

The Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Sunday, January 6, 2019, 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 introduced New Jersey State Senator Vin Gopal to administer the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer. Senator Gopal administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Shutzer who was joined by her family. Mr. Gopal also recognized Assemblywoman Joann Downey. Councilwoman Shutzer thanked them for coming.

Councilman Kane introduced New Jersey Congressman Frank Pallone to administer the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Annette Jordan. Congressman Pallone administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Jordan who was joined by her family.

Mayor Higgins introduced Assemblywoman Joann Downey. Assemblywoman Downey administer the Oath of office to Councilwoman Margaret Rogers, who was joined by her family.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT	MAYOR J. NOLAN HIGGINS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DI BENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN ANNETTE JORDAN
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN MARGARET ROGERS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER

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

“Resolution Authorizing 2019 Professional Services Contract with Kerry E. Higgins, Esq. for Borough Legal Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2019 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH KERRY E. HIGGINS, ESQ. FOR BOROUGH LEGAL SERVICES.

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

Mayor Higgins recognized Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling upon his arrival.

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

“Resolution Authorizing 2019 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 Councilman Schnurr:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2019 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH WILLIAM T. WENTZIEN, PE, LS OF ABBINGTON ENGINEERING, LLC FOR BOROUGH ENGINEERING SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 2019 Professional Services Contract with CME Associates for Borough Alternate Engineering Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2019 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CME ASSOCIATES FOR BOROUGH ALTERNATE ENGINEERING SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 2019 Professional Services Contract with Mott MacDonald for Borough Consulting Engineering Services – Utility.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2019 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT MOTT MACDONALD FOR BOROUGH CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES - UTILITY.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 2019 Professional Services Contract with Group Melvin Design for Planning Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2019 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH GROUP MELVIN DESIGN FOR PLANNING SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 Authorizing 2019 Professional Services Contract with Meghan Bennett Clark of GluckWalrath, LLP for Borough Bond Counsel Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2019 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH MEGHAN BENNETT CLARK OF GLUCKWALRATH, LLP FOR BOROUGH BOND COUNSEL SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 2019 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 2019 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY FOR BOROUGH AUDITOR SERVICES.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Authorizing 2019 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 2019 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DMR ARCHITECTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 2019 Professional Services Contract with NW Financial Group for Financial Advisor Services.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2019 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH NW FINANCIAL GROUP FOR FINANCIAL ADVISOR SERVICES.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 Municipal Prosecutor for the Year 2019: Robert S. Cosgrove, Esq.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR FOR THE YEAR 2019: ROBERT S. COSGROVE.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 Borough Substitute/Alternate Prosecutors for the Year 2019.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING SUBSTITUTE/ALTERNATE PROSECUTORS FOR THE YEAR 2019.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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:

“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing Public Defender for the Year 2019: Jonathan Lomurro.

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE YEAR 2019: JONATHAN LOMURRO.

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

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

“Resolution Accepting the Mayor’s Nominations and Appointments for the Year 2019:

- | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|---------------|
| 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	Dr. Edward Stoner	4 years
g.	Emergency Management:		
	Henry A. Stryker	Coordinator	3 years
	Joseph B. Bellina	Dep. Coordinator	1 year
	Chief Glenn Roberts	Public Safety	1 year
	Chief Robbie Bailey	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	Carol Lida	3 years
		Gianna Dell'Omo	3 years
		Christine Gregory	3 years
		Ronald Griffiths	3 years
j.	Historic Preservation Committee	Barbara Wagner	3 years
		Kevin Coyne	3 years
		Gregory Clark	3 years
k.	Housing Authority	Francis McDaniel	5 years
l.	Lake Topanemus Commission	Roger Kane	3 years
m.	Library Commission	Maureen MacCutcheon	5 years
		Branford Rogers	2 years
		(filling an unexpired term)	
		Elisha Carter	
		(Mayor's Appt)	1 year

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|---|
| n. | Memorial Day Parade Committee | Alice McCobb, Chairperson 1 year
Amanda McCobb 1 year
Bernard Weinstein 1 year
Ken Pulchlopek 1 year
Steven Gardner 1 year
Nick Gardner 1 year
Sidney Blacknall 1 year
Walter Kowalski 1 year
Tim Rohan 1 year
George Karatzia 1 year
Karen Ketcham 1 year |
| o. | Municipal Alliance | Sharon Shutzer 2 years
Annette Jordan 1 year
Police Dept. Designee 1 year
Annette Jordan 1 year
Bruce Patrick, School Board
Designee 1 year
Rocco G. Tomazic,
Superintendent
Freehold Borough Schools 1 year
Eva Carella, FHS Counselor 1 year |
| p. | Participatory Budget | Ronald Griffiths 1 year
Joanna Connelly 1 year
Scott Corbett 1 year
Ron DeMarco 1 year
Carey Freyre 1 year
Joan Leuth 1 year
Reimer Leuth 1 year
Don Schaffer 1 year
Kara Cannon 1 year
Carla Ramirez 1 year |
| q. | Planning Board | Garry Jackson 1 year
Paul Ceppi 2 years
(filling an unexpired term)
Jose Geronimo, Alt. 1 1 year |
| r. | Shade Tree | Christine Gregory 5 years” |

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2019 ITEM NO. 16A THROUGH 16R.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption, opposed none; abstain Rogers (M); 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 Affirmative Action Officer for the Year 2019: Joseph B. Bellina.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 2019: JOSEPH B. BELLINA.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 Accepting the Mayor’s Nomination and Appointing the Community Development Representative and Alternates for the Year 2019: Joseph B. Bellina, Richard J. Gartz and Michael Sweetman.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYOR'S NOMINATION AND APPOINTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATES FOR THE YEAR 2019: JOSEPH B. BELLINA, RICHARD J. GARTZ AND MICHAEL SWEETMAN.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Appointing Freehold Borough Special Police Officers for the Year 2019.”

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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FREEHOLD BOROUGH SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2019.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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:

“Election by Council of President for Year 2019: Councilman Kevin Kane.”

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

ELECTION BY COUNCIL OF PRESIDENT FOR YEAR 2019: COUNCILMAN KEVIN KANE.

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

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

“Mayor’s Appointments of Council Committees for 2019:

COMMITTEE	CHAIR		
Finance	Kane	Schnurr	Jordan
Personnel	Shutzer	Rogers	
Public Works	DiBenedetto		
Health and Welfare	Kane		
Recreation	DiBenedetto		
Code Enforcement	Rogers		
Municipal Court	Rogers		
Public Safety	Kane	Shutzer	Jordan”

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

“Appointment of Council Representatives for Year 2019:

Committee	Representative
Advisory Council on Aging	Sharon Shutzer
Board of Education	Sharon Shutzer
CSMC Legislative Committee	Sharon Shutzer

**Freehold Center Partnership
Historic Preservation
Human Relations
Lake Topanemus
Library
Memorial Day Parade
Planning Board
Shade Tree Commission
Alliance Against Drugs
Emergency Management**

**Michael DiBenedetto
Michael DiBenedetto
Annette Jordan
Kevin Kane
George Schnurr
George Schnurr
George Schnurr
Margaret Rogers
Sharon Shutzer
Sharon Shutzer”**

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 24 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Providing Notice of 2019 Meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold.”

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

RESOLUTION PROVIDING NOTICE OF 2019 MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 Authorizing the Renewal and Continuance of Bonds for Officials Required to Have Bonds for the Year 2019.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL AND CONTINUANCE OF BONDS FOR OFFICIALS REQUIRED TO HAVE BONDS FOR THE YEAR 2019:

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 Designating Official Newspapers for Year 2019: Asbury Park Press, News Transcript and Star Ledger.”

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

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR YEAR 2019:
ASBURY PARK PRESS, NEWS TRANSCRIPT AND STAR LEDGER.**

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 27 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 2019.”

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 FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED ON DELINQUENT TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND WATER/SEWER ACCOUNTS FOR 2019.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 Authorizing and Directing the Distribution of Meeting Agendas and Minutes.”

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

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

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 Designating Official Holidays for the Employees of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, for the Year 2019.”

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

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, FOR THE YEAR 2019.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 Adopting a Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Freehold.”

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

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

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 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.”

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

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, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 Providing for 2019 Temporary Budget Appropriations.”

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

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR 2019 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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:

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Actions:

- a. Appointment of Robert Taylor as Laborer, Freehold Fire Department, effective January 6, 2019, pending successful completion of pre-employment testing.**
- b. Appointment of Shawn Taylor as a member of the Freehold Borough Fire Department, Good Will Hook & Ladder Company, effective January 17, 2019.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTION: 33A-33B.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer 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 welcomed everyone and recognized all veterans and all current military personnel and asked them to stand to be acknowledged. Mayor Higgins acknowledged the audience guests: former Mayors Roger Kane and mentioned former Mayor Michael Wilson is under the weather and could not attend, former Councilmember and Recreation Commissioner Lynn Reich, former Councilwoman, former Freeholder and current Mayor of Freehold Township Barbara McMorrow, former Councilman Patrick McMorrow, former Councilman and Historian Kevin Coyne, former Councilman Jaye Sims, former Councilman Ron Griffiths. He thanked Congressman Pallone for coming. Mayor Higgins recognized Senator Vin Gopal, Assemblywoman Joann Downey and Assemblyman Eric Houghtaling, Freehold Township Deputy Mayor Lester Preston, Jr., Committeemen Anthony Amiano, and Thomas Cook, Chief of

Police Glenn Roberts, Captain Craig Dispenza, Fire Department Chief Robbie Bailey, 1st Asst. Chief Steve Sheehan and 2nd Asst. Chief Jaye Sims, Previous Chief Bob Taylor, First Aid Squad President Jim McAllister, First Aid Squad Board Member William Madden. The Mayor recognized everything the First Aid Squad does for the community. Mayor Higgins acknowledged Pastor Jonathan from the First Baptist Church, Freehold Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina, Borough Attorney Kerry Higgins, Borough Clerk Traci DiBenedetto and Lynn Cannon from the Clerk's Office.

Councilwoman Shutzer introduced Rabi Ellie Shemtov from Congregation Kol Am who also serves on the Municipal Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse.

Mayor Higgins acknowledged from Abbington Associates Bill Wentzien, Vince Creevy and Steve Kiselick, from Mott MacDonald Brian Dougherty, from Suplee Clooney John Swisher, Downtown Business Advocate Jeff Friedman also a member of the Alliance, Planning Board members Adam Reich and William Barricelli, Memorial Day Parade Committee Chairperson Alice McCobb and Amanda McCobb, Board of Health Ellen Kane and Dr. Ed Stoner, Shade Tree Commission Christine Gregory, Participatory Budget Committee Ron Griffiths and Scott Corbett, Recreation, Olde Freehold Day and Spooktacular Judi Guy, Sue Grietz, Sue McAllister and Barbara Kane, Downtown Freehold Board and Freehold Education Foundation Jean Holtz, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rocco Tomazic and Administrator Joe Howe, School Board Members Tyler Jordan, Ron Reich and Jamie Corbett, Library Commission Jane Kaye, Branford Rogers, Maureen MacCutcheon, Kathy Mulholland and Elisha Carter, Official Photographer Alan Goldberg. Open Door Sandy Taylor, Walter J. Conley Lodge Exalted Ruler Charlie Jones and Sidney Blacknall, Court Street School Foundation, Former Planning Board and McGackin Award Recipient Lillie Hendry, American Legion Post for Veterans Services.

Mayor Higgins stated the following:

“Members of the Governing Body, Freehold Borough residents, Congressman Pallone, Senator Gopal, Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblyman Houghtaling, our professionals and friends: We thank you for joining us today for the annual Reorganization Meeting of the Freehold Borough Governing Body. It's a pleasure to welcome back to this body Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer. Councilwoman Shutzer is now serving in her 28th year of service to this community. Sharon has been a tireless member of this body and always an advocate for our residents. It's my honor to welcome Councilwoman Annette Jordan and Councilwoman Margaret Rogers. Both come to council after distinguished service on the Borough's Board of Education and an impressive record of community service. Welcome, we are so happy to have you both join us. Along with Councilwomen Jordan, Rogers and Shutzer, I look forward to another year of service with my colleagues Councilmen DiBenedetto, Kane and Schnurr. I congratulate Councilman Kane on his selection as Council President and I thank Councilwoman Shutzer for her service during the past year as Council President.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Borough. On April 15, 1919, the business area, county buildings and the surrounding residential area was incorporated as a new municipality. Since then the Borough has grown, experienced difficulties like many small communities and rebounded to be a well-established residential community and a vibrant

social, business and professional center. In recognition of this milestone in our community's history, our Borough's activities this year will include recognition of this special anniversary. We are moving ahead with the new water plant to serve the needs of our water customers. The design and plans are moving through the approval process. While our current plant is operating safely, it is an aging plant and we are taking this proactive step to ensure a safe and reliable water source. Also, our water infrastructure; water pipes, valves, shut offs and hydrants, are being digitally mapped to create a historical record of repairs and service changes which will be a valuable tool to our public works team. We've retained a planning firm, Group Melvin Design, to guide and facilitate a new planning initiative for our downtown area. This has been a long, deliberative process which began with discussions in meetings with the Urban Land Institute, the development of our own Freehold Borough Vision Report by a dedicated group of local stakeholders and work with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Visits to other municipalities, discussions with planning professionals and these collaborative efforts have brought us to this important juncture. Our downtown is alive and well thanks to the many dedicated people including Downtown Freehold, our downtown management group. The Borough school construction projects are nearly complete. This work was accomplished by our school board, Superintendent Tomazic, Administrator Joe Howe and all of the children's advocates including members of this body. All of whom are to be congratulated for the success of these projects.

None of our Borough projects would be possible without the commitment and dedication to the needs of our community by our professionals, the efforts and works of council and a dedicated group of volunteers. Our Borough Administrator, Joe Bellina, has just completed 20 years of service to the municipality. Our town is a better place because of Joe's 20 years of service. Joe, our thanks for all your work and guidance over that period. My thanks, on behalf of all of us, go out to all of our Borough family, from our Clerk Traci DiBenedetto to our Attorney Kerry Higgins, our Borough Hall Staff, our Public Works Team who are out in storms, snow, bitter cold and extreme heat keeping our facilities, streets and parks open and our water system flowing and our Police, Fire and EMS Services that protect lives and property, to our Library staff and our Municipal Court staff, thank you. Friends, this year our Police Chief, Glenn Roberts, has announced his retirement effective March 1st. Chief Roberts has served this Department as a patrol officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain before serving as Chief. Chief Roberts has always put the safety and welfare of our officers, residents and visitors above all else. Although there are still two months left until retirement, Chief, I want to take this opportunity at this annual meeting to publicly thank you and acknowledge your years of service with the department. You'll have my best wishes in retirement. Thank you Chief."

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 35 on the Agenda as follows:

"Council Comments"

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the following:

"I have told this story before, but it is significant to me. In 1966 when I had just moved to New Jersey from West Virginia and was a young teacher in Toms River, I came to Freehold with a group of friends. We had dinner at the American Hotel. I vividly remember sitting in the small room at the Hotel and thinking, "Where am I"? Little did I know that my life would take

me to marrying a Freehold man and that in 1971, I would move to Freehold. Even more unbelievable to me is that after serving for 6 years as a BOE member, I would be asked to run for a council seat. My answer was "no" because my daughter was starting her freshman year at FHS, as by the way her son is this year, and I wanted to be an active parent at the school. I told them to give me those four years and sure enough, in January 1991, the year of my daughter's graduation from high school, Mayor Mike Wilson called me and said, "Your four years are up." I was then interviewed by the Democratic Party and the rest is history. Fifty-three years after sitting forlornly in the American Hotel and wondering where on earth I was, I sit before you today so full of love for this town and for you that I find it difficult to invoke the appropriate words. I know where I am now, I am home and I am profoundly proud of and humbled by all that has transpired through these many years. Albert Einstein eloquently said, "It is every man's obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it." My mother put it a little less eloquently when she would shake that arthritic finger in my face and say, "Young lady, you do not ever take more than you give!" From day one that has been my motivation, to give back to this community of wonderful people who have become my family.

As I look back at this past year, I realize anew and appreciate the fact that it really does take a village. Our professionals, our employees, our volunteers, our downtown, and our residents have all made it possible for us to do everything that we do. They are what keeps us going in the right direction and I sincerely thank all of them. We are surrounded by a support system that is second to none. Whether it be Joe Bellina, Kerry Higgins, Traci DiBenedetto, Ricky Gartz, Kathy Caruso, Lynn Cannon, Pat Berg or someone in an office, a firefighter, a member of a committee, a police officer, a public works employee or any other worker in this town, they and their work are invaluable and I treasure every single one of them. Right up there among the most memorable things that happened this year is the fact that, under the capable leadership of Superintendent Dr. Rocco Tomazic, Business Administrator Joe Howe and the Board of Education members, we broke ground and cut ribbons for our much needed and long overdue additions to our schools and we took a bold, giant step towards full and fair funding for our schools. After years of trips to Trenton and fighting for our kids, the Borough's kids, our kids now have room to breathe. On an emotional and ethical level, one of the best things we did this year was to honor Buddy Lewis and his five brothers for their World War II service to our country by dedicating to their memory, the pavilion in our newly dedicated, newly designed, Veterans' Park. We faced some challenges head on in 2018 and we made some very important decisions as well. Additionally, we suffered some losses, among whom was Reggie Sims, a life-long resident, a dedicated firefighter and employee and a treasured friend. As I look forward, I think of what someone by the name of Michael Josephson said, "Whether we want them or not, The New Year will bring challenges. Whether we seize them or not, the New Year will bring new opportunities." I am excited to face the challenges and to seize the opportunities. 2019 is the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Freehold Borough. One hundred years of building and defending and becoming who we are. There is a committee, chaired by former Mayor Roger Kane, which has been working for months to plan the activities that will celebrate Freehold Borough's identity, an identity of which we are all very, very proud. 2019 will bring the long-overdue new water plant, metered parking and further development of our beloved Freehold in our quest to become a Transit Village, just to name a few. I am ready, I am willing and I am able.

You have already met my family. I would be remiss if I did not say a special thank you to them for putting up with me and supporting me. Carey, Brian and Brady, I love you and I am very proud of all of you. A huge thank you to my colleagues. It is my hope that we will work

together to solve problems and do what is good and right and fair for Freehold. I include in my thanks Jaye Sims and Ronald Griffiths, both of whom served with dignity for many years. We miss you. My sincerest congratulations and best wishes to Councilwomen Annette Jordan and Margaret Rogers as you use your voices to advocate for our town. And I thank our residents for continuing to have faith in my ability and desire to represent you.

I will end with the aforementioned, Apache prayer:
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.”

Councilwoman Annette Jordan stated the following:

“I want to start today with my remarks by thanking Congressman Pallone for taking the time out and coming out and administering my Oath. It was greatly appreciated. Good afternoon everyone and a Happy New Year. Today when I was thinking about what I wanted to say I asked my husband Bob if I should start with something funny and amusing and he said to me, don’t try to be witty and charming, just be yourself. I would be remiss if I did not start by recognizing Councilman Griffiths. I am a bit of a history buff so I started to think about Ron, I thought about when Thomas Jefferson was taking over to replace Benjamin Franklin as Ambassador to France. Someone asked Jefferson, “Will you be replacing Dr. Franklin”? and Jefferson simply said about Franklin, “No one can replace Franklin, I am merely his successor.” And that is how I feel about Ron. Ron, I am just merely your successor, no one can replace you. You are irreplaceable and I just want to make you the promise that I will try to live up to the expectations and standards that you have set for this position. Thank you for all of your hard work and your dedication.

As I thought about my other remarks this afternoon, I thought about what brings me here and what moved me to seek this position. I grew up in a small town much like Freehold Borough and my parents instilled family values and the importance of giving back and volunteering and just be able to serve our little community. It was all about public service. That’s in my DNA; family, community, public service. These are things that I care about. My mom and dad believe strong ties to our community strengthened our family and they set the examples for myself and my siblings. My mother served on the local school board for over 26 years, she was a Girl Scout Leader, parent, band parent, Historical Society, everything you could imagine. If someone said we need a hand, she was there to help. My dad coached Little League, was a Cub Scout Leader, Knights of Columbus, a life-long member of Atlantic Highlands Fire Department serving as Chief, Deputy Chief, President and Captain. Dad also served on the local school board for 12 years, taking over my mother’s seat on her passing. My siblings and I, all five of us, have made volunteering and giving back a priority. Marty, Sarah, Regina who are all here with their families, thanks for coming out, and my late brother Joseph and along with all of their prospective families have served on fire departments, first aid squads, planning and zoning boards, PTOs, youth sports organizations, fire police and together with their siblings and my

siblings we served a collective 109 years on local school boards in Monmouth County. That includes my son, who is now in his second year of the Freehold Borough Board of Education.

Looking around the room, I see so many of this town's volunteers. All of you give back to our community, working together as a family to enhance the quality of our little town, Freehold. Thank you. You guys are the backbone of our community and we really, greatly appreciate your service. On a personal note, I'd like to thank my immediate family; my daughter Cassie and her fiancé Dan, Tyler and his girlfriend Kathy and to my husband Bob, who have always given me the support and encouragement to follow my passion. I consider my new role as council member a privilege. A privilege afforded to me by the residents of Freehold Borough and I am looking forward to working with Mayor Higgins and my fellow council members on moving the Borough forward and serving the community. We've got a lot of challenges ahead I am anxious to take them all on. So thank you. Thank you for the privilege to serve and I am looking forward to it. So I am all ready to work, so let's move on."

Councilwoman Margaret Rogers stated the following:

"I guess I am what you'd consider a newbie for Freehold, I have only been here 26 years and during that time I have made it a priority to get involved in the community and to give back where I can and however I can. So today, is a new journey for me and as I begin this journey with my fellow Councilmen and Councilwomen, I first have to thank my family because they have supported me in all of the different activities that I've participated; on school board, in Girl Scouts, in Strategic Planning, all of the different activities. Without them, I could not and would not be sitting where I am today, so I thank you, my family for that. I have a lot here so I am not going to list names because I will forget someone.

To the Council and Mayor, once again I thank you for your confidence in selecting me to fill this seat. To Jaye, there's no way that I can live up to what you have put forth before me but my promise is that I will do my best to honor the position and to honor the residents of this town. To the Freehold Borough community, I am honored to serve as your representative for the next year. To those I've worked with in the past on school boards or the other committees that I've belonged to, let's continue to move forward and work together and do what's best for this community. For those I'll work with in the future, it's nice to meet you – let's get to work. I have a lot to learn these next few months, but I am ready. It's an exciting time for me and an exciting time for Freehold. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "We may have all come on different ships, but we are in the same boat now." Freehold Borough is a diverse community filled with richness of many different cultures. Our diversity is an advantage that we can use to build an even better community. It's time for a change that will be built on the strong foundation that already exists and as I contribute to the decisions that this council and this mayor will make, I know it's not going to make everyone happy. That's impossible. However, if we continue to communicate as members of this wonderful town, we can strive towards solutions that work for our community. That's my commitment to you. Thank you again for this opportunity."

Councilman Michael DiBenedetto stated the following:

"Thank you Mr. Mayor. At this time, I would like to thank all the dignitaries that spent their time with us today. I would like to congratulate Sharon on her re-election, welcome Annette and Margaret. I look forward to working with all three of you this year as well as the

entire governing body. To our professionals, our employees and all those that punch the Borough clock; thank you for not only making us up here look good, but thank you for making our town look good. To our Police Department under the leadership of Chief Roberts, I'd like to thank you personally for your service to our town over these many years and a happy and healthy retirement to you. To our volunteers, our First Aid, our Fire Department and to the citizens who are on our numerous boards, thank you for coming out and serving our town. A special thanks to Ron and Jaye, will you stand up please. I would personally like to thank you two for your time, your dedication, your involvement in this town. Thank you. For those of you going to the after reception, I will not be there, so I'd like to apologize to you and especially apologize to the three people that were sworn in today. There is a special little 3 year-old that is expecting my presence, so I will be at my granddaughters birthday party and I apologize for not showing up. In closing, I would like to thank all of you for coming out and spending your day with ours. Happy and Healthy New Year to all."

Councilman Schnurr stated the following:

"Thank you Mayor Higgins. I'd like to thank all of you for coming out today to help us start Freehold Borough's legislative new year and our Reorganization Meeting. The swearing in of Councilwoman Sharon Shutzer as well as your new members of the governing body, Councilwomen Annette Jordan and Margaret Rogers. As I was reflecting on their comments today, I gotta tell ya, we did the right thing and so did you. I want to congratulate all three plus newly selected Council President Kevin Kane and their families because none of us can be up here without the support of our families, Margaret mentioned that as well. I want to take the time to wish outgoing Councilmen Ron Griffiths and Jaye Sims all the best. Thank you all for your service to our community. I also want to take time to thank the volunteers who serve on the many boards, committees and volunteer organizations in Freehold Borough such as the Fire Department and First Aid. Many of these boards, committees and volunteer organizations are represented here today. The people who serve on these boards, committees and volunteer organizations make a difference every day here in Freehold Borough. So thank you for all that you do and thank you for making a big difference in our community. Since the swearing of the Fire Chief for the Freehold Fire Department was less than a week ago, I wanted to thank outgoing Fire Chief Steve Pullen, incoming Fire Chief Robbie Bailey, First Assistant Chief Stephen Sheehan and Second Assistant Chief and former Councilman Jaye Sims for their continued service to our community. Thank you, we appreciate it. I'd also like to thank soon to be retired Chief of Police Glenn Roberts for his leadership and protecting and serving our residents and visitors in what has become now a days, a difficult policing environment in the United States. The Police Department has all of our respect and admiration. Police Chief Roberts and Police Captain Dispenza, please pass along our thanks to your members.

Freehold Borough is not just run by the Mayor and Council and the various committees, we have professionals and personnel that preform the day to day work here in town and I'd like to take the time to acknowledge the efforts of Administrator Joe Bellina and all the employees who work for him; Traci DiBenedetto, our Borough Clerk as well as our CFO Ricky Gartz and our Attorney Kerry Higgins. Thank you very much. We couldn't do it without you. All of us on the governing body believe in Freehold and pledge to devote our time and energy in keeping Freehold a great place to live, work and visit. There are many ideas that we have that will turn into formulated plans and number of plans that will turn into projects this year. Councilwoman

Shutzer and Mayor Higgins mentioned a few of them. The next couple of years are going to be very exciting times for Freehold Borough. I look forward to working with the entire governing body, our business community and residents of Freehold Borough during the upcoming year. Happy New Year to you all.”

Councilman Kevin Kane stated the following:

“I would like to thank everyone for coming out today. It’s such a special day for us, our Reorganization Meeting, seeing all the friendly faces. As I say every year, this room is what makes Freehold Borough tick. You heard all the volunteers, you heard everybody mentioned. If it wasn’t for the great community of volunteers and the residents that we have Freehold Borough wouldn’t be what it is today. I personally want to thank everyone for everything that you do to help us here in Freehold Borough. I also would like to thank my family and my wife Ellen. It’s a lot of time to commit to being an elected official and to be on all these committees and if you didn’t have that support at home and through your family, you wouldn’t be able to do it. No matter what you’re involved in. So I just want to publically thank Ellen and everyone for allowing me to do what I do. The elected officials, you saw them today and you heard their names mentioned. They have a crazy schedule to go to all these swearing ins and reorganization meetings, so for them to take the time to come here, we really appreciate that. Especially Frank Pallone, he’s not even our Congressman in this district, but to have him come and swear in Annette was very special. I was in Washington Thursday watching him receive the gavel to Chair the Energy and Commerce Committee in the House. It was a big, big deal being down there Thursday and congratulations again to Frank Pallone.

I also would like to thank our professionals, Joe Bellina, Traci DiBenedetto, Kerry Higgins, Glenn Roberts. We are so blessed to have such a great team in town and it wouldn’t happen without dedicated professionals and employees. To all the volunteers, the Fire Department and the First Aid, you’re special people. You drop no matter what you are doing, everything stops when the alarm goes off, no matter if it’s a fire call or first aid call. Unless you experience that, you really don’t know, but if you are part of that or on the receiving end of that, you hope that they get there and do the job that we’re so accustomed to here in Freehold Borough. So thank you for that. I’d like to thank my council colleagues for being selected as Council President. I really appreciate that honor. Congratulations to Sharon Shutzer, 28 years! That is tremendous and a great accomplishment. Thank you Sharon. Annette and Margaret, welcome and congratulations. You see the women’s movement going on in our country, we’ve tripled our female power in one shot. Sharon has been holding down the fort a long time and we go from one to three just like that and that’s going to be great. As the Mayor and others mentioned, it’s going to be exciting times in Freehold Borough this year. The 100th Anniversary Celebration, there’s a lot going on and every month there’s going to be a different event that is going to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our incorporation. I believe there is going to be calendars coming and information on the website. It’s just going to be event, after event, after event and it’s going to be very exciting.

You mentioned Ron Griffiths, I have to talk about Participatory Budgeting. Councilman Ron Griffiths brought Participatory Budgeting to Freehold Borough and we now are the go to municipality, the first in the state of New Jersey to implement Participatory Budgeting. We are now the go to municipality for all the other towns that are implementing it this year. There are

probably five or six different municipalities that are going to start this year and more are looking into doing that. At some point, it's going to become a statewide experience and strategy for a lot for civic engagement. When that time comes and they start talking about how great Participatory Budgeting is in New Jersey, we are going to look out west towards Oregon, where Ron Griffiths is going to be and we're going to point to Ron Griffiths and say Participatory Budgeting came to New Jersey because of Councilman Ron Griffiths. Ron, I would just like to thank you and give you congratulations.

We mentioned the redevelopment projects with Group Melvin, the new water plant with Mott MacDonald, the parking utility is coming but one of the big exciting events is going to happen in town this year and it was a result of Participatory Budgeting this year. We are entering our third year of Participatory Budgeting, but just last year from the first year we had a 35% increase in voting, which was huge. The first year we had 300 plus votes and the second year we had over 500 for a 35% increase. The number one winning project, and for all of those of you that are long-time Freehold Borough residents, there's going to be lights at the Little League Field. They are going to be able to play night games at the Freehold Borough Little League Field. We are looking forward to it. Little League is going to promote it and it's going to be a big event the first night game this year. You think back to your Little League days and I see my dad and Ron Griffiths sitting next to each other, I believe they were on the first Freehold Borough Little League All Star Team together way back. Thanks to Ron Griffith's efforts, there's going to be lights at the Little League Field. I also want to take a minute to welcome back to town two people that grew up in Freehold Borough and have moved off to other states throughout their lives, but recently sold their house in Tennessee and are now Freehold Borough residents again; my in-laws Ted and Kathy Eckhardt. They wanted to do something exciting so they sold their house in Tennessee and moved back to Freehold for the 100th Anniversary. In closing I would just like to thank everyone for coming out, we really appreciate the efforts that everyone does to make our town so great and congratulations on your elections and I look forward to working with everybody.

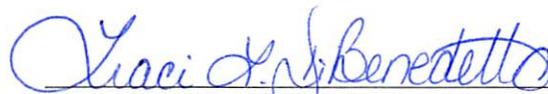
Mayor Higgins stated if there is no further business, he asked for a motion to adjourn

Councilman DiBenedetto made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Kane.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc