

The virtual Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, April 20, 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 for those we lost to the COVID-19 including 5 Freehold Borough residents and the brother-in-law of Business Administrator Steve Gallo.

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 read Item No. 4 on the Agenda as follows:

“Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting April 6, 2020.

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

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:

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: 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.”

Mayor Kane opened the meeting the public.

There were no comments.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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.

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 second reading.

Councilman Schnurr stated the building will house the new Borough Hall, Police Station and Municipal Court and will open up 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:

"Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2020/10 of the Borough of Freehold Amending Chapter 8.40, the 2015 Edition of the International Property Maintenance Code."

Mayor Kane opened the meeting the public.

There were no comments.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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.

Councilman 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 second reading.

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:

“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2020/11 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey Amending and Supplementing Chapter 13 (Public Services) Section 13.04 (Water and Sewer Service Systems) of the Revised Ordinances of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”

Councilman DiBenedetto 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 #2020/11 OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 13 (PUBLIC SERVICES) SECTION 13.04 (WATER AND SEWER SERVICE SYSTEMS) OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF 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 May 4, 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.

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:

“Proclamation of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Thanking Those on the Frontlines.”

Councilwoman Shutzer read the Proclamation into the record.

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

“Introduction of the 2020 Municipal Budget Notice for the Borough of Freehold, Establishing the Date for Public Hearing and Authorizing Publication of Required Notices.”

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET NOTICE FOR THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, ESTABLISHING THE DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF REQUIRED NOTICES.

Councilman Schnurr stated the net proposed municipal tax rate increase is 2.55 cents and the appropriations are \$271,000 more than last year. He added considering the new water plant and moving Borough Hall, it is extraordinary that expenses have been held in other areas.

Mayor Kane confirmed the hearing for this budget will be on June 1, 2020.

Borough Administrator thanked CFO Ricky Gartz for the extraordinary work he has done on the budget and he continues to keep the organization running in a fiscally responsible manner.

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 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Amending Temporary Appropriations for 2020.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2020.

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 Authorizing the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to Execute the FY2021-2023 Agreement with Monmouth County for Cooperative Participation in the Community Development Program Pursuant to the Interlocal Services Act.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND MUNICIPAL CLERK TO EXECUTE THE FY2021-2023 AGREEMENT WITH MONMOUTH COUNTY FOR COOPERATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE INTERLOCAL SERVICES ACT.

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 Authorizing Award of a Professional Services Contract to Millennium Strategies, LLC for FEMA Grant Management and Administration.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO MILLENNIUM STRATEGIES, LLC FOR FEMA GRANT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

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. 13 on the Agenda as follows:

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey Awarding a Contract to DMR Architects for the Planning, Design and Supervision of Construction and Retrofit for a New Borough Hall.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AWARDED A CONTRACT TO DMR ARCHITECTS FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND RETROFIT FOR A NEW BOROUGH HALL.

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:

“Resolution Confirming Personnel Actions/Appointments:

- a. **Appointment of Daniel C. Hoffman as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Good Will Hook & Ladder Co., effective April 20, 2020.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL ACTIONS/APPOINTMENTS: 14.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated there have been issues with this application. She explained it is a personnel item and by law, will not be discussed publicly.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated he will be abstaining due to some of the accusations made against some of the Borough professionals, one of which he is related to.

On roll call Council Members voted; adoption none; opposed Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer; abstain DiBenedetto; absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion not adopted, therefore the application is denied.

Mayor Higgins read Item No. 15 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 \$402,523.42 be paid as presented.

Councilman Schnurr noted the top three bills:

1. \$302,000.00 – Payroll
4. \$ 20,475.00 - Utilities
5. \$ 17,741.00 – Abbington Engineering

On roll call Council Members DiBenedetto, Jordan, Reich, Rogers, Schnurr and Shutzer voted its adoption; opposed none; abstain Jordan (#10820); absent none. Mayor Kane declared the motion adopted.

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

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

There were none.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

“Public Comments”

Jeff Friedman, Freehold Center Management Corporation, thanked Mayor and Council as well as the Business Administrator for the hard work being done during this difficult time. He stated the Mr. Gallo and Mike Sweetman have been extremely helpful to the businesses. Mr. Friedman applauded the decision to move forward with the new Borough Hall which will keep those parking spots available to the businesses to use in off hours as well as open the current property on Main Street for redevelopment.

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. 18 on the Agenda as follows:

“Council Comments.”

Councilman DiBenedetto expressed condolences to Mr. Gallo for his recent loss. He thanked Mayor Kane for all of communication to the residents and recognized how hard these times are on everyone but commended the residents for the great job they are doing. Councilman DiBenedetto stated the town does need firefighters, but he has never seen an application be so troublesome in his over 30 years of being a fireman and 20 years as a councilman. He stated the people that work at Borough Hall are professionals and he hopes the applicant can find another avenue to join the fire department.

Councilman Schnurr stated all COVID-19 expenses are being tracked and since the shared services agreement for automotive repairs was passed in January, there have been no renegade auto repairs. He thanked Mr. Gallo for making sure all department heads were informed of this agreement as it saves money sharing the service with Freehold Township. Councilman Schnurr stated the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Program has been cancelled and will they hope to have it on Memorial Day Weekend next year.

Councilwoman Rogers thanked everyone who is working on the frontline of the health crisis. She stated her family was personally effected and thanked all the healthcare workers, especially the Mayor’s wife, Ellen. Councilwoman Rogers encouraged everyone to stay home and stay safe and follow the directives.

Councilman Reich stated he hopes everyone is staying safe and healthy and noted this needs to be taken one day at a time. He encouraged everyone to support the downtown restaurants and businesses. Councilman Reich thanked everyone for participating in the virtual meeting.

Councilwoman Jordan reported the library is moving ahead with its grant application which has an extended deadline of June. She stated Downtown businesses are open for takeout orders and gift card purchases and reported on a recent online fundraiser.

Councilwoman Shutzer offered condolences to Mr. Gallo for his recent loss. She thanked Mr. Gartz and everyone that worked on the budget. Councilwoman Shutzer welcomed Councilwoman Rogers back and wished her continued good health. Councilwoman Shutzer reported on the Safety Net Committee which provides food for residents that are in need. She reported 800 people are fed several times a week. She thanked everyone who works so hard on that committee. Councilwoman Shutzer reported on the weekly OEM call and wants everyone to know they are working tirelessly for the town and thanked everyone. Councilwoman Shutzer reminded residents of hydrant flushing scheduled for the next day.

Mayor Kane asked Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins and Borough Administrator, Steve Gallo if they had any comments.

Ms. Higgins stated everyone is doing a good job.

Mr. Gallo stated he had nothing else to add.

Mayor Kane thanked Mr. Gartz, Ms. Caruso and everyone in Finance for the work done on the budget and stated the municipality's finances are strong. In regards to the current health crisis, Mayor Kane thanked everyone from Borough employees to first responders on all of their hard work and explained the weekly calls that are done to coordinate efforts. Mayor Kane emphasized Freehold Borough is surrounded by four of the top five municipalities with the most COVID-19 cases in Monmouth County and encouraged everyone to adhere to the social distancing directives and stay home to stop the spread. Mayor Kane stated moving the Borough Offices has been talked about for a long time and it is exciting to see it moving forward. He explained several applications were taken for the building and stated Abbington Engineering has always done a great job for the Borough, but this project was more in DMR's wheelhouse. Mayor Kane wished everyone well and asked everyone to be safe and stay home.

Councilwoman Shutzer asked if anyone wanted to donate to the Safety Net Committee to help feed people, who the checks should be made to.

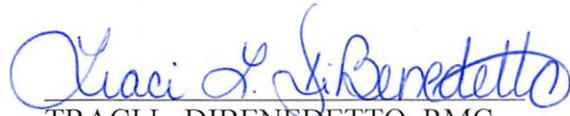
Mr. Jeff Friedman stated they could be made to any of the following organizations: Freehold Clergy Association, Open Door, Neighborhood Connections to Health, Freehold YMCA and Downtown Freehold. He stated that information is on the Borough Website.

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 Kane declared the motion adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc