

REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 27, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 and was called to order by Council President Brill Mittler at 7:08 PM. Council President Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin, Millet, Potts, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Kovach; Borough Clerk Hullings.

Absent: Mayor Minkoff.

Council President Brill Mittler noted that there would be no Main Street Minute presented tonight. She did announce that the 1st Holiday Menorah and Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Raritan Avenue near North 3rd Avenue on December 8th.

Council President Brill Mittler asked the Council to present their reports.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin thanked all the volunteers for their assistance during Hurricane Sandy. She especially thanked the Public Safety Team.

Councilman Potts reported that the annual Thanksgiving Luncheon was held on November 19th. The Holiday Party will be held on December 10th at The Italian Bistro. The Christmas Dinner will be held on Christmas Day at the senior center from 1-3PM. They need volunteers to help serve the dinner. If interested, contact the Department of Community Services.

Councilwoman Welkovits reported that the Food Pantry served a record setting number of clients, with 130 people passing through. They gave away thanksgiving fixings to those who came along with a \$10 gift card to Stop & Shop. The Martin Luther King Celebration will be held at the Senior Center on January 21, 2013. The Highland Park Community Chorus will sing at the event.

Councilman Millet – No report.

Councilman Erickson asked that the Borough Administrator address late property tax payments. Borough Administrator Kovach advised that the Council will approve resolution authorizing the Tax Department to charge 0% interest. The Tax Sale will be held on December 10th. If you are on the tax sale list, you should contact the Tax Department and pay the outstanding fees with certified funds.

Borough Administrator – No report.

Borough Attorney – No report.

Council President Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion for a fifteen minute period and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves.

Allan Williams, 319 Harrison Avenue, asked about the impact of Hurricane Sandy on the municipal budget. Borough Administrator Kovach that the Borough will apply for reimbursement to FEMA. This requires a lot of paperwork and she will be meeting with a representative from FEMA soon.

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

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF EACH OFFICER AND EMPLOYEE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION" had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin, Millet, Potts, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Erickson, seconded by Councilman Millet, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote: No. 11-12-327

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF EACH OFFICER AND EMPLOYEE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION" 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, December 11, 2012, 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.

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Consent Agenda Resolution Nos. 11-12-328 through 11-12-341 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin, Millet, Potts, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-12-328

WHEREAS, William Staples has 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 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police 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 applicant is 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 applicant.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-12-329

WHEREAS, Rafique Ahmad, Richard B. Buck, Jr., Frank Catalfamo, Pat Catalfamo, Venkateswara Chinthala, Sukhchain Singh Gill, Rabert Hala, Sr., Lewis Hill, Arthur Lkpson, Daniel Myers, Stanley Ostreyko, Robert Pacconi, Tom Renner, Gregory Reynolds, Leon Rozenblat, and Barry Sinibaldi 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 2013; 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 Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-12-330

WHEREAS, Frank Catalfamo, Pat Catalfamo, Sukhchain Singh Gill, Lewis Hill, tom Renner, and Leon Rozenblat have filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for an Owners License to operate taxicabs in this Borough under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such licenses for the year 2013; 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 that this Council hereby determined that said applicants are qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of such Licenses.

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-12-331

WHEREAS, the following have posted Zoning Board Escrow Fees in the amounts indicated for various projects as indicated below:

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</u>
T-12-56-825-174	Dafna McCarthy 108 Marlborough Road Highland Park NJ 08904	\$620.00	108 Marlborough Road
T-12-56-825-167	Clear Wireless LLC 4400 Carillon Point Kirkland WA 98033	\$3,636.25	Valentine Street
T-12-56-825-168	Pulte Homes 222 Mt. Airy Road Suite 210 Basking Ridge NJ 07920	\$126.60	411 River Road
T-12-56-825-163	T-Mobile 4 Sylvan Way Parsippany NJ 07054	\$1,000.00	1149 Raritan Ave.

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Code Enforcement has determined that Zoning Board Escrow Fees can be released;

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 above the amounts indicated, the same being the amount of refund due for return of Zoning Board Escrow Fees referenced.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of Code Enforcement and the Finance Director forthwith.

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

No. 11-12-332

WHEREAS, the following have posted Engineering Inspection Fees in the amounts indicated for various projects as indicated below:

<u>ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</u>
T-12-56-824-073	Highland Park Conservative Temple 201 South 3 rd Ave. Highland Park NJ 08904	\$3,287.44	201 South 3 rd Ave.
T-12-56-824-049	Parker III Assisted Living 1421 River Road Piscataway NJ 08854	\$2,313.94	1421 River Road

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Code Enforcement has determined that Engineering Inspection Fees can be released;

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 above the amounts indicated, the same being the amount of refund due for return of Engineering Inspection Fees referenced.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of Code Enforcement and the Finance Director forthwith.

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

No. 11-12-333

WHEREAS, there is a need at times for Contractors to hire Off-Duty Police Officers for traffic control; and

WHEREAS, Off-Duty Police Officers were needed for work done by Hoff Bros. at 62 Grant Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Hoff Bros. overpaid for off-duty services and is thereby due a refund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to process refund of \$190.00 to Hoff Bros.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer forthwith.

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

No. 11-12-334

WHEREAS, Tree Tops, an apartment complex in the Borough of Highland Park, has had erroneous water meter readings; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Highland Park Water & Sewer Department that there was an error with the water meter; 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 in the amount of \$6,177.11 to the water and sewer account of Treetops at Highland, LLC, Acct. #30230849-0.

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. 11-12-335

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director be and is hereby authorized and directed to credit to the following account the amount set opposite, the same being the amount erroneously posted for Special Assessment for the property indicated:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>REMITTEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO BE REMITTED</u>
65	27	Sally Nash 425 So. 9 th Avenue Highland Park, NJ 08904	\$ 304.63

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

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

No. 11-12-336

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 1/3/12, can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 30.

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

No. 11-12-337

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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 Orders Nos. 1-7 to the said contract for the additional work outlined below that was not anticipated at the timethat plans and specifications were prepared for \$34,335.88; and

<u>CHANGE ORDER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
#1	\$ 1,764.29	Reconnect hot water
#2	\$ 669.39	Temporary Supports
#3	\$ (673.00)	Eliminate Alternate #4
#4	\$11,511.29	Modify fire plumbing
#5	\$ 9,017.51	Repair apparatus ceiling
#7	\$12,046.00	New sanitary sewer line

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-811-225 in the amount of \$34,335.88, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach, shown below;

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has reviewed the proposed Change Orders 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 Gary Minkoff be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute Change Order Nos. 1-7, for \$34,335.88 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 Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-12-338

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough is hereby authorized to purchase one (1) Dodge Charger from Carman Jeep (\$22,813.00) and the associated equipment to outfit the police vehicles to be leased through the prior approved MCIA Leasing Program.

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-12-339

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough is hereby authorized to purchase one (1) Interceptor from Winner Ford (\$27,6879.00) and the associated equipment to outfit the police vehicles to be leased through the prior approved MCIA Leasing Program.

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-12-340

WHEREAS, 4th quarter taxes for 2012 were due on November 1st, with the grace period extending the date until November 13th; and

WHEREAS, due to Hurricane Sandy, mail delivery was delayed and therefore the taxes were paid after the due date; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the interest rate for late payments due to the storm shall be and hereby is changed to 0%.

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-12-341

WHEREAS, Chris Hagin, located at 69 South Adelaide Avenue received a high water and sewer bill; and

WHEREAS, it was determined that the high bill was due to filling a pool and therefore should not have incurred excess sewer charges; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommends that their account be credited for the excess sewer charges;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that credit in the amount of \$159.52 for Water & Sewer Account #201101200 for Chris Hagin, be applied to said account.

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

Council President 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, Council President Brill Mittler closed the public discussion.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned to the Conference Meeting at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk