

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Tuesday, September 3, 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
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER

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

“Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting August 5, 2019.”

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

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

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

“Swearing In and Oath of Office: Ivan Sanchez, Patrolman Freehold Borough Police Department..”

Chief Dispenza provided a brief history on Ivan Sanchez and highlighted his volunteer work in the community.

Mr. Sanchez was sworn in by Mayor Higgins, surrounded by his family. Mayor Higgins congratulated him and wished him well.

Councilwoman Shutzer announced the job of a police officer is a family commitment.

Mayor Higgins recognized members of the Fire Department who were in attendance to support Mr. Sanchez.

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

“Public Safety Recognitions.”

Chief Dispenza introduced Lt. Ciampa, who thanked everyone for the opportunity to recognize police officers. He explained the police department goes above and beyond and gave some examples of what is done, not just solving crimes, but providing exemplary community outreach. Lt. Ciampa described a recent incident in May where four police officers responded to man in respiratory distress, provided CPR, used the AED and provided escort for the ambulance which transported him to Jersey Shore Medical Center. Lt. Ciampa stated thanks to the swift action of the officers, Mr. Kurt Ilisije survived and is in the audience. On behalf of the Chief of Police, Lt. Ciampa thanked Officer Sean Healy, Aaron Ownes, Rolando Ensuar and Kevin Warner. Each officer received a ribbon and certificate for their heroic act.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this is not an isolated incident and stated five times officers assisted her husband with compassion and knowledge of what was needed. She thanked everyone for what they do every day.

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

“Recognition of Santa Train Founder, Mr. Joseph Garafolo.”

Chief Dispenza introduced Det. Sgt. Colaner. Det. Sgt. Colaner explained a big part of being a police officer is service of a non-criminal nature. He stated Freehold Borough Police Department has been active for over 25 years in community policing including the Santa Train. Det. Sgt. Colaner explained how the PBA got involved with Mr. Joseph Garafolo and Conrail to provide the Santa Train. He described how through the years 11,000 kids got a photo with Santa and received a toy. Det. Sgt. Colaner explained the 2018 Santa Train would be the last and the PBA would create a new tradition. Det. Sgt. Colaner stated on behalf of Mayor and Council and the Police Department, he was pleased to honor Mr. Joseph Garafalo for his 22 years of service through the Freehold PBA/Conrail Santa Train.

Mayor Higgins commended Mr. Garafolo for his years of dedication and thanked him for the joy he brought to many children.

Mr. Garafolo thanked Mayor and Council for the recognition and thanked the police department for the partnership. He stated he has a lot of relationships in the borough and commended the police department.

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

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring American Legion Post 54 on Its 100th Anniversary.”

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 AMERICAN LEGION POST 54 ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated the Resolution was presented to the American Legion at Olde Freehold Day and at the American Legion Post #54.

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 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Salvador DeJesus on the Occasion of His Retirement.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD HONORING SALVADOR DEJESUS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 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. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Accepting the 2018 Fiscal Year Audit Report as Prepared by Suplee, Clooney & Company.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2018 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT REPORT AS PREPARED BY SUPLEE, CLOONEY & COMPANY.

Councilman Schnurr stated the last page of the report always states “Recommendations: None”, where as other towns have upwards of 65 recommendations.

Councilman Schnurr stated this is a testament to how this municipality runs from a financial point of view.

Councilman Kane thanked Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina and CFO Richard Gartz for the tremendous job done on the finances.

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 Waiving the Fee for the Borough Wide Yard Sale.”

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

RESOLUTION WAIVING THE FEE FOR THE BOROUGH WIDE YARD SALE.

Councilman DiBenedetto reported the Yard Sale date is September 28th with a Rain Date of September 29th.

Councilwoman Shutzer reported anyone wishing to participate must register with Administrator’s Office.

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 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Authorizing a Land Lease Agreement with Ralph Clayton & Sons.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AUTHORIZING A LAND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH RALPH CLAYTON & SONS.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated this will provide a location for clippings and chipping.

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 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Authorizing a Revocable License Agreement.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AUTHORIZING A REVOCABLE LICENSE AGREEMENT.

Councilman Schnurr reported this ensures the community garden will retain its designated spot even though of the property is being sold.

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 Approving the Mayor’s Nomination for Appointment to the Human Relations Committee (leadership change):

- a. Gianna Dell’Omo, Chairperson for the remainder of 2019.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAYOR’S NOMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (LEADERSHIP CHANGE):

- A. GIANNA DELL’OMO, CHAIRPERSON FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2019.**

Councilwoman Jordan announced previous Chairwoman Carol Lida has decided to step down as Chairwoman, but will remain active on the committee.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated everyone appreciates all that Ms. Lida has done and looks forward to working closely with Ms. Dell’Omo as well.

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 thanked Ms. Lida for her years of dedicated service and welcomed Ms. Dell'Omo.

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

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. **Appointment of Michael Ricciardi as High School Resource Officer, Freehold Borough Police Department, effective September 3, 2019.**
- b. **Appointment of Raphael Hughes III as Part-time Water Plant Operator, effective September 3, 2019.**
- c. **Appointment of Ciara C. Wallace as Part-time Library Assistant, effective September 3, 2019.**
- d. **Appointment of Barbara Roslin as School Crossing Guard, Freehold Borough Police Department, effective September 3, 2019.”**

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

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

Councilwoman Shutzer noted a spelling correction in Item 15D.

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 Approving the Following Applications:

- a. **Canning License, Knights of Columbus Freehold Council 1672, 9/21/19, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Intersection of East Main St./Center St./Spring St./Broadway and Main and South Street.**
- b. **Street Closing, St. Rose of Lima Parish Picnic, 9/8/19, 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Lincoln Place from South Street to Randolph Street.**
- c. **Parade License, The Open Space Pace, 9/21/19, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM starting at Hall of Records; Lafayette St. to Sherriff St. proceeding down Main Street to Manalapan Ave. at Freehold Raceway.**
- d. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Amanda Robles, Freehold.**
- e. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Bernabe Galvan, Freehold.**
- f. **Permanent Taxi Driver License, Jaime Gonzalez, Freehold.**
- g. **Temporary Taxi Driver License, Jerome Hampton, Howell.**

h. Temporary Taxi Driver License, Anne E. Ramayanantakij, Freehold.

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS: 16A – 16H.

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:

“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 \$2,863,661.02 be paid as presented.

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. 18 on the Agenda as follows:

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

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

“Highlight of Special Committees/Events:

a. Participatory Budget”

Councilwoman Jordan stated in a continued effort to highlight the work of the volunteer committees in town, information on the Participatory Budget Committee and Human Relations Committee would be presented. Councilwoman Jordan introduced Participatory Budget Chairperson, Ron DeMarco.

Mr. DeMarco thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing Participatory Budgeting in Freehold for the past three years. He explained participatory budgeting and explained how residents are given the power to spend \$200,000 of the Borough’s capital budget. Mr. DeMarco explained the idea submission process and criteria the projects must meet. He described some of the past winning projects. Mr. DeMarco gave deadlines for idea submissions, vetting, ballot

voting and winning project announcements. Mr. DeMarco announced the members of the committee including three high school students. Mr. DeMarco stated volunteers are welcome.

Councilwoman Jordan stated some of the projects being submitted are quality of life ideas and the committee is looking forward to the vote. She explained how the vote is being promoted including QR Codes and participating in events. Councilwoman Jordan thanked Mr. DeMarco of chairing the committee.

Councilman Kane thanked everyone on the committee. Councilman Kane announced Freehold Borough was the first municipality in New Jersey to implement Participatory Budgeting and the committee is working closely with other states to grow awareness of the program. He stated participatory budgeting is the number one civic engagement strategy in the United States, teaching how government works and getting people involved.

b. "Human Relations Committee."

Councilwoman Jordan stated the Human Relations Committee is small, but they get a lot of things done. She introduced Chairwoman Gianna Dell'Omo and congratulated her on her new position.

Ms. Dell'Omo reported the committee, which was created in 2002, works in collaboration with the Police Dept., Clergy Association, School District and other Borough committees to promote ethnic and cultural harmony. She highlighted some of the events and projects that have taken place as well as those that are scheduled for the remainder of year. Ms. Dell'Omo thanked Mayor and Council and Administration for their support.

Mayor Higgins introduced the other members of the committee that were present.

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

"Public Comments"

Mr. Phillip Fedeli, 7 Fourth Street, asked if the lease agreement listed as Item 12 on the Agenda includes operating heavy machinery.

Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina responded the municipality is looking for a place to store the brush that is being removed from the streets. He explained dump trucks would be used there.

Councilman Schnurr explained this location allows the brush to be stored in an area the public will not see, until it is taken to be chipped.

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

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:

“Council Comments”

Councilman Schnurr reported on several upcoming events at the Freehold Public Library. Councilman Schnurr expressed concern for drivers and pedestrians to obey the traffic regulations, encouraged pedestrians to use crosswalks and everyone be aware of each other, especially since school has started. He added a new traffic light was installed at the intersection of East Main Street and Jackson Terrace/Jackson Street, which was long overdue.

Councilwoman Rogers stated Court Street School is having a health fair on September 14th, all are welcome. She congratulated the officers who were honored and expressed pride in the Police Department. Councilwoman Rogers also congratulated Mr. Garafolo for his help with the Santa Train over the years.

Councilwoman Shutzer reported free paper shredding will be available on September 28th. Councilwoman Shutzer announced September is Senior Appreciation Month and the next council meeting will be held at Hudson Manor to include the senior citizens. She stated that Senior Appreciation Day is on September 14th.

Councilman DiBenedetto thanked everyone for coming and congratulated Chief Dispenza for a well-run program. He congratulated the officers who were recognized and “Railroad Joe”. Councilman DiBenedetto welcomed Mr. Sanchez to the Police Department and wished him well. Councilman DiBenedetto thanked the Participatory Budget Committee and Human Relations Committee for their presentations and dedication to the town.

Councilwoman Jordan stated she appreciates everything Participatory Budget and Human Relations Committee do, adding they make a real difference. Councilwoman Jordan announced the Latino Festival is on September 21st.

Councilman Kane passed congratulations through Chief Dispenza to his officers, stating it was great having the public hear positive stories. Councilman Kane congratulated Sal DeJesus on his retirement, after over 30 years of employment. He thanked all the volunteer committees and stated volunteers make Freehold great. Councilman Kane stated September 6th is the Centennial Gala at the American Hotel which is sold out.

Mayor Higgins stated Borough Historian, Kevin Coyne will speak about the history of Freehold Borough at the Centennial Gala and he stated the Centennial Ad Journal will be a collector’s item. He thanked the committee for a job well done. Mayor Higgins

stated he looks forward to meeting with the seniors at Hudson Manor during Senior Appreciation Month. Mayor Higgins recognized Mr. Bill McGovern Esq. from McKenna, DuPont, Higgins and Stone, who will be covering the next meeting while Borough Attorney Kerry Higgins is out of town. Mayor Higgins congratulated the police department and added they are constantly serving the community. He stated the governing body is very proud of them

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to adjourn, 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



JOSEPH B. BELLINA, DEPUTY CLERK
BOROUGH CLERK

JB:lc