

REGULAR MEETING – MAY 5, 2015

A regular meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 and was called to order by Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler at 7:04 p.m. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler; Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Potts, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Britton; Borough Clerk Hullings.

Absent: Councilman Erickson; Borough Administrator Kovach

Mayor Brill Mittler recognized Bill Giacalone for his art donation to the Borough. He donated a lovely piece of art so that it can be displayed in Borough Hall. He has lived in Highland Park for over 30 years and can be seen in many places throughout town.

Mayor Brill Mittler and Councilwoman Welkovits presented proclamations to the Meadows Trails Volunteers in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

Council Reports:

Councilman George reported that the group working on the residential reconstruction zoning ordinance amendment has concluded their work and a final report should be approved shortly. He has continued negotiations for some downtown parking lots; one looks very good and the other not so good. Lastly, a request for a shuttle bus has been made to Stop & Shop.

Councilwoman Welkovits reported that Highland Park's Earth Day celebration was held last month on April 19th and each year it just gets better. She thanked all the volunteers with tables and demonstrations, and noted that the musicians were fantastic. She gave a special thanks to Teri Jover, Chairperson, Hagit Mano and Allan Williams, all of Sustainable Highland Park. She thanked the on-going work of Mary Denver and Bethany Beetham of the Highland Park branch of the Native Plant Society of NJ and stewards of our Native Plant Reserve. She indicated that they were busy that same morning with volunteers planting numerous trees they were able to acquire from generous donations from the annual chapter meeting of Native Plant Society; 2 river birches, 32 silky dogwoods, 30 arrow-wood viburnum, several azaleas and much more. She reported that the Street Fair was a success and thanked all the wonderful staff and volunteers that make the annual Spring Street Fair and Races great fun and more successful each year. She thanked Daryl Walker, event coordinator, who estimated 25,000 people to visit, special thanks to Jenni, Rebecca and Kim of Main Street, Mike Wieczorkiewicz, Foreman at Public Works and his crews that helped with the set-up and clean-up, the Police Department for their presence and to the Fire Company and First Aid Squad for their participation. She thanked Allie at Habitat for their booth to register volunteers and announce a new fundraising campaign for the Highland Park house project. She thanked the Shade Tree Advisory Council for their booth, and a special thanks to Karen Swaine who held two guided tree walks. As liaison to the Environmental Commission and Schools, she thanked Councilman Joshua Fine for originating a great joint Environmental program between RPRY and Bartle elementary 2nd graders. Both schools brought their students down to Donaldson Park and were encouraged to buddy-up and share in learning more about our environment. She and the Mayor were very proud to attend the important joint program last Friday. She hoped that Councilman Fine planned to discuss the project in greater detail. She reported that as of tonight they were terminating the composting program for the schools food waste. The program was started in 2011 as a joint effort from the schools, Sustainable Highland Park and the Department of Public Works in line with our Green Community initiatives, and to teach our youngest about recycling, but unfortunately the performance by the carrier did not meet our expectations. She announced that the Borough was embarking on a new program for the collection of solid waste, involving an automated sanitation truck. It is expected to come with cost savings and efficiency with the new vehicle and new garbage cans "toters". The transition will mean some changes in the garbage collection routine, and to ensure a smooth transition, the Borough will begin a trail program in the Triangle section in June, focusing on wider streets that will more easily accommodate the larger vehicle and its range of movement. Residents will be receiving one new garbage can "toter", which is the Borough's property and must stay with your house. At 95 tons, the new toters are nearly 3 times the size of the recommended cans which are manually emptied. The Borough is requesting that the toters not be overstuffed nor contain hazardous materials. A Borough-wide letter is forthcoming, along with instructions for each new toter. If there are questions please contact the Department of Public Works at 732-247-9379.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reported that a tree came down on power lines last in the vicinity of 97 Lincoln Avenue. PSE&G was notified about the downed wires. The Community Emergency Response Team met last night. Thirteen (13) people attended and are being trained to be community responders. They will go through eight (8) weeks of training on Mondays and Wednesdays, with graduation expected in June. This program is being conducted through the Office of Emergency Management and the County and is being headed by Freeholder Polos. The Volunteer of the Year for 2015 was Rabbi Kaminetsky, who has been the Chaplain for the Police Department for thirty (30) years. A bike rodeo will be held sometime in June in coordination with the schools. They will distribute bells and helmets. For the Memorial Day Parade everyone should meet at 8:30 AM at the Police/Fire Department.

Councilman Fine reported that a joint environmental program was held at Donaldson Park on April 24th for the 2nd grade classes from Bartle School and Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva. Raritan Riverkeeper Bill Schultz spoke to the students and the participated in a scavenger hunt. He thanked the faculties of both schools for putting together a wonderful program and for community building.

Councilman Potts reported that the next senior luncheon will be held on May 8th at 12PM. The next production of the Youth Theater Group will be on May 14th at 6:30PM at the Highland Park High School. They will perform "Annie Jr." and he encouraged residents to attend. There is no fee for

admittance, but donations will be accepted. The Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 25th and will begin in New Brunswick at 11AM and conclude at the Doughboy Monument in Highland Park.

Borough Attorney Britton – No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that the Borough's population has been steadily growing since 2010. Census data has us now at approximately 14,300 people, up from 13,980 in 2010. The steady growth in population is a testament to the viability and desirability of the Borough of Highland Park. In 2013 the Crossings, the first private residential development since L'Ambiance, opened for sale and sold almost immediately. The eight-five townhouse units are home to a diverse and professional group of new residents who tell me they moved here to be in a walking community with easy access to mass transit, and a good school system. The success of this development led to the Pulte organization's acquisition of a second Highland Park property over on Cleveland Avenue. That grouping of 95 single family and townhome properties broke ground and they are also selling quickly, with home sales ranging in price from \$430,000 to close to \$1M, this is a sign of a vibrant community. There are two other new construction properties that have been approved for development, and a third that is due to begin coming before the Planning Board, most of these projects are "for sale" units, as opposed to rentals. For sale units, throw off more tax dollars for the municipality than rentals do. For decades, Highland Park has had a 60% rental base vs home ownership units. One of the positives to all of these new for sale units is the resulting tax revenue that will help reduce the burden on current homeowners. The increasing interest from developers for "for sale" units is a direct result of the speed at which our newest for sale development units are selling. This all bodes well for our municipality and this growth has been taken into consideration by our Capital Improvements and Planning Task Force. They are preparing a final presentation to the Mayor and Council and will also present their final findings to the community at large. It is critical that we analyze the potential of this growth and prepare for it now. This is the purpose of this task force; we must pursue smart growth for our future. It is just this smart growth that has been keeping our Redevelopment Agency very busy these days. The future for our economy, of the possible stabilization of our taxes, lies in smart, downtown development. The Redevelopment Agency is currently discussing some very concrete opportunities with developers for our downtown that are exciting and will bring even more life to Raritan Avenue. Downtown development is the key to our municipal tax stabilization. They will bring in more rateables with less impact on our infrastructure. Main Street Highland Park just completed the largest Street Fair event for the town ever, and has been actively working with retailers and downtown businesses to provide marketing and sales support. They have been approached by retailers and restaurants that are desperately looking into space in Highland Park, but were unable to find any suitable locations. This is a further indication of the vibrancy of the Highland Park downtown. What may appear to be an unrented property may not be. Greentopia's former spot has already been rented; the former site of Simuel's Closet has been rented; the former BBQ space next to Stop and Shop is rented, and has been rented for months; former Pino's location has had many, many applications presented to the owner of the spot, but she has denied them all; we sadly lost the opportunity for our first Ethiopian restaurant when the entrepreneur could not find a location for her establishment. All of this is just another reason why downtown development is critical to the Borough's future growth. Additionally, the newest restaurants have added to the Borough's international flavor. Right now, we have 15 restaurants in our 1.5 square mile Borough. All of these projects will increase revenues to our municipal budget and that's a good thing, but matters at the State level are not good. New Jersey has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. While we and other municipalities continue to pay into the State pension fund on behalf of our employees, the State has not. Therefore, our State pension fund is terribly underfunded. Our legislature bailed out the Transportation Trust Fund for the coming year, but we don't know what will happen to that fund on an ongoing basis. This year, Highland Park was granted \$700,000 from this fund to repair Valentine Street. We don't know if those funds will be available for other road repairs in the future. Borough Administrator Kovach have spoken with our local legislators and gotten their commitment to work on returning the millions of dollars due to Highland Park (over \$5M) and other municipalities in the form of our Energy Tax Refunds. I'm happy to say that Senator Barnes agreed to co-sponsor this legislation with Senator Greenstein. Assemblyman Diegnan has already signed on the Assembly's bill for this and Assemblywoman Pinkin has agreed to do so. I have also spoken to Mayor's and Legislators in other municipalities and counties to get their active support for this. Last year alone, the State withheld \$820,000 of these funds for Highland Park, all designated for us. Additionally, through continued and new shared service agreements with surrounding municipalities, we are working to help cut our costs. To date, we have agreements with Edison for road repairs and animal control services; and Woodbridge for Housing Authority and road repair services. I am talking to Mayor Cahill of New Brunswick and Mayor Wahler of Piscataway about some other possible shared services. We already have some shared service agreements with the Board of Education. Additionally, our Borough Administrator, who originally served only as our Chief Financial Officer, serves in two capacities with us. She is our Borough Administrator and she is our Chief Financial Officer. Finally, my administration has 4 key goals for the years: (1) Stabilization of our taxes: increasing revenues, more shared services, analyzing operational cost savings. (2) Downtown development: multi-use development with low impact on infrastructure needs targeted to the needs of baby boomers and the 25-49 year old age group (Highland Park's largest and fastest growing age segment). (3) Infrastructure needs: analysis and preparation for coming population growth and demographic shifts, back up grid on municipal buildings. (4) Quality of life issues: shuttle or bus transit to and from New Brunswick, new teen center, senior resident involvement.

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

Gerard Maclear, 213 Cleveland Avenue, commented that he lives directly across the street from the new Crossings Development. He sent a letter to each member of the Governing Body. His family has been victimized by the construction at this site and the trucks going up and down North 2nd Avenue, which is a non-construction road. He indicated that he notified the Police Department was told there is nothing

they can do about it as the truck traffic does not violate the ordinance. Noise begins at the site at 6AM and he has a young child at home. A construction truck struck his vehicle and left without stopping, causing \$8,000 worth of damage and leaving him without a vehicle for two months. There is construction trash that blows all over that he picks up. There is red clay dirt all over their neighborhood with a red film on everything. His wife, Laura Callahan, has also corresponded with the Governing Body. Mayor Brill Mittler advised that she had Code Enforcement Director Luthman and Borough Engineer Koch speak with the folks at the Crossings.

Laura Callahan, 213 Cleveland Avenue, indicated that after Mr. Luthman and Mr. Koch spoke to the representatives at the Crossings she was supposed to get a knock on her door and that has not happened. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that they are not the only people telling them this. The developer has a responsibility to the community. Borough Engineer Koch indicated that he met with the developers and spoke to them about all the different issues. They were told to speak directly with the Callahan family and indicated that they had. They have money in the budget for power washing now and again when the project is completed. He also met with Tony on site for about 45 minutes and advised him of the issues that had to be handled. He will contact the Attorney for Pulte, James Mullen, and advise him that the Governing Body wants follow up on outstanding issues at the site.

Gerard Maclear, 213 Cleveland Avenue, commented that communications need to improve. The property looks nice and is good for the town.

Allan Williams, 319 Harrison Avenue, commented that the Planning Board approval for this project had a stipulation that trucks go up main road into the site and not North 2nd Avenue. Mayor Brill Mittler advised that she spoke to the Police Chief about the truck traffic. Chief Rizco noted that there is an agreement between Pulte and the Borough. Heavy truck traffic is permitted according to the ordinance. Code Enforcement Director Luthman to check on agreement and noted that 95% of the drivers that come to the construction site come in the correct way. If trucks are not familiar with their destination and utilize their GPS it brings them in through No. 2nd Avenue. Councilman George will follow up with Planning Board and Scott Luthman about the truck traffic.

Ruth Bickhardt, 307 Magnolia Street, commented that she is happy to hear about the new garbage collection system. She asked about the containers. Councilwoman Welkovits noted that they can hold up to 95 lbs, the lid is attached and the can is on wheels. Ms. Bickhardt commented that she is happy to hear about the bike rodeo. The bike signs painted on Raritan Avenue are not utilized and the Borough should start a program to educate residents. South 3rd Avenue and Magnolia Street needs some repair, as the road is bumpy and torn up. She is happy to hear about quality of life for seniors. She knows a number of seniors who no longer go out because they don't feel sidewalks are safe. On her street alone, tree roots have raised sidewalk slabs and there is a big gap.

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

The Clerk reported advertising the notice of public hearing on the 2013 Voluntary Curb/Sidewalk Assessment Report.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the public hearing on the assessment report was opened to the public.

No one appearing to be heard, on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, the public hearing was closed and the Assessment Report was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Potts, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Erickson.

Abstained: None.

No. 5-15-153

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park heretofore has undertaken the 2013 Voluntary Curb/Sidewalk Improvement Program (the "Program"); and

WHEREAS, the Program consisting of reconstruction of certain curbs and sidewalks and related work, has been completed and the Borough Engineer has filed a report and certification of the work completed and of the respective portions of the cost required to be assessed upon the properties, to be assessed in proportion to the work performed; and

WHEREAS, notice has been served on all property owners who participated in the Program as shown by the affidavit of the Borough Clerk attached hereto, and a public hearing on the report and certification was held on May 5, 2015.

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

1. The report and certification of the Borough Engineer is hereby adopted and confirmed, and
2. The Borough Clerk is authorized and directed to deliver a copy of said report and certification, duly certified, to Kathleen Kovach, Borough Tax Collector, and who shall proceed to collect the assessments provided for in said report in the manner provided for in the contracts with participating individual property owners and as provided by law, and
3. The number of annual installments within which the assessments to be levied on the lots and parcels of real estate benefited by the construction of said curbs and sidewalks are to be paid is five (5), and
4. The first annual installment shall become due and payable on June 1, 2015, and subsequent annual installments shall be due and payable on June 1st of succeeding years.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010", CONCERNING TREE REMOVAL, 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. 15-1885, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Potts, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Erickson.

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. 5-15-154

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", CONCERNING TREE REMOVAL, passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for her approval, and if approved by her, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010, CHAPTER 9, BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS, ARTICLE I, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION had been introduced in writing by the Health and Human Services Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Potts, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Erickson.

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

No. 5-15-155

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010, CHAPTER 9, BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS, ARTICLE I, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION has been introduced and duly passed on first reading;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that this Council meet at the Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage after public hearing thereon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said a Notice of Pending Ordinance and Summary of said Ordinance be published once at least one (1) week prior to the time fixed for further consideration of said Ordinance for final passage in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published daily in this municipality, together with a notice of the introduction thereof and of the time and place when and where said Ordinance will be further considered for final passage as aforesaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, forthwith and that the Borough Clerk have available in her office for the members of the general public of Highland Park copies of said Ordinance for those members of the general public who may request the same.

Resolution Nos. 5-15-157 through 5-15-170 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman Potts, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Potts, Welkovits.

Opposed: None

Absent: Councilperson Erickson.

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

No. 5-15-157

WHEREAS, Faheem R. Ahmed and Omar Safwat Safwat have filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for a License to operate taxicabs under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such Licenses for the year 2015; and

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

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

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

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

No. 5-15-158

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Educational Foundation (HPEF) has made application to the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park for a license to hold, operate and conduct a Casino Night Raffle in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law (NSJA 5:8-50 to 76), on May 30, 2015; and

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

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

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

No. 5-15-159

WHEREAS, Dependable Motor Car Company, Inc. and Rich's Towing Service, Inc. have 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 applicants and has reported favorably upon said applications;

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 Licenses.

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 applicants.

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

No. 5-15-160

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 7-12-218 adopted by the Borough Council on July 17, 2012, a contract was awarded to H & S Construction & Mechanical, Inc., Elizabeth, NJ, for Highland Park New Police Building Capital Project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said resolution a contract was duly executed; and

WHEREAS, the Architect, The Goldstein Partnership, has prepared the attached Change Order No. 146 to the said contract for the additional work outlined below; and

<u>CHANGE ORDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
146	\$(-15,740.00)	Credit owner for Blackout Shades

WHEREAS, the above mentioned Change Orders results in a decrease of \$15,740.00 in the contracted amount;

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has reviewed the proposed Change Order for this contract and has approved the same;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute Change Order No. 146 to the contract of H & S Construction & Mechanical, Inc.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to The Goldstein Partnership, H & S Construction & Mechanical, Inc., and the Finance Director forthwith.

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

No. 5-15-161

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2015 pursuant to a duly advertised Notice to Bidders, the Borough of Highland Park ("Borough") received four (4) bids for the Improvements to Valentine Street – Phase I Project ("Project"). Which bids are as follows;

JADS Construction South River, NJ	\$398,585.40
Black Rock Enterprise, LLC Old Bridge, NJ	\$447,440.05
Top Line Construction Corp. Somerville, NJ	\$484,750.34
Diamond Construction Brick, NJ	\$681,005.00

WHEREAS, upon recommendation of the Borough Engineer and review by the Borough Attorney, the Borough desires to award the contract for the Project to JADS Construction Company, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available for the award of the contract purpose in the amount of \$398,585.40 in Account No. C-04-55-822-210, as reflected by the certification of funds, shown below.

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

1. The contract for the Project is hereby awarded to JADS Construction Company, Inc., P.O. Box 513, South River, NJ 08882 in the amount of \$398,585.40, subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.
2. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with JADS Construction Co., Inc. consistent herewith.

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

No. 5-15-162

WHEREAS, there were 556 motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey in 2014; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the motor vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes were not wearing a seat belt; and

WHEREAS, use of a seat belt remains the most effective way to avoid death or serious injury in a motor vehicle crash; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 135,000 lives were saved by safety belt usage nationally between 1975-2000; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey will participate in the nationwide Click It or Ticket seat belt mobilization from May 18 – 31, 2015 in an effort to raise awareness and increase seat belt usage through a combination of enforcement and education; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Highway Traffic Safety has set a goal of increasing the seat belt usage rate in the state from the current level of 88% to 90%; and

WHEREAS, a further increase in seat belt usage in New Jersey will save lives on our roadways;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Highland Park declares its support for the Click It or Ticket safety belt mobilization both locally and nationally from May 18 – 31, 2015 and pledges to increase awareness of the mobilization and the benefits of seat belt use.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 5-15-163

WHEREAS, the below listed taxpayers submitted checks, which amount represented the amount due for quarterly taxes; and

WHEREAS, the below listed taxpayers were notified in writing of a problem with said checks and were advised to resubmit the amount owed for taxes; and

WHEREAS, the below listed taxpayers incurred fees from their banking institutions for resubmittal of checks;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to remit to the below listed taxpayers, the amount set forth below, the amount charged to them by their banking institutions;

BLOCK	LOT	AMOUNT
1	2	\$35.00
18	7	\$31.00
21	21	\$30.00
56	9	\$30.00
74	13	\$31.00
110	2	\$31.00
130	45	\$31.00
132	58	\$30.00
143	50	\$30.00
147	7	\$31.00
159	20	\$31.00
159	28	\$31.00
167	43	\$33.00
168	43	\$31.00
178	16	\$31.00
184	5	\$31.00
190	4.02	\$31.00
COH	312-019	\$35.00

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 5-15-164

WHEREAS, the School Budget for the School District of the Borough of Highland Park, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, was approved for the School Year 2015-2016:

Current Expenses	\$ 24,207,999.00
Debt Schedule	<u>1,989,143.00</u>
	\$ 26,197,142.00

and

WHEREAS, NJSA 18A:22-34 provides that the governing body of a municipality that is co-extensive with the said school district determines the amount necessary for school purposes, and levy such aggregate amount for such school purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that there be raised, approved and collected for the school district of said Borough the following items:

January 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015	\$ 12,608,932.00
July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015	<u>12,559,363.00</u>
Total school levy for the Year 2015	\$ 25,168,295.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aggregate sum of Twenty Four Million, Six Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand, Six Hundred Forty Dollars (\$24,673,640.00) be certified by the Borough Clerk to the Middlesex County Board of Taxation, the Board of Education of the School District of said Borough, the County Superintendent of Schools, and the Assessor of the Borough of Highland Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:
No. 5-15-165

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Resolution No. 1-15-08, Sections 2 and 3, adopted by the Council on January 6, 2015, shall be amended to read as follows, effective May 5, 2015:

- (2) Said Commission shall be comprised of nine (9) at-large members, all of whom must be residents of the Borough of Highland Park. The Mayor and Chair will identify non-voting liaisons representing the following agencies:
- A. Main Street Highland Park.
 - B. The Highland Park Public Library.
 - C. HPTV.
 - D. Highland Park Public Schools.
 - E. Highland Park Police Department
- (3) Each member shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council to a two (2) year term, however, four (4) of the at-large members shall be appointed for an initial term of one (1) year and the remaining five (5) at-large members shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years.

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

No. 5-15-166

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park had a contract with Waste Management of New Jersey, for a Food Waste Recycling Program; and

WHEREAS, Waste Management of New Jersey has made a change to where they dispose of said food waste; and

WHEREAS, due to the change in service and handling of said food waste, it is in the best interest of the Borough of Highland Park to discontinue the Food Waste Recycling Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the contract between Waste Management of New Jersey and the Borough is hereby cancelled effective immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Waste Management of New Jersey and the Superintendent of Public Works and Public Utilities, forthwith.

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

No. 5-15-167

WHEREAS, Main Street Highland Park has requested permission to utilize the gravel area next to the Main Street Highland Park Offices, in the public parking lot at 220 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park for the purposes of showing Outdoor Movies on Saturday nights;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that approval is hereby given to Main Street Highland Park to host Saturday Night Outdoor Movies, during the summer/fall months, on the public parking lot at 220 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Main Street Highland Park, the Department of Public Works and the Highland Park Police Department.

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

No. 5-15-168

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Borough Finance Director that since the adoption of a resolution on January 6, 2015 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:

VALERI WEIDMANN, Circulation Desk Coordinator, at an annual salary of \$55,194.00, effective January 1, 2015.

FRANCES LEE, Coordinator of Children's Services, at an annual salary of \$89,123.00, effective January 1, 2015.

INDRU UDESHI, Library Assistant, at an annual salary of \$46,090.00, effective January 1, 2015.

LISA KULCZYCKI, Library Assistant, at an annual salary of \$52,428.00, effective January 1, 2015.

KAREN MITCHELL, Teen Librarian, at an annual salary of \$55,572.00, effective January 1, 2015.

SHERRY JOHNSON, Coordinator of Adult Services, at an annual salary of \$67,082.00, effective January 1, 2015.

RENEE GEORGE, Administrative Assistant, at an annual salary of \$58,982.00, effective January 1, 2015.

JANE STANLEY, Director, at an annual salary of \$115,005.00, effective January 1, 2015.

BARBARA KUBEY, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$10,326.00, effective May 1, 2015.

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 6, 2015 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:

CARLA HERNITER, Librarian, at an hourly rate of \$29.03, effective May 8, 2015.

LAUREN USLAN, Librarian, at an hourly rate of \$29.03, effective May 8, 2015.

MARIA BECK, Library Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$15.82, effective May 8, 2015.

GRACE LANARIS, Library Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$11.93, effective May 8, 2015.

MICHELLE MCFADDEN-DINICOLA, Library Assistant, at an hourly rate of \$11.93, effective May 8, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Finance Director be and he is hereby directed to make the necessary changes in the payroll records of the Finance Department in accordance with the changes established by this resolution.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 5-15-169

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 5/5/2015 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 35.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 5-15-170

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 September 7, 2014; 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.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed the following to serve as members of the Public Information Commission for terms to expire May 1, 2017:

Matthew Hersh Chaim Cohen Valeri Weidmann

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Xie Xiaoxia to serve as a member of the Public Information Commission for a term to expire May 1, 2016.

The above appointments were confirmed on motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Potts, Welkovits

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Erickson.

Abstained: None.

Mayor Brill Mittler personally welcomed Xie Xiaoxia who is visiting and is a Professor at Rutgers University. She translates information for seniors at the senior center into Chinese. Ms. Xiaoxia commented that it is an honor to be appointed.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Allan Williams to serve as a member of the Planning Board for a term to expire April 1, 2018.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Allan Williams to serve as a member of the Environmental Commission for a term to expire April 1, 2018.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Jacob Shulman to serve as a member of the Human Relations Commission for a term to expire April 17, 2018.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Amri Tulloch as a Student Member of the Human Relations Commission for a term to expire April 17, 2016.

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 Mayor closed the public discussion.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Potts, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present:

No. 5-15-171

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council are mindful of the right of the public to attend and witness meetings of governmental bodies at which public business is discussed, and to be involved in all phases of governmental action; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act nonetheless recognizes the authority of a public body to exclude the public from meetings in certain enumerated instances in which disclosure of matters discussed could endanger public safety, property or other public interest, or invade individual privacy; and

WHEREAS, as authorized by the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(B), the Mayor and Council have a need to meet in private session to discuss two matters affecting pending or anticipated litigation to which the public body may be party; matters within the attorney client privilege.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council will meet in private session at 6:39 P.M. on May 5, 2015, to discuss the above mentioned items.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters so discussed will be disclosed to the public when no longer deemed confidential.

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 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk