The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, June 17, 2019 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).

Chief Dispenza opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

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

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

"Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting June 3, 2019."

Councilwoman Jordan offered a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

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

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

"Freehold Borough Human Relations Committee Beautification Contest Winners."

Councilwoman Jordan invited the Human Relations Committee members to present the winners. Councilwoman Jordan described the Committee's various programs that benefit residents, including the Beautification Contest.

Ms. Giana Dell'Omo explained the contest rules for residential and commercial properties. She announced the residential winners and prizes; 3rd Prize – Christine and Jeremy Richman at 122 South Street, 2nd Prize – Anthony Postiglione and Jean Grillo at 17 Stokes Street, 1st Prize – John and Lori Annetta – 4 Bennett Street. She stated Honorable Mentions were given to the Maiatte Family at 43 Bowne Avenue and Gajjar Family at 5

Morris Street. Ms. Jane Fields announced the Freehold Family Health Center as the commercial property winner having transformed 597 Park Avenue.

Mayor Higgins congratulated the winners.

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

"Recognition of the Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners."

Councilwoman Rogers briefly explained the Shade Tree Commission's work and goal to educate children on the importance of maintaining trees. She introduced the members of the Shade Tree Commission.

Ms. Christine Gregory explained the Arbor Day Poster Contest held at Park Avenue School and St. Rose of Lima School and thanked the merchants who donated prizes. Ms. Gregory announced the winners from Park Avenue School; Alessandra Mateo Garcia, Jasera Victoria and Natalie Perez. Ms. Gregory acknowledged Principal Ronnie Dougherty and Ms. Brooke Shaw for all they do at Park Avenue School.

Ms. Gregory announced the poster winners from St. Rose of Lima School; Michela Mongealo, Reegan Cleery, Sophia Loche and Sophia Kurtz. Ms. Gregory thanked Ms. Pat Brown, art teacher at St. Rose for all of her cooperation.

Mayor Higgins thanked the Shade Tree Commission for this program and presenting the winners.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 7 on the Agenda as follows:

"Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Flag Day at Freehold Elks Lodge BPOE #1454."

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING FLAG DAY AT FREEHOLD ELKS LODGE BPOE #1454.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the Flag Day Service is held every year, the public is invited and it is a lovely service.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 8 on the Agenda as follows:

"Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Authorizing a Twinning Agreement Between Freehold Borough and Peralejos de las truchas, Spain."

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AUTHORIZING A TWINNING AGREEMENT BETWEEN FREEHOLD BOROUGH AND PERALEJOS DE LAS TRUCHAS, SPAIN.

Councilman Kane explained the residents of the town in Spain hold a Bruce Springsteen Festival every year and reached out to Freehold Borough. He stated everyone in Freehold has a Bruce story and he likes that a small town in Spain is so touched by Bruce's songs, many of which are rooted in Freehold Borough.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 9 on the Agenda as follows:

"Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Approving Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020."

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD APPROVING RENEWAL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES, JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020.

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

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

"Resolution Authorizing Freehold Borough Officials to Submit a Grant Application to the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation, Trust Fund Authority Act, Fiscal Year 2020."

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FREEHOLD BOROUGH OFFICIALS TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TRUST FUND AUTHORITY ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2020.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

"Resolution Authorizing 2019 Professional Services Agreement with Abbington Engineering for Borough Engineering Services."

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2019 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ABBINGTON ENGINEERING FOR BOROUGH ENGINEERING SERVICES.

Councilman DiBenedetto explained this is for improvements to West Main Street, Parker Street and Fourth Avenue parking lot.

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

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

"Resolution Authorizing 2019 Professional Architectural Services with DMR Architects."

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2019 PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES WITH DMR ARCHITECTS.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated this will service the Library improvements that are needed.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

"Resolution Authorizing Payment of Length of Service Award Program Benefits.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM BENEFITS.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 14 on the Agenda as follows:

"Resolution Memorializing the Mayor's Appointment to the Freehold Borough Planning Board:

a. Michael Wildermuth – Alternate Number 1 – Term expires December 31, 2019. Fills a current vacancy."

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

RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT TO THE FREEHOLD BOROUGH PLANNING BOARD:

A. MICHAEL WILDERMUTH – ALTERNATE NUMBER 1 – TERM EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2019. FILLS A CURRENT VACANCY.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 15 on the Agenda as follows:

"Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

a. Retirement of Salvador DeJesus, Superintendent of the Streets & Roads Department, effective September 1, 2019.

b. Transfer of Patrick Quirk from the Freehold Borough Police Department to the Borough of Keyport Police Department, Upon Completion of New Jersey Civil Service Requirements.

c. Appointment of Robert J. Flanagan, Jr. as Records Support Technician, Police Department, pending successful completion of New Jersey Civil Service Requirements."

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS NO. 15A – 15C.

Councilwoman Shutzer acknowledged the retirement of Sal DeJesus who has been an employee for many years and wished him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

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

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

"Resolution Approving the Following Applications:
a. Sidewalk Café License, Stefano's Pizza, 35 East Main Street."

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION: 16A.

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

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

"Approval of Bills."

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of $870,645.05 be paid as presented.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Kane, Rogers and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain Jordan (#24843); absent Schnurr. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

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

"Clerk – Late Communications."

There were none.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 19 on the Agenda as follows:

"Public Comments"

Pastor Joey Rozek, new pastor at Living Springs Fellowship, located at 200 Park Avenue, explained he lived in the Borough prior to moving to England and is back in the community. He invited everyone to come visit the Fellowship and stated the he is looking forward to meeting more people and be a servant in the community. He stated services are held Sundays at 10:00 AM and it is good to be back in Freehold.

Mr. Jeffery Oaks, Oceanport, NJ stated he has Stage 4 Colon Cancer and is an advocate for medical cannabis. He explained the benefits he has experienced with medical cannabis, stated he is in favor of recreational use and expressed his opinion that marijuana is a gateway to stay away from opioids, which is a huge problem in New Jersey. Mr. Oaks stated because of cannabis he has stayed away from pharmaceuticals for over three years and urged the town to look at cannabis as a way to save children's lives. He stated the State of New Jersey has dropped the ball, but municipalities can be proactive and cannabis needs to be legal in New Jersey.

Mrs. Mary Oaks, Oceanport, NJ asked if the recent Marijuana Awareness Month was to help patients or was it meant to be against marijuana.

Mayor Higgins stated he had no recollection of that proclamation.

Mr. Edward "Lefty" Grimes, Bayonne, NJ introduced Michael Vintzileos of Point Pleasant, NJ as "Bongholeo" who was dressed as a bong. He explained they go around to towns that ban cannabis to advocate for the sick, dying and disabled who would benefit from medical marijuana. Mr. Grimes stated he recently lost his brother to an opioid overdose and explained that Nar-Cans are costly to a municipality. Mr. Grimes and Mr. Vintzileos preformed a song called "Thank God for Cannabis".

Councilman DiBenedetto made a motion to close Public Comments, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan.

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

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 20 on the Agenda:

"Council Comments"

Councilwoman Rogers announced she attended the Participatory Budget presentation and is looking forward to participating in that program. She announced she attended the Flag Day Ceremony at the BPOE Lodge 1454 and it was one of the most

beautiful services she had attended. Councilwoman Rogers congratulated the winners of the Arbor Day Poster Contest and thanked the Shade Tree Commission for educating the children on preserving trees.

Councilwoman Shutzer congratulated the winners from the Shade Tree poster contest, welcomed Pastor Joey and congratulated the Beautification winners and thanked Human Relations Committee and Shade Tree Commissions for holding the contests. Councilwoman Shutzer announced the active Downtown schedule and invited everyone to attend an evening downtown.

Councilman DiBenedetto congratulated the Beautification Contest winners and Arbor Day Poster winners. He thanked both committees. Councilman DiBenedetto welcomed Pastor Joey and encouraged everyone to enjoy the downtown area.

Councilwoman Jordan announced the Centennial Committee will be sponsoring a free Kid Zone at the Fireworks on July 3rd and Old Freehold Day on August 17th. She announced the Human Relations Committee will hold a Community Walk on June 29th and thanked the Human Relations Committee for all of their hard work. Councilwoman Jordan reported the Participatory Budget Committee is now accepting project applications until June 30th.

Councilman Kane thanked Human Relations and Shade Tree Committees and congratulated the winners. He thanked Sal DeJesus for his time with DPW and welcomed Pastor Joey back to Freehold. Councilman Kane stated the Flag Day Ceremony at the Elks was tremendous. He thanked Jen Godzeno from the New York Participatory Budget who presented at the recent workshop. Councilman Kane announced Mission Dance will be the Downtown Thursday Rock Concert. He stated the Twinning Agreement with Spain is great and he can't wait to see what they send Freehold from the festival. Councilman Kane thanked everyone for coming out.

Mayor Higgins wished all of the Freehold Intermediate graduates well. He announced the Fireworks are July 3rd and the reading of the Declaration of Independence will be July 4th at 9:00 AM at Borough Hall. He stated the reading is very meaningful and participants are welcome. Mayor Higgins welcomed Pastor Joey back to Freehold and wished his congregation well. Mayor Higgins stated the Borough is celebrating its 100th Anniversary and some historical items are located in the display case.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Traci L. DiBenedetto

TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc