

The virtual Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, June 1, 2020 at 6:30 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 in memory of those lost to COVID-19.

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 a statement regarding the challenges of the virus, COVID-19 and injustices surrounding the death of George Floyd. Mayor Kane quoted Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and stated the community should stand up for justice. He reported he has reached out to community and religious leaders to bring about systemic change and create a more just society. Mayor Kane commended the police department and praised the diversity of the community. He stated the looks forward to continuing to work together to make the community a place we can all be proud of.

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 DiBenedetto:

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 acknowledge Mr. Jim Markey, representative from JCP&L.

Mr. Markey stated he was checking in to make sure everything was good.

Mayor Kane thanked Mr. Markey for attending.

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

“Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting May 18, 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. 6 on the Agenda as follows:

“Public Hearing of the 2020 Annual Budget of the Borough of Freehold.”

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

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD.

Mayor Kane explained due to circumstances with the pandemic, there are some delays from the state but statutorily the public hearing must be held. Mayor Kane opened the meeting to the public.

Daniel Hoffman, 55 Conover Street questioned several items on the budget.

CFO, Ricky Gartz responded and explained each item that was questioned.

Mr. Hoffman asked if salaries and costs be cut back due to the economic environment results from the pandemic.

Borough Administrator, Steve Gallo responded various expenses are in the process of being reduced and gave examples. He stated a majority of salary increases are a result of contracts that were previously signed.

Councilman Schnurr added the net proposed municipal tax increase is 2.55 cents and the appropriations are \$271,000 more than last year. He stated considering there is a new water plant and moving Borough Hall, it is extraordinary expenses have been held in other areas. Councilman Schnurr stated ratables and valuations have increased by \$56 Million in the last three years and a plan to move Borough Hall will allow 51 West Main Street to further increase ratables.

Mr. Gallo stated there are a limited number of ways to reduce spending; either reduce services and create more ratables. He announced the CFO has asked all departments to look at their budgets again because of the times we are in.

Mr. Hoffman stated he has concerns about the school budget.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins stated the governing body has no control over the school budget.

Mayor Kane stated there is a great team in place and some things are on the horizon. He thanked Mr. Hoffman for his questions.

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.

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

“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, New Jersey Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement for Legal Services Related to a Bankruptcy Matter.”

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 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO A BANKRUPTCY MATTER.

Borough Administrator, Steve Gallo stated this is a very specialized legal service and our counsel has identified a firm.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins reported there have been several bankruptcy issues and it is good to have a firm that is well trained in this field.

CFO, Ricky Gartz stated the bankruptcies are not COVID-19 related.

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 of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, Approving Participation with the State of New Jersey Federal Grant Program Administered by the Division of Criminal Justice, Department of Law and Public Safety, Safe and Secure Communities Program.”

Councilman DiBenedetto 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, APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY, SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.

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 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold in Support of Senate Bill S-2475 and Assembly Bill A-3971 Authorizing the Issuance “Coronavirus Relief Bonds” by Municipalities and Counties.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL S-2475 AND ASSEMBLY BILL A-3971 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE “CORONAVIRUS RELIEF BONDS” BY MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES.

Councilwoman Jordan stated this supports bills that allow the municipality flexibility when addressing the shortfalls as a result of COVID-19.

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 and Providing for the Issuance and Sale of \$5,000,000 Tax Anticipation Notes of the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey, Authorizing the Sale of All or a Portion Thereof to the Monmouth County Improvement Authority, and Determining Various Matters in Connection Therewith.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF \$5,000,000 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF ALL OR A PORTION THEREOF TO THE MONMOUTH COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY, AND DETERMINING VARIOUS MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

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 of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold, County of Monmouth Authorizing a Temporary License Agreement for Expansion of Business Operations During COVID-19 Restrictions.”

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR EXPANSION OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.

Borough Administrator, Steve Gallo stated outdoor dining will be allowed to resume on June 15th and this is a plan to allow businesses to use sidewalks, parking lots or adjacent space to assist in their reopening while adhering to distance guidelines. He explained an application was developed and will need several department approvals. Mr. Gallo stated he hopes to move these applications quickly.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the revenue the businesses have lost can never be recovered, but this offers them a chance to return to a normal work day.

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 License Agreement with FR Park Racing, LP Re: Movie Nights.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH FR PARK RACING,
LP RE: MOVIE NIGHTS.

Councilman Reich explained the racetrack is planning to set up drive in movies and this allows them to proceed.

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 Agreement with MTBJM Realty, LLC Block 36 Lot 27 for Use of Vacant Property for the Freehold Safety Net Emergency Food Distribution Program.”

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT WITH MTBJM REALTY, LLC
BLOCK 36 LOT 27 FOR USE OF VACANT PROPERTY FOR THE FREEHOLD
SAFETY NET EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.

Councilwoman Shutzer explained this give Open Door more space for their food distribution.

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 Adopting the “26-28 Court Street/2-6 Broad Street Preliminary Investigation Redevelopment Study” (Non-Condensation).”

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE “26-28 COURT STREET/2-6 BROAD STREET
PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION REDEVELOPMENT STUDY” (NON-
CONDEMNATION).

Councilman Reich stated this adopts the Planning Board’s recommendation to move

ahead with the Redevelopment Study.

Councilman Schnurr stated he has voted in favor of this several times.

Borough Administrator, Steve Gallo explained there will be future votes on this as the process insures for public input. He explained the Redevelopment Plan now gets developed, it will return to the Planning Board and then come back to the governing body to adopt as the superseding redevelopment plan for site.

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 Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:

- a. Resignation of Sean Healey as a member of the Freehold Fire Department, Monmouth Hose Company.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS: 15A.

Councilwoman Shutzer thanked Mr. Healey for his years of service.

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 \$2,669,061.70 be paid as presented.

Councilman Schnurr noted the top four bills:

1. \$827,221.00 – Freehold Borough Board of Education
2. \$718,320.00 – MRRSA-Quarterly
3. \$317,715.00 – FRHSD
4. \$285,000.00 – Payroll
5. \$171,000.00 – NJ Health Benefits

CFO, Ricky Gartz clarified the Freehold Borough and Freehold Regional taxes are a monthly payment, not quarterly.

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. 17 on the Agenda as follows:

“Clerk – Late Communications.”

“Late Communication:

a. Resolution Amending and Confirming the Mayor’s Appointments to the Borough of Freehold Green Team.”

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

RESOLUTION AMENDING AND CONFIRMING THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD GREEN TEAM.

Councilman Reich explained the Resolution is in accordance with the requirements of Sustainable New Jersey Certification and allows the town to work towards an environmentally efficient quality of life. Councilman Reich announced the members of the team.

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:

“Public Comments.”

Marie Chapman, 67 Brinckerhoff Ave questioned if chickens were permitted and advised that a neighbor has them. She stated she was concerned about the spread of disease and viruses.

Mayor Kane explained the Board of Health has completed extensive research for over a year, including information from Rutgers Cooperative Extension on the matter and put together a process for obtaining a license.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins added there are restrictions including the number of hens, size of coop, no roosters. She stated there is a lot of research on the positive impact of having fresh eggs and having a sustainable resource. Ms. Higgins stated most of the surrounding towns have the same ordinances.

Mayor Kane asked Ms. Chapman to call the Clerk’s office with the address of the neighbor and licensing compliance will be verified.

Ms. Chapman asked if there has been a date scheduled for the town-wide shredding.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated it has not been established yet, but it will be.

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

Mr. Jim Markey from JCP&L stated he is always available if needed.

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 hoped everyone is safe and stated his heart goes out to the Floyd family and it is tragic. He asked people for patience once the businesses open up as they are following guidelines but to come out and support them.

Councilman Schnurr thanked CFO for his work on the budget. He stated he has been signing the vouchers. Councilman Schnurr described the Memorial Day service and stated it was viewed 28,000 times on the Memorial Day Parade Facebook Page. He thanked the committee, Mayor Kane and Borough Administrator, Steve Gallo for their support. Councilman Schnurr stated it is important what elected officials say and noted the stark contrast between Mayor Kane’s opening remarks and the President’s recent Tweet.

Councilwoman Rogers expressed what a difficult time it is, especially for people of color. She stated as a community Freehold has always stood by all its residents and encouraged people to use this time as an opportunity to strengthen the bonds, to communicate and build solutions. Councilwoman Rogers invited everyone to bring their questions, concerns and suggestions to the governing body. She stated she is struggling as a mother of sons and wants to make sure no tragedies happen in our community.

Councilman Reich thanked everyone for joining the meeting. He stated the Memorial Day service was a wonderful way to honor our fallen heroes and thanked the Councilman Schnurr and the Memorial Day Parade Committee. Councilman Reich recognized the teachers and students who are finishing an unusual school year. Councilman Reich stated members of the community can approach anyone on the governing body with any concerns and he looks forward to working with anyone and opening dialog.

Councilwoman Jordan stated she watched the Memorial Day service on the live stream and thanked the committee for a wonderful job. She stated she is looking forward to heading downtown and encouraged everyone to support the businesses that have been here all along. Councilwoman Jordan stated her heart breaks over everything that is going on and as an elected

official she will do whatever it takes to make sure everyone is respected, listened to and change is facilitated.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she received a text congratulating the town for the class and respect shown during the Memorial Day service and thanked the committee. She added she has received 100 or more compliments. She announced Olde Freehold Day is cancelled for this year. Councilwoman Shutzer thanked CFO, Ricky Gartz and Kathy Caruso and everyone that worked on the budget. Councilwoman Shutzer thanked Councilwoman Rogers who eloquently expressed how everyone feels.

Mayor Kane stated CFO Ricky Gartz takes everything very seriously and thanked him for all of his hard work. Mayor Kane thanked Chief Dispenza for everything the Police Department does.

Mr. Gallo stated we have a great CFO in Ricky and he watches the citizen's money like it is his own, because he is a citizen.

Mr. Gartz thanked everyone for the accolades and stated his just doing his job.

Mayor Kane thanked the Memorial Day Parade Committee on a truly spectacular service. Mayor stated Jeff Friedman, Downtown Freehold has been working very hard during this crisis and explained the food programs. He stated there will be a meeting with community and religious leaders and updates will be coming out. Mayor Kane thanked Mr. Markey for joining the meeting.

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 7:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc