front of the Freehold Borough Library (28 ½ West Main Street), April – October, Saturday – Sunday, 10:00 AM to 7:30 PM & on the walkway in the Market Yard Parking Lot (between the Court Jester and American Hotel), April – October, Monday – Friday, 1:00 PM – 7:30 PM and Friday-Saturday, 9:30 AM – 11:00 PM.**
- e. **Raffle License #6-18, High Technology High School, Casino Night, 4/20/18, 6:30 PM – 10:30 PM at the American Hotel, 18-20 East Main Street.**
- f. **Raffle License #7-18, High Technology High School, Gift Basket Raffle, 4/20/18, 6:30 PM – 10:30 PM at the American Hotel, 18-20 East Main Street.**
- g. **Raffle License #8-18, High Technology High School, 50/50, 4/20/18, 6:30 PM – 10:30 PM at the American Hotel, 18-20 East Main Street.**
- h. **Raffle License #9-18, St. Rose of Lima Church, 50/50, 6/30/18, 10:00 PM, 16 McLean Street.**
- i. **Precious Metal License, Joyeria Latina, LLC, 19 South Street.**
- j. **Taxi Owner License, Keith Berman, KB Taxi Service.**
- k. **Taxi Owner Licenses (5), Bernabe Pantoja, Express Taxi.**
- l. **Temporary Taxi Driver License, Anthony Smith, Freehold.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATIONS NOS. 15A – 15L.

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

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

“Approval of Bills.”

Councilman Schnurr 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 \$3,221,322.95 be paid as presented.

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

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

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

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

“Public Comments”

Mr. Bill Madden, Freehold First Aid Squad reported the squad answered 4,215 calls in 2017 with responses in the Borough at 1,379 and responses in the Township at 2,836. He reported the total hours on call were 28,051. Mr. Madden detailed the decrease in donations over the past 5 years; funds in 2013 were \$115,000 compared to funds in 2017 were only \$106,000. Mr. Madden explained there are only 276 First Aid Squads left in the state and many squads are disbanding. He explained the state restrictions are challenging and the squad is trying to stay a volunteer operation. Mr. Madden reported the donations received from Freehold Township over the last few years including funds for an electronic stretcher. He stated the writing is on the wall and the future of the squad is questionable.

Mr. Bellina asked the price of an electronic stretcher.

Mr. Madden stated they are \$16,000 and the heart machine was \$14,000. He stated the cost of the required equipment is one of the problems.

Mr. Sal Alversano, Manchester Court thanked Mayor and Council for approving his license. He complimented the Police Department for the officer who patrols Main Street during the summer. He stated he did a great job.

Mr. Michael Nwachukwu, owner of Regional Taxi reported he is concerned with the taxi and limos that come into town that are not registered and have no permit. Mr. Nwachukwu stated no one is monitoring these vehicles and they are taking away business from the permitted taxis.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins reviewed the difference between a taxi and a limo. She stated there will be changes to the ordinance, but admitted enforcement is difficult.

Mr. Nwachukwu stated he raised these concerns in 2015 and nothing has been changed. He asked what is being done to address the people that are not permitted taxi operators.

Chief Roberts stated the police have issued tickets to Uber drivers. He encouraged any taxi owner to report the license plate and description to the Police Department so they can take the appropriate action.

Councilman Schnurr confirmed Uber and Lift are legal in the State of New Jersey, so they can operate in any municipality.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated he has seen cars and vans with taxi license plates, but no name or Borough seal. He stated he does not know where they came from.

Mr. Nwachukwu stated this has been going on for years. He stated it is not fair to the people that are paying for the permits. He thanked the Chief and Mayor and Council for listening.

Ms. Lillie Hendry, Court Street School announced the news from Court Street School in reference to Black History Month and highlighted three events.

Ms. Muriel Smith, 21 Monument Street stated she is very impressed how the meeting is run and likes the ability for everyone to speak. Ms. Smith reported she is a former member of the Historic Preservation Commission; she is disappointed in the fate of the Christopher House. She stated she was on the commission when the owners first filed for a demolition permit to build a parking lot. Ms. Smith stated it is ironic the building is now coming down due to an oil leak. She sympathized with Council but preferred a vote not take place until more thought was given, if there was conflict. Ms. Smith stated Councilman Sims was terrific at the Eagle Scout event and added Mr. Brown was recognized as an outstanding leader at the event. Ms. Smith stated Kevin Coyne is an outstanding Historian. She thanked everyone for the way the Borough is being run.

Mayor Higgins reported Ms. Smith is working on a project to bring a Medal of Honor back to Freehold where it belongs. He stated she has been working on this task for a year and he thanked her for her efforts.

Mr. Kevin Coyne, 54 Broadway stated the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to not demolish the Christopher House and questioned why the Historic Preservation was not notified or included in either the Land Use Meeting or Council Meeting where this property was discussed. He stated the Historic Preservation Commission did not hear any testimony that gave any sense of urgency and he asked why it was moved on so quickly and why HPC was not

asked for their opinion. Mr. Coyne stated there are three architects on the Historic Preservation Commission and asked if the Borough Engineer examined the structure.

Ms. Higgins stated the Engineer looked at the application but did not give an opinion on the environmental reports.

Mr. Coyne reported the Historic Preservation Committee, which has three architects on it, gave an unequivocal recommendation. He stated the commission is an advisory commission, but reasons for going against the recommendation need to be given. Mr. Coyne assumed that is why the Resolution was read, once it was passed and once there was no chance for the Commission to have any further input on the destruction of one of only a handful of Pre-Civil War buildings left in this community. He added it is one of only two Greek Revival Structures left in the County of Monmouth. Mr. Coyne again stated no one from governing body communicated any sense of urgency to the Historic Preservation Commission and he does not know why that was done.

Councilman Schnurr responded he was at the Historic Preservation Meeting and he thought the commission knew it was going to be referred to the governing body.

Mr. Coyne asked why the Commission was not notified when it would be on an agenda. Mr. Coyne asked if it was the Historical Preservations Commission job to find out.

Councilman Schnurr stated he found out on Thursday it was going to be on Monday's agenda. He stated he is not the Historic Preservation Commission Liaison and he is not the Mayor. Councilman Schnurr stated at the Land Use Committee meeting he voted in favor of the demolition, along with Councilman Kane, after seeing all the evidence. He reported it then went to Council.

Mr. Coyne again asked if there was a reason the Historic Preservation Commission was not informed of the Land Use Committee meeting so they could have had input.

Councilman Schnurr stated the Land Use Committee meeting is not usually open to the public in general.

Mr. Coyne stated the governing body made a rush to judgment and if the Historic Preservation Commission knew this was on a fast track, they would have come to the meeting to explain their objection. He understands it may have not changed the vote, but the governing body would have heard what they had to say.

Councilman Schnurr stated he was at the Historic Preservation Commission meeting and heard what was said.

Mr. Coyne stated the point is testimony was presented to the governing body that the Historic Preservation Commission never heard. He stated there are three professional architects on the board who have knowledge about moving buildings. Mr. Coyne stressed they were unaware the meetings were happening until he received a call from a reporter seeking a comment on the decision he knew nothing about, the day after it happened.

Councilwoman Shutzer agreed with Mr. Coyne that it was a rush to judgment. She did not know the Land Use Committee was discussing it. She stated it was gross oversight the Historic Preservation Commission was not informed.

Councilman Kane stated he was not at the Historic Preservation Commission meeting, but he saw the report and it was on the Land Use Committee meeting agenda to discuss it. He explained all of the evidence was presented and looked like an issue that needed to be addressed and the decision to go forward was made. Councilman Kane stated no one wants to see a building be torn down, but a public safety issue needed to be addressed.

Mr. Coyne questioned if there really was a public safety issue.

Councilman Kane stated based on the reports there is.

Mr. Coyne asked if this issue is done. He stated he is going on record that he does not believe the governing body followed the proper procedures and yet the Resolution was passed. If there is anything else that can be done, he would like to investigate any options.

Mr. Jeff Freidman, Downtown Freehold stated he is speaking on behalf of the Freehold Center Management Corporation in his role as Executive Director and Business Advocate. He stated the Partnership understands why Agenda Items #8 and #9 were approved, but the Partnership would like the governing body to recognize both applications are in the Redevelopment Zone and Section 3.01 of the Redevelopment Plan states, the governing body will act as the redevelopment entity for the FCC and will review the concept plans provided by the redeveloper and property owner, these plans will then be able to be adjusted before submission to the Borough Planning Board. Therefore, it is the Partnership's position that both of these applications have to go before the Planning Board before they are finalized.

Councilman Sims made a motion to close Public Comments, 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. 19 on the Agenda as follows:

“Council Comments.”

Councilman Sims congratulated the Lewis Family on their honor and thanked Councilwoman Shutzer and Mr. Coyne for the efforts. He expressed his sorrow on the passing of Jim Brown and relayed some of the comments made in his memory at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor as well as his time with Freehold Borough Little League. Councilman Sims mentioned he recently filled the position at Monmouth County that Mr. Brown held for so many years.

Councilman DiBenedetto offered his condolences to the Brown Family and stated Mr. Brown was a giver, to anyone. He congratulated the Lewis Family who are a great part of Freehold. Councilman DiBenedetto welcomed Tyler Jordan to the Recreation Commission and wished a belated Happy Birthday to William Madden.

Councilman Schnurr congratulated the Lewis Family and stated he is looking forward to the ceremony in the spring. He thanked Councilwoman Shutzer for helping to make this happen. Councilman Schnurr expressed his condolences to the Brown Family and relayed a story of his son's experience with Mr. Brown during his time with Troop #18. Councilman Schnurr announced the Memorial Day Parade Committee will have a fundraiser at The Cabin on 2/13. He reported the Library Newsletter is available. Councilman Schnurr highlighted the Black History Month program on 2/24 at the Reformed Church. Councilman Schnurr referenced an article in the NJ League of Municipalities Magazine on water supply infrastructure and stated the decisions recently made on the water plant puts Freehold Borough ahead of the curve on water safety. Councilman Schnurr announced the approval of the VNA Medical Center on Park Avenue in the old Foodtown location.

Councilman Kane stated the Lewis Brothers presentation was great and congratulated Mayor Higgins, Councilwoman Shutzer and Mr. Coyne for putting it together. He added it is a great honor to have the Pavilion in the new park dedicated to the Lewis Brothers. Councilman Kane offered condolences to the Brown Family. He thanked Mr. Madden for everything he does for the Freehold First Aid and wished him a Happy Birthday.

Councilman Griffiths stated Councilwoman Shutzer did a great job working with the Lewis Family and thanked Mr. Coyne for helping. He stated it is a great honor to a great family. Councilman Griffiths stated Mr. Brown is someone the Borough should be proud of and expressed his condolences. Councilman Griffiths stated he does not know the answer for the Freehold First Aid and expressed it is a shame the number of calls go up every year, while the amount of donations go down. He stated he is a great admirer of the work of the First Aid and a solution needs to be found. Councilman Griffiths invited everyone to visit the Freehold Borough Website and complete the short survey in the link regarding Participatory Budgeting. He explained they are looking forward to seeing the winning projects from last year soon. Councilman Griffiths addressed Mr. Coyne and stated maybe the process needs some changes so the Historic Preservation Commission is aware of what's going on at Land Use and Council Meetings if it is something pertaining to them. He stated the Commission is greatly respected and feels without their fight, the old Bennett Street School would not have been saved. Councilman Griffiths stated the urgency to act was the plume of oil that was spreading and expressed it is a battle when the Historic Preservation Commission recommends saving a building and the owner of the building will be forced to pay a high price to save the building. He stated it is not an easy decision for anyone on the governing body. Councilman Griffiths stated there could be better communication with the Historic Preservation Commission.

Councilwoman Shutzer wished a Happy Birthday to Mr. Madden. She stated it is mind-blowing that the Freehold First Aid Squad sends a letter to every household in both municipalities and only \$100,000 is collected. Councilwoman Shutzer agreed with Councilman Griffiths that the communication process with Historic Preservation Commission needs to be looked at. She thanked

Mr. Coyne for his research and the ceremony held for the Lewis Brothers. She added the Mayor was a driving force in that as well and thanked him.

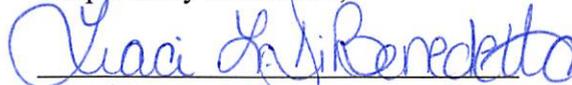
Mayor Higgins welcomed back Mrs. Barbara Oliver and recognized Mr. Andy Jacobson. Mayor Higgins stated our thoughts are with the Brown Family adding Jim and his wife Pat are very active members of the community.

Councilman Schnurr 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 8:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc