

FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

June 27, 2023

At 7:00 p.m., the Township Committee met in Mayor's Caucus Room of the Municipal Building. Mayor Walker read the following statement:

"In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting was announced on January 9, 2023 by: 1.) posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building reserved for that purpose, 2.) by mailing such notice to the offices of the official newspapers of the Township and 3.) by filing such notice with the Township Clerk".

In Attendance: Committeeman Cook, Committeeman Preston, Committeewoman Fasano, Mayor Walker

Absent: Committeeman Ammiano

Also in attendance: Mr. Valesi, Township Administrator; Mr. Ball Esq. Township Attorney; Mrs. Abouzeina, Municipal Clerk, Ms. Bartolomeo, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Ball read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 of the Open Public Meetings Act permits the exclusion of the public from meetings of public bodies in certain circumstances which are set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b); and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Freehold is of the opinion that such circumstances currently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Freehold as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from the discussion of any action upon the hereinafter specified matters
2. The nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

1. ATTORNEY -CLIENT PRIVILEGE

- 1A. Liquor Licenses
- 1B. Redevelopment
- 1C. Authority Oversight
- 1D. Litigation Status Update
- 1E. Shared Service

2. PROPERTY ACQUISITION

- 2A. Saker Property

3. PERSONNEL

3A. Employees Leave of Absence

3. It is anticipated at this time the above-stated subject matter will be made public approximately thirty (30) days or at such time as any litigation discussed is resolved

The foregoing resolution was moved by Mr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Preston

VOTE:

AYES: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Preston, and Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ammiano

ABSTAIN: None

At 7:00 pm, the Township Committee adjourned to Executive Session.

Executive Session adjourned at 7:50pm.

At 8:00pm, the Regular Meeting was called to order.

Mayor Walker re-read the following statement:

“In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this Meeting was announced on January 9, 2023 by: 1.) posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building reserved for that purpose, 2.) by mailing such notice to the offices of the official newspapers of the Township and 3.) by filing such notice with the Township Clerk”

Pledge of Allegiance

In Attendance: Committeeman Cook,
Committeewoman Fasano, Committeeman Preston
and Mayor Walker

Absent: Committeeman Ammiano

Also in attendance: Mr. Valesi, Township Administrator; Mr. Ball
Esq., Township Attorney; Mrs. Abouzeina, Municipal
Clerk and Ms. Bartolomeo, Deputy Clerk

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr. Preston moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from 5/23/2023 and Workshop Meeting Minutes and Executive Minutes from the 6/5/2023.

VOTE:

AYES: Mr. Cook, *Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Preston, and Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ammiano,

ABSTAIN: *Mrs. Fasano abstained from Workshop and Executive Minutes for
5/23/2023

REPORTS

Mrs. Abouzeina read the report of the Tax Collector for the Month of May 2023:

Net Receipt:	General Fund	\$	13,339,274.16
	Water Account	\$	470,838.88
	Sewer Account	\$	819,983.69

Report - ABC Social Affair Permit – CentraState Medical Center - 22nd Annual Multiple Sclerosis Benefit - 9/22/2023 from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Mrs. Abouzeina stated that the social affair permit was in order and approved by the Chief of Police

PRESENTATIONS

Police Promotions – Oaths of Office

- Lieutenant Lawrence Loos promoted to Captain
- Sergeant Frank Mount promoted to Lieutenant
- Officer Dylan Coladonato promoted to Sergeant
- Officer Myroslav Alfeldi promoted to Sergeant
- Detective Stephen D’Antonio promoted to Sergeant

Township Clerk administrated the Oath of office

Certificates of Achievement - Freehold Township High School Golf Team:

- Matthew Cecilione
- Matthew Gaydos
- Corey Gold
- Christian Klemanowicz
- Brett Luzzi
- Ansel Patel

Each student received a day in his, presented by Mayor Walker

NEW BUSINESS

R-23-152 -Resolution Approving Consolidated Bills List

Mr. Preston read Resolution R-23-152 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Cook

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ammiano

ABSTAIN: None

R-23-153 – Resolution Appointing Matthew Bryant as Municipal Engineer

Mrs. Fasano read Resolution R-23-153 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Cook

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ammiano

ABSTAIN: None

R-23-154 -Resolution Accepting Open Space Lot for Block 42, Lot 19 and Detention Basin Lot for Block 42, Lot 19.04

Mr. Preston read Resolution R-23-154 and moved it for adoption, seconded by Mr. Cook

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ammiano

ABSTAIN: None

O-23-11 Bond Ordinance Authorizing Various Capital Improvements in and for the Township of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey, Appropriating \$13,230,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$12,568,500 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof

Mr. Preston moved Ordinance O-23-11 for public hearing to the Township Committee meeting of July 11, 2023 seconded by Mr. Cook

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ammiano

ABSTAIN: None

O-23-12 Bond Ordinance Authorizing Various Water/Sewer Capital Improvements in and For the Township of Freehold, in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey, Appropriating \$4,940,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$4,940,000 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof

Mr. Preston moved Ordinance O-23-12 for public hearing to the Township Committee meeting of July 11, 2023 seconded by Mr. Cook

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ammiano

ABSTAIN: None

O-23-13 Bond Ordinance Reappropriating \$820,736.18 Proceeds of Obligations Not Needed for Their Original Purposes and to be used for Various Improvements by the Township of Freehold

Mr. Preston moved Ordinance O-23-13 for public hearing to the Township Committee meeting of July 11, 2023 seconded by Mr. Cook

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ammiano

ABSTAIN: None

O-23-14 An Ordinance Authorizing the Sale and Conveyance of Certain Lots to the County of Monmouth

Mr. Preston moved Ordinance O-23-14 for public hearing to the Township Committee meeting of July 11, 2023 seconded by Mr. Cook

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ammiano

ABSTAIN: None

O-23-15 An Ordinance Vacating Lisa Anne Way, Eric Court and a Portion of Maher Road that were to be Constructed as Part of a Subdivision to be Known as Beacon Ridge

Mr. Preston moved Ordinance O-23-15 for public hearing to the Township Committee meeting of July 11, 2023 seconded by Mr. Cook

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ammiano

ABSTAIN: None

FORMAL ACTION – CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

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

R-23-155 Resolution Renewing Shared Services Agreement with Freehold Regional High School District for Licensed Water Treatment Plant Operations for Colts Neck High School

R-23-156 Resolution to Cancel Various Grant Receivable and Grant Appropriation Reserve Balances

- R-23-157 Resolution to Cancel Unfunded Capital Appropriation Balances for Completed Utility Capital Projects
- R-23-158 Resolution Authorizing Added Tax Lien
- R-23-159 Resolution Cancelling Taxes and Disbursing Overpayments of Taxes - Disabled Veterans
- R-23-160 Resolution Amending 2023 Budget (Chapter 159) to Insert Modification to the Special Item of Revenue and Appropriations for the Strengthening Local Public Health Capacity Program 2024
- R-23-161 Resolution Amending 2023 Budget (Chapter 159) to Insert Modification to the Special Item of Revenue and Appropriations for the Childhood Lead Program
- R-23-162 Resolution of Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for Schanck Road Improvements (Stillwells Corner Road to Tributary "B" Culvert)
- R-23-163 Resolution - Renewal of 2023-2024 Liquor License for Freehold One LLC, License #1316-33-017-005 (Consumption) (Pocket) License
- R-23-164 Resolution - Renewal of 2023-2024 Liquor License for CS Freehold, LLC, License #1316-33-002-006 (Consumption) (Pocket) License
- R-23-165 Resolution Awarding a Contract for the Furnishing and Delivery of Clothing and Accessories for Various Departments in Freehold Township
- R-23-166 Resolution Awarding a Contract for the 2023 Pavement Overlay Program
- R-23-167 Resolution Awarding a Contract for Community Health Assessments for the Monmouth County Governmental Public Health Partnership
- R-23-168 Resolution Awarding a Contract for the Municipal Building Chimney Repairs Rebid

Mr. Cook read the Consent Agenda resolutions and moved them for adoption, seconded by Mr. Preston.

Vote:

AYES: Mr. Cook, Mrs. Fasano, Mr. Preston, Mayor Walker

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ammiano

ABSTAIN: None

There being no further business, Mayor Walker asked for any comments or questions from the public.

Michael Murphy - 31 Shaffer Lane. Mr. Murphy read from prepared remarks regarding the issues happening within the neighborhood that he maintains are directly related to his neighbor, who is a member of the Pagan motorcycle club. Mr. Murphy described examples of what the residents see as disruptive, harassing and intimidating behaviors being exhibited by his neighbor. Mr. Murphy outlined the dates that he had gone to or called the police station to report incidents. He relayed the conversations he had had with Freehold Township police on different occasions and described their response as "underwhelming". He informed the Committee that the residents have been advised not to respond to or engage with this individual and Mr. Murphy repeatedly told the Committee that they are following this advice to the best of their ability, but that the issues are continuing to happen. He suggested things that he would like to see the police department do to support the residents of this area.

Keith Liuzzo - 26 Schaffer Lane. Mr. Liuzzo gave some background on what he has personally been dealing with regarding his neighbor. He discussed the conversation he had previously with this resident who assured him that his affiliation with the Pagan club would not be an issue to the neighborhood. He showed pictures of groups of individuals congregating at his neighbor's house to the Committee. He appealed to the Committee that he only wants peace in the neighborhood and for his children to feel safe. He explained that he is only looking for the Township Police to demonstrate a presence in the area and respond to reports in an effective manner that allows the residents to feel supported and protected.

George K. Baumann – Chief of Police, Freehold Township Police Department. Chief Baumann informed the Committee that he has given Mr. Murphy and the residents of the neighborhood de-escalation techniques in an effort to find a peaceful solution to the problem. Chief Baumann provided additional details regarding the situation and recommendations for peaceful resolution. He informed the public that the Police Department has been in contact with the NJ State Police Gang Unit, Monmouth County Prosecutors Office Authority on Gangs, federal authorities and outside jurisdictions related to these issues. He also informed the public that at this time there is no evidence that a crime has been committed according to state statute. The Police Department will continue to monitor the situation and enforce any minor violations that occur in their presence. He explained that minor offenses must be witnessed by an officer in order to be enforced. Chief Baumann stated that he stands by all of the actions taken by his Police Department and that they have left no stone unturned. He encouraged the residents to do their part.

Terry Blesch – 3 Forsgate Drive. Described that the situation in the neighborhood has escalated since the Pagan member moved into the neighborhood in March. Ms. Blesch pointed out that there are many residents in the neighborhood connected to law enforcement and she feels that the residents cannot live in peace. Furthermore, she feels the actions of the Pagans are almost enabled by the Police Department. She called for an uptick in police patrol. She described that this situation is a stain on a wonderful community. She suggested the committee speak with local establishments and encourage them to post signage prohibiting patrons from wearing colors in the establishments.

Michael Murphy wanted to address points Chief Baumann made. He admitted to engaging with the residents on one occasion but said that he did file a complaint.

Keith Liuzzo asked for the procedure for filing a complaint against someone who is not his specifically his neighbor but is seen speeding through the neighborhood on a motorcycle. He reiterated that he has informed the Police Department as to the time and date that “church” is held and he has not seen an increased police presence during these times.

Mr. Valesi acknowledge that many valid points have been raised and that there is an obvious issue that needs to be resolved. He stated that the Governing Body needs to continue the discussion with administration and that he will get back to the residents. He assured the residents that they have been heard and acknowledged that situation will not get better on its own. He assured the residents that a strategy and process will be formulated with input from the Governing Body, Administration and The Police Department collectively.

There being no further comments from the public, Mayor Walker asked for comments from the dais.

Mr. Cook congratulated the newly promoted Police Officers and the members of the Freehold Township golf team on a great season.

Mr. Preston congratulated the golf team and the entire high school sports program and wished everyone a happy and safe summer.

Mayor Walker asked everyone to keep Committeeman Ammiano’s family in their prayers, specifically his father-in-law who is not doing well. He reminded everyone that Freehold Township Day is July 8th.

Mayor Walker Adjourned the Meeting at 9:18pm

Sanabel Abouzeina, Township Clerk