

REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 5, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:06 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler; Councilpersons Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Jover; Deputy Clerk Santiago.

Absent: Councilperson Fine; Borough Clerk Hullings.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, the minutes of the Regular and Conference Meeting held on September 19, 2017, were approved as distributed by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Fine.

Abstained: None.

Item No. 5 on the agenda was tabled from consideration until the Reorganization meeting on motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilman George and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

Chief Rizco noted that this is one of two meetings where the Mayor and Council graciously give them time to recognize the first responders who may have responded to some unique situations or went above and beyond in the call of duty. He thanked all of the first responders and noted that the First Aid Squad is all volunteer and the Fire Department is largely volunteer. They answer calls 365 days a year, 24 hours a day and are always ready to help out. Tonight they will highlight two separate noteworthy incidents by members of the Police Department. The first incident involved Lt. Gary Panichella, Sgt. Jason Culver, and Patrolman Brian O'Mara. He invited them to step forward to be recognized. On October 12th at 1:41 p.m., they received a 911 call from a contractor stating that his friend had a serious accident with a circular saw and had severed his hand. Upon arrival, the officers immediately assessed the situation and Patrolman O'Mara applied a tourniquet to the victim's arm to control the bleeding. The officers recently received training in tourniquets and other equipment they carry from the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office. The officers decided to immediately transport the victim to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick as they knew time was of the essence. Sgt. Culver drove the victim while Lt. Panichella was in the backseat administering first aid to the victim in the car. Patrolman O'Mara took other immediate measures to preserve the hand to help give the victim his best chance of recovery. Because of the quick response and actions of these officers the victim underwent successful reattachment surgery and is progressing very well today. The individual, Robert Shangel, is present and he would like to say something to the officers. Mr. Shangel thanked them all for what they did, because if it wasn't for them he would not be here. Because of them, he has his arm back and he can actually move it. Glad that they got there as fast as they did, assessed what they needed to do and got it done quickly. Mayor Brill Mittler and Councilwoman Foster-Dublin presented the Police Officers with proclamations and service pins for life saving.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin commented that they all put their lives on the line every day keeping all of Highland Park safe. This one particular day they went above and beyond the call of duty and did not wait around for the ambulance to respond. They took the initiative and drove Mr. Shangel all the way to New Brunswick to make sure that the arm could be saved. It is that forward thinking that keeps everyone safe in Highland Park.

Chief Rizco asked Sgt. Ted Haas to come forward. He is being recognized for his actions in the line of duty. On July 3rd a resident walked into Police Headquarters to report the theft of her purse. Sgt. Haas spoke with the victim and found out that she is the mother of 2 children, one of whom is autistic, which requires her to spend the vast majority of her time caring for him. She also relies heavily on social service assistance to make ends meet. The victim was very concerned because the purse contained her county identification card, her driver's license, her social security card, several debit cards and her EBT card, which allows her to buy groceries and food for her family. Sgt. Haas learned that the victim was supposed to go food shopping that day but she had no way of purchasing food without the EBT card and it is a lengthy process to replace it. Sgt. Haas proceeded to go above and beyond the call of duty. He selflessly provided the victim with \$200 in cash from his own money so she could buy food for her family. He further made arrangements so that the victim could receive transportation to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to obtain a new driver's license. The incident was brought to his attention through another officer. He was not seeking recognition from the department, nor did he want anything in return. He had to talk him into coming to tonight's meeting. He felt that it was important for everyone to know because it speaks volumes about his character, compassion and commitment to go out of his way to help those he comes into contact with. He was surprised at all when he heard about Sgt. Haas' actions as he has known and worked with him for many years. He would not be surprised to hear about any of our officers doing something similar as this is the type of people that we have in the Police Department. This was further demonstrated by the generous actions of the local P.B.A. #64 when this was later brought to their attention. They insisted on reimbursing Sgt. Haas for the \$200 he took from his pocket. He is proud of all of the officers and their commitment to making Highland Park a safe and wonderful community. He publicly thanked and recognized Sgt. Haas for his actions.

Chief Rizco thanked Andrea Baay and Kim McGraw for the wonderful refreshments that they provide. He thanked the first responders once again for what they do all year long.

Mayor Brill Mittler commented that the more she gets to work with the Police and all of the public safety employees, the more she comes to appreciate and know the things they do they we don't get to hear

about. They are an integral part of who and what we are here in Highland Park and she is honored to have them on the team and working on behalf of the residents.

A brief recess was taken at this time. The meeting reconvened with all members previously in attendance still present.

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

Councilwoman Kim reported that the seniors went to an afternoon show at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse today and also had lunch. The Senior Holiday Party will be held on Monday, December 11th at Pithari from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The party will feature musical entertainment by Gordon James. The cost to attend the party is \$10 per person. On Saturday, December 16th is the annual Lion's Club Holiday Party at the Senior Center from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch is provided by the Lion's Club and there will be dancing and the event is free to attend. On November 7th, the Arts Commission held an Improv Workshop and it was attended by half a dozen Highland Park residents. On November 18th, the Highland Park Swing Jazz Ensemble did their debut performance at the Senior Center. There were over 80 people in attendance and it was a huge success. This past Saturday, the Arts Commission also held their holiday arts and craft bazaar downtown and the response was positive from shoppers and vendors alike. We will continue to work with the New Brunswick Arts Council on window art walk for January 15th called "Windows of Understanding". They are also working on a digital mobile art walk for shoppers and residents to be able to take a tour of the art in the windows using their phones, mobile devices, or from home, their computers. The band aid project for 2018 has turned into a band aid bench project that they are working on. They are looking for one of the pocket parts to install the bench. They are also working on a series of pop art panels featuring famous Highland Park artists. The Recreation Advisory Committee met last night and they will feature online registration in the near future. They also discussed a very small increase in some of the fees for recreation programs. She will be looking for more sponsors to team up with the Recreation Department and there are various ways businesses can sponsor with the Recreation Department.

Councilman George reported that the road project on Grant Avenue has finished up and the project on Felton Avenue is now moving forward. Leaf collection will continue throughout December and into January. There are still some leaf bags left for residents available at the Department of Public Works. Bulk trash pickup is scheduled for December 6th on the North Side, Business District and Triangle and December 13th for the South side. Despite the mild weather so far this season, the Department of Public Works is preparing for snow removal by purchasing 5,000 gallons of brine. Brine is a liquid salting agent that is spread by trucks before the snow falls and it cuts the use of salt dramatically. The Borough made an agreement with Middlesex Water to supply the with some brine, about 150 gallons at a time, to help keep their headquarters and purification plant open. The Borough is moving forward with purchase of RTV vehicle, which is a large sized commercial vehicle, that can be used on sidewalks and will be utilized to remove snow from the bridge. They will also be moving forward with a purchase of another one-armed bandit. The Borough has made arrangements through the Department of Public Works to increase the recycling of electronic devices. Beginning January 18th, we will be able to recycle discarded desktop printers and fax machines which were excluded. They will have to be dropped off at the Department of Public Works. The NJDEP called this morning to inquire about the planning of the PSE&G Solar Farm. Due to the recent increase in items they wanted removed, the Borough was going to revisit their plan and would discuss further with PSE&G. Sustainable Highland Park was busy this year with the plastic bag reduction program. They reviewed the progress of the program at the November meeting and they've put up signs in a lot of the parking areas. The number one problem with using recyclable bags is not that people don't have them, not that they don't want to use them, we forget to take them out of our trunks. They are now working on collating data from the recent plastic bag survey and they got some hints on research information on how other municipalities have addressed use or restrictions on plastic bags. The Chairperson is working with the Borough Administrator on possible grants to install more of the water bottle filling stations around borough facilities. They are water fountains made to fill recycled water bottles. The Environmental Commission will be working with the Borough on some projects in 2018. There are new riparian buffer zone requirements that they are interested in reviewing. The storm water permits need to be renewed for 2018 and there are new regulations and requirements. Several of the members have gone to the training down at NJDEP. The Environmental Commission asked that communications and IT update the google maps in Highland Park. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee is planning the 2018 tree replacement program and passed a resolution for next year's allocation for tree planting. STAC did a project that identified all the species of trees in town and the locations to determine condition of trees. This inventory has been digitized and keyed to a map of Highland Park. Residents who wish to have a tree planted in the public verge in front of their home should submit an application, which is available online. There is a posted list of recommended species of trees. The next meeting of the Environmental Commission is December 6th at 8:00 p.m. at the Environmental Center. The next STAC meeting is December 13th and the next Sustainable Highland Park meeting is December 20th.

Councilman Hersh invited residents to join the Highland Park Human Relations Commission on Thursday for an exciting new initiative, the Highland Park Human Relations Commission Book Club. This initiative will feature texts that explore racial complexities and cross-cultural understanding. At their first meeting on December 7th, at the Senior/Youth Center, they will discuss "Everything I Never Told You" by Celeste Ng. Her beautiful debut novel is about a mixed-race family living in 1970's Ohio and the tragedy that will either be their undoing or their salvation. This is part of an ongoing series. They're planning their next book club meeting in March. The Highland Park Gives a Hoot Committee will meet on Monday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level conference room in Borough Hall. HP Gives a Hoot, in cooperation with Global Grace Café, will provide a lunch program at the Senior/Youth Center December 26th through the 29th for all Highland Park school-aged children, K through 12. Lunch will be provided between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day. No vouchers are needed during winter break, but participants are asked to complete short survey which can be found at www.hpboro.com and on the Borough Facebook page, www.facebook.com/hpgivesahoot. The Commission for Universal Access will host its regular meeting on Monday, December 11th at 7:30 p.m. in the Berman Conference Room in Borough Hall. The

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Board of Health will meet on December 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level conference room in Borough Hall. This is a rescheduled date from the original meeting date of December 14th. The Highland Park Housing Authority will meet on December 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Samuel J. Kronman Building, 242 South 6th Avenue. The Immigrant and Refugee Affairs Committee will hold its final meeting of 2017 on December 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the Senior/Youth Center Library. Finally, the Highland Park Municipal ID Program officially launched on October 31st. Applicants must be at least 14 years old and a resident of the Borough of Highland Park. Applicants must show proof of identity and residency. Office hours for applications are Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Identification cards are valid for two years from time of issuance. Identification cards are intended to assist in the identification of the valid cardholder for the purposes of obtaining services from the Borough of Highland Park and at the discretion of the businesses within the Borough of Highland Park. The cost is \$15 for adults, and \$7 for seniors/youth/veterans. Applicants can request a hardship waiver with no questions asked. The application and additional details can be found at www.hpboro.com.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reported that she is proud to live in a town where public safety is a priority. Highland Park was ranked third in the State of New Jersey for being safe. Kudos to Highland Park and their public safety team. The Highland Park Municipal Court is ranked second in Middlesex County for efficiency, deliverance and keeping on top of everything. The ribbon cutting for the teen center two weeks ago and the concrete has been poured. She will advise of developments as the project progresses and noted that you can check on the progress on the Borough's Facebook page. She reminded everyone to remember to shovel the snow from their sidewalks after a snowfall. She also reminded the businesses to make sure that customers have safe access to their establishments after a snowfall. If anyone needs assistance with snow removal, there is a list at the Police Department of high school seniors who are available to shovel. She reported that the Veteran's Day Parade was a wonderful event and she thanked all those who serve. She had the honor and privilege to be presented with a flag when her cousin retired from the Air Force two weeks ago. She thanked her cousin for her dedication and service and all the veterans for what they do in keeping us safe. She wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Councilwoman Welkovits reported that on the agenda tonight is the second reading of a downtown redevelopment ordinance amendment. This is the first time in more than 15 years that the Borough is signing off on a new redevelopment amendment with a redeveloper on the avenue. The Redevelopment Agency worked with Mr. Anton Popov for a little while, but the newly formed Rehabilitation and Redevelopment Screening got things moving. Through both those agencies the Borough was able to come up with an agreement for Mr. Popov who owns what was formerly the International Market on Raritan Avenue near North 2nd Avenue. He will be redeveloping his property, expanding it about four-fold, and will be creating double the retail space in the front and additional retail space in the rear as well as apartments above, which falls straight in line with the Borough's Master Plan. This is a very important project that they are working on and will see a new building built on Raritan Avenue. This will send a strong signal out to other developers that Highland Park means business. This holiday season, Highland Park has become the number one location for several central New Jersey pop up shops. They offer unique retail options for both the seller and the buyer. Small retailers with unique items for sale are able to quickly open temporary shops with very little overhead. Shoppers get the chance to visit a variety of merchants with a great variety of wares. We hope that as these small businesses get a following, they will open their own shop in Highland Park someday. She thanked everyone who participated in organizing for these pop up shops. She thanked Main Street for spearheading this project and working with the Arts Commission on the Arts and Crafts Bazaar. She thanked the property owners who let out their spaces, the merchants and the shoppers that made this season a shopping success. There will be one more pop up shop the weekend of December 16th and 17th and that will be at 431 Raritan Avenue at Greenhouse Studios. The annual downtown Hanukah Party will be on Tuesday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Main Street Highland Park building. On Saturday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. the Outdoor Movie Theater will be showing the movie, "Strange Brew", at Pino's. It is a fundraiser for the outdoor movie events which begin in May and run through September every year. The Kwanzaa celebration will be held on Tuesday, December 26th at Kinetics. She thanked them for opening up the shops and putting on a great show. There are a few more farmer's market dates, December 8th and December 15th. The Redevelopment Agency will meet on Thursday, December 7th at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall. The Safe Walking and Cycling Committee will meet Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Borough Administrator Jover – No report.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that at the League of Municipalities Conference a few weeks ago the Borough of Highland Park once again won an award of honorable mention for innovations in government for the work being done by the Arts Commission. She congratulated Councilwoman Kim and Councilman George for working with the Arts Commission. The award was for bringing the arts to the streets so that all of the residents could enjoy the arts. She was privileged to lead a few of the seminars at the League Conference and had a chance to highlight Highland Park's achievements. Highland Park was noted for being one of the thirteen municipalities to get a grant from the BPU for creation of a municipal complex microgrid. She is very excited about this opportunity to explore the possibility of having a microgrid that would allow the Borough's key buildings in this area to keep power on during an outage. The buildings to be included are Borough Hall, the Public Safety buildings, the Bartle School, the Senior Center and the Senior Housing building. This would allow borough buildings to remain open to residents so that they can stay warm or to cool down and to charge their electronic devices. The complete streets and healthy streets program that she was a part of allowed her to highlight all of the things the Complete Streets Committee and the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee have been doing that also bring healthy opportunities to the residents. She thanked Councilwoman Susan Welkovits and her team that put together an excellent presentation for her at the event. She was able to bring people up to date on the Mayor's Wellness Campaign Initiatives that are being done in town. She and Councilman Hersh met with representatives on the Mayor's Wellness Campaign and they included Highland Park and Rahway in a grant from the Aetna

Foundation to take us up to the Mayor's Wellness Campaign Plus level where they will be having special programs on chronic diseases, weight loss and how to keep residents healthy. Highland Park has been getting some notice lately from Mitch Marketing which is a company that does a lot of research and surveys of other New Jersey municipalities. We were found to be #3 in the State for safety and #2 in the State for the best place to live for millennials, second only to Hoboken, and also the rating of our schools has steadily increased over the last couple of years. Highland Park was just recognized for being New Jersey's first HeartSafe Community because of the Borough's defibrillator program and Stop and Shop got a grant from a company to install their own defibrillator. Councilman Hersh has been working very hard on this program with the Mayor's Wellness Campaign and Councilman Fine. Finally, she commented that it is very exciting for her as the Mayor to see so many new stores that have opened on the Avenue thriving. Most of the new stores were opened by people who grew up in Highland Park. They have become entrepreneurs in town and they know what the residents want and that is proving out in the success of their businesses.

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

Herb Gross, Adelaide Gardens, commented and gave thanks to those who came out to honor the veterans. He also thanked the doctors and nurses who served and tended in the field.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented that she is on one of the Facebook groups that people in town are a part of and there has been some discussion the last couple of days about the location that used to be BBBig and what is going on with that property. There is a lot of abandoned food there that could create a health concern. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the property was purchased. Councilman Hersh noted that the Board of Health has been monitoring that property and the items left are all non-perishable so there is no threat to public health. As long as it is up to code and does not present a public health or public safety concern it is okay as it is.

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

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010 CONCERNING PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS AT MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL, 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 to the public, 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. 17-1953, was duly adopted by the following roll call, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: Councilperson Fine.

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. 12-17-359

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010 CONCERNING PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS AT MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL., passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his/her approval, and if approved by him/her, 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 advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN DATED SEPTEMBER 13, 2005 AS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED, 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 to the public, as required by law.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilwoman Kim, 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.

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On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilwoman Kim, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 17-1954, was duly adopted by the following roll call, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: Councilperson Fine.

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

No. 12-17-360

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN DATED SEPTEMBER 13, 2005 AS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED., passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his/her approval, and if approved by him/her, 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.

Resolution No. 12-17-361 was tabled from consideration on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

Resolution Nos. 12-17-362 through 12-17-375 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilwoman Kim, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: Councilperson Fine.

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

No. 12-17-362

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director be and is hereby authorized and directed to remit to the following the amount set opposite, the same being the amount of overpayment of 2017 4th quarter taxes for the property indicated:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>REMITTEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO BE REMITTED</u>
26	6	Transparent Title & Settlement LLC 14 Old Bridge Tpke South River, NJ 08882 (215 Graham Street)	\$75.00
181	43 QC0102	Merissa Lacher & Scott Gerba 102 Kiersten Drive Highland Park NJ 08904 (102 Kiersten Drive)	\$15,785.47

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

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

No. 12-17-363

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:

FREDERICK DIAZ, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$8.44, effective December 1, 2017.

SADE EDENS, Police Officer, \$300.00 annual payment, attaining and maintaining EMT certification.

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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 12-17-364

WHEREAS, NICOLE MARQUES, VIOLATIONS CLERK, has resigned from the Borough of Highland Park effective December 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, per the requirements of the Borough's Personnel Manual, Kathie Senior is entitled to unused accrued time payments in the amount as calculated below.

	Calculation	Amount Due
Vacation	10.6 x \$19.23	\$203.83
Total Payment		\$203.83

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the unused accrued time payment in an amount not to exceed \$134.61 be approved and distributed in the next available pay cycle.

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The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 12-17-365

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2017, Chelsea Builders, LLC, posted with the Borough of Highland Park a Cash Surety Bond in the amount of \$5,133.00, along with Bond No. 1001070187 issued by United States Surety Company in the amount of \$55,330.00, in connection with a minor subdivision application on the property known as Block 161, Lots 25 & 26, in the Borough of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, Chelsea Builders, LLC has requested that said performance bond be released; and

WHEREAS, CME Associates, Borough Engineer, has reviewed the site in the field and found all of the required work has been completed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the cash surety bond and performance bond heretofore posted by Chelsea Builders, LLC, in the amount of \$5,133.00 (cash surety bond) and \$51,330.00 (performance bond) for the Minor Subdivision, shall be and is hereby released subject to the following:

1. Posting of a 2-year Maintenance Bond in the amount of \$6,416.25.
2. Payment of any outstanding engineering inspection fees.
3. Payment of any outstanding Borough fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department, Borough Engineer, Construction Official, and Chelsea Builders, LLC.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 12-17-366

WHEREAS, RSR Cab, Inc. (Parmjit K. Lehal) and Gill Car 3, LLC (Sukhchain S. Gill) has filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for an Owners License to operate taxicabs in this Borough under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such licenses for the year 2018; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Council hereby determined 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 shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue an Owner License to the aforesaid applicants.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 12-17-367

WHEREAS, Manzoor Batth, Michael Valor, Sukhchain Gill, Arshad Hameed Khan and Rajinderpal Lehal have filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for a License to operate taxicabs under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such Licenses for the year 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and/or his designee has investigated said applicants and has reported favorably upon said applications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that said applicants are qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of said Licenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue an Operator License to the aforesaid applicants.

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

No. 12-17-368

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 6-17-211, adopted by the Borough Council on June 13, 2017, a contract was awarded to Astro Electrical Contractor of Linden, NJ, for the purchase and installation of an emergency generator at the Senior/Youth Center; and

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 1, filed by the CME Associates, that certain work under said contract has been completed and approved, and there is due to Astro Electrical Contractor, the sum of \$44,334.90 in accordance with said Pay Estimate for work performed from October 2, 2017 to October 24, 2017; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-827-205 in the amount of \$44,334.90, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized and directed to pay Astro Electrical Contractor the sum of \$44,334.90, as certified by the Engineer in Pay Estimate No. 1, subject to the Clerk's receipt of the Certified Payroll and Project Manning Reports and additional documents as necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and CME Associates forthwith.

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

No. 12-17-369

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 3-17-118, adopted by the Borough Council on March 21, 2017, a contract was awarded to Z. Brothers Concrete Contractors, Inc. of Sayreville, NJ, for the Improvements to Grant Avenue, Felton Avenue and Graham Street; and

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 3, filed by the CME Associates, that certain work under said contract has been completed and approved, and there is due to Z. Brothers Concrete Contractors, Inc., the sum of \$88,588.11 in accordance with said Pay Estimate for work performed from November 1, 2017 to November 20, 2017; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-822-210 in the amount of \$88,588.11, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized and directed to pay Z. Brothers Concrete Contractors, Inc. the sum of \$88,588.11, as certified by the Engineer in Pay Estimate No. 3, subject to the Clerk's receipt of the Certified Payroll and Project Manning Reports and additional documents as necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and CME Associates forthwith.

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

No. 12-17-370

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough and its residents to publicly bid for the services of its Computer (IT) Consulting Services to perform services for the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough is hereby authorized to publicly bid for the services of Computer (IT) Consulting Services to perform professional services for the Borough by a Request for Qualifications.

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

No. 12-17-371

WHEREAS, property known as 216 South 1st Avenue, Account No. 20120330-0 owned by Congregation Ahavas Achim on approximately September 24, 2017 a faulty pipe caused a leakage of water before the meter could capture usage; and

WHEREAS, water used before the meter is not reported through the readings taken by the reading guns and the amount of water consumed has been calculated to be 10,000 cubic feet resulting in a billing of \$484.30; and

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized and directed to remit a water bill to for the usage indicated with their regular 2017 4th quarter water/sewer bill due on or before December 29, 2017.

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

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

No. 12-17-372

WHEREAS, the Congregation Ohav Emeth has made application to the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park for a license to hold, operate and conduct an Off-Premise for Merchandise Raffle in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law (NSJA 5:8-50 to 76), on May 28, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has made or caused to be made an investigation of the qualifications of said applicant and the merits of said application and have determined that said applicant is qualified to hold, operate and conduct Raffles in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law and the findings set forth in the attached Form 5A of the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue a license to the Congregation Ohav Emeth for the holding, operation and conduct of a raffle on the above date upon payment of a legal fee therefor, subject to the provisions of the Raffles Licensing Law and the rules, regulations and amendments thereto promulgated by said Control Commission.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:

No. 12-17-373

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park previously authorized capital improvements and repairs to Felton Avenue; and

WHEREAS, during the course of implementing the Felton Avenue work, it was determined that there was a failed lateral sewer line; a defective manhole and the requirement for the installation of an additional manhole in order to properly implement the Felton Avenue repair work; and

WHEREAS, upon the discovery of the need for this unforeseen, additional repair work, the Borough Administrator solicited quotes; and

WHEREAS, two quotes were received with the lowest quote submitted by ZBrothers Company; and

WHEREAS, it was essential to undertake and complete this additional, unforeseen repair work prior to the completion of the Felton Avenue Capital Project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6, an emergency purchase and contract may be authorized if in the determination of the governing body that to do so is essential for the public health, safety and welfare of the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, New Jersey, hereby authorizes an emergency contract for the aforementioned sewer repair work for ZBrothers Company in the amount of \$34,227.85; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park further finds that the completion of the aforementioned sanitary sewer repair work while Felton Avenue was under construction was appropriate for the good of the public health, safety and welfare of the Borough in order to complete said repair as weather permitted, to avoid potential disruption of sanitary sewer service to the residents serviced by the Felton Avenue sanitary sewer lateral and in order to complete the capital improvements to Felton Avenue.

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

No. 12-17-374

WHEREAS, P.L. 2009, c. 166, codified as N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2 et seq., supplementing and amending Chapter 11 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes allows local contracting units in New Jersey to create the position of Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, Highland Park desires to create the position of Purchasing Agent;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the position of Purchasing Agent is hereby created for Highland Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as follows:

- 1) The Purchasing Agent shall be appointed by the Borough Council; and,
- 2) The Purchasing Agent shall possess a valid Qualified Purchasing Agent certificate, as issued by the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs; and,
- 3) The Purchasing Agent shall have the authority, responsibility and accountability for the purchasing activity for Highland Park, to prepare public advertising for bids and to receive bids and requests for proposals for the provision or performance of goods, services and construction contracts on behalf Highland Park, and to award contracts permitted through New Jersey statutes and in accordance with the regulations, forms and procedures promulgated by state regulatory agencies in the name of Highland Park, and conduct any activities as may be necessary or appropriate to the purchasing function of Highland Park; and,
- 4) The Borough of Highland Park hereby appoints Gerald Volpe, Q.P.A. Certification Q-0558 as the Q.P.A. of record and establishes the bid threshold at \$40,000.

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

No. 12-17-375

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 12/5/17 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 that the amplification system is not good. She cannot hear them even when they speak into the microphones and she has hearing aids. Borough Administrator Jover advised that they did look into the issue after the last meeting. The Court recording system is going to be replaced and we think the two things may be related and will be addressed next year when we get a new machine early next year. Ms. Bickhardt commented about leaf collection and the fact that on her side of the street she is the only owner that lives in her home. She ends up with all of the leaves on her lawn because adjoining properties do not rake their leaves. Ms. Bickhardt asked about a book discussion. Councilman Hersh noted that this is a new book club out of the Human Relations Commission and the book is "Everything I Never Told You" by Celeste Ng and will be held at the Senior/Youth Center on December 7th at 7:30 p.m. The Library has ordered extra copies of the book. Ms. Bickhardt suggested that the stores put their plastic bags under the counter so that the plastic bag program can be more successful. The stores don't ask if you have your own bag.

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 Councilwoman Kim, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Deputy Clerk