

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
REGULAR MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 3, 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 3, 2016 and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:09 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler; Councilpersons Erickson, Fine, George, Walsh, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Kovach; Borough Clerk Hullings.

Absent: Councilwoman Foster-Dublin.

Mayor Brill Mittler presented a plaque for Volunteer of the Year to Allan Williams. She noted that Mr. Williams is a very dedicated volunteer and was the logical choice to receive this award for 2016.

Mayor Brill Mittler read and presented a proclamation to Ruth Bickhardt in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

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

Councilman Walsh reported that the summer camp jobs will be listed until May 13<sup>th</sup>. Applications can be picked up and turned in at the Recreation Center. The Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> and will begin at 11:00 AM in New Brunswick at Monument Square and will proceed into Highland Park and end at the Doughboy Monument. There will be a short ceremony honoring our veterans. The Independence Day Celebration will be held on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 5:00 PM, with a rain date of July 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be music, activities, food vendors and a special HP Gives a Hoot children's area. They are looking for volunteers to help at the event, specifically to help collect donations for the Mayor's HP Gives a Hoot program. If you can help out for an hour or two, please email him at [jwalshhp@gmail.com](mailto:jwalshhp@gmail.com). The Spring Luncheon and Mother's Day Celebration will be held on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM. The food will be catered by Highland Park's own Pithari Taverna. Entertainment will be provided by A Touch of Sinatra Musical Show. There will be a special program after the luncheon entitled "Planting Fun & Relaxation". There will be a trip to Atlantic City, Resorts Casino, on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, departing Highland Park at 8:30 AM and returning at 6:30 PM. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Prom will be held on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The new medical driver, Lawrence Patterson, began employment with the Borough on April 20<sup>th</sup>. On Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, eighteen Highland Park seniors 90 years old and over will be attending the Middlesex County 90's Birthday Bash. This is a special celebration and luncheon in honor of those 90 years of age or older. The Highland Park Senior Center will be offering a trip to Ocean City, Maryland September 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$400 and includes bus transportation, 3 nights' hotel accommodations, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners, including an all you can eat seafood festival buffet, guided tours, trips to casinos and much more. This trip is open to all Highland Park residents.

Councilman George congratulated Allan Williams on being selected as Volunteer of the Year. He also does work for the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership. He serves with him on the Planning Board and has worked with him even before he was on Council. He and Councilman Walsh met about the Arts Center to coordinate the work of the two groups and to sharpen the vision and work with the Redevelopment Agency on moving that project forward. The 5K run was very well attended and the street fair had a number of vendors cancel. It poured for the 1<sup>st</sup> three hours and when it cleared up people came out and enjoyed the event. The Redevelopment Agency will meet Thursday night and will continue the discussion of refining the downtown redevelopment area. There are some current plans under discussion and they are moving in conjunction with a number of other areas with regard to the Arts Center. The Redevelopment Agency is making recommendations and discussing supplements to the redevelopment act which would make the area a little more developable which would augment the present plan that is in place. The Zoning Board of Adjustment has not been busy, with the April meeting being cancelled. The Planning Board heard the American Properties application and a resolution was passed. Most of the concerns that the Administration and the Planning Board had were met and satisfied. One of the conditions of approval was for both Honeywell and American Properties to meet with the Police Department to develop a coherent construction traffic management plan. The Parking Review Task Force will be meeting soon and will receive a 250 primer report that talks about parking and includes articles from the 1960's that talks about residential parking problems. He hopes to have this information emailed to the group and also to have it available on the website for residents. He encouraged residents to come out to all Borough Agency meetings to see the nuts and bolts of Highland Park government in action.

Councilman Erickson - No report.

Councilman Fine reported that on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, the Borough of Highland Park was designated as New Jersey's first HeartSafe Municipality. Last night, the Mayor, Council, and the Mayor's Wellness Campaign celebrated this new designation and the enhancements to our community preparedness through an educational event at Borough Hall. He thanked Dr. Clifton Lacy, the Mayor's Wellness Campaign Chair, our automated external defibrillator donors, and Assemblywoman Nancy Pinkin and Senator Joe Vitale for participating in this special event. Matt Hersh is leading the Health and Human Services Committee's Municipal ID Card Program initiative, and under his leadership we will continue to work with the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice to hopefully bring this important program to fruition in our Borough by the end of 2016. He thanked Bartle Elementary School Teachers Danielle Leaper and Tracey Maiden; Bartle School Principal Anthony Benjamin; and Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva's Ilana Bohm and Director General Studies Chaya Friedmann for organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Join Environmental Program for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students in both schools. The program will include Raritan River Keeper Bill Schultz teaching the students about the history of the Raritan River and the students will have an opportunity to explore geography of where the Raritan River flows, understand the effects of littering into the Raritan River and how it effects all of the people who live along it, and work collaboratively with a group to create a poster to promote awareness for keeping the Raritan River clean. The Raritan River Keeper's presentation will be Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM in the Bartle School Auditorium. The Donaldson Park Field Trip/Scavenger Hunt will be on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. This collaborative program will once again serve to promote

environmental education and community building in our Borough. On tonight's consent agenda is a resolution declaring June 2<sup>nd</sup> to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. He encouraged all Highland Park residents to join this campaign by pledging to wear Orange on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to help raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives and lost human potential of Americans stolen by gun violence. This Thursday night the Highland Park Health and Human Services Committee will be meeting at 6:30 PM in the Berman Conference Room at Borough Hall. The three items on the agenda are: the proposed E-cigarette License Ordinance and fee; advocating for an inclusive playground in the Borough; and the possible development of a Highland Park Community Food Pantry Garden.

Councilwoman Welkovits thanked Main Street and everyone who participated in the 5K, kids race and the Street Fair. It was a wet one, but not a total wash out. She thanked Public Works and the First Responders who were on hand behind the scenes to make this event happen. She also thanked Allan Williams for all his work on the Environmental Commission, Sustainable Highland Park and the Planning Board. Every proposal or plan that is submitted to those agencies is reviewed by Allan Williams. Highland Park's annual spring tree planting is underway this week. The Department of Public Works has prepped the areas to be planted and they have the NJ Tree Foundation, with whom we've contracted, will deliver and plant the 28 trees. There are two plantings done each year and the next one will be done in the Fall. The Borough, through their Shade Tree Advisory Committee, is committed to enhancing the environmental health and enrich the appearance of the town, by planting appropriate shade trees along the streets and in public spaces. Trees help conserve energy by blocking winter winds and shading summer sun. They reduce noise pollution and they produce the oxygen we breathe. They also add value to the Borough's real estate. If you are interested in having the Borough plant a tree on the right of way near your property, please complete a Tree Request Form from the website or the Clerk's Office. There is also a list of species available on the website. Earlier this afternoon she participated in a School Walkability analysis. Three groups of people, made up of teachers, administration and staff from the schools; the Borough (Code Enforcement and Police Department); plus, resident and student volunteers walked around Irving, Bartle and the Middle Schools to help analyze the walkability of the neighborhoods around the schools. The study is being run through Keep Middlesex Moving with assistance from the Bloustein School of Planning. The results will be compiled to help the Borough apply for another round of Safe Routes to Schools grants due at the end of June. She is delighted to report on a new project they are looking into for a solar array. The Borough has a sizeable lot, which had historically been used for debris, which they would like to lease to a company or utility to produce solar power and possible resiliency for the Public Works building. This will be a cash positive project, with a multi—year lease, with all design, install, etc. costs paid by provider. This project fully supports our sustainability initiatives and environmental concerns. Will be voting on a resolution tonight to go out to bid. She thanked Mrs. Bickhardt for speaking to the Governing Body tonight. It's not always easy for survivors to share their stories, but they are important stories and future generations want desperately to hear them. It is important for younger generations to hear firsthand of survivors' experiences, as there are so few survivors still with us today. Their stories are a reminder of our history and help us decide our future,

Borough Administrator Kovach – no report.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – no report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that the rainy street fair was a success and the 5K had close to 400 runners participate. It is very important to her that people live a healthy lifestyle and this is the type of event that shows the rest of the community how committed we all are to healthy living. She thanked Main Street Highland Park for making this event happen. She mentioned that Highland Park was New Jersey's first green community and now Highland Park is New Jersey's first HeartSafe Community. Last night's program was interesting and she was delighted to hear that Dr. Cliff Lacy is going to be extending the program at his upcoming Mayor's Wellness Campaign Committee Meetings to which the public will be invited where there will be at least five resident Cardiologists who will be able to answer questions about heart safety. Last week she met with representatives of the group working on the Rutgers 2030 program. She was delighted to see that they included Highland Park, New Brunswick, Piscataway and Edison in their plans for transportation going forward. She was encouraged to hear that it is important to them to have a transportation to Highland Park and she will report on any new developments in the future.

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 has repeatedly asked for a ban on laptops at these meetings. He is asking for a vote tonight. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that this matter will be discussed at their conference meeting immediately following this meeting.

Max Wizotsky, 54 North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented about the trees in front of his house that are very large and where the roots have grown out and are now uplifting the sidewalks. The tree branches now hang very low and when wet impede pedestrian traffic on the sidewalks. There are also now overhanging the gutters on his house. He asked that when the Shade Tree Committee considers planting trees that they think about what these trees will look like in 20-30 years. Councilwoman Welkovits commented that she has worked with the Shade Tree Committee for the last few years and they choose the species of trees to be planted and hand pick them at the nursery. There is a list of trees that are recommended for planting on the Borough's website. They take special care not to select trees that may have nuts, acorns, etc. so that those items do not create a slip/trip hazards on the borough's walkways. She can notify the Department of Public Works to have the trees looked at.

Jackie Zinberg, 239 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented about the different types of trees and their root systems and the fact that there are many raised sidewalks around town. She has fallen quite a few times and is the roots that is creating hazards around town. She asked that they pay attention to what type of root systems the trees they select for planting have. Lastly, she asked what is going on with the Library.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that there is nothing going on with the Library at this point. One of the things they identified for the financial future of the municipality is downtown development. There is a possible developer who may want to build on Raritan Avenue and the Library Board has identified the need for expansion. At this point, there is nothing going on. They are looking at possibilities, but will notify the public when something more concrete is known. The Redevelopment Agency has discussed this matter in open public sessions and the public is invited to come to these meetings and to voice their opinions and hear what is going on.

Ruth Bickhardt, 307 Magnolia Street, commented about a tree planted on her property over 15 years ago and she did not want it planted. She resents all the trees that are big and ancient and people don't rake the leaves. There should be an ordinance about cleaning their sidewalks and raking their lawns.

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

The Clerk reported advertising a summary of the 2016 Municipal Budget and Tax Resolution, introduced and approved on first reading March 15, 2016, with the public hearing scheduled for April 19, 2016, and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that copies of the budget were made available to the public in Borough Hall and the Highland Park Library.

On motion made by Councilman Erickson, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the public hearing on the 2016 Municipal Budget amendment was opened.

No one appearing to be heard, on motion made by Councilman Erickson, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the public hearing on the 2016 Municipal Budget was closed.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Erickson, Fine, George, Walsh, Welkovits.  
Opposed: None.  
Absent: Foster-Dublin.  
Abstained: None.

5-16-152

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

- (a) \$11,290,452.39 (Item 2a below) for Municipal Purposes
- (c) \$ 426,182.61 (Item 2c below) for Minimum Library Tax

Recorded Vote

(Insert last name)

( Erickson			
( Fine	Abstained	(	
( George			
Ayes ( Walsh	Nays	(	
( Welkovits			
(	Absent	( Foster-Dublin)	

SUMMARY OF REVENUES

- 1. General Revenues
  - Surplus Anticipated \$700,000.00
  - Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated 2,613,795.00
  - Receipts from Delinquent Taxes
- 2. Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Municipal Purposes
  - Municipal Support (Item (a), Sheet 11) 11,290,452.39
  - Minimum Library Tax (Item (c), Sheet 11) 426,182.61

Total Revenues \$15,030,430.00

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS

- 5. General Appropriations
  - Within "CAPS"
    - (a&b) Operations Including Contingent \$10,083,431.00
    - (e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures-Municipal 1,464,575.00
    - (f) Judgements
  - Excluded from "CAPS"
    - (a) Operations – Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS" 1,151,742.00
    - (c) Capital Improvements 133,330.00
    - (d) Municipal Debt Service 1,997,352.00
    - (e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures – Municipal
    - (m) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes 200,000.00

Total Appropriations \$15,030,430.00

It is hereby certified that the within budget is a true copy of the budget finally adopted by resolution of the Governing Body on the 3rd day of May, 2016.

It is further certified that each item of revenue and appropriation is set forth in the same amount and by the same title as appeared in the CY 2016 approved budget and all amendments thereto, if any, which have been previously approved by the Director of Local Government Services.

On motion made by Councilman Erickson, seconded by Councilman George and carried by affirmative voice vote of all councilpersons present, the ordinances 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 was tabled from consideration until the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Resolution Nos. 5-16-154 through 5-16-161 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Erickson, Fine, George, Walsh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Foster-Dublin.

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

No. 5-16-154

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Local Lands and Buildings Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14) ("LLBL") a municipal corporation may lease to any private person real property owned by said municipal corporation which is not needed for a public use; and

WHEREAS, the LLBL requires that a lease by a municipal corporation to a private person, except for a lease to a private person for a public purpose, be made to the highest bidder by open public bidding at auction or by submission of sealed bids; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park ("Borough") is the owner of a parcel of property situate in the Borough consisting of approximately 3.63 acres and identified as Block 49, Lots 42 – 55 on the Highland Park Tax Map (the "Property") which is not needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Borough seeks to lease the Property to a qualified firm for purposes of designing, building and operating a solar photovoltaic array system for generating solar electricity and battery storage, and providing resilience to the Borough.

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. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14(a), the Borough through its Administrator or her designee (collectively "Administrator") is hereby authorized and directed to solicit sealed bids for the lease of the Property identified above in the "Whereas" clauses (referred to hereafter as "Property"), at such time and place as she may deem appropriate and necessary to effectuate the terms hereof.

2. The Administrator shall cause said bidding to be duly advertised in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14, by causing the advertisement to be published in a newspaper circulating in the Borough by two insertions at least once a week during two consecutive weeks, the last publication to be not earlier than seven days prior to the date of the bid opening. Said advertisement shall specify that the Borough reserves the right to reject all bids where the highest bid is not accepted.

3. The terms and conditions applicable to the above-referenced Lease and public bidding are set forth in the Bidding Documents for "Ground Lease for Solar Electric Generation and Resilience," a copy of which is on file in the Clerk's office. Prior to advertising, the Administrator, in consultation with the Borough Attorney, may make non-material revisions to the form and content of the Bidding Documents and Notice to Bidders as may be necessary. Consistent therewith, the following minimum terms shall govern the Lease:

A. The Lease shall be for designing, building and operating solar photovoltaic arrays on the Property for purposes of generating solar electricity and battery storage, and providing resilience to the Borough (the "Project").

B. The Successful Bidder will be the Bidder who is responsible and responsive, and is able to offer the Borough the highest payment (calculated as a rate per annual kWh of energy produced by the solar system times the amount of solar energy produced), which shall be paid as the annual Lease payment. The initial term of the Lease shall be twenty (20) years, and shall be subject to an extension less than the initial term as may be permitted by law and agreed upon by the parties.

C. The Project shall be connected to the following: (1) the Borough's Department of Public Works Facility ("DPW Facility") for purposes of providing emergency electric backup to said building in the case of an unanticipated or emergency outage, and/or (2) the PSE&G distribution system in proximity to the Property. The Borough prefers that that, if feasible, the Project have a connection to the DPW Facility to provide service to the DPW Facility during a grid outage.

D. The Successful Bidder shall provide at its sole cost and expense appropriate landscaping, along a berm to be constructed by Bidder along Donaldson Street, and as described more fully in the Bidding Documents.

E. The Successful Bidder shall provide and maintain at its sole cost and expense an educational display at the Property for purposes of providing information to the public about the solar array project. The specifics of the educational display shall be agreed upon by the parties and may also include an informational kiosk at Borough Hall.

F. The Successful Bidder will be responsible for the complete design and engineering of the solar energy system on the Property, at its sole cost and expense, as set forth in the Bidding Documents.

G. The solar energy system must be grid tied to the Borough's utility provider directly, without the use of net metering, and must meet the current New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Renewable Energy Standards.

H. The Successful Bidder shall use a ballast system to anchor the panels to the Property. There will be no penetration or disturbance of the Property when anchoring the panels.

I. The Successful Bidder shall install a berm along approximately six hundred (600) linear feet the Property stretches along Donaldson Street.

J. The Successful Bidder shall, to the extent required by law, retain a Licensed Site Remediation Professional to undertake and complete a due diligence investigation to confirm that the solar project can be installed on the Property without any environmental impediments, which shall include, to the extent required by law, the requirements of the US Fish and Wildlife Service "Partners for Fish and Wildlife" agreement that is applicable to a portion of the Property, which is available for inspection and/or copying from the Borough Clerk's Office during regular business hours.

K. The Successful Bidder will own the solar energy system and shall, at its sole cost and expense, be responsible for the financing, operation, and maintenance of the system for the duration of the Lease term.

L. The Successful Bidder shall be responsible, at its sole cost and expense, for obtaining all necessary permits, approvals and licenses from governmental authorities required for the construction of the Project.

M. The Property is being leased "as is" and the Borough makes no representation about the condition thereof. The Borough shall clear any existing debris on the Property prior to commencement of the Lease. The acreage provided is an approximation.

N. The Successful Bidder shall have the financial resources necessary to fund the design, installation and operation of the Project, as specifically set forth in the Bidding Documents referenced herein, and shall provide to the Borough proof of insurance in the types, manner and amounts required in the Bidding Documents, naming the Borough as additional insured, and shall indemnify the Borough, as set forth in more detail in the Bidding Documents.

O. The Successful Bidder shall comply with the Bidding Documents and Lease; all applicable laws, rules, regulations, ordinances and deed restrictions pertaining to the Property; and all federal and state environmental laws.

4. The Borough reserves the right to accept the highest bid or reject all bids should the highest bid be rejected.

5. Acceptance of the highest bid or rejection of all bids will be made by the Mayor and Council no later than at its second regular meeting following the completion of the bidding.

6. If Borough fails to act within said time, all bids shall be deemed to have been rejected.

7. If the high bid is accepted, the successful bidder will be required to enter into a Lease consistent with the Bidding Documents and all other documentation required thereby.

8. The Mayor, Administrator, Clerk and other appropriate Borough staff and officials are hereby authorized to undertake any and all acts and execute any and all documents as may be necessary and proper to effectuate the terms hereof.

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

No. 5-16-155

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

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

The bills approved for payment at this meeting, Bills List 4/5/2016 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 35.

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

No. 5-16-156

WHEREAS, Alan S. Nagi, 18 Lincoln Avenue, Unit A, received an incorrect water and sewer bill; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Highland Park Water & Sewer Department that the bill should not have been generated due to an incorrect meter reading; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommends that this account be credited for the erroneous charges;

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 credit to Account #30230853-0 for water and sewer for a total of \$6,391.82 to the water & sewer account of Alan S. Nagi, 18 Lincoln Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904.

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

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

No. 5-16-157

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is the holder of Tax Sale Certificate No. 15-00107 for the premises known as Lot 43, Block 181 Qual C1413 on the Highland Park Tax Map; and

WHEREAS, the owner of said property has redeemed said certificate, having paid in full the principal and interest due on same and it is now in order to cancel said certificate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Highland Park that said tax sale certificate No. 15-00107 shall be and is hereby canceled and the Mayor and Borough Clerk authorized and directed to execute the "Authorization for Cancellation of Record" on the back of said certificate.

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

No. 5-16-158

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is the holder of Tax Sale Certificate No. 15-00108 for the premises known as Lot 43, Block 181 Qual C1416 on the Highland Park Tax Map; and

WHEREAS, the owner of said property has redeemed said certificate, having paid in full the principal and interest due on same and it is now in order to cancel said certificate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Highland Park that said tax sale certificate No. 15-00108 shall be and is hereby canceled and the Mayor and Borough Clerk authorized and directed to execute the "Authorization for Cancellation of Record" on the back of said certificate.

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

No. 4-16-159

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Planning Consultant for the calendar year of 2016 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, James Constantine, PP of LRK, Inc. is a licensed professional planner of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in municipal land use and planning matters and has heretofore been appointed as Borough Planner for 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide compensation for the Planning Consultant; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 6-01-21-180-2PL in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, upon adoption of the 2016 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach, shown below, and in various escrow accounts now or

hereafter established pursuant to Chapter 17-10.12 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Highland Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and 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 Jim Constantine, a copy of which is attached hereto, 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 Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 5-16-160

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:	
Woodbridge Avenue Design Improvements	6,771.14
ADA Improvements – Public Safety Facility	8,400.00
Home Energy Conservation Project	825.00
Food Pantry Assistant	3,889.00
Bus Shelter Improvements	3,500.00
TOTAL	\$23,385.14
TO:	
Teen @ Risk Roots Program	3,094.99
Teen Center	20,290.15
TOTAL	\$23,385.14

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

No. 5-16-161

WHEREAS, every day, 91 Americans are killed by gun violence and the lives of countless others are injured; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to be murdered with guns than people in other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is mayors' highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from dangerous people; and

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, June 2nd, 2016 would have been the 19th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya – and the 91 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 2nd, 2016, as the second annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 2nd to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 2nd, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives and lost human potential of Americans stolen by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler of the Borough of Highland Park, declares June 2 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

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

Mrs. Bickhardt appeared to tell her story in her own words. As a young child, she was on the SS St. Louis, a ship of German refugees escaping Nazism in 1939. The ship was turned away by several countries in the Americas refusing to give the refugees entry, before returning to Europe, resulting in the death of a large number of those on board. Mrs. Bickhardt showed some pictures from her childhood. (Mrs. Bickhardt's story is available on a CD in the Office of the Borough Clerk).

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings  
Borough Clerk