

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, April 1, 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).

Councilman Schnurr 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 March 4, 2019.”

Councilwoman Rogers 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:

“Proclamation of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Declaring April 2019 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month in the Borough of Freehold.”

Councilwoman Shutzer read a few of the statistics in the Proclamation stressing the importance of Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention.

Mayor Higgins stated the Proclamation will be shared among municipalities in Monmouth County and he hopes that people take notice.

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

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Rev. Dr. Andre McGuire on his 26th Pastoral Anniversary.”

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 HONORING REV. DR. ANDRE MCGUIRE ON HIS 26TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY.

Councilman Kane stated he presented the Resolution to Rev. Dr. McGuire the previous Sunday on behalf of Mayor and Council.

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 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Honoring Allan and William Edwards on the Occasion of their Attainment of the Rank of Eagle Scout.”

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 HONORING ALLAN AND WILLIAM EDWARDS ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR ATTAINMENT OF THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT.

Councilman Schnurr reported he presented the Resolutions with Councilwomen Jordan and Shutzer at the Court of Honor ceremony. Councilman Schnurr stated they live on South Street and both Eagle Scout projects benefitted Monmouth Battlefield State Park.

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:

“Introduction of the 2019 Municipal Budget Notice for the Borough of Freehold, Establishing the Date for Public Hearing and Authorizing Publication of Required Notices.”

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET NOTICE FOR THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, ESTABLISHING THE DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF REQUIRED NOTICES.

Councilman Kane announced the date for the Public Hearing will be May 6, 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. 9 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Amending Temporary Appropriations for 2019.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS 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 stepped down from the dais due to a conflict. Council Present Kane presided over the agenda.

Councilman Kane read Item No. 10 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Accepting the Assessment Roll of the Special Improvement District of the Borough of Freehold.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL OF THE SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

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

Councilman Kane read Item No. 11 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution Accepting and Introducing the Budget of the Special Improvement District of the Borough of Freehold and Setting the Date for the Budget’s Public Hearing and Adoption.”

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND INTRODUCING THE BUDGET OF THE SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AND SETTING THE DATE FOR THE BUDGET’S PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION.

Councilwoman Rogers announced the date of the Public Hearing will be June 3, 2019.

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

Mayor Higgins returned to the dais.

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

“Resolution Authorizing Freehold Borough to Submit an Application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for a Flood Hazard Area Permit.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FREEHOLD BOROUGH TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (NJDEP) FOR A FLOOD HAZARD AREA PERMIT.

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 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.

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 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey Cancelling and Refunding Tax Charges Regarding Block 2.05, Lot 18: 34 Douglas Road.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY CANCELLING AND REFUNDING TAX CHARGES REGARDING BLOCK 2.05, LOT 18: 34 DOUGLAS ROAD.

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 Authorizing Cancellation of Municipal Certificate of Sale.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF MUNICIPAL CERTIFICATE OF SALE.

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 Waiving the Fee for Freehold Borough Raffle License Number 12-19, Lions Club of Freehold Township.”

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

RESOLUTION WAIVING THE FEE FOR FREEHOLD BOROUGH RAFFLE LICENSE NUMBER 12-19, LIONS CLUB OF FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP.

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 Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. **Resignation of Harry Belkowitz as School Crossing Guard, effective March 18, 2019.**
- b. **Appointment of Richard Narson as a School Crossing Guard, effective April 1, 2019.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS NOS. 17A – 17B.

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 except for Item G which is tabled:

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. **Sidewalk Café License, Court Jester, 16 East Main Street.**
- b. **Sidewalk Café License, OG Steaks and Hoagies, 31 East Main Street.**
- c. **Sidewalk Café License, Aarzu Modern Indian Bistro, 30 East Main Street.**
- d. **Sidewalk Café License, Federici’s Restaurant, 14 East Main Street.**
- e. **Sidewalk Café License, Istanbul Kebab House, 4 West Main Street.**
- f. **Massage Therapist License, Xia Hua Yu, 25 Broad Street, Suite 10A.**
- g. **Misc. License, Sal Aversano, Musician, playing guitar April – October:
Adding the following days/times: Wednesday – Friday, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM,
Market Yard Parking Lot Walkway.”**

Councilwoman Rogers offered the following Resolution with tabling of Item “G” and moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman DiBenedetto:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS: 18A –18F.

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”

“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 \$1,713,129.39 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. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

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

“Item for Discussion:

- a. **Water Utility Update – Brian Dougherty, PE
Mott MacDonald. “**

Borough Administrator Joseph Bellina explained Freehold Patch had an article which was misleading and suggested the municipality’s water quality was not sufficient. Mr. Bellina explained that could not be further from the truth and introduced Mr. Brian Dougherty from Mott MacDonald to present the facts.

Mayor Higgins explained Mr. Dougherty has been helping the Borough with the Water Plant and distribution system and thanked Mr. Dougherty for his report.

Mr. Brian Dougherty, PE at Mott MacDonald explained the article focused on the topic of PFAS contamination which stands for polyfluoroalky which could be a health hazard and has become a problem in certain parts of the country including New Jersey. Mr. Dougherty explained the article reported on investigations into large utilities that had “violations” and intimated those violations were related to the contamination. Mr.

Dougherty stated the article was inaccurate and he assured the audience there is no PFAS or compound contamination within Freehold Borough's water sources. He stated there has been two rounds of sampling and have come back with no issues and there are no health concerns. Mr. Dougherty stated the article was correct that there were some reporting and monitoring violations. He explained there were 10 violations, 7 of which were due to the lateness of submitting results to DEP which is done by a contracted laboratory and are not a health concern. Mr. Dougherty reported the water system is fully compliant with all DEP water regulations and there is nothing to be concerned with.

Mr. Bellina asked what the measurement is to test for PFAS.

Mr. Dougherty stated a standard of .013 parts per trillion micrograms per liter was recently passed. He stated the DEP has taken a stance and put a low limit on those contaminants and the Borough has never had detectable limits of PFAS. He stated there is nothing to be concerned about.

Councilwoman Shutzer asked if the reporter got this information and added this needs to put out to the public.

Councilman Schnurr asked since 7 violations were a result of a laboratory follow through, is there a choice as to which lab is used.

Mr. Dougherty responded there are several choices. He added it is not an uncommon circumstance where violations are noted by the DEP even through it might be something on DEP's end. Mr. Dougherty stated the violations can be searched and see what the violation is and when it was resolved. He reported every Freehold Borough violation was resolved almost immediately within a day or two and there were no health issues, rather strictly paperwork.

Mr. Bellina added several years ago, a previous lab corrupted samples and the municipality immediately ceased the relationship with them. Mr. Bellina stated the municipality has been using the same lab for three or four years.

Councilwoman Shutzer asked what the other 3 violations were for.

Mr. Dougherty stated one was related to the consumer confidence report, which is sent to every customer and submitted to DEP. He explained this report was listed as being submitted late to DEP. Mr. Dougherty explained the other two violations were in relation to the recently planned submittals for the lead and copper plan. He explained there are several rounds of revisions. He stated DEP noted the plans were approved though submitted later and it is recorded as a violation. He reiterated the violations are all paperwork issues and not health or public safety concern.

Councilwoman Shutzer asked they are recognized as violations even if they are cleared up the next day. She stated these are not issues that have negatively affected the health and well-being of the customers.

Mr. Dougherty agreed.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins stated at all times, Freehold Borough water has been in full compliance with all Federal and State Water Quality standards.

Mr. Dougherty stated that is correct.

Councilwoman Rogers asked if this can be made public in some way so the residents know.

Mr. Bellina stated it will be put on the website.

Mayor Higgins asked for an update on the Water Plant.

Mr. Dougherty stated there are two projects in progress. He said the first is the GIS, Geographic Information System, it is in its final stage with all surveys being completed. The information is being loaded into an online platform and getting tablets set up for field use. Mr. Dougherty stated this will help collect information and maintain the database and is a critical component to compliance with the Water Quality Accountability Act. Mr. Dougherty stated the Water Treatment Plant is 80% complete with all site related design completed. He stated structural is 90% complete and the final piece will be instrumentation, electrical and mechanical and will be completed within the next four weeks. He stated the environmental planning level work is completed and all permits have been submitted to DEP. Mr. Dougherty said everything should be wrapped up in several weeks.

Mayor Higgins thank Mr. Dougherty for providing the updates and information.

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

“Public Comments”

Ms. Christine Gregory, West George Street thanked the following employees who helped her with a water leak in her house. She thanked Pat Berg from the Billing Department and Andrew and Tim from the Water Department for all they did for her.

Councilman Kane 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. 23 on the Agenda as follows:

“Council Comments.”

Councilman Schnurr offered condolences to the family of June Vawter, who was a long time Planning Board Member as well as the Library Board. Councilman Schnurr announced Little League Opening Day is Saturday, April 6th at 9:00 AM. He announced the Library Newsletter is available and the Memorial Day Parade Committee is holding a fundraiser at The Cabin on Tuesday, April 16th.

Councilwoman Rogers reported the Community YMCA hosted a Youth in Government Mach Government Convention and she stated she was proud of the students that participated and it was done professionally. Councilwoman Rogers stated the bills presented at their convention can be forwarded to the State for review and submission. Councilwoman Rogers stated she enjoyed speaking to participants and answering their questions.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she was also impressed by the participants at the Mach Government Convention and said it gives her hope for the future. Councilwoman Shutzer offered condolences to the Vawter family and added June Vawter was a very, very nice lady and a wonderful baker. She reported the Alliance Against Substance Abuse Golf Outing is May 20th and golfers, gifts and donations are welcomed. She reported the Council Meeting scheduled for May 20th will be cancelled. Councilwoman Shutzer reported the hydrants will be flushed on April 16th and the McGackin Awards will be May 17th with tickets selling for \$20.00. Councilwoman Shutzer relayed a story of the first and only time she threw out the first pitch at Little League Opening Day.

Councilman DiBenedetto gave his sympathies to the Vawter family. He announced the sidewalks are being repaired through the Sidewalk Program and encouraged residents to take advantage of this program next year. Councilman DiBenedetto announced brush pick up has been extended and details can be found on the website. Councilman DiBenedetto stated there is some ponding of water across from the water plant and it should be looked into.

Councilwoman Jordan stated Human Relations Committee has their annual Beautification Contest, open to residents and businesses and information can be found online or the Administrators office. She announced the Unity Walk is scheduled for June 29th and more details will follow.

Councilman Kane thanked Mr. Dougherty for reporting on the water supply. Councilman Kane expressed condolences to the Vawter family and wished to publicly thank Mr. Bellina, Richard Gartz, Kathy Caruso and the Finance Office for producing another fiscally responsible budget. He announced the net proposed municipal tax rate increase is ZERO and it is a tremendous benefit to our residents. Councilman Kane reported the Participatory Budget is getting ready for another season and the Sidewalk Program has been a winning program the first two years. He added lights at the Little League was a winning project this year and it's going to be a huge boost for Freehold

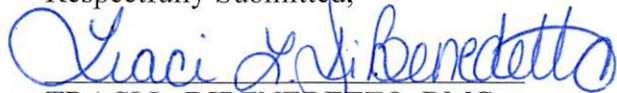
Borough Little League. Councilman Kane encouraged everyone to attend Little League Opening Day and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Rogers.

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 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc