

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, July 15, 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).

Councilwoman Rogers 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
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER

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

**“Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting June 17, 2019.”**

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

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. 5 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Approving Change Order Number 1 for the Repaving of Vredenburgh Avenue.”**

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1 FOR THE REPAVING OF VREDENBURGH AVENUE.**

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. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Authorizing 2019 Professional Services Agreement with Abbington Engineering for Borough Engineering Services.”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2019 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ABBINGTON ENGINEERING 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 Renewal of a Shared Services Agreement for the Western Monmouth Active Shooter Training Group.”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE WESTERN MONMOUTH ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING GROUP.**

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 Memorializing the Merger of Group Melvin Design and Pennoni Associates, Inc.”**

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

**RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE MERGER OF GROUP MELVIN DESIGN AND PENNONI ASSOCIATES, INC.**

Councilman Schnurr explained Group Melvin Design is the firm assisting with the downtown plan and they are merging with another company.

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 Awarding a Contract for the Various Roads Improvement Project.”**

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

**RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE VARIOUS ROADS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**

Councilman DiBenedetto reported the improvements will be sections of West Main Street, Parker Street, the recreational parking lot at the end of Fourth Street and the mid-block crosswalk on East Main Street.

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 Memorializing the Mayor’s Appointment to the Freehold Borough Human Relations Committee:**

- a. Paul Jensen, Freehold Borough School Board Liaison, term expiring December 31, 2019.”**

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

**RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT TO THE FREEHOLD BOROUGH HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE:**

- A. PAUL JENSEN, FREEHOLD BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON, TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 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. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:**

- a. Appointment of Evelyn Soto as Library Clerk, effective July 16, 2019.**

- b. **Appointment of Andre Jones as Seasonal Helper, Streets & Roads Department, effective July 22, 2019.**
- c. **Appointment of Pedro Hernandez as a Laborer, Streets & Roads Department, effective upon completion of pre-employment testing.**
- d. **Appointment of Ian Crawford as Patrolman, Freehold Borough Police Department, pending successful completion of pre-employment testing.**
- e. **Appointment of Maurizio F. Degrande as Patrolman, Freehold Borough Police Department, pending successful completion of pre-employment testing.**
- f. **Resignation of Sue Ann Derkach as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Engine & Hose Company No. 1, effective July 15, 2019.**
- g. **Termination of Joseph Lubrano as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Richardson Engine Company No. 2, effective July 15, 2019.**
- h. **Thirty Day Extension to the Medical Leave of Absence for William Gorman to August 8, 2019.”**

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

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS NO. 11A  
- 11H.**

Councilwoman Shutzer commended Sue Ann Derkach for her service to the Freehold Fire Department over the years.

Councilman Schnurr congratulated Evelyn Soto on her appointment as a Library Clerk, moving from a part time to full time position. He explained the internal changes made upon the Library Director's retirement.

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. 12 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:**

- a. **Block Party, 7/20/19, Avenue A from Avenue C to Rhea Street, 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM. c/o Romonda Hickman**
- b. **Sidewalk Café License, Sweet Lew's Café, 6 East Main Street.**
- c. **Vendor License, Mister Softee, Sunday through Saturday to October 31, 2019 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. c/o Elizabeth Pittman**
- d. **Vendor License, Weaser's Ices, Sunday through Saturday to October 31, 2019, 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM. c/o Bruce Winland**
- e. **Misc. License, Sal Aversano, Musician playing guitar, July – October: Adding the following location: Liberty Triumph Park on Saturday and**

- Sunday from either 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM or 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.**
- f. Bingo License #5-19, St. Rose of Lima Church, Monday Night Bingo beginning 1/6/20 to 5/25/20, 51 Lincoln Place.**
  - g. Bingo License #6-19, St. Rose of Lima Sports Association, Saturday Night Bingo, beginning 1/4/20 to 5/30/20, 51 Lincoln Place.**
  - h. Raffle License #24-19, Freehold Elks Lodge #1454, Year Round Pull Tab, beginning July, 2019 to June 27, 2020, 73 East Main Street.**
  - i. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Giomar Lescano Gongora, Freehold.**
  - j. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Elba Pantoja, Freehold.**
  - k. Permanent Taxi Driver License, Guillermo Alejandro Alonzo Solis, Freehold.”**

Councilwoman Rogers offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption, holding Item E for further consideration, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS: 12A – 12D and 12F – 12K.**

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:

**“Approval of Bills.”**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$2,745,532.51 be paid as presented.

Councilman Schnurr explained he does not believe payment to MNC Concrete should be paid until all of the outstanding issues are resolved.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the bill for MNC is a partial payment, not payment in full.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins added there is a retainer that is held.

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Kane, Rogers and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain Schnurr (#32605); absent none. Mayor Higgins declared the motion adopted.

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

**“Clerk – Late Communications.”**

There were none.

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

**“Public Comments”**

Ms. Andrea McPherson, 300 Robert Ct., Manalapan, representing Court Street School, highlighted some of the programs and events held this year and those that are planned for the remainder of 2019. Ms. McPherson thanked Mayor and Council for their support. Ms. McPherson stated the building is being used by other organizations and has become a real community center and explained the increase in social media and other areas of promotion.

Mr. Sal Aversano, Manchester Ct., Freehold asked why Item E on the Applications Resolution, his permit, is being held.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins responded there needs to be a calendar of all times and locations and the application needs to have specific times. There are current licenses in which the times overlap. Ms. Higgins advised Mr. Aversano to submit one final application with clear times and request all previous licenses be revoked.

Councilman DiBenedetto explained license approvals are coordinated with Downtown Freehold and there needs to be specific times and locations as there are requests from multiple entertainers.

Mr. Aversano stated there are no requests from other musicians.

Ms. Higgins stated the problem was the overlapping times from multiple applications.

Councilwoman Shutzer explained the confusion because of multiple applications and times scheduled in multiple locations. She instructed Mr. Aversano to complete a new application, noting the previous licenses will be revoked.

Mr. Jeff Friedman, Downtown Freehold, announced the schedule of summer events and invited everyone to attend.

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

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:

**“Council Comments”**

Councilman Schnurr highlighted the graduations at Freehold Intermediate School and Freehold High School. He congratulated the graduates and their families. Councilman Schnurr stated the Community Walk was a fantastic program and hopes it continues and grows. He announced he and Councilman Kane worked the Bethel AME Sports Camp which had over 100 kids participate. Councilman Schnurr stated the Freehold Center Partnership submits an annual report and commended Mr. Jeff Friedman and his staff for the events which benefit the town in many ways.

Councilwoman Rogers stated the Community Walk was a terrific event. She stated the Fireworks at the Racetrack were beautiful and the reading of the Declaration of Independence is such a beautiful ceremony. She is proud everyone comes together and remembers how important is to work together to accomplish things.

Councilwoman Shutzer congratulated the Recreation Commission and the Centennial Committee for the excellent Fireworks and Kid Zone entertainment. Councilwoman Shutzer stated the reading of the Declaration of Independence has been inspiring over the years and hopes it continues. She stated the Community Walk was wonderful and congratulated the Human Relations Committee. Councilwoman Shutzer stated there will be fundraiser at Jersey Freeze on July 18<sup>th</sup>, where 20% of the bill will be donated to Christopher’s Crusaders in support of Juvenile Diabetes.

Councilman DiBenedetto congratulated Mr. Jeff Friedman on a great job downtown. He stated downtown is a big part of the heartbeat of Freehold Borough. He encouraged everyone to come out and support the farmer’s market on Fridays. Councilman DiBenedetto thanked the Recreation Commission for a beautiful fireworks display and all that made it a great evening.

Councilwoman Jordan thanked everyone for the support of the Community Walk. She stated it was a huge effort by the Human Relations Committee and thanked the other organizations that supported or worked at the event. She stated it was truly a community event. Councilwoman Jordan announced the project submissions for Participatory Budget are closed and there are 12 proposals which will be vetted. She announced a presentation of projects will be September 10<sup>th</sup> and voting will be open until September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He thanked Mr. Jeff Friedman for all of the Downtown events, the Centennial Committee and Kid Zone Sponsor Keystone Contracting for the amusements, the Recreation Commission for the Fireworks and stated the Declaration of Independence reading is always a tremendous event. Councilman Kane stated the Tea Party at the Court Street School was great fun and the Unity Walk was another great community event. Councilman Kane stated the Bethel AME Sports Camp was a great event and stated its great volunteers like those that put on

these events that make Freehold Borough great. Councilman Kane thanked everyone involved for everything they do.

Mayor Higgins recognized all the recent events and noted there is so much volunteers do, unseen by residents, that make all these events possible. He added these events make Freehold Borough a special downtown community and that is why we choose to live here.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to return to Executive Session, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan:

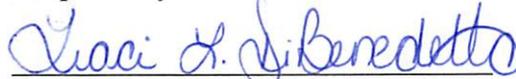
**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNELL.**

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 announced the governing body is returning to Executive Session and it is not anticipated they will return to Public Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC  
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc