

The virtual Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, August 3, 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).

Captain Steppat 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 read Item No. 4 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting July 20, 2020 and Special Meeting July 27, 2020.”**

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

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:

**“Recognition of Centennial Scholarship Winners (Councilwoman Shutzer).”**

Councilwoman Shutzer explained the Centennial Celebration Committee’s desire to honor graduating seniors that live in Freehold Borough and announced the five applicants that received awards. She announced winners as being; \$500 to Mary Newman and Brionna Seward, \$250 to Jake DiMilta, Renatta Ceppi and Tania Fuentes-Manzano. Councilwoman Shutzer stated all the essays contained glowing statements about Freehold Borough. She thanked the scholarship committee for their assistance.

The winners thanked Mayor and Council for their recognition.

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

**“Introduction of and Authorization to Publish Ordinance #2020/13 Amending in Part Ordinance No. 2019/12 Fixing and Determining Salaries of Certain Officers, Positions and Employees of the Borough of Freehold.”**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “INTRODUCTION OF AND AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH ORDINANCE #2020/13 AMENDING IN PART ORDINANCE NO. 2019/12 FIXING AND DETERMINING SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS, POSITIONS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD,” 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 September 8, 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. 7 on the Agenda as follows:

**“Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Authorizing the Renewal of a Commodity Resale Agreement with the County of Monmouth.”**

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A COMMODITY RESALE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH.

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 Mayor and Council of the Borough Authorizing Application for the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle.”**

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH  
AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON  
ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE FISCAL GRANT CYCLE.

Councilwoman Shutzer explained this is the main source of funding for the Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse.

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, County of Monmouth, New Jersey Authorizing the Purchase of Body Worn Cameras (BWC) and Motor Vehicle Recorders (MVR) Under State Contract.”**

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

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF  
FREEHOLD, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE  
PURCHASE OF BODY WORN CAMERAS (BWC) AND MOTOR VEHICLE  
RECORDERS (MVR) UNDER STATE CONTRACT.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated this new equipment will update the current system and bring the police department into the future.

Councilman Schnurr thanked Captain Stepat for all of his hard work in this matter.

Captain Stepat thanked Mayor and Council, Administrator Gallo and CFO Gartz for their support and finding the funding. He explained the police department is proud of the work they do and this is something the officers have asked for. Captain Stepat stated updating the technology is for everyone's protection and it is appreciated.

Business Administrator Steve Gallo added at a recent meeting with members of the PBA, they fully supported this initiative.

Councilman DiBenedetto thanked the PBA and the police department for all of their input. He stated the department reached out to the governing body and expressed what they needed to better serve the community.

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 Confirming Personnel Appointments/Actions:**

- a. **Resignation of Gianna Dell’Omo as a member of the Human Relations Committee, effective August 3, 2020.**
- b. **Resignation of Jane Fields as a member of the Human Relations Committee, effective August 3, 2020.**
- c. **Resignation of Jose Geronimo as a member of the Freehold Planning Board, effective July 27, 2020.**
- d. **Resignation of David Loring as a member of the Historic Preservation Committee, effective August 3, 2020.**
- e. **Appointment of Michael T. Krause as a Seasonal Laborer, Department of Public Works, effective August 3, 2020.”**

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

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS/ACTIONS: 10A-10E.

Councilwoman Shutzer acknowledged with regret the resignations of the committee members. She stated they have all been hard-working, dedicated members of their committees and will a be missed. She thanked them all for giving their time and talents to the community.

Councilman Reich stated he worked with four of the five volunteers and they were the heart and soul of their committees and he wished them well in the future.

Councilwoman Jordan wished to echo the previous sentiments.

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 Memorializing the Approval of the Following Outdoor Dining Applications:**

- a. **Aarzu, 30 East Main Street**
- b. **American Hotel, 18-20 East Main Street**
- c. **Café 360, 34 East Main Street**
- d. **Court Jester, 16 East Main Street**
- e. **El Ranchero, 28 West Main Street**
- f. **Texas Mexican, 3 West Main Street**
- g. **Tony’s Freehold Grill, 59 East Main Street**
- h. **Federici’s, 14 East Main Street**
- i. **Mateo’s, 13 West Main Street**
- j. **Metropolitan Café, 8 East Main Street**
- k. **A Little Bit of Cuba Dos, 2 East Main Street**

- l. OG Steaks and Hoagies, 31 East Main Street**
- m. Oyako Tso, 6 West Main Street**
- n. Solo Trattoria, 7 South Street**
- o. Sweet Lew's Café, 6 East Main Street."**

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS: 11A-110.**

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:

**"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 \$3,520,001.07 be paid as presented.

Councilman Schnurr noted the top bills:

- 1. \$1,444,000 – Freehold Borough Board of Education
- 2. \$ 741,861 – Monmouth County
- 3. \$ 312,417 – Freehold Regional High School
- 4. \$ 303,000 – Payroll
- 5. \$ 246,739 – Coppola Services (Water Plant)
- 6. \$ 174,234 – NJ State Health Benefits
- 7. \$ 81,847 – DeLisa Demolition
- 8. \$ 62,000 – Weiner Ford of Cherry Hill (Dump Truck)

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:

**"Correspondence:**

**Receipt of letter dated July 28, 2020 from Mayor Kevin Kane making the following appointments to the Freehold Borough Recreation Commission:**

- a. Amanda McCobb, term expiring on 12/31/2024**
- b. Ashley Biddle, term expiring on 12/31/2024."**

Councilman Schnurr stated he read the entire Recreation Ordinance and it needs a lot of work. He encouraged everyone on council to read the Ordinance.

Administrator Gallo explained he recently met with Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins and this issue was discussed. He stated progress will be made on this and other changes that are needed.

Councilwoman Jordan stated she would like to be included in those discussions.

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:

**“Items for Discussion:**

**a. Government Energy Aggregation.**

Business Administrator, Steve Gallo stated there was some interest in Energy Aggregation and explained the process of the NJ Law which allows municipalities to separately or collectively aggregate their electric consumption to obtain a competitive price. Mr. Gallo stated the parameters of a lower price and/or a cleaner, renewable energy source is presented to the residents. He added this is supported by Sustainable Jersey and allows the town to gain points in pursuit of silver status. Mr. Gallo explained the legislation is written if a resident does not want to participate they have to opt-out, otherwise they are automatically enrolled. Mr. Gallo stated it is a way to get lower costs and cleaner energy. He stated the town needs to decide if we are participating and if so, a Resolution needs to be passed.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she will vote against this because she does not like the opt-out provision as it does a disservice to our residents.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated he is leaning towards agreeing with Councilwoman Shutzer.

Councilwoman Jordan stated she is not confident moving forward at this time.

Mayor Kane suggested creating a sub-committee to investigate this more.

Councilwoman Jordan agreed and is willing to work on that. She said she has concerns over some of the experiences other towns have had and wants to produce facts to the residents.

Mr. Gallo explained there is absolutely no change in service, our residents would still call JCP&L, it is just a matter of where the energy is generated.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated she will listen to all of the information but a committee

can't change the legislation which requires participants to opt out instead of opt in, so she is still against it.

Councilwoman Rogers stated her concerns are residents being unfamiliar with the program and the opt out requirement. She thinks it's a good thing but being conscious of the community she feels public hearings are needed and research needs to be provided why the governing body thinks it's a good idea.

Mr. Gallo stated the consultant would be responsible for providing the information and maintaining a website where residents can opt out at any time. He stated the term is usually for a few years and then renegotiated. If a cheaper price is not found it reverts back to the original supplier.

Councilman Schnurr indicated he would like to hear from Mr. Joe Grillo.

Mayor Kane suggested the subcommittee talk to towns that have done this and get a better understanding of how it works.

Mr. Gallo stated he is not pushing either way, it was something suggested by Sustainable Jersey. He stated he can arrange a meeting with the experts.

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

**“Public Comments.”**

Marie Chapman, 67 Brinckerhoff Ave, questioned the passing of the chicken ordinance and the fact that chickens breed salmonella and is concerned with the spread of germs. She stated if the ordinance is not passed it should be postponed until COVID calms down. She also questioned how to recycle paint cans and dispose of cleaning products.

Borough Administrator, Steve Gallo explained how to dry out household paint cans and said the county reclamation center can take household hazardous waste.

Ms. Chapman asked if there was a report on the speed meters placed on Brinckerhoff Ave.

Captain Steppat stated he will look into it and get back to Ms. Chapman.

Mayor Kane stated the chicken issue has been discussed for over a year and half at the Board of Health and there are many restrictions. He suggested she call the Board of Health with specific questions.

Steve Ferguson, 16 Reid Way stated we need to take advantage of whatever cost savings there are to residents as taxes will be going up due to COVID-19.

Councilman Reich stated the Monmouth County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 3211 Shafto Road in Tinton Falls takes all types of paint and their information can be found by

searching paint recycling Tinton Falls.

Councilman DiBenedetto made a motion to close Public Comments, 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.

Councilman DiBenedetto made a motion to move to Executive Session to discuss Public Safety, seconded by Councilwoman Jordan with all in favor.

Executive Session began at 7:17 PM

Mayor and Council returned from Executive Session at 7:34 PM.

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

**“Council Comments.”**

Councilman DiBenedetto hoped everyone is having a warm and healthy summer and warned people to be safe during the storm that is predicted for the next day.

Councilwoman Jordan reported the Recreation Committee has started on line exercise videos to gets kids active; the most recent one was filmed at Veterans Park and demonstrates how to use the equipment. She detailed some of the upcoming videos that are planned. Councilwoman Jordan stated the Participatory Budget project, bridge at Lake Topanemus, is installed and just needs a few finishing touches. She announced the Drive-In Movie Nights through Downton Partnership and explained how to get tickets. She encouraged everyone that is downtown to mask up. Councilwoman Jordan announced the library is up and running with social distancing requirements.

Councilman Reich stated he hopes everyone remains safe and healthy and wished everyone well with tomorrow’s storm and encouraged them to enjoy the warm weather before fall chill comes.

Councilwoman Rogers thanked everyone for attending and encouraged everyone to mask up and be safe and keep the numbers down.

Councilman Schnurr announced he has been working with the American Legion to open up the outside back portion of their property and there will be more coming regarding Eagle Scout projects planned there. Councilman Schnurr reported on an article in the Asbury Park Press about Freehold Bank providing service for their customers in the parking lot. He commended them as they are doing things the big banks aren’t. Councilman Schnurr stated he would like the governing body to do as Red Bank recently did and pass a Resolution for Medicare for all.

Councilwoman Shutzer reported there was an OEM call regarding the storm and all departments are prepared and will meet again in the morning. She stated if power is lost, call 1-888-544-4877 and report your location. She wished for everyone to stay safe during the storm.

Borough Attorney, Kerry Higgins stated she hopes everyone stays safe tomorrow.

Borough Administrator, Steve Gallo stated the storm is being tracked and the worst part is expected around 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM with high winds and heavy rains. He encouraged residents to secure loose items on their property.

Captain Steppat thanked Mayor and Council for cameras and stated every level of the department is appreciative. He asked residents to stay safe tomorrow.

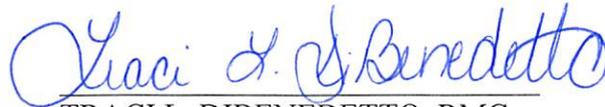
Mayor Kane thanked everyone that participated in the meeting and asked people to stay vigilant about the virus and wear masks. He wished everyone well and hoped they stay safe.

Councilman DiBenedetto 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 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC  
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD:lc