

REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 3, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:07 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 Jover; Borough Clerk Hullings.

Absent: None.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits and seconded by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, the minutes of the Regular and Conference Meetings held July 11, 2017, were approved by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstained: None.

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

Councilwoman Kim reported that the Band-Aid Sculpture Request for Proposals went out and inquiries are coming in about the project. The deadline for proposals is October 15th, but may be pushed back to November 1st to accommodate more applicants. Right now they are looking to have 2-3 Band-Aid Sculptures to be installed in outdoor spaces around Highland Park. October 13th at 7:30 PM is the Poetry & Spoken Word Concert at the Senior Center featuring local and NYC poets and spoken word artists including Allison Baldwin, Sam Friedman, Tanisha Jacob and others. The Book Arts Workshop at the Library will be held on November 2nd at 6:30 PM. The County Health Department Flu Shot Clinic will be held at the Highland Park Senior/Youth Center on Friday, October 6, 2017 between the hours of 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM. The next Senior Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, October 17th. There will be a special dance demo performance by Arthur Murray Dance Studio at 11:00 AM prior to the luncheon. After lunch, back by popular demand, they will participate in the Mind Reading Game Show. Buddy Ball begins on Saturday, October 7th. The Halloween Party and Costume Parade will be held on October 29th from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Highland Park High School Gym. The event will feature DJ music, a bounce house, crafts, refreshments and Halloween safety tips. After the costume parade there will be prizes and giveaways. They are two weeks into the seasons for both Youth Soccer and Flag Football. The Art Class is going well and is filled to capacity. Engineering classes begin on October 16th and October 19th. The Robotics class is full. There are still spaces left in Junior Mechanical Engineering. Youth Theater class begins October 19th and was full within two days of open registration.

Councilman George reported that the Sustainable Highland Park Reduction of Plastic Bags program is going very well and that there are more posters up around town. He attended the Metuchen Farmer's Market recently and this program was mentioned. The Bag It movie will be shown two more times this month. The paving program is moving ahead throughout town and a lot of the paving is being done by PSE&G. The Environmental Commission along with Sustainable Highland Park volunteers have been doing significant work on the trails at the native plant reserve. They will be working on the trail signage and are in need of additional volunteers to help with cleanup of wisteria and vines that are choking the trees on October 15th beginning at 8:00 AM. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long sleeves, bring work gloves and loppers if they have them. He will see everyone there and will bring coffee and donuts.

Councilman Hersh reported that he was proud to represent the Borough at the Housing & Community Development Network's Build a Thriving NJ event at Unity Square in New Brunswick. At the last meeting, the Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of Building a Thriving NJ, which calls on the State Legislature and the next Governor to commit \$600 million annually toward the state's Affordable Housing Trust fund, the State Rental Assistance Program, the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit, Lead Prevention and Weatherization, HMFA Lending, and Special Needs Housing Trust Fund. More information about this campaign can be found at www.hcdnnj.org. Other presenters at the event were Mayor James Cahill of New Brunswick and Freeholders Blanquita Valenti and Leslie Koppel. He invited everyone to come to the Network's 2017 Annual Conference and Membership Meeting on Friday, October 20th at the New Brunswick Hyatt where he will be on a panel titled, "That's RAD: Finding the Right Partner for HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration Program". The nation's public housing stock has nearly \$30 billion in unmet capital needs, and with support from HUD dwindling, it's incumbent upon local housing authorities to address these needs. The problem is, the vast majority of public housing authorities are too small to carry the kind of debt required to borrow money to make upgrades to roofs, windows, appliances, bathrooms and more. HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program allows PHA's to partner with an investor, transferring ownership to the investor for the duration of the loan finance period, while keeping the stewardship and management of the housing public. However, this temporary, long-term privatization capital strategy, while perhaps necessary, requires an investor that shares the mission of supplying safe, decent, affordable public housing. Attendees will learn how to understand their capital needs and to find lending partners who embrace affordable, public homes. More information can be found at www.hcdnnj.org. The Community Food Pantry will hold its regular meeting on October 4th at 7:00 PM at the Senior/Youth Center. The Housing Authority will hold its regular meeting on October 11th at 6:30 PM at the Samuel Kronman Building. The Board of Health will hold its regular meeting on October 12th at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall. The Commission for Universal Access will hold its regular meeting on October 16th at 7:30 PM in the Berman Conference Room in Borough Hall.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reported that the week of October 8th is Fire Prevention Week. The Fire Department will visit the schools to talk about fire safety. The fire Department will also be hosting an Open House during Fire Prevention Week. The Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department is looking for

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volunteers. She encouraged bicyclists to wear helmets when riding their bicycles. She also asked that they keep a lookout for pedestrians. She encouraged motorists to slow down in town and be vigilant for pedestrians and bicyclists. She asked that walkers utilize the sidewalks and not walk in the street. She also encouraged runners to wear reflective gear when running, especially at night. On Saturday, there will be a benefit concert at the Reformed Church for hurricane assistance. Lastly, she sent prayers to the victims of the Las Vegas tragedy.

Councilman Fine – No report.

Councilwoman Welkovits reported that last month's annual Arts in the Park festival was a huge success. They had the most vendors ever. Even though the weather was hot, several thousand people strolled down Raritan Avenue to view and purchase artwork from artists throughout Middlesex County and beyond. The merchants also benefitted as folks often ducked into a shop for brief respite from the heat. Special thanks to the Main Street A-Team Rebecca Hersh, Kim Vanarthos, Javier Zaveleta, Siobhan Weinstein, Jenni Chapman and Unity Bank. Extra special thanks to the dedicated Police Department Public Works Department for their critical help in pulling off all of the large events. The first ever Farmer's Market Squash Festival will be held on October 13th. A Taste of Highland Park and Harvest Festival Block Party will be held on October 1st from 3:00 to 9:00 PM at Pino's Wine Shoppe. The dual event features a beer and wine garden, pumpkins, and live music and is open to the public. There is no charge to "hang out" at the block party. A Taste of Highland Park is the local restaurant promotion event featuring food from local restaurants. Participating restaurants will have tables and tents at the block party and give a "taste" of their cuisines to each customer who purchases a ticket to the tasting portion of the event. Interested restaurants who want to participate should contact Main Street. The next Main Street Board meeting will be held on October 18th at 6:30 PM at the Senior Center. Last week, the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee held a super fun bike rodeo. More than 75 kids tried the obstacle course, got helmet fittings, got their bikes checked out and tires inflated, and grabbed some swag. Special thanks to Diana Starace from RWJ Trauma Center for the helmet fittings, our new friend Chris Polgar from MedCycle and his team of certified EMS specialists on bikes, Chris Gonda from Keep Middlesex Moving, Trish Sanchez and Sean Meehan from Safe Routes to School, Kelcie Ralph, Schools Superintendent Taylor, Principal Benjamin, teacher Mary Clairmont, Eileen Candelaria of HPEF, PTO/PRIDE and special thanks to Colleen Wharton who organized the event. The Redevelopment Agency will meet on October 5th at 7:30 PM at Borough Hall. Mr. Anton Popov will be presenting his plans to redevelop and enlarge his current property on Raritan Avenue at North 2nd Avenue. The plan includes mixed use retail and apartments. Earlier today, she joined the Mayor, Borough Administrator, Bob Fechter of the Redevelopment Agency, Denise Nickel from Middlesex County Economic Development, and our conditional developer Deb Tantleff at the New Jersey State Interagency Working Group. Our Borough Administrator will tell you more about it, but she wanted to expressly thank those she mentioned as well as Redevelopment Agency Chairwoman Rosie Baruh for their efforts to present our important project to the many divisions of state government who can help us move ahead. Lastly, the Highland Park DECA and the Highland Park High School Class of 2018 are hosting the third annual Highland Park Color Run on October 15th at Johnson Park. This event is a great opportunity to invite friends and family of all ages to come enjoy music, food, face painting, and of course, the Highland Park Color Run. Proceeds will be going to the Wounded Warrior Project, K-9 for Warriors and other New Jersey Veteran Charities and to the talented HP DECA student team to help with their international conference in the spring. She shared Councilwoman Foster-Dublin's sentiments to the families and victims in Las Vegas.

Borough Administrator Jover reported that they were able to present the Gateway Project at a meeting today before a room filled with Federal, State and County agency members to talk about the Borough's goals and challenges and opportunities and how they can help the Borough surmount them and accomplish them. It was a great opportunity to show off Highland Park and what we have to offer. It was also great to hear about programs and funding and support they could bring to the Borough. It was a great presentation by the Redevelopment Agency, the Mayor and the designated redeveloper.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler asked for moment of silence for the victims in Las Vegas. She reported that yesterday, a truck pulled up to the back of borough hall for donations made by residents to aid victims in Houston. The Human Relations Commission is working with a Councilman in New Brunswick and Franklin Township to load trailers of merchandise and deliver to Houston. She participated with four other Mayors in a voter registration drive. The Mayors of South River, East Brunswick, Piscataway and Metuchen participated. She thanked residents who contributed to HP Gives a Hoot which raised over \$400 at the Arts in the Park event. There are two new stores on Raritan Avenue, a new record store and a new women's clothing store. Both owners of these stores grew up in Highland Park.

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

Karen Kantor, 125 Graham Street, she represents the Middlesex County Chapter of the Brady Campaign to prevent gun violence and the million mom march. She spoke about the tragedy that occurred in Las Vegas. There was a lone gunman who shot and killed 58 people and injured more than 500 people. The Police converged on the room and the gunman killed himself. The Brady Campaign wants people to understand that we need to strengthen our system of gun laws. Congress and the Trump Administration have focused on weakening our gun laws. They have reversed efforts by the Social Security Administration to identify and report to the ATF prohibited gun purchasers to the Brady Campaign check system. They are pushing a bill called the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Bill which allows for the arming of anyone in the United States. They have moved by Executive Order the oversight of export of certain firearms and ammunition from the State Department to the less stringent Commerce Department. They have put forth bills to eliminate Washington DC's ability to set gun policies in their jurisdiction. They have promoted the deregulation of gun silencers through something called the Share Act. This is designed to protect the ears

of hunters, however, hunters have been using specific earmuffs to protect their ears and don't need silencers. Being able to hear gun shots is useful to see where the gun shots are coming from. We should ban assault weapons but want to focus on keeping guns out of the hands of people who should not have guns. She mentioned an article in the New York Times showing a graph of the last 16 months and there have been 521 mass shootings. A mass shooting is considered four or more people. This is insanity. She is someone who does not give up, change takes time and we are going to make things happen. The Brady Campaign has a card on their website and you can sign a card for the victims. The American Red Cross is in need of blood donations. She encouraged people to speak to their Congress people about sensible gun laws, specifically universal background checks, opposition to the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Bill and the Share Bill. She thanked the Arts Festival for having them this year. It was a strong showing of support for the Brady Campaign. They are sending letters about the bills they oppose to Congress.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that there is a great need for blood donations.

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

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ON-STREET PARKING REGULATIONS FOR RESIDENCES OCCUPIED BY HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010", 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 Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, 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 Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 17-1949, was duly adopted by the following roll call, 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 on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 10-17-292

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ON-STREET PARKING REGULATIONS FOR RESIDENCES OCCUPIED BY HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010", 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 advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK BY ADDING THERETO A NEW SECTION 374-5 ESTABLISHING A TAX LIEN PAYOFF FEE, 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 Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, 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 Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 17-1949, was duly adopted by the following roll call, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 10-17-293

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 BY ADDING THERETO A NEW SECTION 374-5 ESTABLISHING A TAX LIEN PAYOFF FEE, 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.

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The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO NORTH 3RD AVENUE, MONTGOMERY STREET TO RARITAN AVENUE, IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$262,000.00 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 Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman George, 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.

Abstained: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:
No. 10-17-294

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO NORTH 3RD AVENUE, MONTGOMERY STREET TO RARITAN AVENUE, IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$262,000.00 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 October 17, 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.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman Hersh, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, Resolution Nos. 10-17-297, 10-17-299, 10-17-300 and 10-17-303 were tabled from consideration on the Consent Agenda.

Resolution Nos. 10-17-295 through 10-17-309, except Resolution Nos. 10-17-297, 10-17-299, 10-17-300 and 10-17-303, 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. 10-17-295

WHEREAS, there are many men and woman currently incarcerated in New Jersey State Prison; and

WHEREAS, said incarceration is difficult on the prisoner's family members who wish to remain in contact with said prisoner in order to provide family support during said incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey support the establishment of a video conferencing program which would allow family members to video conference or skype with their family member in order to maintain family ties especially in the situation where the prisoner is located some distance from the family and arranging in person family visits represents an undue burden on the family members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Borough of Highland Park hereby encourages its State Legislator to adopt a program whereby incarcerated prisoners can have the ability to video conference or skype with their family members in order to maintain family ties while the prisoner is incarcerated.
2. A certified true copy of this Resolution shall be furnished upon its adoption to: State Senator Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., 908 Oak Tree Avenue, Unit P, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; Assemblyman Robert J. Karabinchak, 3 Stephenville Parkway, Suite 2D, Edison, NJ 08820; and Assemblywoman Nancy J. Pinkin, 3 Stephenville Parkway, Suite 2D, Edison, NJ 08820.
3. A certified true copy of this Resolution shall also be furnished to Michael J. Darcy, CAE, Executive Director, New Jersey State League of Municipalities, 220 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 together with a request that this Resolution be considered by the League for adoption at its upcoming November 15, 2017 conference.

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The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-17-296

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:

JENNIFER SANTIAGO, Redevelopment Agency Clerk, \$1,000.00 per meeting, effective October 3, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-17-298

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector is authorized to issue an appropriate Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate for #14-00034 in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 54:5-52.1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk provide a certified copy of this Resolution to the Finance Department and the Tax Collector.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-17-301

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park and the County of Middlesex entered into an agreement on July 15, 1993, for the cooperative means of conducting certain community development activities utilizing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships funds for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which agreement has been renewed for successive terms; and

WHEREAS, the renewal of the Cooperative Agreement for federal fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020 must include an amendment to the agreement to include a provision required in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2014 to prohibit the transfer of any such funds to certain entities as set forth in the proposed Addendum to the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the County and the Borough agree that it is in the best interests of the residents of Highland Park to enter into the Addendum to the Agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk shall be and are hereby authorized to execute said agreement, and the Borough Council hereby ratifies, an Addendum to the Cooperative Agreement with the County of Middlesex for the cooperative means of conducting certain community development activities utilizing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships funds for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
2. A certified copy of this Resolution, along with three officially executed copies of the Addendum to the agreement, be returned to the County of Middlesex, Public Housing Agency, Division of Housing, Community Development and Social Services.
3. A fully executed agreement shall remain on file with the Borough Clerk.

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

No. 10-17-302

WHEREAS, the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee would like to apply for a grant from New Jersey Health Communities Network;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute and submit, on behalf of the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee, the grant application to New Jersey Health Communities Network, a copy of which is attached to the original of this resolution.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-17-304

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 Professionals, including but not limited to, the Borough Attorney, Bond Attorney, Labor Attorney, Auditor, Engineer, Planner, Planning Board Attorney, Board of Adjustment Attorney, Redevelopment Agency Attorney, Planning Board Engineer, Board of Adjustment Engineer, Tax Appeal Attorney, Prosecutor, and Public Defender 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 its Professionals 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. 10-17-305

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 9-17-121, adopted by the Borough Council on September 5, 2017, authorized Change Order No. 1 for the Improvements to Grant Avenue, Felton Avenue and Graham Street; and

WHEREAS, the Borough received notification from PSE&G that they would be doing gas line work on said streets;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Resolution No. 9-17-121 shall be and is hereby rescinded.

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The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-17-306

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2016 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk as per the requirements of N.J.S. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body, and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey is authorized to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs, as per R.S. 52:27BB-34, and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled:

General Comments
Recommendations

and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled:

General Comments
Recommendations

as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body, and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, as per the regulations of the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the promulgations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52 - to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52 - "A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Borough of Highland Park, hereby states that it has complied with the promulgation of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey dated July 30, 1968 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution, and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-17-307

WHEREAS, pursuant to Division of Local Government Services, Local Finance Notice 92-15, all local units are required to prepare and submit a Corrective Action Plan as part of their annual audit process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, that the Corrective Action Plan in connection with the 2016 Audit, prepared by the Assistant Finance Officer and attached to the original of this resolution, shall be and is hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of said Corrective Action Plan, as approved by the Borough Council, be forwarded to the Finance Department and the N. J. Division of Local Government Services forthwith.

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

No. 10-17-308

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park desires to submit an application for Transportation Enhancements funding to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for improvements to certain Borough roads;

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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-17-309

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 10/3/2017 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 36.

Mayor Brill Mittler commented that HP Gives a Hoot was started a couple of years ago. It was a fund dedicated to providing healthy lunches for children when school was not in session. HP Gives a Hoot is funded mostly by donations by residents. The resolution to be voted on will move the fund underneath the responsibility of the Health and Human Services Committee. Borough Administrator Jover commented that a Dedication by Rider is something that is filed with Department of Community Services so that it can be set up as a dedicated trust fund for HP Gives a Hoot.

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The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hersh, 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. 10-17-310

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-39 provides for the anticipation and expenditure of certain items of dedicated revenue which are not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-39 also provides that such anticipation and expenditure of dedicated revenue is subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park to anticipate and expend certain dedicated revenue under Donations – HP Gives a Hoot;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, be and is hereby requested to give written consent to the insertion, under the Dedication by Rider in the Budget for 2017 and subsequent budgets, of the following:

Donations – HP Gives a Hoot

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two (2) certified copies of this resolution be furnished the said Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

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 that he resented comments made by a speaker earlier in the evening relating to veterans. Veterans fought and defended this country with guns.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented that she works at Rutgers with students who are veterans and knows veterans that are in favor of gun control. She asked about the resolution that was tabled regarding the IT consultant. Borough Administrator Jover noted that there is a vacancy in this full time position and they need the consultant to fill void while they re-evaluate how to fill the position. The resolution will be placed on the next agenda for adoption.

Ruth Bickhardt, 307 Magnolia Street, commented on an incident she witnessed with bicyclists and a car on South 1st Avenue. Bicyclists ride on the sidewalks and there should be an ordinance against it. She also commented about the fact that bicyclists ride without helmets and there are no bells on the bikes. Councilwoman Welkovits noted that they gave out helmets at National Night Out event and handed out bells at a recent bike rodeo. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that the Police Department rewards children that are seen wearing helmets while riding their bicycles. Ms. Bickhardt commented that bells should be put on bicycles by the manufacturers.

Ramona Rosas, 239 South 1st Avenue, commented that she was almost hit by a car at the corner of South 5th Avenue and Benner Street. Motorists don't stop at the stop sign. Councilman George commented that motorists regularly don't stop at stop sign by his home at the corner of South 2nd Avenue and Johnson Street. Mayor Brill Mittler asked that the Police Chief and the Public Safety Committee address the stop sign issues.

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Fine, 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.

No. 10-17-311

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council is of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from the closed session at close of tonight's open session.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
(Litigation: (a) JSM at Highland Park v HP and Reinitz v HP)
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when these matters are resolved or as soon thereafter as it is deemed to be in the public interest to do so.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk