

## REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 2, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:01 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler; Councilpersons Erickson, Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Walsh, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Deputy Clerk Santiago.  
Absent: Borough Administrator Kovach; Borough Clerk Hullings.

Mayor Brill Mittler commented that she is going to change the order of the agenda and give her Mayor's report first. She noted that last month, Highland Park experienced a terrible tragedy for the family of little Chaim Kraus and for the entire community. We cannot underscore enough how this tragedy has been profoundly felt through all of Highland Park. As any parent knows, the worst fear we have is that out of nowhere something like this would happen. This was a devastating, horrible and senseless tragedy from which it will take many years to recover. As everyone here knows, this incident is under investigation by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and the Highland Park Police Department. They are taking this very seriously and they will not let any of this drop. I asked the Prosecutor's Office for their latest report. Here's the latest on the investigation: According to Chief Jerry Mackaleer of the County Prosecutor's Office, "unlike the State of New York, New Jersey law, in order to protect the victim and the defendant, limits the amount of information that a Prosecutor's Office can make public prior to presentation in Court. She was told that the driver has been charged with serious offenses (aggravated assault and one count of death by auto). Sadly, as we know, the victims were struck on the sidewalk. From the Borough's end, while it may not be a consolation to the family, understandably, here are the steps we have taken thus far:

1. I immediately reached out to Acting Governor Guadagno's office and she has assigned her Deputy Chief of Staff to work with me and the DOT to address safety issues on Highland Park's northern Raritan Avenue corridor. I have provided them with a list of immediate actions we would like to see, along with a longer term proposal.
2. We have obtained permission and installed our first "No left turn" sign out of a busy strip center on northern Raritan Avenue.
3. I will be meeting with the Commissioner of the DOT, some of our Legislators, and our Police Captain in February to address each of the safety items we are requesting.
4. I also reached out to Mayor Lankey of Edison because many Edison residents also walk the sidewalk along Route 27.

We will be taking even more steps to ensure the safety of all our residents. Our streetscapes are constantly evolving, as do the needs of our pedestrians. We are constantly reviewing what these needs are and we continuously look at updates and improvements. Unfortunately, some of these things take time. As these updates become addressed, we will be as open with all of our community about our findings and as receptive as possible to your needs and concerns. The awful reality of our lives is that we cannot undo the terrible tragedy that took little Chaim from his family and terribly injured his mother. Nothing that we say or do here will ever amount to the kind of comfort that his family so deserves. However, if there are lessons that we can learn from this tragedy to enable our community to live safer and to have more confidence in the safety of their environment, we will explore them. Indeed, if there are lessons that other communities and planners can take from the tragedy, it may enable future tragedies to be avoided.

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

Ben Shiffman, Highland Park resident, appeared here as a parent and a member of the community. He is a licensed attorney in the State of New Jersey. He thanked the Mayor and Council for all the steps that were just laid out. He also thanked the Police Department and the Prosecutor's Office for everything that they have done and will continue to do to address these issues. He offered some thoughts about some of the issues as there isn't a day that goes by that he and others aren't walking or driving that corridor. There is a lot of talk about what can be done. Thinking about the issues in a broad sense is more important than just reacting, doing something and moving on. He is glad to hear what was laid out, as those are steps in the right direction. He invited the Mayor to come and walk the corridor with them because until you walk there, it is difficult to put it into words. The stretch in question, upper Raritan Avenue, goes from North 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Edison border on Route 27. It is the only stretch of road in Highland Park that has four lanes of traffic, two in each direction, with a rate of speed of 40 mph. The other parts of Highland Park have speeds of 25 to 30 mph. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the speed on Raritan Avenue in the downtown is 30 mph and Woodbridge Avenue and Cedar Lane are 25 mph. Mr. Shiffman commented that they welcome and appreciate the request to lower the speed limit as cars are going well over 40 mph. Another thing you would notice is that the strip where this incident occurred, Columbia Street between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues, where they walk to their congregation, on either side, there are no sidewalks. They came to a meeting in June of 2014 to put on the record that there are strips on that section of Route 27 where the sidewalks are deteriorated and there is dirt going towards Edison. If you cross the street to the other side, there are no sidewalks as that is an active strip mall with restaurants and the entire area is an active driveway with people pulling up unto the curb. There is no effective way of walking in that area. During the snowstorm it was difficult to walk in that area and to access the intersections. They appreciated having the Police Officer assisting pedestrians crossing the street this past Saturday and he hoped that could continue. The only crosswalk in that area is at Washington Avenue. It is very difficult to walk safely in this area as sidewalks are not there or are in disrepair. There are four lanes of traffic with no shoulder and the sidewalk directly abuts the roadway with no strip of grass or buffer in between. Recently, a bike lane was installed in each direction. He suggested making that section of Route 27 like the other section of Raritan Avenue, with parked cars on each side and one lane of traffic in each direction. Talking about a large strip of land where there is a lot of commercial activity. Recently, a rental car agency just opened in that area. You already can't walk there because of all of the active driveways, but now you have rental cars literally parking up to the curb. He suggested extending the main design of the roadway further to the Edison border. The landscape of

the traffic patterns has changed significantly in recent years and the population has increased in that area tenfold. They are trying to cross Route 27 to get to the synagogue in that area. There is a high school and a couple of pre-schools in the area. Part of the reason we love Highland Park is that it is pedestrian friendly and there are a lot of initiatives to make it more pedestrian friendly. They feel that this is an area where a lot more focus can be given. There is only one traffic light in the area and one crosswalk and he wondered why there aren't more crosswalks further up going north where people are looking to cross. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the Borough has some issues in general with crosswalks unless the speed limit is addressed. Mr. Shiffman commented that bringing down the speed limit is paramount and they know that the State has to approve it. They had requested that a study be done to install a traffic light in this area and they want to continue to explore it. They want to be part of the process when things are implemented. The Borough's Master Plan from 2003 lays out specifically what the issues are with upper Raritan Avenue. It talks about alternatives to make upper Raritan Avenue more pedestrian friendly to bring it more in line with the Highland Park image. A lot of his suggestions have come from the Master Plan. They appreciate that it takes time, effort and a lot of thought and a lot of people on the State, County and local level, but how much time will it take since they had this plan from 2003 and a lot of these things could have been looked into and may have been looked into and considered and dismissed. A lot of the leg work from a planning perspective may have already been done. Mayor Brill Mittler commented that the landscape on upper Raritan Avenue has changed and is a lot more active then it was even back then. They want to look at the current scenario and possible changes in 2017 and 2018. Mr. Shiffman commented that it is difficult for pedestrians to traverse in this area and it is dangerous for cars to be driving at this rate of speed. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she has reached out to the DOT about having residents participate in this meeting and she is waiting to hear back from them. She asked Mr. Shiffman to contact her office about scheduling a walk of the area and hoped that the Chief and Captain of Police would join them.

Mark Eichorn, 138 Amherst Street, commented that he was here 1 ½ years ago to talk about the same issues we are talking about now. There is a portion of Amherst Street where there is grass on both sides of the street and no sidewalks. The only option he has is to walk in the street to get to the sidewalk on Raritan Avenue. With the recent snowstorm he had to walk onto Route 27. He feels the town focuses more on ¼" cracks in sidewalks than on the bigger issues. There is a serious issue with safety on Route 27 with cars and pedestrians. He referenced the meeting minutes of June 10, 2014 where the father of Chaim Krauss spoke. "The particular area he is concerned about is Columbia and Rolfe where the sidewalks are crumbling. The intersection of Columbia and Route 27 has had an increase in traffic patterns. There are 10-12 businesses in the area, and there is a lot of traffic, there is a need for an additional traffic light and he wants to have a study done. Acting Mayor Millet stated that that is a State Highway and it would have to go through NJDOT." Since that meeting in June he had been in touch with Councilwoman Foster-Dublin through e-mail and he referenced a response he received on September 22, 2014. The e-mail indicated that she was following up on request for traffic study and traffic light on Raritan Avenue between Columbia Street and South 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The preliminary traffic study was completed by the Police Department and sent to the Acting Commissioner of the DOT on September 19, 2014 and we will notify you of their decision. They have not heard anything since that time. Mayor Brill Mittler does not know why no one reached out to them but she does know that it was discussed in the Public Safety Committee and they were looking at different options and unfortunately it did not get addressed in a more timely manner. Mr. Eichorn commented that you cannot change the past. He read a letter from the DOT that was sent to the town on November 21, 2014. The letter talks about the request for installation of a traffic light on Route 27 between Columbia Street and South 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There are certain municipal requirements associated with various projects undertaken by the NJDOT such as sharing in the cost or providing resolutions to enable new traffic regulations to be established and enforced. The Borough must commit to pay 25% of the cost associated with the construction of the project. Upon receipt of the cost sharing commitment, the Traffic Engineering representative will initiate an investigation. There was an opportunity that was not fulfilled. He checked with the DOT and received an e-mail back from them that the town never responded to their letter. Town had a chance to act on this and if they did we don't if it would have changed anything. Is there a chance that the tragedy could have been prevented? Absolutely. They are looking for a commitment that this does not get delayed again and that this happens as soon as possible.

Mina Kamin, 111 Washington Avenue, commented that she is a very satisfied resident of Highland Park and is lucky to work down the block at 1131 Raritan Avenue. She works in the adjacent building to the temple at the pre-school. She suggested they take their walk between 8AM and 9AM when there are over a hundred children arriving at that location. Many of the children arrive by car or bus, but many are walked to school by their parents or caretakers. There are strollers being pushed and multiple children coming with only one adult. When you see the number of children being walked on the street it gives everyone a little shiver. The teachers are afraid to take their students out on a walk because they are afraid of cars coming up on the sidewalk. From 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM when high school girls have a break, they are walking or were walking on Raritan Avenue and choose to go to Quick Chek or to Glatt 27 for drinks/snacks. Again, from 1PM to 4PM there are different dismissal times for students and parents/caretakers arrive to pick up the children whether walking or driving. The amount of children that need to cross at that location is many. This scenario is repeated again at 5PM when the high school is dismissed and the students are crossing over Raritan Avenue. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that it is extremely important that when they have the meeting with the DOT and they make their pitch for reducing the speed limit that they are aware that this is not just a synagogue, but also a school.

Josh Pruzansky, 141 North 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, thanked the Mayor for all her help and support since this incident happened. From the second he called her until today she has been responsive and proactive and have counseled him about this incident. When the people came to speak to the Council in June of 2014, it was following a request they made of him, due to his advocacy in Trenton, to see what they could do to get a light at the corner of Columbia Street and Route 27. They met prior to coming to the meeting with Senator Peter Barnes to see if he would begin the process on the State level with the DOT to get the light installed. He advised them at that meeting that the process begins with the Borough as it is a 6-8 step process. The group came in good faith and opened up to the Governing Body and hoped that things

would happen and would be followed up on. There was an exchange of e-mails and the hope that things were moving in the right direction. It was only after the accident that they found out that there weren't. They did what they had to do as taxpayers to request that their pedestrian safety be enhanced on a most dangerous highway. The State responded and said they would investigate and perhaps they would not have said a traffic light is sufficient or necessary or allowable on that section of Route 27, or perhaps they would have come up with other ideas. If the communication continued with the State, maybe they would have recommended no left turn signs coming out of some of the restaurants and parking lots on Route 27, or maybe they would have said that the crosswalk at Marlborough and Washington is not sufficient. Perhaps the State would have said let's reduce the size of that highway from four lanes to two or three lanes like they have up in Edison. Perhaps other ideas could have come forth that could have prevented this accident from happening which has destroyed a family and left them bereft of their only son and a mother recovering which could take months. This community needs a commitment from this Council that it will no longer push aside this issue. This issue needs to be issue number one. Your responsibilities are to the residents of this town who voted to have you represent them and they need you to represent them. People have to feel safe walking the streets along with their children. He wants to see the Borough, until this is resolved, have a crossing guard there every week. He understands there are fiscal constraints, but this goes beyond money. This goes to safety and the protection of the citizens of this town. The children need to feel safe when they walk to school and cross the street. The parents need to feel safe standing on a corner and holding their child's hand waiting to cross the street. People have to feel safe when they leave the synagogue on the Sabbath and cross the street to go to people's houses to have "kiddish". Walking from the synagogue down to Glatt 27 is dangerous as you pass the auto body shop, the car rental place and the restaurants. This needs to be fixed now and they need to know that this is priority number one of the Borough of Highland Park to make sure this never happens again. The downtown has a light at every corner and only two lanes of traffic. There is an area from Columbia Street up to North 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue that is a wild zone. People on North 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue have complained that they can't make turns because they can't see the cars. The town has grown and is not as small as it used to be. It is not as easy to drive or walk here as it used to be. When he walked on Saturday to talk to the crossing guard he almost slipped on the ice. The sidewalk was not shoveled and this was a building on Raritan Avenue. He saw three accidents in his 17 years in the Borough on that stretch of road where vehicles left Route 27 because there is no buffer and hit buildings. He thanked the Mayor her help and asked that they work with the State to make this area a safe spot for the residents. He looks forward to working with the Governing Body to make this happen.

David Feiler, 603 Central Avenue, commented that this is horrible that this happened and now at least let's get something done. Need to see movement on this and remain on the agenda for every meeting you have until it is resolved. Mayor Brill Mittler is going to add Upper Raritan Avenue Safety to the Public Safety Committee's main goals for 2016. Mr. Feiler commented about comparing upper Raritan Avenue to the rest of Highland Park. If you look at the businesses there, he doesn't think there is more commerce in this section than the downtown; it's that this area has a wider road. Cars are going faster because the road is wider. If the road was narrower, it would not necessarily be as fast. Over the last week after the snow, most of the right lane was taken up by snow and there was only one lane and there were not any backups. This road is a highway and cars are speeding and the sidewalk is right next to the roadway and there is no barrier. You need to slow down the cars or put up a barrier. At the very least, there should be metal traffic barriers installed; even though they would be unsightly. This will happen again. Had there been a traffic light here and the light was green, this still would have happened. Standing on the sidewalk waiting for the light, there needs to be protection.

Josh Pruzansky, 141 North 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, thanked Chief Rizco and Captain Golden for all of their help and being so responsive.

Rabbi Reuven Drucker, Agudath Israel of Edison/Highland Park, echoed his community's appreciation for this Police Department. He had the regrettable obligation to officiate at Chaim Krauss' funeral at their synagogue. The Police Department, before and the weeks after, have been very responsive as they always have been. He mentioned that in Flint, Michigan the city had unwittingly delivered poisoned water to their citizens. When it was discovered, they did not act fast enough and there were a number of children that suffered because of lead poisoning and now they have to be concerned about reparations in terms of helping those children through adulthood. In response to this crisis, Flint, Michigan handed out bottled water. They are here tonight and they are asking the Governing Body when they will get the "bottled water" they need on a day by day basis. He suggested that there should be someone responsible from the Borough of Highland Park who will communicate on a two or three day a week basis with a couple of their community activists to keep them apprised of how, and how fast we are going to address the problems they were aware of since 2003 to make sure that it becomes a reality. They deserve that communication and they don't want to come back next week, next month or five years from now and review e-mails for things that should have taken place that did not take place. That will not happen if you take the responsibility of setting up an ombudsman that will communicate with our community and let us know about what is happening in this northern corridor. He respectfully asked that before this meeting concludes that they set up that ombudsman and they will set up individuals in their community that you can communicate with, not on an ad hoc basis, but on a reasonable basis, so that we know and can figure out whether or not this is taken care of. Nobody wants to be in the dark anymore. They humbly request that they be given the "bottled water". They need to know how all these things will be implemented.

Mayor Brill Mittler reiterated her opening remark where she said they would be open with the community on all of the advances. Also, she noted that she asked the DOT to have a member of the community be involved in the initial meeting and ongoing meetings. She hopes that the person selected by your community will be the one that she can communicate with on a regular basis. Rabbi Drucker commented that is not sufficient. They are asking that the Borough of Highland Park hand out "bottled water". We have a calamity with this northern corridor. They need to know on an ongoing basis, not that someone's going to attend a meeting with DOT. They need ongoing communication at least a couple of times a week so that they know this issue is being ferried along and everyone is in the loop. Mayor Brill

Mittler noted that she is going to be the person providing the communication with whomever they deem appropriate. Rabbi Drucker commented that he would like to see some formal mechanism set up that doesn't require a phone call to Borough Hall; but that Borough Hall should call our representative. Mayor Brill Mittler mentioned that she has been Mayor for about a year and her method of operation is probably too hands on. She takes everything that happens in this town very seriously. She is a mother also and whatever happens in this community she feels personally affected by in many ways. She gave her word that she will be in contact with a designated person from their community and will keep them updated on what's happening and involved in inputting to us what is happening from the community's perspective

Herb Gross, Adelaide Gardens, commented that since last October there has been a situation on South 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue where 12 blocks of sidewalks are uprooted with shrubbery all over the place. Each month he has tried to find out who is responsible and who is going to fix this. Last month he asked the Mayor who was responsible for this repair and who the citation was given to. Now, he has been told there was a letter, which he is not interested in. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that he came in a number of months ago to address the situation near Unity Bank. The reason why they could not tell you who it was at the last meeting was because Mr. Brescher was not able to attend the last meeting. Mr. Brescher has tried to communicate with during this past week. Mr. Brescher noted that no citation was issued, just a notice to repair within 30 days was sent out. The sidewalks that were raised were ground down and he showed the photos to Mr. Gross. He measured every slab and there are no slabs greater than 1/2". A letter to the property owner has been mailed out and they are given 30 days to make necessary repairs. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that Mr. Brescher has been trying to work this out with you and would be willing to discuss further in the lobby. Mr. Gross wants the public to know what is going on. Mayor Brill Mittler explained that the property owner was "cited" by being sent a letter notifying them of the repairs needed.

Ruth Bickhardt, 307 Magnolia Street, commented about the situation at Rite Aid where there are two driveways, one to enter and one to exit, on South 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. When the sun goes down and early in the morning, they ignore those signs and one of these days someone is going to get hurt. She spoke to the people at Rite Aid. She suggested that when the Planning Board deals with the changes, that this matter be addressed. Mayor Brill Mittler asked that Mr. Brescher bring this matter to the Planning Board's attention. Mrs. Bickhardt also spoke about the snow plowing on South 3<sup>rd</sup> and Magnolia, where the residents cleared the area, and then the snow plows came through.

Alan Sabo, 1611 Central Avenue, thanked Lt. Panichella and the Police Department for their assistance with the funeral. It has been hard on them and he appreciates that the Mayor and Council have allowed them to speak.

Jake Lang, 258 South 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that he has lived here for 12 years. He thanked the Mayor, the Council and the Police Department as this is a very safe neighborhood. This is a great place to raise a family, where you can walk the streets of Highland Park and feel safe as a pedestrian to get places and get home. He has been walking to the synagogue and the schools for the past 12 years and can testify about the experience. Many issues have been raised about Route 27. When the Mayor walks with Mr. Shiffman, he asked that she take a few minutes to stand there and see how many cars actually stop to allow you to cross the street. The amount of revenue the town could generate by pulling over those cars that do not stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks. There are a lot of children that go to school and pray there. The goal of getting safety to that area is going to take time as there are many steps. What are we going to do in the interim? The crossing guards each morning and afternoon do a tremendous job during the school year. There should be enforcement by the Police Department for those cars that do not stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks. Reducing the speed is one aspect, but enforcement for pedestrians in the crosswalk is another aspect. Chief Rizco commented that it is an excellent idea and they have grant money and they conduct pedestrian crosswalk details with plain clothes officers and they will vigorously enforce the traffic laws.

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

Councilman Jim Walsh reported that the senior center is working to actively recruit a driver with a CDL license to take seniors on regularly scheduled trips and outings. Anyone interested who has a CDL can apply. It is a part-time position. He invited senior residents to attend the monthly senior lunches, with the next one being February 9<sup>th</sup> at 12PM.

Councilman George reported that the Parking Study Task Force that was to be formed is in the process and he hopes to provide the names to the Mayor for appointment at the next Council Meeting. Main Street Highland Park is actively planning the street fair and the 5K race which is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Main Street is also concentrating on their organization and the new board has been updating their policies and procedures and they are addressing their 2016 goals. The Redevelopment Agency voted on some site specific amendments to the Redevelopment Plan for a small development on the corner of North 2<sup>nd</sup> and Raritan. There are also discussing possible development of the gun shop with a potential developer. The Planning Board will continue hearing the American Properties application at the old Honeywell site. He hopes they can squeeze the amendment to the redevelopment plan on the agenda. It is very important that people come to these meetings to see what is going on in town.

Councilman Erickson reported that the Borough is working with the Bloustein School to prepare a Capital Improvement Plan. The next step is to work with the school district to coordinate the Borough's work with theirs.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reported that on February 11<sup>th</sup> the Police Department will be having cultural diversity training for all members of their staff. Last week, she and the Mayor attended a Terrorism and Security Awareness function in Trenton. They learned a lot of useful information from that seminar and they will be sharing that safety information with the public in the near future.

Councilman Fine reported that while in New Jersey we have had an assault weapons ban since 1990, the Health and Human Services Committee that he chairs believes there is still more legislative work to be done to address the issue of gun control in our State. Recently, in District of Columbia v. Heller, the United States Supreme Court recognized that the Constitutional protections related to firearm ownership are not unlimited, and do not extend to all types of firearms. Recent incidents in Aurora, Colorado; Newtown, Connecticut; Charleston, South Carolina; Roseburg, Oregon; and San Bernardino, California have demonstrated that gun violence is not limited to urban settings, but is also a reality to many suburban and small town locations. Unfortunately, the State of New Jersey does not currently prohibit the transfer or possession of 50 caliber firearms. 50 caliber rifles are military-grade firearms capable of penetrating the highest grade of body armor and inflicting tremendous damage upon its target; and are considered among the most destructive weapons legally available to civilians in the United States, and are a weapon of choice for terrorists, gang members, drug traffickers and other criminals. In 2015, the Highland Park Board of Health, to which I am this Council's liaison, passed a resolution stating that such weapons pose an undue threat to the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens and law enforcement personnel of Highland Park. The last time a bill was introduced to ban .50 caliber firearms in the State of New Jersey Legislature was in 2013, but it was not enacted. He urged his fellow Council members to adopt the resolution sponsored by the Health and Human Services Committee, which is on the agenda for consideration tonight that will urge the State lawmakers to re-introduce and enact legislation banning the transfer and possession of all 50 caliber firearms in New Jersey.

Councilwoman Welkovits that beginning last Friday, at the start of mega-snowstorm Jonas, the Highland Park Department of Public Works' salt trucks were out overnight spreading salt to minimize icing. By 6AM Saturday morning, all 9 trucks were in full snow removal operation. With more than 36 miles of roadway to clear, the crew halted all other operations on Monday to dedicate another day to additional snow removal. The crew worked 34 hours straight through, a full day longer than our neighboring communities. Additionally, by 6AM Saturday morning, the property crew were out on foot clearing snow, spreading salt on municipal properties, and keeping conditions safe for residents. While many businesses and the schools were closed on Monday, and with late starts on Tuesday morning, our crews were on the scene. Working in tandem with the NJ Department of Transportation and New Brunswick Department of Public Works, the Albany Street Bridge was cleared for foot traffic on Tuesday and we hope that with our new arrangements with these entities, we can clear the path sooner in the future. The crew worked throughout the night during a wind-driven blizzard, with limited visibility, a snow fall rate at times of 3 inches an hour; one of the worst snowstorms in New Jersey history, of snowfall during a 24-hour period. The conditions were so severe that our massive trucks were getting caught in the snow. We've allowed the Department of Public Works the night off, but the team had some comments that she shared: Don Rish, Superintendent - "This is the worst snowstorm I've ever experience din my life and I've been with the Department of Public Works for 40+ years. I'm proud of the work of our crew and that the equipment withstood the elements. He thanked the residents for all of their cooperation". Frank Troy, Foreman- "With the severity of the storm, when the trucks were getting stuck on ice and sliding into snow drifts, residents were offering and assisting in getting us out, removing the snow from around the tires and helping us get some traction. Some offered hot coffee and snacks while we waited for another truck. They were very appreciative". Mike Wieczorkiewicz, Foreman – "Thanked the residents for following the no parking when road is snow covered rules, especially in the triangle area. This really helps pus the snow further off the road". She thanked newest Councilman Jim Walsh, who rode shotgun with Foreman Frank Troy, in one of the worst snow storms in New Jersey history. Special thanks to all of the Emergency Response personnel – Police, Fire, First Aid, OEM and CERT team. She reminded everyone to exercise good citizenship and no throw snow back in to the roadway once the road has been plowed. She encouraged as many cars to stay off the side streets until all the plowing is completed. She asked pedestrians and skiers to stay off the roadways during plowing times. She also asked that people please clear snow away from hydrants that might be in front of their homes or offices. Upcoming holidays have caused garbage and recycling pickup to be rescheduled from Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. If your garbage or recycling pick-up falls on a holiday, it will be rescheduled to the Wednesday of that week. Please refer to the usual notices via the website, non-emergency alerts and social media.

Borough Attorney Schmierer - No report.

The Deputy Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF EACH OFFICER AND EMPLOYEE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION", 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. 16-1899, was duly adopted on final reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Erickson, Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Walsh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 2-16-64

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF EACH OFFICER AND EMPLOYEE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION", 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 Deputy Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING SANITARY SEWER RENTS AND FEES AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK" 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. 16-1900, was duly adopted on final reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Erickson, Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Walsh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 2-16-65

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING SANITARY SEWER RENTS AND FEES AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK", 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 Deputy Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER VII, "TRAFFIC" 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 Fine, 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 Fine, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 16-1901, was duly adopted on final reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Erickson, Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Walsh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 2-16-66

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 VII, "TRAFFIC", 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 Administration of Government Ordinance was tabled from consideration until the February 16, 2016 meeting on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

The Deputy Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 135, "BUILDING CONSTRUCTION", had been introduced in writing by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, 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 Erickson, Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Walsh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 2-16-68

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 135, "BUILDING CONSTRUCTION" 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 Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, on February 16, 2016 for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 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.

Resolution Nos. 2-16-69 through 2-16-72 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Erickson, Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Walsh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

2-16-69

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 2/2/2016 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 36.

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

2-16-70

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Educational Foundation has made application to the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park for a license to hold, operate and conduct games of chance commonly known as Bingo in accordance with the Bingo Licensing Law (NSJA 5:8-24 to 49), on March 4, 2016; 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 Bingo in accordance with the requirements of the Bingo 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 Highland Park Educational Foundation for the holding, operation and conduct of games of chance commonly known as Bingo upon payment of a license fee, subject to the provisions of said Licensing Law and the rules, regulations and amendments thereto promulgated by said Control Commission.

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

2-16-71

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 5, 2016 showing the names of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park whose salaries are on an annual basis, there have been the following changes, to wit:

KAREN JARZABSKI, Reference Librarian, at an annual salary of \$57,491.00, effective January 1, 2016.

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 Health and Human Services Committee, was duly adopted as above:

2-16-72

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park seek to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens and law enforcement personnel of the Borough of Highland Park by reducing the risk of personal injury, death or property damage caused by firearms; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States of America and the laws of the State of New Jersey afford certain protections related to the ownership of firearms; and

WHEREAS, in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the United States Supreme Court recognized that the Constitutional protections related to firearm ownership are not unlimited, and do not extend to all types of firearms; and

WHEREAS, recent incidents in Aurora, Colorado; Newtown, Connecticut; Charleston, South Carolina; Roseburg, Oregon; and San Bernardino, California demonstrate that gun violence is not limited to urban settings, but is also a reality in many suburban and small town locations as well; and

WHEREAS, 50 caliber rifles are military-grade firearms capable of penetrating the highest grade of body armor and inflicting tremendous damage upon its target; and

WHEREAS, 50 caliber rifles are considered among the most destructive weapons legally available to civilians in the United States, and are a weapon of choice for terrorists, gang members, drug traffickers and other criminals; and

WHEREAS, the firearms industry has introduced 50 caliber handguns that are also capable of penetrating the highest grade of body armor and inflicting tremendous damage upon its target; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey does not prohibit the transfer or possession of 50 caliber firearms; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined that 50 caliber firearms are not traditionally used for self-defense in the Borough of Highland Park, and that such weapons pose an undue threat to the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens and law enforcement personnel of the Borough of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to urge State lawmakers to re-introduce and enact legislation banning the transfer and possession of all 50 caliber firearms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council and the Borough of Highland Park as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park hereby urge its elected representatives in the New Jersey Senate and Assembly to immediately adopt legislation banning 50 caliber fire arms in New Jersey.
2. A certified true copy of this Resolution upon its adoption shall be furnished to Senator Peter J. Barnes, Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr. and Assemblywoman Nancy J. Pinkin.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Judi Shande Monk to serve as a Regular Member of the Planning Board for a term to expire September 2, 2018.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Rebecca Hand to serve as the Alternate #2 member of the Planning Board for a term to expire September 2, 2017.

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

Michael Gordon, 207 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that he walks to Raritan Avenue on a regular basis and the amount of cars he has to dodge even at a stop sign is crazy. He asked that there be enforcement on all the streets and especially by Stop and Shop. Mayor Brill Mittler asked that Chief Rizco and the Public Safety Committee discuss this matter at their next meeting.

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

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago  
Deputy Borough Clerk