

The Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Sunday, January 7, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Higgins welcomed everyone to Scudder Hall and stated that 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).

Mayor Higgins asked Police Chief Glenn Roberts to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence. Mayor Higgins asked that we remember past Governor Brendan Byrne as well as those who served the community and have passed since the last reorganization.

Municipal Clerk Traci DiBenedetto administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Michael DiBenedetto. Councilman DiBenedetto was joined by his family while the oath was taken.

Mayor Higgins introduced New Jersey State Senator Elect Vin Gopal to administer the Oath of Office to Councilman George Schnurr. Senator Elect Gopal administered the Oath of Office to Councilman George Schnurr who was joined by his family. Mr. Gopal also recognized Assemblywoman Joann Downey and Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling.

Mayor Higgins thanked Mr. Marc Lamhut for providing photography services at the last minute.

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. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing 2018 Professional Services Contract with Kerry E. Higgins, Esq. for Borough Legal Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2018 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH KERRY E. HIGGINS, ESQ. FOR BOROUGH LEGAL SERVICES.

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 2018 Professional Services Contract with William T. Wentzien, PE, LS of Abbington Engineering, LLC for Borough Engineering Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2018 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH WILLIAM T. WENTZIEN, PE, LS OF ABBINGTON ENGINEERING, LLC FOR BOROUGH ENGINEERING SERVICES.

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 Authorizing 2018 Professional Services Contract with Mott McDonald for Borough Consulting Engineering Services - Utility.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2018 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH MOTT McDONALD FOR BOROUGH CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES - UTILITY.

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 2018 Professional Services Contract with Meghan Bennett Clark of Gluck Walrath, LLP for Borough Bond Counsel Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2018 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH MEGHAN BENNETT CLARK OF GLUCK WALRATH, LLP FOR BOROUGH BOND COUNSEL SERVICES.

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 2018 Professional Services Contract with Suplee, Clooney & Company for Borough Auditor Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2018 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY FOR BOROUGH AUDITOR SERVICES.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing 2018 Professional Services Contract with DMR Architects for Architectural Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2018 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DMR ARCHITECTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES.

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 2018 Professional Services Contract with NW Financial Group for Financial Advisor Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2018 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH NW FINANCIAL GROUP FOR FINANCIAL ADVISOR SERVICES.

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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Municipal Prosecutor for the Year 2018: Brian T. Wilton, Esq.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE YEAR 2018: BRIAN T. WILTON, ESQ.

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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Borough Substitute/Alternate Prosecutor for the Year 2018.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING BOROUGH SUBSTITUTE/ALTERNATE PROSECUTOR FOR THE YEAR 2018.

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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Public Defender for the Year 2018: Jonathan Lomurro.”

Councilman Sims offered the following Resolutions and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Schnurr:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE YEAR 2018: JONATHAN LOMURRO.

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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Municipal Judge for a Three Year Term: Scott J. Basen.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING MUNICIPAL JUDGE FOR A THREE YEAR TERM: SCOTT J. BASEN.

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:

2018: “Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nominations and Appointments for the Year

a.	Deputy Clerk	Joseph B. Bellina	1 year
b.	Treasurer and Collector Water & Sewer Rents	Richard J. Gartz	1 year
c.	Deputy Treasurer	Kathleen Caruso	1 year
d.	Tax Search Officer	Patricia Berg	1 year
e.	Borough Historian	Kevin Coyne	1 year
f.	Board of Health	Ellen Kane	4 years
		William Madden	4 years
		Vicki Warnock	4 years
g.	Emergency Management:		
	Chief Glenn Roberts	Public Safety	1 year
	Stephen Pullen	Fire and Rescue	1 year
	Joseph B. Bellina	Damage Assessment	1 year
	Traci L. DiBenedetto	Shelter and Welfare	1 year
	Matt Young	Fire Prevention Rep.	1 year
	J. Nolan Higgins	(Ex-Officio)	1 year
	Captain (FFAS) or		
	Duly Authorized	First Aid Squad	1 year
	Margaret Jahn	Health Department	1 year
	Sal DeJesus	Streets & Roads	1 year
	Joseph Floudas	Water Department	1 year
	Mike Baker	Water Plant	1 year
h.	Fire Prevention Bureau:	(State License Required)	1 year
	Mathew Young	Fire Official	
i.	Human Relations Committee	Annette Jordan, School Board Liaison	1 year
j.	Historic Preservation Committee	Nelson Kuperberg	3 years
		David Loring	3 years
k.	Housing Authority	Stella Mayes	5 years
		William Cannon	5 years
		Reginald Sims, Mayor’s Appt.	1 year
l.	Lake Topanemus Commission	Robert Higley	3 years
		Dr. C. Gregory Jewell	3 years
m.	Library Commission	Jane Kaye	5 years
		Branford Rogers	

	(Mayor's Appt)	1 year
	Margaret Rogers	1 year
	(Alt. Superintendent of Schools)	
n.	Memorial Day Parade Committee	
	Alice McCobb, Chairperson	1 year
	Amanda McCobb	1 year
	Bernard Weinstein	1 year
	John Mazekien	1 year
	Ken Pulchlopek	1 year
	Sidney Blacknall	1 year
	Walter Kowalski	1 year
	Nick Gardner	1 year
	Tim Rohan	1 year
	Ruth Wall	1 year
	Steven Gardner	1 year
	George Karatzia	1 year
o.	Municipal Alliance	
	Jeff Friedman	2 years
	Maureen MacCutcheon	2 years
	Police Dept. Designee	1 year
	Rocco G. Tomazic,	
	Superintendent	
	Freehold Borough Schools	1 year
	Eva Carella, FHS Counselor	1 year
p.	Recreation Commission	
	Pat Young	5 years
q.	Planning Board	
	Adam Reich	4 years
	William Barricelli	4 years
	Cornelius Begley	4 years
	Garry Jackson	1 year
r.	Shade Tree	
	John Meyers	5 years

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2018 ITEM NO. 16A THROUGH 16R.

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

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

"Resolution Accepting the Mayor's Nomination and Appointing the Affirmative Action Officer for the Year 2018: Joseph B. Bellina."

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 2018: JOSEPH B. BELLINA.

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. 18 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing the Community Development Representative and Alternates for the Year 2017: Joseph B. Bellina and Richard J. Gartz.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATES FOR THE YEAR 2018: JOSEPH B. BELLINA AND RICHARD J. GARTZ.

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:

“Resolution Appointing Freehold Borough Special Police Officers for the Year 2018.”

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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FREEHOLD BOROUGH SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2018.

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 read Item No. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

“Election by Council of President for Year 2018: Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer.”

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

ELECTION BY COUNCIL OF PRESIDENT FOR YEAR 2018: COUNCILWOMAN SHARON 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.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 21 on the Agenda as follows:

“Mayor’s Appointments of Council Committees for 2018:

COMMITTEE	CHAIR		
Finance	Kane	Griffiths	Schnurr
Personnel	Shutzer	Sims	Griffiths
Public Works	DiBenedetto		
Health and Welfare	Kane		
Recreation	DiBenedetto		
Code Enforcement	Kane		
Municipal Court	Sims		
Public Safety	Kane	Shutzer	Griffiths
Land Use	Schnurr	Kane	DiBenedetto”

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 22 on the Agenda as follows:

“Appointment of Council Representatives for Year 2018:

Committee	Representative
Advisory Council on Aging	Sharon Shutzer
Board of Education	Sharon Shutzer
Freehold Center Partnership	Michael DiBenedetto
Historic Preservation	Michael DiBenedetto
Human Relations	Ronald Griffiths
Lake Topanemus	Kevin Kane
Library	George Schnurr
Memorial Day Parade	George Schnurr
Planning Board	George Schnurr
Shade Tree Commission	Jaye Sims
Alliance Against Drugs	Sharon Shutzer
Emergency Management	Sharon Shutzer
Youth Government	Jaye Sims”

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 23 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Providing Notice of 2018 Meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold.”

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

RESOLUTION PROVIDING NOTICE OF 2018 MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

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. 24 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing the Renewal and Continuance of Bonds for Officials Required to Have Bonds for the Year 2018.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL AND CONTINUANCE OF BONDS FOR OFFICIALS REQUIRED TO HAVE BONDS FOR THE YEAR 2018:

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. 25 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Designating Official Newspapers for Year 2018: Asbury Park Press, News Transcript and Star Ledger.”

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

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR YEAR 2018:
ASBURY PARK PRESS, NEWS TRANSCRIPT AND STAR LEDGER.**

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. 26 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes, Assessments and Water/Sewer Accounts for 2018.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED ON DELINQUENT TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND WATER/SEWER ACCOUNTS FOR 2018.

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. 27 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Distribution of Meeting Agendas and Minutes.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DISTRIBUTION OF MEETING AGENDAS AND MINUTES.

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. 28 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Designating Official Holidays for the Employees of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, for the Year 2018.”

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

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, FOR THE YEAR 2018.

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. 29 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Freehold.”

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

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. 30 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Designating the Depositories Wherein All Public Monies and Other Funds of the Municipality Shall Be Kept.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD DESIGNATING THE DEPOSITORIES WHEREIN ALL PUBLIC MONIES AND OTHER FUNDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL BE KEPT.

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. 31 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Providing for 2018 Temporary Budget Appropriations.”

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

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR 2018 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS.

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. 32 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Actions:

- a. Appointment of Robbie G. Bailey, Jr. as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Richardson Engine Company #2, effective January 7, 2018.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTION: 32A.

Councilman Sims recognized Mr. Bailey on being a second generation firefighter.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated he is another generation of Bailey’s serving the community.

Councilman DiBenedetto reported his membership is a direct result of the fine Jr. Fireman program adopted five years ago.

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. 33 on the Agenda as follows:

“Public Acknowledgements”.

Mayor Higgins acknowledged audience guests: former Mayors Roger Kane and Michael Wilson, former Councilmembers Lynn Reich Kevin Coyne and Patrick McMorrow, State Senator Elect Vin Gopal, Assemblywoman Joann Downey, Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling. Mayor Higgins welcomed Police Chief Glenn Roberts, from the Fire Department Chief Robbie Bailey, Ex-Chief Bob Taylor and Larry Jackson was recognized for his help with the snow removal from the roof and from Freehold First Aid Squad Past President Bill Madden. Mayor Higgins added the First Aid Squad provides a tremendous amount of volunteer service to both the Borough and Township answering 4,500 calls last year. Mayor Higgins introduced Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina, Borough Attorney Kerry Higgins, Municipal Clerk Traci DiBenedetto and Assistant Lynn Cannon, Magistrate Scott Basen. Mayor Higgins recognized Auditor John Swisher, Engineering Team Bill Wentzien, Vince Creevy and Steve Kiselick, from Mott McDonald Brian Dougherty and representative from JCPL Gerry Ricciardi. Mayor Higgins recognized from Planning Board Adam Reich, from Memorial Day Parade Committee Alice and Amanda McCobb, from Human Relations Committee Jane Fields, from Historic Preservation Kevin Coyne who is also the Borough Historian, from Shade Tree Christine Gregory who is also on Human Relations, Superintendent Rocco Tomazic, Ed.D., from School Board former member Ron Reich, current members Margaret Rogers, Susan Greitz, Annette Jordan and Joe Santonacita, from Open Door Sandy Taylor and from Walter Conley Lodge Sidney Blacknall. Mayor Higgins recognized all of the current and former military and thanked them for their service to our nation.

Councilman Michael DiBenedetto stated the following:

“Thank you Mr. Mayor. Thank you all for coming out; distinguished guests, tax payers, community of Freehold, family and friends. Like many of you, I’m a little under the weather so I will keep it short. I will not be recreating the Declaration of Independence or saying the Gettysburg Address!

I won’t be embellishing on what we’ve done because frankly that is our job, to do what we’ve done that got us to this point. To take us to the future though, I really believe there is no growth for Freehold, but there is redevelopment. Investors and redevelopers are looking for towns like Freehold in the State of New Jersey. This is what we can better our town with; to choose the right developer to come in and have them come in and develop our town to bring it to a better place, than it already is, to live in. This is our future. I hope I can be a part of that in making the decisions with this Council. The Core Development Entity is the Borough Council. Hopefully through a vision and transparency we can do that and it will trickle down to the investors and make a better place for everyone to live.

I will welcome and thank some people tonight. I’d like to congratulate Councilman Schnurr, a great running-mate all these years. I remember when he first came on, I said how am I going to better Bobby Crawford. I think Bob Crawford went through two pair of shoes during campaign season; he knocked on every door three times. George, you serve your town well and it shows, congratulations. Also I’d like to welcome two people, Joann and Eric and I call them Joann and Eric, Assembly people. They have done a fine job. They walk the walk and talk the talk. They are proven winners and I am glad to see you two here tonight. Thank you for coming. Senator Elect Vin Gopal, a bright young future for the state. Energetic, already made multiple meetings to get ready for the job that entails him. I congratulate you and good luck on your term.

In closing, I will say thank you all for your support over the years. I look forward to serving the town of Freehold Borough. I would like to thank my family for coming out and for

the support. My wife, who not really has a vote or makes decisions but she solves a lot of my problems. Thank you all for coming out.”

Councilman Schnurr stated the following:

“Thank you Mayor Higgins. First of all I would like to congratulate Councilman Mike DiBenedetto and his family on his re-election to the Council. I’d also like to thank you for your counsel and friendship over the last ten years. Congratulations Mike and thank you.

Public service in Freehold is a great way to help others. It’s a privilege and honor for me to serve in this capacity for the next three years to keep Freehold a great place to live, work and visit. Public service is also a great way to carry out your vision. Part of that vision over the next few years and Councilman DiBenedetto touched on that a little bit; is to encourage economic development. I’d like to encourage economic development in areas in our town that have untapped potential. To that end, I would like to announce an initiative called 33 and You, that will foster economic development along the Route 33 corridor between South Street and the Freehold Township border by collaborating with members of the private and public sector who share this vision. I’d also like to announce a Planning Board application that we just recently received, that would turn the abandoned Foodtown grocery store into a large medical facility run by the Visiting Nurses Association. They have several locations in Eastern Monmouth County and wish to expand their presence here. When approved and completed, this medical center will employ 30-40 full and part time employees. This is the kind of thing Mike DiBenedetto was talking about before. Economic development brings jobs.

I’d like to take the time and thank the volunteers here who serve on the many boards and committees and other volunteer organizations within the Borough. I serve on the Planning Board, the Library Commission, a Trustee to the Education Foundation and afterschool program and I also work with our Veterans. I see first hand the effort that goes into the work that these committees and organizations do. Thank you for all that you do. I’d also like to thank our first responders; Police, Fire and First Aid Squad for their service to our community. Thank you Chief Roberts and thank you for the first responders that are here today. Freehold Borough is not only run by the Mayor and Council and the various committees; we have personnel and professionals that help us with our day to day tasks. I’d like to acknowledge our Administrator Joe Bellina and all the employees that work for him. Traci DiBenedetto our Borough Clerk as well as our CFO Ricky Gartz and our attorney Kerry Higgins.

Last but not least, I’d like to thank my family for their support, especially my wife Diane. I say this each and every year so she understands the power she yields in our household; she has unconditional veto power of my role as a member of the governing body. So it is not just yours truly that serves Freehold, but the rest of my family as well. Again I would like to thank the voters of Freehold Borough for this opportunity and I look forward to working with the governing body, the professionals and residents of Freehold Borough. Thank you all for coming out on this cold day to share this day with us. Thank you.

Councilman Sims stated the following:

“Thank you Mr. Mayor and Happy New Year to everybody. I will be real brief. Michael and George; congratulations to both you and your families in your successful re-election to Council and I look forward to working with both of you. Thank you.

Councilman Griffiths stated the following:

“Thank you Mr. Mayor. As you can hear I don’t have much of a voice so you are lucky I’m dropping the seven pages of notes I’ve got in favor of a brief remark. I congratulate also,

our two local candidates Mike and George. They have done a great job and obviously the public has faith in you and we look forward to working together. Also I want to congratulate Senator Elect Vin Gopal. I've known Vin a few years and I know he is going to do a great job, so we are looking forward to that. I want to just say we know we have the best professionals around and that includes all of them that George just listed and any he didn't list quite frankly. But with the weather being what it is, I want to say a special thank you to our Streets and Road Department, our Public Works people, our first responders; First Aid, Fire Department and Police Department. They have done a fantastic job under adverse conditions and I thank you all.

Councilman Kevin Kane stated the following:

"I also would like to thank everyone for coming out on this cold day. We really appreciate a packed room today and really, really appreciate you coming out. I too would like to thank all of our professionals, our employees. As Councilman Griffiths just stated, our DPW did a tremendous job. It was tough work the way the snow came down the other day. Our first responders between the Fire Department, First Aid and the Police – second to none. Thank you for everything you do and you heard the Mayor introduce a lot of people in attendance today, it's our volunteers that make this town so great. We say this every year, if it wasn't for you, volunteering and taking pride in your community we wouldn't be able to do most of the stuff that we do. Thank you to everybody who steps up and makes Freehold Borough the great community that we are.

Congratulations to Mike and George on your successful reelection, I know it was a tough campaign and election this year. Great work, glad to have you for another three years. Congratulations to my good friends Vin Gopal, Eric Houghtaling and Joann Downey on your election Vin and your reelection Eric and Joann. We have been good friends for the past couple of years and we look forward to doing some great things in LD 11. A lot of it will happen right here in Freehold Borough, so we are really looking forward to it.

As Councilman DiBenedetto stated we have some important decisions facing us in the very near future. As any older community is experiencing right now, there is a lot of infrastructure issues going on. We have Mott McDonald working on a program for our water infrastructure for both supply and water sewer lines. And we have a lot of decisions with our water plant and the things that people take for granted. We are really going to have to address some serious things going forward. So like we talked about redevelopment, public/private partnerships and we are going to be looking to explore and work with our legislatures in LD 11 to explore potential situations to help remedy these issues that we're facing. We are looking forward to that.

One of the things that Councilman Griffiths, who has no voice so he did not get a chance to talk, he introduced Participatory Budgeting to Freehold Borough. A lot of people had never heard of that. Fortunately Councilman Griffiths brought it to our attention and we implemented it. We are the first community in the State of New Jersey to do such a project. Just a couple of quick things on Participatory Budgeting; we are the first in the state, but right now there are 25-30 elected officials and administrators who are looking for information from us on how to implement it in their towns. This is going to really take off throughout New Jersey. In the first nine years in the United States, public officials have allocated over \$170 Million Dollars to fund over 500 citizen proposed projects and engaged over 200,000 people in the process in 17 cities throughout 10 states in the United States. It's been adopted in over 3,000 cities on five continents around the world, but in the first 9 years in the United States it has really taken off. New Jersey is the next state that is really going to explode with Participatory Budgeting and it's a grass roots movement that can strengthen democracy from the bottom up and actually transform the way American's see their government. What it does, it engages people into the process and teaches them how government works and makes them feel involved. It enhances

civic engagement, develops innovation, builds public trust in government and empowers visionary communities to shape their own destiny.

All that being said we did our first Participatory Budgeting process this past year. There were over 33 project proposals submitted, 13 of them made the ballot and three of them were the project winners. What we are doing, is we want feedback. We developed this survey questionnaire and we ask anyone that wants to fill it out and drop it in the box. We are going to be developing an online survey so you can go on line. We also ask if you want to get involved with the town and the committee, we could use a lot of help. We were probably the only town that implemented Participatory Budgeting on a 100% volunteer basis. So we could use some more help. It is a great civic engagement tool, that teaches people and makes them feel welcomed and involved the town. You can actually see how your government works. We ask if you can pick one up on your way out and fill it out and drop it in the box. If you want to get involved in one of the committees, just fill out a contact form and we will be in touch with you. There are numerous committees and we are always looking for new ideas and great help to make things even better than what it is now. Thanks again for coming out, I really appreciate it. Have a great New Year."

Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer stated the following:

"I found a quote by an unknown source which says "DECISIONS are easy when VALUES are clear." I did some thinking about this idea and realized that the very people and things that I value are what make this job rewarding for me.

I value our employees who, on a daily basis, are the faces of our government. Our buildings and grounds, streets and roads and water and sewer workers are invaluable as they try to deal with an outdated, antiquated infrastructure which we are desperately trying to update. Our employees in this building and in the library are those who are on the forefront of our operations. They deal with the public and maintain our records and payments. I value our police department who keep us safe and do so in an environment that is not safe for them. I value our professionals who guide us in our decision making and who keep us functioning within the law. A special word of thanks to Joe Bellina, who is at the helm and gives 1000% to Freehold.

I value our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Tomazic, the business administrator Joe Howe and the school board members whose leadership has brought us to a point where we can actually see light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. Thanks to these folks, our precious kids are closer to the goal of getting a thorough and efficient education.

I value our volunteers who keep the town running. Every committee and every commission is staffed by volunteers. The volunteers who make up the First Aid Squad and the Fire Department are a special group who leave meals, warm beds, families and the security of their own homes in order to make life better and safer for all of us.

I value our veterans and those currently serving our country for without their sacrifices, today would simply not be.

I value my fellow council members and the mayor. We may not always agree, but I know that we are all serving for the right reasons. I thank you for the confidence you showed in me today, and I thank you for serving. Congratulations to Mike and George and to your families. You have dedicated yourselves to three more years of service to our community and we are better because of it.

I value our Senator Elect Vin Gopal, our Assemblywoman Joann Downey and Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling for all that they have done to help our town. I want to personally thank them for knowing and understanding and helping Freehold Borough.

Last, but certainly no least, I value my family. I value the memory of my husband Richard who insisted that I get involved in my community. And I love and value my daughter

Carey and my grandsons Brian and Brady, without whose support and guidance I could not function. We look forward to a healthy and happy new year.

Because I know and understand my values and because I am willing to fight for those values, as the unknown author said, "...the decisions are easy."

I close as I always do with an Apache prayer for all of you.

May the sun bring you new energy by day, May the moon softly restore you by night

May the rain wash away your worries

May the breeze blow new strength into your being,

May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty

All the days of your life. Thank you. "

Mayor Nolan Higgins stated the following:

"Ladies and gentlemen, friends; Councilman DiBenedetto and Councilman Schnurr congratulations on your return to the governing body. We look forward to another term of service and your continued dedication to the residents of Freehold Borough.

The Borough's Redevelopment Vision Plan was developed to serve as a guide and provide direction for redevelopment plans which are presented to the Borough. We are very eager to have the North Jersey Transportation Planners continue their work and provide valuable technical assistance. Since last years meeting, the Bennett Street School property has been completely rehabilitated and occupied. I want to publicly thank the Tona Construction Company for their investment in the Borough and their confidence in the future of this community as they have made the Borough their new home.

Substantial investment and work will be needed for our Water Plant and infrastructure. With requirements mandated by new rules and policies, our investment in an aging system will be a priority this year. Our downtown business area is bustling, vibrant and busy. After another very successful year, we look forward to a year of business development, entertainment and improvements to our downtown area. As we move through this bitter cold period I extend our thanks to our Street Department, Water Department, our Police Department, Fire Department, First Aid Squad who respond in these elements to protect the lives and property of our residents, businesses and visitors. My many thanks and best wishes go out to all my colleagues, our professionals, staff and volunteers for a safe and healthy new year. I thank you for joining us this afternoon."

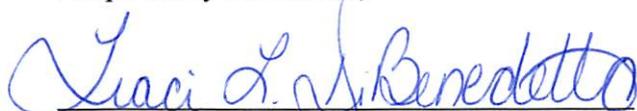
Mayor Higgins stated if there is no further business, he asked for a motion to adjourn

Councilwoman Shutzer made a 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 1:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK