

The virtual Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. through online video conference.

Mayor Kane 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 KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DIBENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN ANNETTE JORDAN
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN ADAM REICH
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN MARGARET ROGERS
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN GEORGE SCHNURR
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER

Mayor Kane thanked everyone for calling into the meeting stating these are unusual times. He encouraged everyone to maintain social distancing and stay safe.

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

“Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting March 16, 2020.

Councilman Reich offered a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Councilwoman Rogers.

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

Mayor Kane read Item No. 5 on the agenda as follows:

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2020/9 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey, Authorizing the Purchase of Property Designated as Tax Block 73, Lot 1.01 and 1.01x, 30 Mechanic Street in the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2020/9 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY

OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY DESIGNATED AS TAX BLOCK 73, LOT 1.01 AND 1.01X, 30 MECHANIC STREET IN THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY.” be, and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to publish said Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press and that shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on April 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM and that during the week of said meeting copies of the Ordinance shall be made available at the Clerk’s office to members of the general public who shall request same.

Councilman Schnurr stated this is for the purchase of a building on Mechanic Street, currently being used by the Monmouth County Probation Dept. The new Borough Hall will house all Borough offices, Police Department and Borough Court. He added this will open 51 West Main Street and the surrounding area for redevelopment.

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

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

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2020/10 of the Borough of Freehold Amending Chapter 8.40, the 2015 Edition of the International Property Maintenance Code.”

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2020/10 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AMENDING CHAPTER 8.40, THE 2015 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE.” be, and same is hereby approved on first reading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to publish said Ordinance in the Asbury Park Press and that shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting held on April 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM and that during the week of said meeting copies of the Ordinance shall be made available at the Clerk’s office to members of the general public who shall request same.

Councilman Reich stated this governs when a Certificate of Occupancy is required and how it is obtained.

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

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

“Resolution Ratifying Emergency Actions.”

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

“RESOLUTION RATIFYING EMERGENCY ACTIONS.”

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing Payment of Funds Collected on Behalf of the Special Improvement District.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF FUNDS COLLECTED ON BEHALF OF THE SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.

Councilwoman Jordan stated this is the payment for the SID taxes collected for the Downtown Partnership.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing Contributions to Freehold First Aid Squad Re: Fuel and Workmen’s Compensation Insurance.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRIBUTIONS TO FREEHOLD FIRST AID SQUAD RE: FUEL AND WORKMEN’S COMPENSATION INSURANCE.

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

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

“Resolution Authorizing the Use of Storm Recovery Reserves for COVID-19 Response.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF STORM RECOVERY RESERVES FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE.

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

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

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Actions/Appointments:

- a. Resignation of Charles Megill as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Monmouth Hose Company, effective April 6, 2020.**
- b. Resignation of Nicholas Badamo as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Engine and Hose Company #1, effective April 6, 2020.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTIONS/APPOINTMENTS: 11A-11B.

Councilman DiBenedetto wished Mr. Badamo well and stated he was sorry to see Ex-Chief Megill go and wished him well also.

Councilwoman Shutzer expressed the same.

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

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

“Resolution Approving the Following Applications:

- a. Sidewalk Café License, Aarzu Modern Indian Bistro, 30 East Main Street.**
- b. Sidewalk Café License, Café 360, 34 East Main Street.**
- c. Sidewalk Café License, Court Jester, 16 East Main Street.**
- d. Sidewalk Café License, OG Steaks, 31 East Main Street.**

- e. **Junkyard License, Beacon Metal, 215 Throckmorton Street.**
- f. **Vendor License, Snoopy's Ice Cream, Howell, NJ.**
- g. **Vendor License, Mayra's Ice Cream, Howell, NJ."**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS: 12A – 12G.

Councilman Schnurr questioned the wisdom of issuing sidewalk café licenses as it may add confusion to an already confusing situation.

Mayor Kane stated it is merely a housekeeping item and no action on the licenses will be taken until the executive order from the governor is lifted.

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

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

"Approval of Bills."

Councilman Schnurr 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 \$1,899,759.47 be paid as presented.

Councilman Schnurr noted the top six bills:

1. \$827,000.00 – Board of Education
2. \$317,000.00 – Freehold Regional High School District
3. \$300,000.00 – Payroll
4. \$172,000.00 – Health Benefits
5. \$ 81,000.00 - DeLisa Demolition
6. \$ 58,000.00 – SID Levy

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

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

"Clerk – Late Communications."

There were none.

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

“Public Comments”

Mr. Daniel Hoffman asked for an update to his Fire Department Application.

Borough Administrator, Steve Gallo responded that numerous attempts were made to reach him and he would call him again the following day to discuss.

Mr. Hoffman said that will be fine.

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

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

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

“Council Comments.”

Councilman DiBenedetto stated three trees were removed using the town’s new bucket truck and added it was a good investment. He thanked the Fire Department, Monmouth Hose Company who donated \$2,000 worth of candy to the employees at CentraState Medical Center. Councilman DiBenedetto wished everyone a Happy Easter, Happy Passover and hoped everyone stays well.

Councilman Schnurr stressed the importance of keeping their distance and expressed Mr. Gallo, Borough Administrator is doing a great job in protecting employees and moving ahead with other business items.

Councilwoman Jordan stated the first responders are doing an amazing job and thanked Mr. Gallo and Mayor Kane for their leadership. She thanked everyone who joined the meeting remotely and encouraged them to reach out if there is anything they need.

Councilwoman Rogers recognized the medical professionals, first responders and borough employees who are taking care of the residents and working on the front lines.

Councilman Reich thanked the first responders and administrators who are ensuring we get through this crisis and he hopes everyone stays healthy and strong. He wished everyone a good Easter and Passover and added he is looking forward to seeing everyone in person in the near future.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she is so proud of the way all of the employees have stepped up, especially the police department, fire department and first aid members. She commended Mr. Gallo and Mayor Kane on their leadership thanking them for everything. Councilwoman Shutzer announced the annual Alliance golf outing has been cancelled, the McGackin Awards have been postponed and provided the updated senior bus schedule for which reservations are needed. Councilwoman Shutzer wished everyone well.

Mayor Kane asked Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins if she had any comments.

Ms. Higgins stated she and Mr. Gallo have been getting all of the executive orders and notices and taking action where necessary. She stated the work that needs to be done is moving forward as best they can.

Mayor Kane stated Mr. Gallo has been putting together a safety net for the residents of Freehold who may have hit hard times during the health crisis. He asked Mr. Gallo to explain what is being done.

Borough Administrator, Steve Gallo explained how the many groups are working together to ensure Freehold kids get lunch during spring break and are raising money to continue to provide meals for the residents as well as provide some business to the restaurants. He stated he is happy he came to Freehold.

Councilman DiBenedetto offered information on small businesses that may need a loan and what resources are available to them. He encouraged everyone to look into the options available to them.

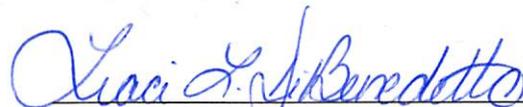
Mayor Kane stated there is a great team in Borough Hall that keep everything going and he thanked everyone for their hard work. He stated the best thing that can be done is to stay home and save lives. Mayor Kane mentioned information is regularly available via the website, blast emails, Facebook and robo-calls. He stated the next two weeks are critical. He thanked everyone for participating in the meeting and wished everyone stay well.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to adjourn, 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 Kane declared the motion adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK