

REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 4, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:00 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler; Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Kovach; Borough Clerk Hullings.
Absent: None.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that last Sunday they heard the “Stand in Unity” song written for Highland Park by Mr. Ray Andersen. She read a proclamation and presented it to Mr. Andersen in recognition of his efforts. Mr. Ray performed the song and asked all the children in the audience to join him.

Mayor Brill Mittler read proclamation that designated the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits and seconded by Councilman Hersh, the minutes of the Regular and Conference Meetings held January 17, 2017 and February 7, 2017 were approved by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

Mayor Brill Mittler asked the Council members to present their reports.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reminded cyclists to wear helmets when bike riding. There is a No Texting While Driving Campaign and Look up from Phone When Walking Campaign going on. She reminded everyone to change the batteries in their smoke detectors.

Councilman Fine – No report.

Councilwoman Kim thanked Investor’s Bank for providing an awesome financial literacy program for the seniors yesterday. The Spring Luncheon will be held on April 6th at 12:00 PM. The Department of Community Services is offering a 5-day Bermuda Cruise that is open to the public. Interested residents can contact the Senior Center for more details. Mike the Barber will be at the Senior/Youth Center on Thursday, April 13th from 12:30 PM until 3:30 PM to provide on-site haircuts for \$7.00. If you miss him, home visits are also available upon request. When school is out, camp is in! The Recreation Department is offering two new camp options this year. Registration is due Tuesday, June 13th and all camps begin July 5th. Information booklets are available at the Office of Recreation. Spring pickup basketball for boys and girls in 7th to 9th grades takes place on Mondays from 7-9 PM at the Middle School and there is no charge. Registration forms can be found on the Borough’s website. On April 18th at 6:30 PM, there will be an Autobiography Writing Sharing Presentation at the Senior Center. She encouraged residents to come see some of the work the participants have been creating from the 8-week workshop. The workshop is free and open to the public. Snacks will be provided as they celebrate their hard work. The Arts Commission is planning a Sculpture Opening on April 30th from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM featuring the newly installed sculptures by Mason Gross students at the Environmental Center. There will be talks with the artists as well as entertainment. They are working on getting shuttle buses from the Senior Center to the Environmental Center for this event. The Arts Commission met with members of the Senior Painting Class and recommended that \$500 be added to the Recreation budget to help purchase canvases for the participants. The Chair of the Commission met with Brian Onken to discuss the possibilities of an indoor and/or sheltered movie theatre space in Highland Park. Brian will attend the upcoming meeting to present his ideas to the entire Commission.

Councilman George reported that he held his weekly meeting with the Department of Public Works. Bulk trash pickup will occur on the North side of town on April 5th and DPW crews will be out doing pothole repairs on Madison Avenue, North 5th Avenue and North 6th Avenue. PSE&G is doing repair work to gas lines on the North side of town and the repair work causes dangerous traffic situations. South side bulk trash pickup will occur on April 19th. The Department of Public Works will be lining Walter Street near River Road. There have been problems with vehicles trying to make left hand turns and it has been causing backups. This is an area with heavy pedestrian traffic, runners and cyclists. The Department of Public Works will also be replacing no parking signs and street signs that were lost over the winter. The Recycle Coach app is up and running. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee obtained quotes for a planting project that will start in May. The Environmental Commission will meet on April 5th at 7:30 PM. The Earth Day Celebration will be on Sunday, April 23rd from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Environmental Education Center. The celebration will be more expansive with music and exhibitors. Sustainable Highland Park will demo the HP Solar Challenge that will run through May. They are still looking for residents to sign up to get a free consultation. There have been some changes to the program since it was first rolled out. Sustainable Highland Park is looking at alternative sustainable energy sources. They have a grant from the Park Partners program. The Arts Commission is continuing negotiations with Rutgers for sculpture installations. Mark outs were done for locations, but after the ice storm and the rain the mark outs were washed away. Working with the County to determine that there are no easements. The Borough Attorney has an agreement that will be circulated to the Governing Body.

Councilman Hersh reported that on March 23rd, the Immigration and Refugee Task Force hosted an important public forum that highlighted Highland Park’s current and long-term policy approach on immigration and emerging immigrant populations. This is part of a long-term effort to provide clear, transparent policies when it comes to our immigrant communities, documented or otherwise. We began this effort nearly two years ago when we began holding meetings with our municipal agencies and other community partners in developing our municipal ID program. These policies are meant to serve as the cornerstone of long-term community inclusivity. At the forum, scores of residents came out to hear about the important steps we’re taking and hear from prominent immigrant rights and refugee rights

organizations who have provided us with valuable insight and technical assistance in crafting our policy. Residents also voiced their support as well as any concerns that we can address. Among the organizations that presented included Interfaith-RISE, Catholic Charities, the NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice, and the NJ Working Families Alliance. The forum is available on YouTube and the presentation is available on the Borough website at www.hpboro.com. On Sunday, March 26th at 11:00 AM, he had the honor to emcee the Borough's Unity Day celebration at the Senior/Youth Center. He thanked the Borough's Communications Coordinator Stacy Kaplan for leading the way in organizing the event, and also thanked Mayor Brill Mittler for her support. The event featured children from Highland Park public schools as well as children from other communities. Also featured were vocal groups, dancers, poets and artists. The event, of course, featured a special performance from our very own Ray "Mr. Ray" Andersen, who wrote a song specifically for this event. Right afterward, the Mayor and I had a "jinx" moment when we thought this would be a great opportunity to represent Highland Park in song. Tonight, the Borough will have a song that truly embodies our ideals. Now it's our turn as a community to make those ideals a reality. Later, on March 26th, we were privileged to have Congressman Frank Pallone host a town hall meeting at the Senior/Youth Center. Congressman Pallone, who recently spent three hours in attendance at a Borough Council meeting, gave us several hours of his time answering questions about important issues facing the Borough, the State and the country. He thanked him and his staff for doing a great job and for being responsive. On Thursday, April 6th, the Commission for Universal Access will meet to discuss such topics as: Cultural Access Network; community conversation; Youth Theatre Stars & Friends Camp; trust fund contents; and reaching an invisible community. On Wednesday, April 12th at 6:30 PM, the Housing Authority will meet at the Samuel J. Kronman building. The Board of Health will meet on Thursday, April 13th at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall. Finally, there was a little party for Kathy Kovach this afternoon, recognizing her valuable service to Highland Park. I've had the honor of working with her virtually since the day I began volunteering almost 10 years ago and she's always been so helpful guiding volunteers and elected and making sure we are doing things in a way that makes sense for the community and for the staff. He thanked Kathy and told her that she is truly a part of what makes Highland Park a "locus bonus" – a "good place to live".

Councilwoman Welkovits reported that it was an amazing weekend in Highland Park. She and her husband got to double date with the Mayor and her husband at a wonderful celebration for Joe Policastro. Mr. Policastro was a coach, a teacher, and a mentor to the students of Highland Park High School. He is still extremely active with the kids and the community and it is wonderful to honor such an important person while he is still alive and healthy and where his family and friends can come together. Nearly 400 people showed up for this dinner, including former students from out of state. The event was put together by alumni. Special thanks to Mark Pappas, Elizabeth and Sal Raspa, and Maria Bongiovanni and many others. Tonight marks the opening night of the new season of the Highland Park Outdoor Movie Theater with a special indoor screening of the George Orwell film, 1984. The opening of the book takes place on April 4, 1984 and today is April 4th. The event will be held tonight at Pino's and a full schedule of events for the remainder of the season on the new Main Street Highland Park website (mainstreethp.org). On May 7th, the 9th annual 5K and the 28th Street Fair will be held. Signups can be done on the website. She asked that residents consider supporting the Police Department, Fire Department, First Aid Squad, Recreation Department and the Library by being a sponsor or a runner in the HP 5K. Money collected for the entry fee and sponsorships go towards supporting these organizations. As Councilman George mentioned, Recycle Coach is a new app that the Borough is rolling out on Earth Day. It is available now and can be downloaded. The app can send you alerts and reminders about regular pickup and bulk pickup. There is a search engine on the app that will tell you how to recycle almost anything. There is also a report a problem function where residents can report problems and take photos and forward so that the borough can take action. Frank Troy, Recycling Coordinator, will be doing a presentation of this app on Earth Day. The Borough has just created a Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Screening Committee led by Borough Planner Jim Constantine. The purpose of this new committee is to meet early in the process with any developer wishing to explore a potential project or preparing an application for development that would normally track directly to the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment or Redevelopment Agency. This will allow the Borough to provide early guidance and input to a developer which can help limit potential time and costs and result in higher quality formal applications more consistent with the Borough's master plan, redevelopment plan, zoning regulations, main street program and other goals. The team is made up of 2 members each from our Zoning and Planning Board, our Redevelopment Agency, and Main Street. The first meeting was held last week and they established rules and guidelines and at that meeting they saw two developers that presented to them. They were able to help them with their design concepts saving a lot of time for everyone involved in the approval process and it saves them a lot of cost also because they don't have to come in with copies of architectural drawings when they can come with an idea drawn out on paper. Lastly, the Council will vote on approving the Borough to apply to the NJ Department of Transportation for technical support to help advise the Borough on improving bicycle and vehicular traffic. This is important because Highland Park is one of the key stakeholders with the Rutgers Bike Share Program. The plan is that they will be up and running by Spring of 2018. Working on application now, submitting it next month, and it might take as much as 6—8 months before they hear back, but at least they will be in the queue.

Borough Administrator Kovach reported that tonight is her final Council meeting as she is retiring from local government. She thanked Mayor Meryl Frank and Mayor Gary Minkoff, who was not the Mayor at the time, who were smart enough to hire me back in 2007. She thanked Mayor Steve Nolan for giving her the opportunity to serve the Borough as the Administrator and for having enough faith in her to come to the Council and take that leap of faith. She thanked Chief Stephen Rizco and Borough Clerk Joan Hullings for all of their support throughout the years, it has been fun and interesting at the same time. She also thanked all of the Department Heads. She thanked the Borough Council for challenging her and giving her all of their support. Finally, she thanked Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler, the Borough is lucky to have her. She loves her passion, and loved the meetings they used to have. She wished her all the best in the future and she wished Highland Park the best in the future. She left them with her final comment, "No Report Mayor".

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that the Department Heads are in attendance at tonight's meeting for the adoption of the 2017 budget. She thanked them for their input and thanked the Council for working with their departments. The Borough continues to work to stabilize taxes with a 2% increase this year. There are things the Borough has no control over such as health insurance and litigation costs. They were able to put together a budget without reducing any services. There was increased revenue due to new developments around town. She thanked Kathy Kovach for all of her efforts. When she came to Highland Park, she walked into a situation that needed a lot of work and she straightened out the finances and rose to the challenge. Former Mayor Nolan sent a note that the Mayor read – "A little more than 7 years ago, I had just assumed the role of Mayor and was working to learn about all of the things that the borough does to support its residents. About 3 months into the job, it became clear that our Administrator would no longer be serving in that role. Of course, the economy was in a free fall and everyone was kind of wondering what things would look like on the other side. So, things were a little chaotic. In a bit of a free fall moment, I wondered who could unify and point the way forward for our wonderful public servants. We considered retired administrators from other towns but none seemed to understand the "borough way". What to do? Then our long term CFO, in a really selfless moment, leapt into the breach and said that she would lead. We never looked back. Kathy turned out to be one of the best things to happen to our little town; our secret weapon. Always calmly (at least on the outside), thinking through the contours of a challenge, able to cut through the nonsense with her dry humor, Kathy always looked out for the town and doing the right thing. She successfully leveraged the many interdepartmental relationships that give us our strength. I couldn't calculate the number of weekend and night hours she served in addition to her "regular 40". I will always be profoundly grateful that Kathy stepped forward at that critical time and served us so well. Please know that you will always have a home with your Highland Park family." Mayor Brill Mittler presented Kathy with a gift from the Governing Body and thanked her again for her service to the Borough. She should put a photo of her grandson into the frame. She wished her well in her retirement.

Councilwoman Welkovits commented that when she first became a Councilperson she did not know the role that Kathy Kovach had. Aside from the Mayor, Kathy does run the town. She has witnessed the relationship Kathy has with Don Rish, the Chief, and the rest of the Department Heads. It is a collaborative effort and they all work together amazingly. She has taught her so much about the inner workings of the Borough. She thanked her for her patience and for teaching her and thanked her for taking such good care of the residents of Highland Park. Borough Administrator Kovach thanked her for her comments. It is a collaborative effort here and they should never lose sight of the fact that they have great department heads and they do work well together and they do think highly of Highland Park and look out for Highland Park's best interests.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves.

Connie Bongiovanni, 1623 Central Avenue, commented that she has been a Highland Park resident for 75 years. She provided a little history by noting that Route 27 used to be a two lane highway and South 10th Avenue was not paved. The town at that time was mostly farms. There used to be a movie theater and a bowling alley. She is a first generation immigrant. Her grandfather came here in 1903 and her mother and grandmother came in 1908. She is bi-lingual; speaks Italian and English, but after they arrived here, they were made to assimilate, they had to learn English. She understands immigration, but her family came here legally. Her husband's family had to come to the United States through Venezuela. It was not easy for anyone to get into this country. She has great sympathies for immigrants, but she also has the idea she was brought up with. We are a nation of laws and we cannot pick and choose them. If she could pick and choose, she would pick not to pay her school taxes. She loves Highland Park, but she would have moved a long time ago, except her husband loves Highland Park as he had a barber shop on Raritan Avenue and still goes there once a week. She is not in agreement with making Highland Park a sanctuary town. If we are going to lose money in this town, we will have a lot of problems.

Herb Gross, Adelaide Gardens, commented that the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars will be holding a convention about immigration. Veterans fought for freedom. He understands the plight of immigrants. The United States has laws that we all have to abide by.

Resident, 307 South 2nd Avenue, commented that she has worked at Rutgers for 14 years and living in Highland Park. She drives from South 2nd Avenue to Busch Campus every day. She asked about PSE&G gas line repairs and the condition of River Road. Councilman George noted that the traffic has increased dramatically over there in the last couple of years. Work is being done on Wayside and Cleveland Avenues. The work should not last too much longer. He acknowledged that traffic backs up on River Road as there are not left turn lanes coming towards Raritan Avenue, except at Wayside. The light at River Road and Raritan Avenue is long and traffic does back up. Resident clarified that her question is more about the quality of the roads when PSE&G patched it up. River Road never used to be this bad. Councilman George noted that when work is completed there will be further work done to fix the roads.

Erica Romaine, 11 Raritan Avenue, commented that residents that live in apartments do pay taxes. Her family was not able to legally immigrate to the United States and they were being persecuted and murdered in Europe. They were forced to immigrate illegally because of American laws that would not allow even one Jewish child into this country. When she looks at immigration issues and listened to the woman who was on the St. Louis, she has a different take about what her father fought for in World War II and what justice is in comparison to the law. When people are in the way of deadly harm and have nowhere to go, that is what this country is for.

Bruce Gillespie formally requested that they delay the adoption of the immigration resolution by thirty days and he wants the date of that delay to start on the release date. He is requesting the delay because he feels residents should have time to fully review the resolution and submit comments and/or

revisions to the Council. He believes this request is reasonable because the Council has taken months to prepare this controversial resolution. He does not think asking for a thirty-day delay is unreasonable.

Jessica Hundsten, 304 Montgomery Street, thanked the Council for hosting the forum and appreciated the opportunity to hear multiple perspectives. It is a model that a lot of towns and cities are wanting to do to learn about current policy and the importance of protecting and remaining a welcoming and fair community.

No one else appearing to be heard, the Mayor closed the public discussion.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 3, "ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT", for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available for public inspection as required by law.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the ordinance open to all officials and persons present and called upon all those wishing to speak for or against the ordinance to do so.

No one appearing to be heard and no objections having been received in writing, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 17-1936, was duly adopted on final reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 4-17-127

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 3, "ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT", passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT, IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$400,000.00 THEREFOR TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman Fine, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 4-17-128

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT, IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$400,000.00 THEREFOR TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, has been introduced and duly passed on first reading;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that this Council meet at the Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, on May 2, 2017, at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage after public hearing thereon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said a Notice of Pending Ordinance and Summary of said Ordinance be published once at least one (1) week prior to the time fixed for further consideration of said Ordinance for final passage in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published daily in this municipality, together with a notice of the introduction thereof and of the time and place when and where said Ordinance will be further considered for final passage as aforesaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, forthwith and that the Borough Clerk have available in her office for the members of the general public of Highland Park copies of said Ordinance for those members of the general public who may request the same.

The Clerk reported advertising a summary of the 2017 Municipal Budget and Tax Resolution, introduced and approved on first reading March 7, 2017, with the public hearing scheduled for April 4, 2017, and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that copies of the budget were made available to the public in Borough Hall and the Highland Park Library.

On motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the public hearing on the 2017 Municipal Budget amendment was opened.

No one appearing to be heard, on motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the public hearing on the 2017 Municipal Budget was closed.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

- Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim, Welkovits.
- Opposed: None.
- Abstain: None.
- Absent: None.

No. 4-17-129

WHEREAS, the local municipal budget for the year 2017 was approved on the 7th day of March, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on said budget has been held as advertised; and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, that the following amendments to the approved budget of 2017 be made:

<u>CURRENT FUND</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Current Fund – Anticipated Revenues		
General Revenues		
3. Miscellaneous Revenues		
Section G: Special Items of Revenue Anticipated		
with Prior Written Consent of the Director of Local		
Government Services – Other Special Items:		
Uniform Fire Safety Act – Prior Year Reserve	31,255.24	0.00
Total Miscellaneous Revenues – Section G	<u>346,255.24</u>	<u>315,000.00</u>
Total Miscellaneous Revenues	<u>2,488,638.80</u>	<u>2,457,383.56</u>
5. Subtotal General Revenues	<u>3,288,638.80</u>	<u>3,257,383.56</u>
6. Amount to be Raised by Taxes:		
(a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Including		
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	<u>11,695,293.79</u>	<u>11,726,549.03</u>
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support		
Of Municipal Budget	<u>12,112,192.76</u>	<u>12,143,448.00</u>
Current Fund – Appropriations		
8. General Appropriations		
(A) Operations within “CAPS”		
Public Safety Functions		
Police Salaries and Wages	<u>3,209,743.00</u>	<u>3,154,830.00</u>
Total Operations (Item 8A) within “CAPS”	<u>10,418,326.00</u>	<u>10,363,413.00</u>
Total Operations Including Contingent within “CAPS”	<u>10,418,326.00</u>	<u>10,363,413.00</u>
Detail:		
Other Salaries and Wages	6,176,968.00	6,122,055.00
(E) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures		
Municipal within “CAPS”		
Deficit – Reserve Police Off Duty Work	<u>0.00</u>	<u>54,913.00</u>
Total Deferred Charges and Statutory		
Expenditures – Municipal within “CAPS”	<u>1,543,621.00</u>	<u>1,598,534.00</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two (2) certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for certification of the 2017 Local Municipal Budget so amended.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

- Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim, Welkovits.
- Opposed: None.
- Absent: None.
- Abstained: None.

No. 4-17-129A

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

- (a) \$11,726,549.03 (Item 2a below) for Municipal Purposes
- (c) \$ 416,898.97 (Item 2c below) for Minimum Library Tax

SUMMARY OF REVENUES

1. General Revenues	
Surplus Anticipated	\$ 800,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	2,457,383.56
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	
2. Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Municipal Purposes	
Municipal Support (Item (a), Sheet 11)	11,726,549.03
Minimum Library Tax (Item (c), Sheet 11)	<u>416,898.97</u>

REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 4, 2017

Total Revenues	<u>\$15,400,831.56</u>
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS	
5. General Appropriations	
Within "CAPS"	
(a&b) Operations Including Contingent	\$10,363,413.00
(e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures-Municipal	1,598,534.00
(f) Judgements	
Excluded from "CAPS"	
(a) Operations – Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	1,172,202.56
(c) Capital Improvements	283,330.00
(d) Municipal Debt Service	1,783,352.00
(e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures – Municipal	
(m) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	<u>200,000.00</u>
Total Appropriations	<u>\$15,400,831.56</u>

It is hereby certified that the within budget is a true copy of the budget finally adopted by resolution of the Governing Body on the 4th day of April, 2017.

It is further certified that each item of revenue and appropriation is set forth in the same amount and by the same title as appeared in the CY 2017 approved budget and all amendments thereto, if any, which have been previously approved by the Director of Local Government Services.

Resolution Nos. 4-17-130 through 4-17-140 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim, Welkovits.
 Opposed: None.
 Abstained: None.
 Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 4-17-130

WHEREAS, Guaranteed Motor Towing Service, Inc., Dependable Motors, Oasis Towing, George Logan Towing, Inc., and Rich's Towing Service, Inc. have filed with the Clerk of this Borough for a Wrecker/Towing License to operate heavy duty wreckers in this Borough under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such licenses; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has investigated said applicant and has reported favorably upon said applications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Council hereby determines that said applicant is qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of such Licenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue Heavy Duty Wrecker/Towing Licenses to the aforesaid applicants.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 4-17-131

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2017, Lang Family Company, heretofore posted with the Borough of Highland Park a cash surety bond (check # 1332) in the amount of \$17,880.00, in connection with a variance application on the property known as Block 126, Lots 14 and 15, a.k.a. as 102 Washington Avenue, in the Borough of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the developer has requested that the performance bond be released; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has conducted a site inspection of this project and found that items remain to be completed and recommends that the Bond be reduced by \$12,516.00 to \$5,364.00, subject to the payment of all current inspection fees and/or any other outstanding Borough fees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the performance bond heretofore posted by Lang Family Company, in the amount of \$17,880.00, on deposit for the project on Block 126, Lots 14 and 15, Highland Park, shall be and is hereby reduced to Five Thousand, Three Hundred Sixty-four and 00/100 (\$5,364.00), subject to the applicant submitting payment of all current inspection and/or other Borough fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section C.40:55D-43-2e of the Municipal Land Use Law, no further reduction of his Bond shall be recommended until the punch list items have been satisfactorily completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department, Borough Engineer, Construction Official, and Lang Family Company.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 4-17-132

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park desires to submit an application for Local Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Assistance to the New Jersey Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park will make a good faith effort to implement the recommendations of the planning study;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the above referenced grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 4-17-133

WHEREAS, the following have posted Street Opening Bonds in the amounts indicated for various projects as indicated below:

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</u>
T-12-56-832-082	Roberts Plumbing	\$500.00	120 South 1 st Avenue

REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 4, 2017

	431 South 7 th Avenue Highland Park, NJ 08904		
T-12-56-832-083	AAA All Services 1606 Route 27 Edison, NJ 08820	\$500.00	237 Denison Street
T-12-56-832-084	AAA All Services 1606 Route 27 Edison, NJ 08820	\$500.00	23 South 4 th Avenue

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Code Enforcement has determined that Road Opening Performance Bonds can be released;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to remit to the above the amounts indicated, the same being the amount of refund due for return of bonds for the Street Opening Permits referenced.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of Code Enforcement and the Finance Director forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 4-17-134

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 1997, Chapter 99, a municipality may hold a tax lien sale within the last month of a calendar year for any unpaid taxes or other municipal liens or charges that are in arrears as of the 11th day of the eleventh month of the calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has advised the Borough Council that it is advisable for the Borough to hold such sale during December of 2017 in order to maximize the percentage tax collection rate in calendar year 2017, and minimize the budget requirement for the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes in calendar year 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Council acknowledges that all proper notification of taxpayers will still be made in accordance with applicable State regulations and that all taxpayers will be given ample opportunities to bring their accounts up to date;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to schedule and conduct a tax sale during December, 2017, for all taxes and municipal charges unpaid as of November 11, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector and Finance Director forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 4-17-135

WHEREAS, NJSA 54:5-19.1 authorizes electronic tax sales pursuant to rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Director of the Division of Government Services; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Division of Local Government Services has promulgated rules and regulations for pilot programs; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Local Government Services has approved NJ Tax Lien Investors/RealAuction.com to conduct pilot programs; and

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations authorize a municipality to submit an application for participation in the pilot program for an electronic tax sale;

WHEREAS, an electronic tax sale is innovative and provides a greater pool of potential lien buyers, thus creating the environment for a more complete tax sale process, and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park wishes to participate in the pilot program for an electronic tax sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized to sign the agreement to participate in the electronic tax sale program and submit same to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough Administrator, Tax Collector and Director of the Division of Government Services forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 4-17-136

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following shall be and is hereby appointed to serve as a Commissioner of the Highland Park Redevelopment Agency for a term to expire as indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term to Expire</u>
Ronald Wong	July 11, 2022

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 4-17-137

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Borough Finance Director that since the adoption of a resolution on January 3, 2017 showing the names of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park whose salaries are on an hourly basis, there have been the following changes, to wit:

MARIO VARONE, On-Call Electrical Subcode Official/Inspector, at an hourly rate of \$35.00, effective April 4, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Finance Director be and is hereby directed to make the necessary changes in the payroll records of the Finance Department in accordance with the changes established by this resolution.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 4-17-138

REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 4, 2017

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park desires to apply for and obtain a Best Buy Grant for the Teen Center;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute the grant application for the Best Buy Grant on behalf of the Borough.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee and Finance Director forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:
No. 4-17-139

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park as follows:

1. That the “Stand in Unity” song, written by Raymond Andersen, shall be and is hereby designated as the official song of the Borough of Highland Park.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 4-17-140

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that all claims presented prior to this meeting as shown on a detailed list prepared by the Borough Treasurer, and which have been submitted and approved in accordance with Highland Park Ordinance No. 1004, shall be and the same are hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall include in the minutes of this meeting a statement as to all such claims approved as shown in a Bills List Journal in accordance with said Ordinance.

The bills approved for payment at this meeting, Bills List 4/4/17 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 36.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves.

Ruth Bickhardt, 307 Magnolia Street, commented about transportation issue and traffic jams. She noted that a couple of years ago they spoke about a shuttle bus with Rutgers. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the proposal they had was too expensive and they are working on alternative means, hopefully a shuttle through town, along River Road and to the train station. The bulk of the Rutgers population is Administration and faculty. They have been meeting with Rutgers about a bike share program. Ms. Bickhardt mentioned that street repairs need to be done on South 3rd Avenue. The road was repaved from Magnolia Street to the park, but the other part needs attention. The conditions are very threatening in this area and she has fallen there. Lastly, she welcomed all people in favor of immigration, but noted that they should find work.

Connie Bongiovanni, 1623 Central Avenue, commented that Central Avenue has an elementary school on it, but there are no speed bumps. Council President Welkovits noted that there is new information out that speed bumps are not as successful as originally thought. When cars go down bump, they increase their speed. Also, it is a costly added expense to put them in and the Borough tends not to do it anymore. Ms. Bongiovanni asked about the old Sunoco station. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that it is a privately held piece of property.

No one else appearing to be heard, the Mayor closed public discussion.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman Hersh, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk