

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
REGULAR MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 17, 2016 - 7:00 PM

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday May 17, 2016 and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:03 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; Borough Administrator Kovach; Borough Clerk Hullings.

Absent: None.

Mayor Brill Mittler read and presented a proclamation in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Irving School.

Mayor Brill Mittler read and presented a proclamation in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of the Farmer's Market.

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

Councilman Walsh reported that registration is ongoing for the Youth Basketball Program (K-8th Grade). Teams will be forming with games taking place on Sundays with mid-week practices. Volunteer coaches are needed for this program. Residents are asked to share their time and talents with young athletes in the community by becoming a volunteer youth sports coach with the Borough's Recreation Department. It's a rewarding experience that only takes a few hours of your time each week. The Borough provides the support and instruction needed to be successful on the field and on the sidelines. The Halloween costume parade and festival will take place on Sunday, October 30, 2016 from 2:00-5:00 PM at the Highland Park High School Gym for children pre-k through Grade 6. Music to be provided by DJ John, with a Wizard's Castle Bounce House, activities, crafts and refreshments. Prizes and giveaways will be awarded following the costume parade. The event is sponsored by the Borough of Highland Park, Over the Moon Toys, Ziran Martial Arts, Yellow Brick Road Preschool, Stop & Shop and a Middlesex County Community Development Block Grant. The Veteran's Day Parade will be held on November 11th beginning at 11:00 AM at the Doughboy monument. There will be a short ceremony and then the parade will proceed along Raritan Avenue towards New Brunswick. Residents are encouraged to come out and support the Veterans. Operation Take Back will be held on Saturday, October 22nd and Sunday, October 23rd from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at the Highland Park Senior/Youth Recreation Center for those who wish to turn in unused/expired prescriptions safely. The senior fall luncheon will be held on Tuesday, October 25th at 12:00 noon. The event will feature a Mind Reading Game Show by Flavian. The next Atlantic City bus trip to the Tropicana Casino will take place on Tuesday, November 1, 2016. The bus will depart the Senior Center at 8:30 AM and return by 6:30 PM. The cost is \$40.00 per person and you will receive \$25.00 back in slot cash. The trip is open to all residents. Along with the Mayor and Councilwoman Welkovits, he met with the County to discuss a bike path. They also brought up the idea of putting sculptures in Donaldson Park. They would need specific plans about the sculptures (what materials they will be made of, how deep they'll be embedded in the ground, etc.). There will be an improve workshop for teens and seniors that will take place at the Senior Center on Tuesday evenings from 4:00 PM until 5:00 PM beginning November 22nd. Residents are encouraged to come tell stories of "How I Got to Highland Park" at the Highland Park Public Library and Arts Commission's Storytelling event on Thursday, October 27th at 7:00 PM at the Library.

Councilman George reported that the Farmer's Market will open on June 3rd for their 20th Anniversary with some special activities planned. They will be introducing cooking lessons and cooking competitions. The Parking Group will meet tomorrow at 8:00 AM to decide on a regular meeting date. He donated a number of flash drives with the 452 page "encyclopedia" of information for the Parking Group members. The Redevelopment Agency is active and the Mayor has appointed a new Borough Planner and they will utilize his services to get a couple of their plans moving forward. Last week, the Planning Board adopted the final written resolution for the American Properties application. They also took the time to discuss the Sustainable NJ certification and some resolutions that involve planning. The Zoning Board did not meet recently and he invited residents to attend these meetings to find out what is going on and to give comments and suggestions.

Councilman Erickson reported that he attended his first meeting with the newly formed Digital Data Task Force today and they explored the possibilities of making the Borough more transparent, providing more information to the public and increasing the sharing of information with different parts of the Borough government. There are a number of possibilities available to the Borough and that in the near future they will go to the residents of Highland Park and asking them what types of information they would like the Borough to provide in a more accessible way.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reported that they are celebrating National Police Week and National EMS Week. We need to support our Police Department and support our 1st Aid Squad volunteers.

Councilman Fine – No report.

Councilwoman Welkovits reported that she is pleased to announce that the Borough has been looking into an exciting new project to create some solar energy. They have posted a request for a solar or utility company to bind on leasing an underutilized property from the Borough. It is becoming more common now for such companies to lease land and install and operate a solar field. All costs would be borne by the winning bidder. This would be a cash-positive project, for which the Borough could receive \$25-\$30,000 annually. The land being considered was an old dump site and therefore not viable for development in its current state. The generation of energy from a source other than fossil fuels is in line with our environmental, resilient, and sustainable initiatives. The bid will remain open until May 26th and they hope to award the bid at the June 14th Council meeting. She is also pleased to announce that Highland Park has been awarded \$30,670 from the annual Clean Communities Grant Program. Grants are funded by a user-fee on manufacturers, wholesalers

and distributors that produce litter-generating products. Under the supervision of Public Works Foreman Frank Troy, these funds are used by the Borough for litter and graffiti abatement. Some of the projects that are regularly funded are the purchase of leaf bags for town-wide distribution, calendar magnets, the salaries for the 2 part-time employees who walk up and down Route 27 and Woodbridge Avenue to pick up litter, and certain education and other Borough-wide programming. The Borough was also just awarded a \$1,500 ANJEC grant from the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions to create a birding program for Highland Park. She thanked Daniel Larkins, one of the newest members to the Environmental Commission, for bringing the annual event to the Borough. With the rains having let up some last week, the Public Works crews have been out and about. When not collecting trash, recycling, or bulk items, the crews are busy maintaining grounds around Borough buildings as well as the Rain Gardens on Raritan Avenue, trimming trees and vegetation, street sweeping, and repairing potholes. Since January through May 9th, the crew has filled 1,077 potholes with 16.65 tons of hot asphalt. She announced that Highland Park has taken the lead on a new electronics recycling program. They will be combining the pickups with New Brunswick and Metuchen for the new carrier, ERI, to provide the service at no cost to the Borough. The last carrier was going to start to charge for the service. Per New Jersey legislation, it is mandatory to recycle TVs, computer monitors, computer towers and laptops. The Borough can continue to offer this important service at no cost to our residents. The Borough also accepts other types of electronics with power cords. The full list of accepted items is available on the Borough's website. Items may only be dropped off during business hours, 7AM-2:30PM. Lastly, she asked that residents please help the school district and the community by participating in the Pathway to Excellence Survey. The Highland Park Public Schools are in the midst of developing a strategic plan for the next three years. The district is asking everyone to attend a community planning session on June 28th and 29th, but is first asking residents to take part in this five-minute survey so you can weigh in on the district's greatest need areas. This survey will be active from May 16th through May 30th.

Borough Administrator Kovach reported that in June the Governing Body goes to a once a month meeting schedule for the summer. The next meeting is June 14th.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – no report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that this past week they lost one of Highland Park's gems. Milton Frant was a long time Highland Park resident. He served the Borough on its first Universal Access Team and was a Veteran of WWII. She asked for a moment of silence in his memory. She also reported that residents are watching this meeting at home through HPTV, Highland Park's own cable television station. The HPTV team needs your help. There will be a volunteer drive to work with Chairperson Gary Leslie on Thursday, June 2nd at 12:30 PM or Wednesday, June 8th at 7:30 PM at the Senior/Youth Recreation Center. No experience is necessary and training will be provided to become a videographer. The goal is to have more program origination and

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

Herb Gross, Adelaide Gardens, reported that there is free medical aid for Veteran's. Has been waiting for over 50 years for this. He praised the doctors and nurses who served on the line. The number to call to get automatically enrolled is 866-838-7654.

Rev. Seth Kaper-Dale, Reformed Church of Highland Park, appeared to share with the Council some of the ways that their efforts for refugee resettlement have progressed since a pledge of support from the Council back in November. They were urging New Jersey towns to resettle 10 families and help meet the needs of the refugee crisis. Since February 1st, 14 people have been resettled, 11 of those in Highland Park and 3 in Edison. They are very excited about how the process has been going. Beyond that, they have shaped their coalition and formed a formal program called Interfaith RISE (Interfaith Refuge and Immigrant Services Empowerment). It is going to be a reception and placement organization connected with USCRI, an agency that has resettled 350,000 people since 1975. This is a way for them to commit to helping the County of Middlesex in doing a good job with resettlement. They have learned in the first few months that with the current resettlement agencies being in Camden and Jersey City, which is quite a distance, they did not get the support from these short staffed agencies and therefore they formed their own agency and should be by October 1st a reception and placement organization that is functioning out of Highland Park with a goal of resettling 30 to 40 people in the County each year. This is a way to make a long standing commitment to refugee resettlement. He asked the Mayor if she would provide a letter endorsing Interfaith RISE.

Mayor Brill Mittler thanked him for all his hard work in this area. This matter is slated to be discussed at the Conference Meeting immediately following this meeting and she asked him to join the discussion.

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

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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

No. 5-16-162

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Main Street Highland Park Budget for the year 2016;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Budget be published in the Home News Tribune, Asbury Park, NJ, in the issue of May 20, 2016.

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The Governing Body of the Borough of Highland Park does hereby approve the following as the Main Street Highland Park Budget for the year 2016:

Income	
Government Grants	\$ 25,000.00
Special Assessment (BID)	\$157,000.00
Sponsorships	\$ 66,900.00
Total Income	\$248,900.00
Expense	
Administration and General	\$153,200.00
Program Expense	\$ 95,700.00
Total Expense	\$248,900.00

Budget Surplus/(Deficit) \$ 0.00

Notice is hereby given that the Main Street Highland Park Budget and Resolution was approved by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, on May 17, 2016.

A hearing on the Main Street Highland Park/Business Improvement District Budget will be held at Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, Highland Park on June 14, 2016 at 7:00 o'clock PM at which time and place objections to said Budget and Resolution for the year 2016 may be presented.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010", CHAPTER 247 BY ADDING THERETO ARTICLE III LICENSING ESTABLISHMENTS THAT SELL ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES" 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 Councilman Walsh, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the license fee was changed to \$600.

On motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman Walsh, 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 Councilman Walsh, the ordinance as amended and entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 16-1906, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

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

5-16-163

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010", CHAPTER 247 BY ADDING THERETO ARTICLE III LICENSING ESTABLISHMENTS THAT SELL ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES, 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.

Mayor Brill Mittler thanked Councilman Fine for his steadfast support of this ordinance.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George and carried by affirmative voice vote of all councilpersons present, Resolution No. 5-16-172 was tabled from consideration until the June 14th meeting.

Resolution Nos. 5-16-164 through 5-16-171 and Resolution No. 5-16-173 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: Erickson, Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Walsh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 5-16-164

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 5/17/16 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 35.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
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The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works & Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 5-16-165

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 5-14-155 adopted by the Borough Council on May 6, 2014, CGP&H, LLC was authorized to assist in the preparation of the Dept. of Transportation Trust Fund Grant for the Bartle School (Safe Streets to School); and

WHEREAS, said grant was approved in the amount of \$69,000.00 for the improvements of the lighted crosswalk outside the Bartle School; and

WHEREAS, said contract award was not fully utilized; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to request an extension of the time for one (1) year to allow time to fully utilize the funds with another project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough hereby requests an extension of the time to award the contract for the improvements to Bartle School for one (1) year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to CGP&H, LLC forthwith.

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

No. 5-16-166

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of an Engineer to provide services, in accordance with letter proposal from CME Associates, dated May 2, 2016, attached to the original of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, CME Associates, Parlin, N.J., is a firm of licensed engineers of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in providing these services; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of said consulting engineer; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account Number No. C-04-55-826-210 in an amount not to exceed \$6,039.00 without further resolution of Council, as reflected by the Certification of Funds by Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for professional services with David Samuel, CME Associates, 3141 Bordentown Avenue, Parlin, NJ 08859, a copy of which is attached to the original of this original, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

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

No. 5-16-167

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:

SADE EDENS, Police Officer, at an annual salary of \$36,057.00, effective June 1, 2016.

BRYANT FITZGERALD, Police Officer, at an annual salary of \$36,057.00, effective June 1, 2016.

JOSEPH OLARRA, JR., Police Officer, at an annual salary of \$36,057.00, effective June 1, 2016.

KEVIN HOLMAN, Building Inspector, at an annual salary of \$8,320.00, effective June 1, 2016.

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 hourly basis, there have been the following changes, to wit:

JAMES FEASTER, Special Law Enforcement Officer II, at an hourly of \$25.00, effective June 1, 2016.

FLORA ANN FUTCHER, Part-time Librarian, at an hourly rate of \$29.61, effective May 4, 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 Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 5-16-168

WHEREAS, Sonnenblick, Parker & Selvers, PC and The Estate of Arisa Carter, during the closing of the sale of property, both remitted payments for water and sewer charges on a property known as 1140 Raritan Avenue/5 Amherst Street, Account #10050920-0 & #100520920-1; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommends that Sonnenblick, Parker & Selvers, PC be refunded \$352.76 from water and sewer to be allocated to the appropriate parties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to issue a refund in the amount of \$352.76 from the water and sewer account to Sonnenblick, Parker & Selvers, with a mailing address of 4400 Route 9 South-Suite 3000, Freehold, NJ 07728.

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

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

No. 5-16-169

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Middlesex County Housing and Community Development Committee shall be and is hereby requested to approve the reprogramming of the following items under the Borough's Block Grant Application, to wit:

FROM:

2013/2014 Façade Improvement	9,632.86
2014/2015 Façade Improvement	19,010.00
2015/2016 Façade Improvement	11,357.14
TOTAL	\$40,000.00

TO:

Streetscape Benches/Trash Cans	25,000.00
Replacement Banners	5,000.00
Street Lighting	10,000.00
TOTAL	\$40,000.00

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

No. 5-16-170

WHEREAS, Guaranteed Motor Towing Service, Inc. has filed with the Clerk of this Borough for a Wrecker/Towing License to operate heavy duty wreckers in this Borough under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such license; and

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

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

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Recreation and Arts Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 5-16-171

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for receipt of bids for an ADA Accessible Van on a date and time to be determined by the Borough Clerk and the Senior Program Coordinator.

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

No. 5-16-173

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park desires to apply for and obtain a Safe Streets to Schools grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation;

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

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

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

No one appearing to be heard, the public discussion was closed

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 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk