

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
MAYOR & COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019

MINUTES

1. Mayor Brill Mittler called the meeting to order at 9:45 p.m.
2. PRESENT: Mayor; Council (except Councilperson Kim-Chohan); Borough Attorney; Borough Administrator; Borough Clerk.

**NOTE: Upcoming Meeting schedule:**

<b>May 14, 2019</b>	<b>Standing Committee Meetings; Special Meeting if needed.</b>
<b>May 17, 2019</b>	<b>Public Safety Committee Meeting 8:30 AM.</b>
<b>May 21, 2019</b>	<b>Agenda Meeting 6:30 PM; Regular Meeting 7:00 PM; Conference Meeting to follow.</b>

3. Public Discussion (15 minutes)  
Library Book Reading – Discussion about group coming to fight the Library about dropping the P is for Palestine book reading. The book was not vetted before the program was scheduled. Councilman Fine noted that the Board of Trustees wants to discuss this and vote on a resolution at their next meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>, but their Attorney is not available. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that this is not a Governing Body decision. The decision rests solely with the Library Board of Trustees. Concerned about safety of residents at the public meeting. This led to discussion about incident that happened at the middle school. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she was contacted by Homeland Security. They are concerned about Highland Park being put on the map as a place where there are a lot of Jewish residents.

On motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, the Borough Council agreed to extend the Conference Meeting beyond 10:00 PM.

4. Memorial or Commendatory Resolutions or Presentations scheduled as indicated:
  - a.
5. Ordinances on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – no ordinances scheduled for introduction for 5/21/19:
  - a.
  - b.
6. Ordinances on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – no public hearings scheduled for 5/21/19:
  - a. CAP Rate Exception Ordinance.
  - b. Overlay Zoning Ordinance.
7. Resolutions for Next Meeting - scheduled for 5/21/19:
  - a. Bills List (5/21/19).
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
8. Appointments – none.
9. Borough Attorney's Report – none.
10. Borough Administrator's Report – none.

11. Standing Committee Status Reports – none.
12. Discussion Items.
  - a. Marijuana Legalization Public forum and Council POV – Item not discussed.
  - b. Rent Stabilization Prior Ordinance Review – Councilman Hale asked the Governing Body if they would be interested in taking a look at this ordinance to see if rent stabilization is doable without crashing the economy. Councilman George noted that rent stabilization is needed for commercial properties. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she receives at least one phone call per week about rents going up 25%. These are people living in two and three family homes. Borough Administrator Jover noted that the provisions of the ordinance to be reviewed to make sure that it makes sense. Right now the Borough is not following the provisions of the ordinance.
  - c. Volunteer of the Year – Discussion about Roberta Kressel from the Library Board of Trustees being the Volunteer of the Year. They will present Gary Leslie with a special award as he is retiring after many years of service. They will present Herb Gross, a Veteran, with a special proclamation at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that she has a flag from her cousin, a Veteran, that she would like to have flown on Memorial Day.
  - d. Hopewell v. Verizon Appeal Status – Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that this is a lawsuit filed by Hopewell Township. The appeal argues that the law does not allow Verizon to exempt itself from the payment of business person property taxes in any year and any town that it provides dial tone service to less than 51% of local lines. The League of Municipalities is assisting and if any other municipality would like to join in the lawsuit, the cost is \$2,000. The Borough of Highland Park will not participate.
  - e. Cross Fiber Agreement – Borough Attorney Schmierer advised that this will allow the company to run cables through town. They do not provide internet service. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she reached out to the Mayor of Piscataway and asked for copies of their ordinances regarding this issue.
  - f. Proposed Bond Ordinance – Tabled from discussion.
  - g. RU Green Infrastructure Installation at Teen Center – Borough Administrator Jover noted that interns from Rutgers University worked on the landscaping at the teen center. There is funding through DEP for installation of a rain garden and it will be vetted through their resources. A Professional, Rich Bartolone, gave ideas on retaining walls and pavers. There is \$50,000 in funding from CDBG for this work.
  - h. Traffic Related Public Safety Improvements – Item not discussed.
  - i. Roadway Improvements to Cherry, South Park and South Adelaide Avenue – Item not discussed.
  - j. Public Safety Director – Item not discussed.
  - k. Regrading at 405 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Borough Administrator Jover noted that regarding of the lot is needed for installation of sidewalks. More trees need to be removed to install the sidewalks. Councilman George advised that the trees were assessed by the Shade Tree Advisory Committee and they have given their approval.
  - l. Illicit Sewer Connection Ordinance – Borough Administrator Jover advised that the current ordinance in place needs to be reviewed and the parameters tightened up as it relates to enforcement. The process for detection is for smoke to be put into the sewer system.
  - m. Appointment of Urban Forester – Item not discussed.
  - n. Solar Array at Environmental Center – Item not discussed.
13. Goals – Not discussed.
14. Executive Session – none.

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There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 10:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings  
Borough Clerk