

The virtual Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, May 4, 2020 at 6:00 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).

Councilman DiBenedetto opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence for Maryann Cullen, a Freehold Borough resident and former employee.

#### 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:

**“Resolution Authorizing Executive Session to Discuss Litigation.”**

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LITIGATION**

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 and Council entered into Executive Session.

Mayor and Council returned from Executive Session at 7:00 PM.

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

**“Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting April 20, 2020.”**

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

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 postponed Item No. 6 on the Agenda due to technical issues.

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

**“Second Reading and Public Hearing: 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.”**

Mayor Kane opened the meeting the public.

Mr. Almon Snider, 75 Jackson Street, questioned why the minimum usage charge was changed and stated he feels he is paying for other people’s water.

Mayor Kane stated it would be looked into and he would get an answer by the end of the week.

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 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 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.6 on the agenda as follows:

**“Item for Discussion:**

**a. Proposed Tax Levy – Richard J. Gartz, CFO.”**

CFO, Ricky Gartz reported the state has moved their fiscal year end back to September 30<sup>th</sup> so the proposed Tax Levy is on estimated tax bills. He stated the proposal is based on a 2% increase for the county and the schools. Mr. Gartz stated the sheet includes actual and the proposed introduced municipal budget figure in order to move ahead.

Mayor Kane thanked Mr. Gartz.

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

**“Resolution of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey Authorizing the Tax Collector to Process Third Quarter “Estimated” Tax Bills Due August 1, 2020.”**

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

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO PROCESS THIRD QUARTER “ESTIMATED” TAX BILLS DUE AUGUST 1, 2020.

Councilman Schnurr explained the DLGS recommended this be done.

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 Approving Application for Library State Aid.”**

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPLICATION FOR LIBRARY STATE AID.

Councilwoman Jordan reported this is a standard application for state aid.

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 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 Councilman Schnurr:

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

Councilwoman Jordan stated these are the properties located in the SID District and their assessment.

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

**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.**

Councilman DiBenedetto asked if Downtown Freehold has to pay out the entertainment contracts due to the pandemic.

Kerry Higgins, Borough Attorney stated it depends on individual contracts. The budget is based on the contracts that were already entered into.

Mr. Jeff Friedman, Downtown Freehold responded contracts vary by performer and payment arrangements differ as well. He stated the budget was based on what was put together in December and approved by the membership in March prior to everything stopping.

Councilman Schnurr asked about the budget as he only received a sheet for the revenue. He asked that a complete copy of the budget be sent to him.

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 Tax Appeal Settlement Re: Block 35 Lot 33; 63 West Main Street and Block 35 Lot 14; 46 Broad Street.”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT RE: BLOCK 35 LOT 33; 63 WEST MAIN STREET AND BLOCK 35 LOT 14; 46 BROAD STREET.

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 Authorizing an Extension of the Interest-Free Grace Period for the Payment of Taxes Due May 1, 2020.”**

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF THE INTEREST-FREE GRACE PERIOD FOR THE PAYMENT OF TAXES DUE MAY 1, 2020.

Councilman Schnurr explained the Governor signed an executive order allowing municipalities to extend the grace period for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter taxes and the Resolution must be passed locally to provide that extension.

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 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey Authorizing a Contract with CME Associates for Geotechnical Services for the 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 AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH CME ASSOCIATES FOR GEOTECHNICAL SERVICES FOR THE NEW BOROUGH HALL.

Councilman Reich explained this is for geotechnical boring to test the subsurface of the property.

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. 15 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey Authorizing a Contract with Spectrotel Holding Company for the Provision of Telecommunication Services.”**

Councilwoman Shutzer 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 AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH SPECTROTEL HOLDING COMPANY FOR THE PROVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES.

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:

**“Approval of Bills.”**

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 the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$3,869,113.19 be paid as presented.

Councilman Schnurr noted the top five bills:

1. \$973,000.00 – Police and Fireman Retirement System (Annual)
2. \$827,000.00 – Freehold Borough Board of Education
3. \$731,000.00 – Monmouth County
4. \$366,000.00 – Public Employee Retirement System (Annual)
5. \$318,000.00 – Freehold Regional High School District

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

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

**“Clerk – Late Communications.”**

There were none.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 18 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Public Comments.”**

Jaye Sims, Robertsville Road, stated he has seen people laying down, sleeping in front of OG Steaks and Investors Bank on East Main Street and asked if anyone was aware.

Chief Dispenza asked if the police were called at the time.

Mr. Sims stated he did not call the police.

Chief Dispenza stated this is out of the ordinary and encouraged anyone to call the police if they see this happening so it can be addressed.

Marie Chapman, Brinkerhoff Avenue, asked if a speed bump could be installed on Brinkerhoff Avenue to control speeders.

Mayor Kane stated that this issue has been discussed before and many streets ask for traffic calming practices. He explained the engineering firm will be asked to research it and the police will do a traffic survey.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins reported the police usually do a traffic survey and record the actual stats based on time of day and any issues will be addressed accordingly.

Mayor Kane thanked Ms. Chapman and stated the survey results will be relayed to her.

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. 19 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Council Comments.”**

Councilman DiBenedetto stated brush pick up has ended and asked everyone to be safe and stay well.

Councilman Schnurr offered respect and admiration to the police department for everything the officers are doing.

Councilwoman Rogers stated as the pandemic continues she asked everyone to stay positive and stated the governing body is here for everyone. She thanked the first responders and those participating in the birthday parades as it brightens up the recipient's day.

Councilman Reich thanked everyone for waiting through the Executive Session. He cautioned everyone to be safe and be smart as no one wants a resurgence in COVID-19 cases. Councilman Reich stated he is looking forward to seeing everyone in person soon.

Councilwoman Jordan responded to Ms. Chapman that she could submit her idea to the Participatory Budget Committee for consideration. She thanked everyone for social distancing and staying safe.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated Maryann Cullen passed away and was a former employee in the grammar school and library. She thanked all the employees and first responders. Councilwoman Shutzer thanked everyone that helps hand out the food at the schools, everyone that have donated and especially Councilwoman Jordan for all the work she is doing behind the scenes.

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

Ms. Higgins had no comments.

Mr. Gallo stated Borough business is continuing with the new Water Plant, resurfacing Bannard Street and moving forward with the Borough Hall transition. He stated much progress is anticipated for this year.

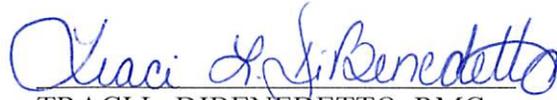
Mayor Kane thanked everyone for joining the meeting. He asked everyone to stay vigilant with the pandemic. Mayor Kane stated Mr. Friedman is doing a great job in keeping the downtown restaurants going and everyone is open for take-out. Mayor Kane stated he is in close communication with CentraState and things are looking better but he begged everyone to stay alert. He commended the great community effort in helping each other. Mayor Kane stated you can't hide that Borough pride. He wished everyone well and a good night.

Councilman Reich offered a motion to adjourn, 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 Kane declared the motion adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC  
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc