

The Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold was held on Monday, April 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM at the Freehold Borough Municipal Building.

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 Colaner opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence for Pope Francis.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT	MAYOR KEVIN KANE
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DIBENEDETTO
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN JEFFREY FRIEDMAN
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN ANNETTE JORDAN
PRESENT	COUNCILMAN ADAM REICH
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN MARGARET ROGERS
PRESENT	COUNCILWOMAN SHARON SHUTZER

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

“Donation to the Freehold Fire Department.”

Mayor Kane and Councilman DiBenedetto introduced Mr. Dave Gruskos from Reliable Automotive Equipment on Park Avenue who donated two EV Fire Suppression Blankets and multiple high voltage hooks to the Freehold Fire Department. Mr. Gruskos explained the complexities of dealing with electric vehicles on fire and detailed how the blankets help extinguish fires and the hooks allow first responders to open vehicle doors while minimizing the risk of electrocution. Mr. Gruskos provided the high voltage hooks to the Police Department as well.

Fire Chief, Mike Wilson explained how fire fighters must treat electric vehicles fires differently and the training that they complete. He thanked Mr. Gruskos, adding the donation will make a huge difference in their response within the community.

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

“Workshop Discussion.”

There were no items for discussion.

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

“Administrator’s Report.”

Borough Administrator, Steve Gallo, reported the Hometown Redevelopment Project developers are negotiating for the parcels in the project area. He stated he is working with KFM Partnership to move that project forward and 200 Park Ave. is going through the Land Use process. He reported there are delivery issues at Starbucks that are being addressed. Mr. Gallo stated he meets with developers for Nestle, noting there is no desire for high density housing. He announced planners have gained access to the building at the Raceway to conduct a Redevelopment Study. He reported a Redevelopment Plan is being drafted for 500 Park Ave.

Mr. Gallo reported on the upcoming roadway projects including the intersection redesign of Throckmorton and Main Streets. He announced the scheduled paving projects; Throckmorton Street, Lloyd Street, Bond Street, Liberty Street, Monmouth Ave scheduled for this summer. He reviewed the park upgrades at Lenoir Street Park, Musgrave Park, Veterans Park, Wilson Field and Liberty Street Park. He announced the improvements being completed at Court Street School to make it more accessible.

Mr. Gallo reported the Public Safety Building Committee will be meeting with three architects and he finalized the transaction for the purchase of the land at 17 Broad Street. He reported a grant is being sought for a water quality initiative to purify the water and naturally remove sediments. He stated the Overcrowding Committee is discussing changes to the residential site improvement standards to regulate the number of bedrooms in a house by the number of available parking spaces.

Mr. Gallo reported on the federal mandate to replace lead pipes within the municipality and financing through iBank. He explained the Historic Trail that will be marked within the borough and the possibility of future trails based on other subjects. Mr. Gallo reported on the upcoming Semiquincentennial, the 250th Anniversary of the country. He stated the kick-off event will be the Battle of Monmouth Street Fair on 6/28. He announced fireworks will be held at Freehold Racetrack on 7/3.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated it was heartwarming to see how all the parks are being used.

Mayor Kane asked that the murals in the meeting room be included on the history tour.

Councilwoman Jordan asked if there is deadline for properties to respond to the offer letters from Hometown Redevelopment Plan.

Mr. Gallo stated the Otteau Group, Real Estate Appraising was hired at the last meeting to complete the appraisals and then letters will go out with a timeframe for responses.

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

“Approval of Minutes: Council Meeting April 7, 2025.”

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

On roll call, Council Members DiBenedetto, Friedman, Jordan, Reich, Rogers 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 Declaring April 2025 as Autism Awareness Month.”

Councilwoman Jordan announced a grant was received to increase visibility and access for people with disabilities, explaining programs and information are available at the Freehold Family Health Center.

Councilwoman Jordan read the Proclamation into the record.

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

“Proclamation of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Declaring April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.”

Councilwoman Shutzer read the Proclamation into the record.

Mayor Kane asked Chief Colaner to explain the recent partnership with the Stephanie Nicole Parze Foundation.

Chief Colaner explained the Stephanie Nicole Parze Foundation room being installed at the Police Station. He explained the room offers domestic violence victims, a safe, secure and comfortable environment to speak with law enforcement and professionals if needed.

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

“Proclamation of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold Declaring April 25, 2025 as Arbor Day in the Borough of Freehold.”

Councilwoman Rogers stated Arbor Day is important to the Shade Tree Committee. She reviewed the community engagement with the school, awarding essay contest winners on 5/2. Councilwoman Rogers recognized Shade Tree Committee member Christine Gregory.

Councilwoman Rogers read the Proclamation into the record.

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

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2025/9 to Amend and Supplement Title 2 “Administration and Personnel” of the Code of the Borough of Freehold.

Resolution Adopting Ordinance #2025/9 and Authorization of Publication.”

Mayor Kane opened the meeting to the public.

There were no public comments.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE #2025/9 TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT TITLE 2 “ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL” OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD,” be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

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

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

“Second Reading and Public Hearing: Bond Ordinance #2025/10 Providing for the Borough Wide Lead Service Line Replacement Project, Appropriating \$3,133,035.00 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$3,133,035.00 Bonds and Notes to Finance a Portion of the Costs Thereof, Authorized in and by the Borough of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey.

Resolution Adopting Bond Ordinance #2025/10 and Authorization of Publication.”

Mayor Kane opened the meeting to the public.

There were no public comments.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

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

Councilwoman Rogers 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 an Ordinance entitled “BOND ORDINANCE #2025/10 PROVIDING FOR THE BOROUGH WIDE LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, APPROPRIATING \$3,133,035.00 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,133,035.00 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY,” be, and same is hereby adopted on second reading.

Councilwoman Shutzer asked as a resident with lead pipes, should she abstain from voting.

Borough Attorney, Robert Cosgrove stated she did not need to abstain.

On roll call, Council Members DiBenedetto, Friedman, Jordan, Reich, Rogers 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:

“First Reading and Introduction: Ordinance #2025/11 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 #2025/11 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 5, 2025 at 6:30 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, Friedman, Jordan, Reich, Rogers 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:

“Introduction of the 2025 Municipal Budget Notice for the Borough of Freehold, Establishing the Date for Public Hearing (May 19, 2025) and Authorizing Publication of Required Notices.”

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET NOTICE FOR THE BOROUGH OF FREEHOLD, ESTABLISHING THE DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING (MAY 19, 2025) AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF REQUIRED NOTICES.

Councilwoman Rogers thanked CFO, Kathy Caruso, the Finance Team and everyone involved, stating a lot of thought was put into the budget to get through these challenging times.

Councilman DiBenedetto commended Councilwoman Rogers and the Finance Committee as well as Ms. Caruso and Business Administrator Gallo. He thanked them for their efforts.

On roll call, Council Members DiBenedetto, Friedman, Jordan, Reich, Rogers 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:

“CONSENT AGENDA – Note: Matters listed under the items of “Consent Agenda” are required to conduct the day to day operations of the Borough, and will be enacted by (1) motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired of any items, that item will be considered separately.

CR-1 Authorizing the Purchase of Motor Vehicle Fuel Through the New Jersey State Contract.

CR-2 Authorizing Signatory to NJ Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for the Musgrave Park Improvements Project.

CR-3 Authorizing the Purchase of Decorative Street Lights.

CR-4 Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement in Connection with the

Neighborhood Preservation Program.

CR-5 Amending Temporary Appropriations for 2025.

CR-6 Personnel Actions/Appointments:

- a. **Resignation of Lizzett Henriquez as Deputy Registrar, effective April 15, 2025.**
- b. **Appointment of Alexandra Tucker as Deputy Registrar, effective April 16, 2025.**

CR-7 Applications:

- a. **Raffle License #12-25, Center Players, Inc., 50/50 Raffle, 5/31/2025 and 6/1/2025, 140 Court Street.**
- b. **Sidewalk Café License, Seafood Lover Fried, 31 East Main Street.**
- c. **Canning License, BPOE Freehold Elks Lodge #1454, 6/14/2025, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, intersections of Main & South Streets and East Main/Center St/Spring St. and Broadway.**

END OF CONSENT AGENDA.”

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

CONSENT AGENDA: CR-1 through CR7.

On roll call, Council Members DiBenedetto, Friedman, Jordan, Reich, Rogers 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.”

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

Councilwoman Shutzer noted the increase in trash and recycling monthly fees from an average of \$89,000 to over \$115,000 per month.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Freehold that the bills on the attached list in the amount of \$4,451,128.32 be paid as presented.

On roll call, Council Members DiBenedetto, Friedman, Jordan, Reich, Rogers 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:

“Redevelopment Presentation:

- a. Roast Realty II, LLC, Requesting Review – Minor Subdivision/Minor Site Plan and Change of Use to Boarding House, 21 Hudson Street.”**

Borough Attorney, Robert Cosgrove explained the application involves a change of use to a boarding house consisting of a shared kitchen with separate residences, and a proposed parking lot, noting it is located in the Redevelopment Zone and must come before Mayor and Council before going to Planning Board.

Mr. Sal Alfieri, attorney for the applicant summarized the application. He stated the applicant’s initial vision was to build a parking lot connected to the Market Yard Parking Lot to accommodate his tenants in his other properties on the Market Yard Parking Lot. Mr. Alfieri explained the two aspects to the application are the parking lot and what can be done with the former assisted living building. He asked the applicant be given some indication as to what is preferred.

Councilman DiBenedetto questioned if it is one property and stated both aspects of the application should be heard together.

Mr. Alfieri introduced Rob Sive, Engineer.

Mr. Sive provided two exhibits of the proposed parking lot. Exhibit 1 shows combining of the back half of one lot and the neighboring empty land lot to create a parking lot which has 39 parking stalls and is connected the Market Yard Parking Lot, depicted in Exhibit 2. He explained the entrance to the proposed lot near the trash enclosure.

Councilman DiBenedetto stated the Market Yard will lose 4 parking stalls for the proposed lot entrance.

Councilman Friedman stated they are important parking spots because they are reserved for the large commercial trucks. He suggested relocating the designated truck parking closer to the county’s employee parking lot within the new lot.

Applicant, Mr. Steve Katz explained his intension is to use the proposed lot for his tenants at 10 East Main Street and their customers. Mr. Katz confirmed there is a partnership with Mr. Kash from the American Hotel who will also utilize the parking lot. He stated he has several properties that are all empty due to parking restrictions.

Mr. Alfieri stated the applicant felt the additional parking was a good option to eliminate the need to ask for a variance. He feels the parking is a win for everyone and admitted there needs to be a plan for the building. Mr. Alfieri stated despite losing four spaces in the Market Yard, the proposed lot is a net gain to the Borough.

Councilman Friedman asked if the proposed lot will be designated for the employees from

10 East Main St.

Mr. Katz stated it will be open to anyone that wants to park there. He confirmed the liability will be his issue.

Mr. Alfieri stated there will have to be some spots designated for the tenants or it will defeat the purpose.

Councilwoman Shutzer questioned how the lot will be used between the two businesses and valet parking.

Councilman DiBenedetto asked how many employees he has and how he expects to make tenants park that far from the business. He stated history has shown that employees will park in the closest spots.

Mr. Katz said that is the best option he has.

Mr. Alfieri stated the proposed parking adheres to the ordinance requirement of being located within 700 feet of the business.

Councilman Friedman stated he is not opposed to the parking lot and questioned if the lot can handle the trucks, as the four box truck parking stalls are being eliminated.

Borough Engineer, Anthony Maltese stated the lot would have to have a truck restriction.

Councilman Friedman stated the truck parking needs to be addressed, he thinks the lighting should match the current municipal lights and he is not in support of a boarding house.

Mr. Alfieri explained the house was previously an assisted living facility and has one central kitchen.

Mr. Katz explained he would rent floor by floor and described the structure having full bathrooms on each level, consisting of eight bedrooms on three floors and each floor has their own exit and entrance. Mr. Katz acknowledged installing kitchens on each floor is a lot of work.

Councilman Reich asked if the building could be upgraded for an assisted living facility. He stated he is not in favor of a boarding house, but can approve assisted living, noting an established company could come in with all the licensing and insurance.

Mr. Katz said assisted living requires a lot of licensing. He looked into other options such as a half-way house and it is impossible to say which way he's going with the building.

Mr. Sive reviewed the parking requirements for a boarding house and how many cars can utilize the current driveway.

Councilman Reich stated no matter the use, the residents and employees will need parking

spaces and off-site parking does not count. He stated the boarding house use is the major concern and strongly suggested soliciting an assisted living company to come in and manage the whole property. Councilman Reich stated he is in favor of the parking lot providing the truck parking and lighting was addressed. He added there is no way to ensure the tenants or employees from 10 East Main will use the proposed lot, especially during bad weather. Councilman Reich stated there needs to be better plan.

Mr. Katz stated if his patrons park in the Market Yard, the other patrons will park in his lot, adding it's a vice versa, give and take situation. He stated he can't guarantee it and neither can Aurum.

Councilman Friedman suggested the best use of the building is apartments. He stated no matter what is done, parking will need to be designated as well as space for the trucks, spaces for his tenants and spaces for the partner's business that may need parking during the day. He said everyone needs to be on the same page.

Councilwoman Rogers stated the proposed parking lot is not a public parking lot adding it has to be designated has a private parking lot. She remarked the Market Yard has paid parking times and patrons will use this lot to avoid paying a parking fee. She stated Mr. Katz will have to figure out how to enforce the parking for his tenants. Councilwoman Rogers agreed this lot will take some burden off the municipal lot and stated proper signage must be on the proposed lot.

Mr. Katz stated his customers will show their receipt to his parking attendant.

Councilman Friedman questioned if a full-time attendant will be guarding the lot?

Mr. Alfieri stated the governing body needs a written statement of operations after the applicant speaks with his partner and arrives at a plan. Mr. Alfieri stated adding 39 parking spaces has to be a positive.

Borough Planner, Ms. Barbara Ehlen, stated between the American Hotel and tenants at 10 East Main, it must be decided how many of the proposed parking spaces are going to be dedicated and how many spaces remain.

Borough Engineer, Mr. Anthony Maltese added there could be additional changes to the Hudson Street lot to provide more parking. He explained he does not know how they will accommodate parking for four trucks. Mr. Maltese stated the proposed lot would have fewer spots if it was configured with a one-way circulation.

Mayor Kane questioned how a firetruck will access the proposed lot.

Mr. Maltese stated a fire hose is 300 ft. long so they access a fire by using the hose and not pulling the firetruck into the lot.

Mayor Kane stated the use of the Hudson Street property will dictate the parking and the boarding house use will not be approved. He stated it's hard to talk about the parking without

knowing what use the building will have.

Councilman Reich agreed the building use will determine how many spots are needed. He asked the applicant to come back with a plan, describing the use of the building, how much parking is required, the agreement between partners on use and more details. Councilman Reich stated a boarding house will not be entertained.

Mr. Katz asked if he could rent to a single family now so there is some income.

Mr. Maltese explained if the use is changed to single family, then the assisted living use is no longer allowed, it will be abandoned.

Mr. Alfieri explained to the applicant if he is willing to give up the pre-existing, nonconforming protection of having an assisted living facility to make it a single family home while he is figuring out what to do, he loses the protection of the building being approved for assisted living and a variance would have to be applied for.

Mr. Maltese stated a zoning permit is needed to make it a single family house because it is a permitted use. Mr. Maltese confirmed there is no way to approve the change in use without it being abandonment.

Mr. Alfieri thanked the governing body and stated they will be back soon.

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

“Public Comments.”

Ms. Yolanda Curry, 54 Bond Street announced that she works with veterans organizations and there is a facility in Asbury Park, which offers services for homeless people. She stated most shelters are for men and she wasn't aware of a local women's shelter.

Councilman Friedman stated 180 Turing Lives Around provides services for women, including housing and confirmed there is a facility on Manalapan Avenue.

Ms. Andrea Burica, 236 Park Avenue, asked for help regarding the illegal parking on Park Avenue by people attending the church. She stated it is impossible to back out of her driveway as cars are parked blocking her sightline, cars are over the shoulder and tractor trailers along with other traffic are forced into the other lane. She stated she has spoken to the pastor who is very cooperative but the problem persists. Ms. Burica stated it's unsafe driving and people take their children in and out of the cars on the busy road. She stated there are too many close calls. Ms. Burica stated she has called the police and was told nothing can be done because there is no signage regarding parking.

Mr. Gallo stated the school district has also expressed a concern and he will ask the state to install no parking signs on both sides of the road.

Councilwoman Rogers stated exiting the school is also difficult.

Councilwoman Shutzer stated it is a problem with parents of school children as they are also parking on the shoulder at pick up time.

Ms. Burica asked what can be done now.

Mr. Gallo asked for a week to have the matter addressed with the state.

Ms. Lindsey Samuelson, 1 Sunset Court, stated a Ford F-150 has parked halfway over the curb on the sidewalk, which rips up the roadway. She stated she has the same issue getting out of her driveway. Ms. Samuelson stated speed is also an issue with people driving 40-45 MPH in a 25 MPH zone. She stated the tractor trailers rattle her house as they drive by. She reported the area continues to have flickering electricity which started when the addition was put on the school. She called the utility company but was told the homeowner should upgrade her panel, despite there being 9 neighbors with the same issue. Ms. Samuelson stated she has seen parents parking on the road at school dismissal and commended the crossing guards.

Ms. Kim Wright, 80 Center Street, thanked the governing body for their proclamations and their attention to community health but wished there was a central location in town for these things to be posted. She stated the equipment at Liberty Park is very tight and asked that they be serviced and offered thanks for the many park upgrades. Ms. Wright asked if curbing will be included in the streets being paved and asked if 2nd Street is on a list to get paved.

Mr. Gallo stated curbs will not be completely replaced. He stated he will check the list to see if 2nd Street is on it in the near future.

Ms. Wright asked when the Court Street School is expected to be completed, questioned if the community can use the building and asked if there is a fee to use it.

Mr. Gallo explained it will be done by June 2026, the building is available now and there is no fee.

Ms. Wright stated cars are speeding on Center Street, cars are getting hit and cars are parking on both sides of the road. She stated speed bumps have been asked for in the past. Ms. Wright stated she supports the Over Crowding Committee's initiatives.

Councilman Reich stated motorists treat Center Street like a one lane road.

Councilwoman Rogers reported the double parking is ridiculous in the morning on Center Street and in the area. She stated there needs to be signage and enforcement.

Ms. Norma Alicea, 56 Mechanic Street, explained parking is an issue on every street, stating she has to back into her driveway because it is more dangerous to back out.

Chief Colaner stated there is heavy volume in town. He stated the side streets are utilized

to bypass the downtown area. He reported he has taken notes on all the issues brought up.

Mayor Kane reported parking will be worked on with the police. He stated these streets weren't built to handle the volume of traffic there is today. He thanked the residents for expressing their concerns.

Ms. Burica asked how the amount of traffic is measured.

Chief Colaner explained how car counters are installed on the street for a period of time.

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

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION.

On roll call Council Members: DiBenedetto, Friedman, Jordan, Reich, Rogers 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 Reports and Comments.”

Councilman Reich wished everyone a Happy Easter and stated he was saddened by the passing of the Pope, who will be sorely missed. He announced the Memorial Day Parade is 5/26, announced the Grand Marshall is Ken Pulchlopek from the American Legion and former Municipal Clerk, Delores Gibson will be the MC. He stated the DMV Real ID Mobile Unit will be in town in July. Councilman Reich reminded everyone the intersection of West Main and Throckmorton will be closed on 4/23. He announced Earth Day is 4/22.

Councilwoman Shutzer thanked those responsible for moving the 9/11 monument from 51 West Main Street to 30 Mechanic Street. She announced former Councilwoman Lynn Reich is the 2025 recipient of the Arts Education Legacy Award and will receive her award on 5/8 at Monmouth University. Councilwoman Shutzer announced the McGackin Awards are on 5/23. She announced on 4/26 the Little League Parade will be held, the high school has Color Run scheduled and Monmouth County Shredding event at the Racetrack is also that day. She announced Mayors Clean-Up Day is 5/24 which will also have shredding.

Councilman DiBenedetto reported on the PBA Golf Outing he attended and thanked the Chief and PBA President Pat Healy for a great turn out. He remarked about the importance of continuing traditions.

Councilwoman Jordan reported the Recreation Commission brought the Easter Bunny to the Fire Department on 4/19 which had a great turn out. She stated the Town-Wide Yard Sale will be on 5/24 and Fireworks are scheduled for 7/3 at the Racetrack. Councilwoman Jordan

announced the Board of Health is hosting a blood drive on 5/13 in honor of Bill Madden as well as Walking with Wendell for seniors starting on 5/13.

Councilwoman Rogers announced the Library has many programs and highlighted an event with Master Gardeners on 4/23. She encouraged everyone to check out the library calendar. She announced the Arbor Day event will be on 5/2 at Park Avenue School. She stated a tree, donated by Columbia Bank, will be planted at Freehold Learning Center on 4/25. Councilwoman Rogers thanked everyone for attending.

Councilman Friedman reported the Code Department has a new enforcement division to address Quality of Life issues and residential complaints. He announced the United Way Food Truck Festival is 4/27 and Porch Fest is 5/18.

Mayor Kane thanked everyone for coming.

Mayor Kane read Item No. 20 on the Agenda as follows:

“Adjournment”

Councilwoman Shutzer offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Friedman.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



TRACI L. DIBENEDETTO, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

TLD/hlc