

## REGULAR MEETING – JULY 2, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:04 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler, Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Jover; Deputy Clerk Santiago.

Absent: Borough Clerk Hullings.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that the DMV Mobile Unit will be in the Borough at the Community Center on July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and is open to all members of the community. The Community Center has Chinese newspaper delivered daily and they have subscriptions to Spanish magazines. There is still space available for a trip to Atlantic City on July 8<sup>th</sup>. You can check Facebook for upcoming activities, events and trips. Online Recreation registration is now available; visit [highlandparkrec.com](http://highlandparkrec.com). You can still pay in person or you can pay online. Fireworks in the park has been scheduled and activities start at 5:00 p.m. with the reading of the Declaration of Independence. At 6:00 p.m. the Highland Park Youth Theater will perform. At 6:20 p.m. the Highland Park Municipal Band will perform and at 7:00 p.m. Love Burn and at 7:45 p.m. Ray Anderson and the First Verse. The fireworks will go off at 9:20 p.m. This year there will be a new child's play challenge course and the course will include a rock wall, floating steps, a tire run, a cargo net and much more. All participants are required to have a parent or guardian sign a waiver to participate in the event. The next Arts Commission meeting will take place on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall. The Historical Commission will meet on July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Library at 1:15 p.m. Beginning in September, they will meet at Borough Hall at 7:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Last month, she attended the Celebrate Middlesex event. She also joined the Mayor, Councilwoman Foster-Dublin and Congressman Pallone at the Power of Women event. The Senior Prom held last month was a splendid event as usual. She thanked the entire staff at the Community Center for putting this event together for the last 15 years. Later that evening, Zone 6 had their graduation party. Last week she was on Capital Hill with Edison Councilman Coyle and the Indian Business Association for their congressional record. She reminded everyone that the plastic bag ordinance is in effect. She reminded everyone to bring their own bags. Today is Thurgood Marshall's birthday, a civil rights leader and 1<sup>st</sup> African American Supreme Court Justice.

Councilman Hale acknowledged and addressed two appointments that are going to be made later this evening. Harry Pangemanam will be joining the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. Regis Methven will be reappointed to the Housing Authority. Both of them are the types of volunteers who roll up their sleeves and get stuff done. He welcomed new Police Officer Matthew Buttermark, who joined as a transfer from the Asbury Park Police Department. The Human Relations Commission and the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs are partnering together for an event on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., called Families March Together, starting in the Irving School parking lot. The premise of the event is regarding immigration and the fact that families belong together and they should not be separated. This is an attempt to draw attention to the fact that this is happening. The march will end up at Borough Hall and there will be some information about how to sign a petition on this issue and how to get more active and more involved. HP Give a Hoot is an amazing commission for the Borough. The money that they have raised will go to over 22 scholarships for kids to go to summer camp. They are scheduled by the end of the summer to do over 450 meals at the Global Grace Café. Those meals are provided to kids who might not otherwise get lunch. They were instrumental, along with the Borough, in getting a USDA reimbursement grant which subsidizes lunches over the summer for kids in the summer camp. It is a pretty amazing organization that is run on a shoestring and run on donations. They will be at the fireworks festival tomorrow night and they will be collecting donations. They are always in need of donations and volunteers.

Councilwoman Welkovits wished everyone a happy summer. She also welcomed new Police Officer Matthew Buttermark who was impressive in his interview. She offered super congratulations to Lt. Panichella who retired after 41 years of service. The Police Department held a tremendous ceremony to honor him last Friday. On June 18<sup>th</sup>, they held a wonderful meeting in Council Chambers for the public on the bicycle and pedestrian plan recommendations. This was done through a grant they obtained from the New Jersey Department of Transportation that provided the Engineering Services of WSB. They have been working with the Borough over the last year in large public meetings and small focus groups. They came up with a wonderful plan and it can be found on the Borough website. They would love to have more comments on the plan. Comments can also be sent to the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee separately at [hpswacc@gmail.com](mailto:hpswacc@gmail.com). That plan will eventually become part of the Master Plan. She congratulated Rebecca Hersh and Javier Zavaleta of Main Street Highland Park for their work on a last-minute grant opportunity. They were awarded \$25,000 from the NJ Department of Consumer Affairs. It is the Main Street New Jersey District Transformation grant and it will be used to remake the entrance to the Farmer's Market to make it into more of a downtown square with a large pavilion, some paving and a bicycle fixture. The Safe Walking and Cycling Committee purchased a bicycle fix-it station. They worked with the grad students from Rutgers, the Bloustein School for Public Policy, and discussed this concept along with the stations that were featured on Raritan Avenue at the corners of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues. They are trying to do additional placemaking pieces throughout the Borough to attract more people. Tonight, the Borough will be approving the Main Street budget. The Farmer's Market, open Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and runs through December, with a special event held each month. Music on the Corners is held on Friday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. during the months of June, July and August. She asked residents to join them at events that the County is sponsoring, a Revolutionary War Re-Enactment. It started June 30<sup>th</sup> and runs through July 6<sup>th</sup>. Information can be found on the County website.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reported that the Highland Park Police Department Youth Academy training will begin on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The academy will run until the 12<sup>th</sup> and will end with a graduation ceremony to be held in Council Chambers at 11:00 a.m. The Community Forum will be held on July 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Anyone with any concerns should come out and speak to members of the Police Department. The National Night Out Event will be held on August 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00 p.m. During the summer, people need to be aware of possible heat stroke. The Highland Park Police Department will have safety tips available on their website. The Highland Park Community Center is a cooling center when temperatures are really high. She welcomed new Police Officer Matthew Buttermark, who was impressive during his interview. Lt. Gary Panichella retired after 41 years of service and he always went above and beyond the call of duty to support the community. There was a great turnout on Friday to wish him well in his retirement. Last month, the Zone 6 Teen Center held a celebration of accomplishments for graduating seniors. They held a senior prom for them and gave out free haircuts to students that needed them. She thanked AJ Hawkins for providing haircuts for those in need. They held a learn how to speak series and ran an art show where the students displayed their artwork. They celebrated the first class of seniors with a family style dinner. Earlier in the year they were offered financial assistance workshops and there will be a financial literacy workshop offered in August. This summer there will be a trip to Philadelphia, a trip to a New York museum, they will visit historical black colleges, take a trip to Dave and Buster's, a water ball sports activity on July 10<sup>th</sup>, and there will be movie nights. She thanked Panera Bread for making every Monday Panera bread day. They donate items to the Zone 6 Teen Center. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she learned the other day from the HP Gives a Hoot Meeting that the teen center, in cooperation with the Methodist Church, they have been giving out 50 loaves of bread a week. The church is collecting it and the teens know that they can go there and get bread for the week.

Councilman Fine reported that he and the Mayor will be meeting with Governor Murphy's Co-Shared Services Czar, Gordon Glatt, in East Brunswick on July 18<sup>th</sup> with other Middlesex County Mayors. At that meeting, they are going to explore potential shared services that the municipalities participating in the meeting may partner together on in the hopes it will help them try to stabilize property taxes.

Councilman George wished everyone a Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and an enjoyable holiday. He reported that the Department of Public Works, with the wonderful weather they have been having, has been out patching potholes. They hit 260 of the targets on the list, including Cherry Street and Barnard Street. The next bulk trash pickup will be in September after the town wide garage sale to be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Highland Park received a notice from the County that from July 25<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>, they will be milling Woodbridge Avenue. He spoke to the Department of Public Works this morning about the implementation of the new one arm garbage collection truck. The routes have been finalized and they will be able to expand the routes based on tonnage from trash brought to the landfill from this type of vehicle. They will leave the routes the way they are for now as the new truck is rather large, a 31 cubic yard truck. Residents on the proposed route may have received a letter outlining what the routes will be and the approximate implementation date. The contact information for the Department of Public Works is contained in the body of the letter. He is pleased to announce on behalf of the Borough, on tonight's agenda, there is a capital equipment lease ordinance with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, being introduced on first reading. They are getting electric vehicles – 2 inspector vehicles and 2 hybrid police vehicles. This is something they have wanted to do for years. This coincides with their submittal of an application for two double charging stations. Sustainable Highland Park is meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup>. They have been working on an amendment to the anti-idling ordinance. It will focus on some target areas where people tend to idle to reduce pollution. The Meadows Trail volunteer are putting together a river walk and they are doing that with some grants and donations. They can use some volunteers that can help with that work.

Borough Administrator Jover reported that the Borough executed a contract with Granicus for the website. They will be holding a kickoff meeting with their Project Manager and she noted that the Public Information Committee will be doing some community outreach to make the website as relevant to the constituency as possible. They are pushing hard to get the new website up and running by the end of the year. She provided an update on the deer survey. They had a drone flyover of the Borough, but that contractor ran into some managerial problems. They never got a report and did not pay for a report. The bad news is that they are calling around for other proposals and contacted the Division of Fish and Wildlife. They do not recommend doing a drone count of deer in town until after the leaves fall off the trees. This will delay the survey and the community outreach that they hoped to do. The pothole repair crew has been out. She mentioned that they had their kickoff meeting with the road contractor who was awarded the contract for North 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Merilind Avenue and Hilton Street. They were also recently awarded work on Cherry Street, South Adelaide Avenue and South Park Avenue. They are in the process of applying for the next round of State aid for road projects.

Borough Attorney Schmierer reminded the residents that on Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. before Judge McCloskey in Superior Court, the Borough will present a final compliance plan for its affordable housing program through the year 2025. Any resident is welcome to attend and Judge McCloskey is in Chamber 305.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that Lt. Gary Panichella served the Borough for 41 years. He saw lots of changes happen in Highland Park and he was responsible for so many of the positive changes that occurred here. It is hard to see him go, but he is still in town, and she is sure that he will find a way to continue to work for the benefit of all the residents.

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

David Loewenstein, 116 South 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that somewhere within the last 14-15 months, the Governing Body has seen fit to take the 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Squad out of service 60 hours a week, Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Since that time, the Mayor and Council has requested several pieces of information from the squad as well as promising the squad some information on their end. To date, the squad has turned over every bit of information requested by the Governing Body. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about the Borough. They were told they would have a new emergency operating plan which is long overdue. They were told they would have ID badges. Apparently, the machine is not repairable and a new machine is not in the budget. They were told there were sensitivity classes and information would be provided to the squad. To date, all they have been given is a computer-generated presentation to watch. Finally, they had background checks done on all their members. His guess is, since they have heard no feedback, all the members have passed. They have met with members of the Public Safety Committee several times, and at each of these meetings, they have begged the committee to allow them to volunteer their time, and each time the response has been, we will see. On a Wednesday night in June, our town was prepared for a possible rally which had potential to turn violent. In order to prepare the EMS side, the squad was able to secure almost 15 ambulances to be on standby as well as others from outside Highland Park, including Bergenfield, which does not bill for services. This is how important it is to them that their residents do not get bills. Included in this preparation was a written handbook that was given to all visiting squads which included details – directions to hospitals, important phone numbers, instructions on how to use their radio system, and how to contact our medics. This was all done free of charge by the Borough of Highland Park. No paid service would do this for free. At the last Council Meeting, the Governing Body voted down the RFP for Robert Wood. The squad again asked the Council to allow them to go back in service. They have offered the Borough two additional compromises. First, instead of waiting 7 minutes to begin protocol, they suggested 4 minutes. Second, they offered to call Dispatch every morning to let them know if they have a crew available for the day so that they page them out first. They have not yet received an answer and were told that a meeting is need to discuss this. He asked when they held the meeting to take the squad out of service. In the last 2 weeks, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., there was an ambulance call at the Irving School directly across the street from their building. All their crew could do, who were in the building, was wait for Robert Wood to show up, coming from East Brunswick. He mentioned a gas leak at an apartment complex, where they had crew available, but again had to wait for Robert Wood to respond. He asked why the Governing Body is so hell bent on your constituents and their neighbors being billed for services which they believe they perform as well, if not better, with no bills to the residents.

Susan Arney, 130 North 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked about the proposed amendment to the handicapped parking ordinance. She hoped that an explanation would be given prior to any voting. She noted that there is a flurry on Facebook when one of the residents of Highland Park posted that she can never find handicapped parking in her apartment complex parking lot. She believed that it was up to the super of the apartment complex to enforce that handicapped parking place location. It turns out, that it is up to the Highland Park Police. She found this out after tagging Jose Curbelo and he got right back to her. He advised her to tell the woman to contact the Police Department and the offending vehicle was ticketed. She asked if there are statutory or local requirements for the number of parking places in apartment building lots or shopping center lots and is there any sort of regular cruising by the Police Department to make sure that those are being properly used. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin advised that enforcement is done by the Police Department. If someone is parked illegally in one of those spots, the Police Department should be called and they will do the proper enforcement. They do have signage in public and quasi-public lots and there is a designated number of spaces that needs to be provided. On the public streets, if you are in need of a parking space, you can submit a request to the Police Department for review. If it is deemed appropriate, then a handicapped parking space would be put in place. The spot has to be approved by ordinance and is not designated to one person. Anyone that has a handicapped decal can use that space. Tara Canavera, Chair of the Commission for Universal Access, noted that she calls every time she sees a car parked illegally and the Police are usually there within 2-3 minutes. She does see them patrolling, but if residents see it, they should report it. The added benefit on handicapped parking tickets is that normally, half the money would go to the State. The Borough has an ordinance where all the money stays in town.

Tara Canavera, 361C Crowells Road, commented that Lt. Gary Panichella definitely earned his right to retire. As we all know, he was more than just a Lieutenant in town. He held multiple hats, and one of them was serving as the ADA Coordinator for the Commission for Universal Access. She reminded the Governing Body that it is very important that they appoint somebody as soon as possible to fill that role.

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

The Clerk reported advertising and notification of Main Street Highland Park 2019 Budget for consideration of passage on final reading by title.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled resolution was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the Budget 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, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: None.

No. 7-19-204

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 6-19-184 adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park on June 11, 2019, that approved the Main Street Highland Park Budget for the year 2019; and

WHEREAS, said Budget was advertised in the Home News Tribune issue of June 14, 2019 together with a notice of the public hearing on the Budget scheduled for July 2, 2019 at 7:00 PM in Borough Hall, 221 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Highland Park, NJ; and

WHEREAS, said Budget and Notice of Hearing had been posted in the Borough Hall where public notices are customarily posted and was made available to each person requesting the same prior to and during the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, notice had been served on all property owners within the Special Improvement District as certified by the Tax Assessor and as shown by the affidavit of the Borough Clerk attached hereto and a public hearing on the Budget was held on July 2, 2019;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the 2018 Main Street Highland Park 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

<u>Income</u>	
Government Grants	31,500.00
Special Assessment (BID)	166,420.00
Sponsorships	58,000.00
Reserves	<u>39,647.00</u>
Total Income	\$295,567.00
<u>Expense</u>	
Administration and General	\$177,767.00
Program Expense	<u>117,800.00</u>
Total Expense	\$295,567.00
<u>Budget Surplus/Carryover</u>	\$0.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Main Street Highland Park, the Tax Assessor, the Tax Collector and the Finance Director forthwith.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY CREATING A MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY ZONE, for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

Borough Attorney Schmierer explained that the ordinance is up for public hearing and is the ordinance creating the overlay ordinance for Buck Woods that was introduced on June 11<sup>th</sup>. After the ordinance was introduced, the ordinance was referred to the Planning Board for consideration on June 13<sup>th</sup>. As a result of considering the ordinance that evening, the Planning Board adopted a resolution which recommends several minor changes to the ordinance, which the Planner, Chris Cosenza, is prepared to review. There were some other minor adjustments that they found were necessary in the ordinance as well. For example, they don't know if the construction on Buck Woods will be an ownership project or a rental project. Right now, the ordinance says with regard to the open space to the rear of the building, it would be the homeowner's association responsibility to take care of that property. If this was a rental project, that responsibility would shift to the owner of the rental units. Chris will review a number of changes and their recommendation after reviewing these on the record and conducting a public hearing, that the Council be inclined to adopt the ordinance, as amended.

Planner Chris Cosenza review the four changes recommended by the Planning Board. The first change is to the setbacks on the side of the buildings. The original plan allocated setbacks of 30' and 50' and they heard loud and clear that the setbacks should be equalized. They are taking the 80' setback and splitting it in the middle to have 40' on each side. The second change is the height of the building, which is not changing. For the purposes of the ordinance they are clarifying that it is a 3-story building and should appear to be a 3 ½-story building. Change number three is regarding open space. Previously, the ordinance required a minimum of 50'. When you change the setbacks to 40', you have to make that change to make things align. The last change recommended by the Planning Board was to acknowledge and clarify that they will be permitting stoops and entry platforms to the first floor of the building, mainly along the open space areas. They will be allowed to project into the side yard setback of 40'. There were two other changes in discussion. In the ordinance they have an allowance for a multi-use trail to be part of the open space. This ordinance states "the trail may be excluded from the calculation for impervious coverage". The wording will be changed from "may" to "shall" and that last phrase "at the discretion of the approving authority", shall be stricken. The same wording will be added to the paragraph about platforms. The last change he spoke about was regarding the setbacks and whether they could be narrower. They are trying to get all the parking under the building. In order to do that, you need certain widths, typically you need 60' bays. It creates a building footprint that is pretty rigid and is in the ordinance. His recommendation would be to make changes to setbacks at site plan review as the building has not yet been designed. He recommended as a final change to reduce the 200' setback to 180'. The 20' reduction in setback allows the building to shift a little bit more, allows for a change in shape, if possible, and acknowledges some of the concerns to get the building further away from the north, but still meets the purposes of the square footage being sought and allowed by the ordinance. He recommended that the ordinance be adopted with those changes recommended by the Planning Board and the other recommended changes.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that this is an overlay zoning ordinance and is not the actual design. The developer is responsible for that. All those details will be discussed at the Planning Board when an application is filed. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that residents are concerned about emergency access. Planner Cosenza explained that 40' is sufficient and will allow fire trucks access and they will be able to use the trail to drive along either side and back. The highest standard of sprinkler systems will be required to be installed.

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.

Hayden Hsiung, 411 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, thanked the Borough and the Planner for taking their concerns into account. He knows a tremendous amount of work went into it and it is not a perfect plan. He thinks that most of their concerns have definitely been heard.

Jim Lapidis, 420 South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked about 40' setback and at what point will measurements be taken to make sure it is in compliance with what the Borough is recommending. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that that would take place when an actual plan is prepared and submitted to the Planning Board for site plan approval. Mr. Lapidis asked at what point do they make sure what is on paper is what is being done. Borough Attorney Schmierer explained that during the construction process they have inspectors to go out and ensure that what is being built is on the approved plan. Mr. Lapidis asked what happens if the inspector finds out the setbacks are not correct. Borough Attorney Schmierer explained that if it is wrong, there would be a stop work order issued and they would meet with the developer. The work is monitored as they lay the foundation. Mr. Lapidis asked if the ordinance has any teeth in it so that if the building is not built according to the ordinance, something could be done. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that the ultimate penalty would be to knock down the building with a court order. Mr. Lapidis asked if there was a minimum distance before the start of the retaining wall. Planner Cosenza explained that the ordinance has a minimum distance of 10', but there is a provision in that same section that states that the Borough Engineer has the authority to determine the final location. Mr. Lapidis thanked the Planner for all the hard work he has done and the Council for listening to them. From his discussions with the Planning Board and the Council, it seems that the way the building shaped up was due to constraints the Planning Board was operating under and they were thinking open space was a priority. At the last Planning Board meeting someone commented that if open space was a priority, they should revisit it. He urged the Council and the Planning Board to revisit that philosophy, because not everyone feels the same way about open space. They need to look at open space more along the lines of the quality of the open space and at what cost.

No one else 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. 19-1985, as amended, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstained: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 7-19-205

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY CREATING A MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY ZONE, 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.

Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that items No. 11 and 12 are two earlier drafts of the ordinance that was just adopted. Public hearings were held and the ordinances were carried until tonight. Public hearings will need to be held and after that he recommends that the two earlier ordinances be rejected.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance, introduced on April 2, 2019, entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY CREATING A MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY ZONE, for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

On motion made by 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, was duly rejected, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstained: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 7-19-206

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY CREATING A MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL-OVERLAY ZONE as introduced on April 2, 2019 and public hearing held on May 7, 2019, was rejected on final reading at this meeting and 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 advertising an ordinance, introduced on April 16, 2019, entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY CREATING A MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY ZONE, for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

On motion made by 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, was duly rejected, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstained: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 7-19-207

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY CREATING A MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL-OVERLAY ZONE as introduced on April 16, 2019 and public hearing held on May 21, 2019, was rejected on final reading at this meeting and 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 advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ON-STREET PARKING REGULATIONS FOR RESIDENCES OCCUPIED BY HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010", for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

On motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilman Hale, 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 Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilman Hale, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 19-1986, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

No. 7-19-208

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ON-STREET PARKING REGULATIONS FOR RESIDENCES OCCUPIED BY HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010", 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 OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LEASE AND AGREEMENT WITH THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF COUNTY-GUARANTEED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2019 OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY, had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman George, 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, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 7-19-209

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LEASE AND AGREEMENT WITH THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF COUNTY-GUARANTEED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2019 OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY, 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, August 6, 2019 at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 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. 7-19-210 through 7-19-225, were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 7-19-210

WHEREAS, under the terms and conditions of the Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey, a municipality may purchase items without competitive bidding from a firm or corporation currently under contract with the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS the Highland Park Police Department is in need of a new POSS – Police Officer Scheduling System; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. A77560, the Borough may purchase said system from Visual Computer Solutions, 1 400 U.S. 9, Freehold, NJ 07728, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 9-01-25-240-235 in an amount not to exceed \$5,740.00 as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief of Police is hereby authorized and directed to purchase said Police Officer Scheduling System from Visual Computer Solutions, 400 U.S. 9, Freehold, NJ 07728 at a total cost not to exceed \$5,740.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Chief of Police and Chief Financial Officer, forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 7-19-211

WHEREAS, under the terms and conditions of the Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey, a municipality may purchase items without competitive bidding from a firm or corporation currently under contract with the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS the Highland Park Police Department is in need of ammunition; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 81296, the Borough may purchase said system from Eagle Point Gun/T.J. Morris, 1707 Third Street, Thorofare, NJ 08086, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 9-01-25-240-255 in an amount not to exceed \$5,010.94 as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief of Police is hereby authorized and directed to purchase said Eagle Point Gun/T.J. Morris, 1707 Third Street, Thorofare, NJ 08086 at a total cost not to exceed \$5,010.94; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Chief of Police and Chief Financial Officer, forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 7-19-212

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief of Police and the Mayor are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough of Highland Park and Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office for use of the Specialized Investigate Law Enforcement Equipment for a period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 attached to the original of this resolution.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 7-19-213

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 remit to the following the amount set opposite, the same being the amount of overpayment of 2019 2<sup>ND</sup> quarter taxes for the property indicated:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>REMITTEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO BE REMITTED</u>
37	7	Deis, Frank & Louis 111 South 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Highland Park NJ 08904	\$3,492.77

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. 7-19-214

WHEREAS, Schellack, Benjamin, 205 Amherst Street, Highland Park NJ filed a tax court appeal for 2018 on Block 99, Lot 2; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey to instruct and authorize the Treasurer to issue a refund check in the amount of the resulting tax overpayment as follows:

Year	Original Assessment	Judgement	Difference	Tax Rate	Amount Due
2018	\$118,900	\$105,700	\$13,200	8.175	\$1,079.10
2019 Q1					\$ 269.78
2019 Q2					\$ 269.77
			<u>Total Overpayment</u>		<u>\$1,618.65</u>

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

No. 7-19-215

WHEREAS, the following have posted 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-12-56-824-083	Pulte Homes of New Jersey LP 22 Mount Airy Road, Ste 210 Basking Ridge NJ 07920	\$2,990.82	The Crossings at Highland Park

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Code Enforcement has determined that 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 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.

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

No. 7-19-216

WHEREAS, Cross River Fiber, LLC has been approved by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to provide telecommunication services throughout the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Cross River Fiber, LLC proposes to place within the Borough of Highland Park telecommunication facilities aerially on existing utility poles and in underground conduits; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the installation of Cross River Fiber, LLC telecommunications facilities, Cross River Fiber, LLC has requested a non-exclusive use of the public right of ways within the Borough of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park municipal consent for this proposed non-exclusive use is required.

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

1. The Mayor and Clerk hereby authorized and directed to execute a Rights-Of-Way Use Agreement between the Borough of Highland Park and Cross River Fiber, LLC granting municipal consent for the non-exclusive use of the Borough's right-of-way for Cross River Fiber, LLC telecommunication facilities. The agreement hereby authorizes on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk and may be inspected during regular office hours.
2. A certified true copy of this Resolution and the signed Rights-of-Way Use Agreement shall be furnished to Cross River Fiber, LLC, 461 Headquarters Plaza, Morristown, New Jersey 07960, upon the adoption of this Resolution and the execution of said agreement.

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

No. 7-19-217

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 2, 2019 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:

DAVE LUXENBERG, Director Day Camp, at annual salary of \$8,150.00 effective July 8, 2019.

FRANK TROY, Clean Communities Coordinator, at annual salary of \$1,250.00, effective January 1, 2019

FRANK TROY, Recycling Coordinator, at an annual salary of \$2,000.00, effective January 1, 2019.

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 2, 2019 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:

NEENA ALTOMONTE, Part-Time Public Safety Telecommunicator, at an hourly rate of \$21.58, effective July 8, 2019.

JAMIE BOOP, Head Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

SHAWN HARRISON, Head Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

STEVE CONNORS, Special Ed/Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

MICHELLE DALY, Head Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

EVAN FARMER ROGERS, Head Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

CAITLYN FULWOOD, Head Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

KAMBUI LITTLE, Head Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

MICHAEL OPRYSK, Head Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

KEITH ROIG, Head Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

ASHLEY SOSA, Head Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

JEANETTE STERNBERG, Head Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

LORI SZENTGYORGYI, Head Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

TARYN WIATER, Head Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 8, 2019.

AKUA ASAMOAH, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 8, 2019.

JAMES BRODERICK, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 8, 2019.



ALLYSON CRAWFORD, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$15.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
BENJAMIN JACOBY, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
MARZIA KARIM, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
KEVIN LIN, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
JUSTIN MELGAZO, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
CURTIS MORRIS III, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
JACOB PESSIRILO, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
ELI SCHWARTZ, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
ROHAN THOMPSON, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
ADAR TULLOCH, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
KATIE VOLPERT, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
MACKENZIE VOLPERT, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
OLIVIA WEAVER, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
CAMILLA YANEZ, Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
ADELINA BRANESCU, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
PRAKRUTHI DESHIKAR, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
STELLA DRAPER, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
OZ DUNCAN, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
MARCELO ESCALANTE, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
ETHAN GILDENBERG, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
MYLES HERZOG, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
KIRA KOZACHEK, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
MICHAEL LANDIS, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
SKYLAR MACK, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
REBECCA OCHAN, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
UCHECKI ODIKANWA, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
KAYLA ROIG, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
IYSSA ROIG, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
KIRA SHELDON, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
JAELEN STORMS, Junior Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 8, 2019.  
FINEGAN GIRVAN, Library Page, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
ELEANOR JOHNSEN, Library Page, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
TALIA ROSE LAPIDUS, Library Page, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
FREDERICK DIAZ, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
ISABELLA GODISH, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
BEN GODISH, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
SENA KAPER-DALE, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
OLIVIA PARKER, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
ELI SCHWARTZ, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
AIYA UNDERWOOD, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
MAKENZIE VOLPERT, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
KATIE VOLPERT, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
OLIVIA WEAVER, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
CAMILA YANEZ, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
ELIAM NAGEL, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.  
CURTIS MORRIS III, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$10.00, effective July 1, 2019.

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

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

No. 7-19-218

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following shall be and are hereby reappointed to serve as members of the Highland Park Housing Authority for a term to expire as indicated:

Regis Methuven

September 1, 2024

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

No. 7-19-219

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, *N.J.S.A. 40:55D-89* requires that the Borough of Highland Park conduct a Master Plan Reexamination Report; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has received a proposal from the Borough's Planning Consultants, Looney Ricks Kiss, to undertake and complete said reexamination report for the sum not to exceed \$70,000.00; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53d* allows the Borough of Highland Park subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services to appropriate funds for said Master Plan Reexamination and appropriate said funds as a special emergency to as to spread the cost over five years as permitted by *N.J.A.C. 5:30-3.6(b)1*.

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

1. The Borough of Highland Park hereby retains Looney Ricks Kiss, to undertake and complete the Master Plan Reexamination Report pursuant to their proposal dated May 2, 2019, a copy of which is on file with the Municipal Clerk, for a sum not to exceed \$70,000.00.
2. Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53d*, the Borough wishes authorization to treat this expense as a special emergency appropriation since the benefits of the Master Plan Reexamination Report will benefit the residents of the Borough of Highland Park over a number of years and pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 5:30-3.6 (b)1*, it wishes to pay for the reexamination report over five years.

3. Two certified copies of this Resolution and an Affidavit of the Borough of Highland Park Chief Financial Officer as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-52 shall be sent to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, 101 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0803, together with a copy of the Looney Ricks Kiss May 20, 2019 proposal to undertake and complete said Master Plan Services.

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

No. 7-19-220

WHEREAS, Main Street Highland Park purchased seven (7) benches for a Streetscape Improvement as part of the Borough's approved Community Development Block Grant program; and;

WHEREAS, funds from the Community Development Block Grant have been allocated to pay for said benches; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide reimbursement for the benches and funds are available for this purpose in Account No. G-02-15-CD5-240 in an amount not to exceed \$14,900.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by Finance Director, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough shall reimburse Main Street Highland in accordance with the Community Grants and Planning Grant and allocation in an amount not to exceed \$14,900.00 by way of a direct subsidy to Main Street Highland Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Main Street Highland Park, Finance Director and Borough Administrator.

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

No. 7-19-221

WHEREAS, in or about November 2018, allegations and charges of misconduct were brought against volunteer firefighter Marc Robinson seeking discipline against him; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department Advisory Committee considered the allegations and charges and recommended that he be suspended for a period of six (6) months from the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, upon consideration of the recommendation from its Advisory Committee, the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department membership voted to expel him from the Department; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has undertaken its own review of Mr. Robinson's alleged misconduct and the recommended discipline; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council found that any procedural errors with regard to the allegations and charges against Mr. Robinson were cured at the hearing before the Borough Council; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council found that the allegations and charges against Mr. Robinson should be sustained based on his admission of inappropriate conduct at a general meeting of the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council finds that the penalty of expulsion shall be modified to a six (6) month suspension effective March 9, 2019 through September 8, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further finds that the next allegation of misconduct proven against Mr. Robinson will result in his expulsion from the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that, the allegations and charges against volunteer firefighter Marc Robinson be and are hereby sustained;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, that the penalty recommended by the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department Advisory Committee is not confirmed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, that in lieu of the penalty recommended by the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department, a six (6) month suspension will be imposed on Marc Robinson, with the period of the suspension commencing on March 9, 2019 and ending on September 8, 2019;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, that the next proven allegation of misconduct by Mr. Robinson will result in his expulsion from the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, that we do hereby direct the Borough Administrator to advise the Fire Chief and Marc Robinson of this Resolution and provide them with a certified copy of this Resolution. This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

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

No. 7-19-222

WHEREAS, in or about November 2018, charges alleging misconduct were brought against volunteer firefighter Peggy Brooks seeking her suspension from the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department Advisory Committee considered the alleged charges and recommended a one-year suspension, followed by two (2) years of probation; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has undertaken its own review of Ms. Brooks' alleged misconduct and the recommended discipline; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has found that there is neither evidence that the allegations have been proven nor that procedures utilized were carried out in conformance with the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department's By-Laws; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council finds that there is no proof of any violation as alleged against Ms. Brooks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that, the allegations and charges against volunteer firefighter Peggy Brooks be and are hereby dismissed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, that the penalty recommended by the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department Advisory Committee is not confirmed and shall not be imposed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, that volunteer firefighters may bring any issue to the attention of the Borough, especially issues and/or claims of discrimination and/or harassment, without violating the rules, regulations and/or by-laws of the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department and/or the chain of command;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, that we do hereby direct the Borough Administrator to advise the Fire Chief and Peggy Brooks of this Resolution and provide them with a certified copy of this Resolution. This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 7-19-223

WHEREAS, P.L. 2009, c. 166, codified as N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2 et seq., supplementing and amending Chapter 11 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes allows local contracting units in New Jersey to create the position of Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park desires to create the position of Purchasing Agent, and;

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 4-49-147 authorized a contract with Government Management Advisors LLC for Gregory C. Fehrenbach, Principal to serve as the Qualified Purchasing Agent;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Highland Park Borough Council that the position of Qualified Purchasing Agent is hereby created for the Borough of Highland Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as follows:

- 1) The Purchasing Agent shall be appointed by the Borough Council; and,
- 2) The Purchasing Agent shall possess a valid Qualified Purchasing Agent certificate, as issued by the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs; and,
- 3) The Purchasing Agent, assisting the Borough Administrator, shall have the authority, responsibility and accountability for oversight of the purchasing activity for the Borough of Highland Park, to assist with the preparation of public advertising for bids and to review bids and requests for proposals for the provision or performance of goods, services and construction contracts on behalf of the Borough of Highland Park, and to award contracts permitted through New Jersey statutes and in accordance with the regulations, forms and procedures promulgated by state regulatory agencies in the name of the Borough of Highland Park, and conduct any activities as may be necessary or appropriate to the purchasing function of the Borough of Highland Park; and,
- 4) The Borough of Highland Park previously (Res. No.4-19-147) and hereby appoints Gregory C. Fehrenbach, Q.P.A. Certification #Q-453, Government Management Advisors, LLC as the Qualified Purchasing Agent of record and establishes the bid threshold at \$40,000.

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

No. 7-19-224

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of an engineer to provide engineering services in connection with the Roadway Improvements to South Adelaide, Cherry Street, and South Park Avenue, in accordance with letter proposal from Bruce Koch, CME Associates, dated June 14, 2019, attached to the original of this resolution; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account Number No. C-04-55-822-210 in an amount not to exceed \$118,275.10 and Account No. C-04-55-971-100 in an amount not to exceed \$24,151.90 for a total amount not to exceed \$142,427.00 without further resolution of Council, as reflected by the Certification of Funds by the Finance Department, shown below;

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 7-19-225

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 7/2/2019 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 39.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstained: None.

No. 7-19-226

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance; and

WHEREAS, Local Finance Notice 2000-14 provides for receipt of funds for outside employment of police officers for off-duty work; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides that the dedicated revenues anticipated from the Outside Employment of Off-Duty Police Officers are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement;

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

1. The Borough Council does hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures of the Outside Employment of Off-Duty Police Officers.
2. The Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was 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 Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstained: None.

No. 7-19-227

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any such item of revenue in the budget of the county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount;

WHEREAS, the amount of \$11,157.82 has been collected in prior years and held in the other trust escrow; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to appropriate the said amount of \$11,157.82 in the calendar year 2019 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, that it hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget for the year 2019 in the sum of \$11,157.82, which item is now available as revenue from State and Federal programs pursuant to the provisions of statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a like sum of \$11,157.82 and the same is hereby appropriated under the caption of:

Municipal Court Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund                      \$11,157.82

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is the result of funds collected in prior years and held in Other Trust escrow; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two (2) certified copies of the certification of adoption of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Harry Pangemanam to serve as a member of the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs for a term to expire December 31, 2019

The above appointment was confirmed on motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: None.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Coretta Pinelli as the Alternate #2 member of the Planning Board for a term to expire September 2, 2023.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Rebecca Hand as a Regular Member of the Planning Board for a term to expire September 1, 2021.

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

Bert Bueno, 308 Grant Avenue, commented that his garage is two feet from his neighbor's garage. There are two trees on his property and one is raising the roof off of his garage. He came in to get a permit to have the tree taken down and the permit was approved. He was told that after he pays to have the tree removed, he has to plant a new tree or pay \$450 to the town for the tree commission. He is outraged by that. The tree is in the back of his property and nobody can see it. He takes great care of his property and it is beyond gorgeous. He does not have room to plant another tree and he is not willing to give the town \$450 to take down a tree that is damaging his garage. Councilman George explained that the Borough has

a tree replacement ordinance that requires that there be a fee or an alternate replacement. He is not positive about what happens when there is a tree causing damage, but they will look into it.

Jon Valeri, 106 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that he has a concern since the town is going green. From South 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the triangle side to the Highland Park, Edison border on Route 27, there are no garbage cans. There used to be garbage cans, but there aren't any, and he wants to know why. Councilman George noted that part of the problem in that area is that some of those sidewalks along Route 27 are narrow and there is no room to fit the standard trash cans. Some of the sidewalks there are below the current standards as they are very old. Mr. Valeri commented that he understands the town is pet friendly. When he was in New Brunswick the other day, he saw a dispensing station to clean up after your pet and he asked if this was something they could do. Councilman George explained that the problem is not the system, but that the Department of Public Works would have to maintain the stations. He noted that he saw something online about a new disposal system and he will look into that.

Ruth Bickhardt, 307 Magnolia Street, commented that she continues to see children riding bicycles without helmets. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that she talked to the Chief about summer safety tips and that if children do not have helmets, they are available at the Police Department at no cost. Ms. Bickhardt noted that she put trash out today, but it was not collected. Councilman George noted that the change in the schedule was posted on Facebook, the website, etc. Councilwoman Welkovits added that Wednesday is reserved for weeks where there is a holiday to do other work. Ms. Bickhardt commented about sidewalk maintenance and that the Borough needs to take a stand to not punish them, but it is dangerous and she has been hurt again. Councilman George noted that they have been working on a plan again and they are looking to roll something out in 2020.

Ruth Kalton, 41 North 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that Highland Park is a community founded on respect for all its citizens, dedicated to a wholesome and healthy environment for all its residents free of hate, bias, discrimination and violence. We are currently being confronted by a breach in those principles introduced by outside forces, non-Highland Park groups, dedicated to creating divisiveness, tension and conflict in our quiet, friendly neighborhood. More ominously, targeting our young toddlers, first learning their ABC's. She has been an educator in early childhood for over 40 years. She has read many alphabet books over the years. P is for Palestine appears on the surface to be a children's ABC book, complete with colorful illustrations. The main character is a smiling toddler with easy to read sentences set across each colorful page. It is a propaganda tool for indoctrinating young, impressionable children before they have the faculties for critical thinking. This is not appropriate for our young Highland Park children. The author of the book, Goldbarg Bashi, who is supposed to be the presenter, is an avowed anti-Semite, hate monger, and a BDS advocate. On May 9, 2019, in a tweet, she refers to Israel as racist, fascistic settler colony built on the stolen land of another people. Her website is a hate mongering, BDS call to arms, fraught with hostility with an aim to destroy the legitimate state of Israel. In addition to being in direct conflict to what Highland Park stands for, it is in conflict with our First Amendment rights and the Highland Park Municipal Library, our own vision, mission and strategy. Consistent with the First Amendment, a library may not censor a book based on viewpoint, but it may restrict its reading to children if it finds it to be inappropriate to that audience. As a limited public forum, the Highland Park Library has discretion over the content of material it offers so long as the censorship is viewpoint neutral and is for the purpose that the forum was created. Certainly, a book designed to begin the process of indoctrinating the young in hatred and death of innocence. Those they kill and those they teach martyrdom to is not for our Highland Park children. The Highland Park Library aspires to be the place where the community gathers to enrich their lives. Our community trusts the Library to deepen their experiences in a multitude of ways. This is the opposite of that vision. The Highland Park Library opens its doors for our community to access information and expand their imagination. Introducing a one-sided narrative, dissent conflict and justifiable murder to toddlers with untrained minds for critical thinking, is not expanding their imagination, and certainly not in a healthy way. A Library is a place for life-long learning. Can the Library want to teach our youngest learners that the murder of women and children in buses, pizza stores, on the way home from school, or on the way to the supermarket is okay, beginning the path to life-long learning? We, the concerned members of the Highland Park community shouldn't have groups outside the Highland Park community introduce that type of divisiveness in our community. We shouldn't accept introducing our young, impressionable children with anti-Semitism, as it solely targets Jews in their historical homeland, regardless of anyone's political feelings about this foreign conflict. We shouldn't have our tax dollars used to teach hatred and divisiveness. She beseeched the Council to not allow the Highland Park Municipal Library, as a separate, but related institution, to promote this. There is a process for introducing and examining potentially controversial activities in Highland Park. This does not appear to have been followed. This should be stopped now on both procedural and specificity grounds. It should also never happen again. They would like this further established by the Council. She gives a hoot about Highland Park.

Lisa Benhaim, 436 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that she has been a Highland Park resident for about 18 years and has been an avid and dedicated patron of the Highland Park Library. Unfortunately, no more. She feels betrayed and she is angered, disappointed, and saddened by what has happened with the scheduled children's reading of P is for Palestine. She is disappointed mainly with the Board of Trustees at the Highland Park Public Library and also the Council for whatever part has not been played in taking part in rectifying the situation. The book is presented as a children's ABC book. In reality, it is the author's tool for spreading her anti-Israel and anti-Zionist propaganda. There are various and many examples, some are blatant and some are a little less blatant, but they are there. H is for Handala is her little cartoon character created by this illustrator, and it states on his website that it was created to represent the resistance and defiance based on Israel's occupation. It has become the face and the logo of the BDS movement which is bent on the destruction of Israel and the people of Israel. It is also seen in various popular anti-Israel and anti-Semite cartoons, which are very violent in nature. She mentioned G is for Gaza and the illustration of children flying kites on the shores, and it looks very innocent. In reality, if you look on any news site or any google search, what you will find are Palestinian children flying kites with incendiary devices attached to the kites into Israel to destroy, not only property, but causing fear amongst the Israelis. This innocent looking picture is very subliminal, but in reality, it is terrifying. She referenced I is for Intifada. The author is trying to make it sound like it is them wising up, but in reality, it is the violence and terror that

it strikes in the hearts of Israelis and Americans and Jews across the world. The author states in the book that there are various illustrations showing, what she calls, a peace sign, because it is all about peace. It is blatant propaganda, because what they know it is V for victory after successful terror attacks in Israel against innocent Israelis and civilians living their life. This book reading has no place in Highland Park that prides itself that hate has no home here. This reading has no place for children, this has no place to be read by an author who proposes hate. She asked the Council to use whatever authority they have to influence the Board to cancel this reading because you represent the whole community of Highland Park. While she is not sure of what true authority the Council has over the Board, the Council does have authority over our tax dollars that go to the Library. They have no right to be scheduling this reading, using our tax dollars, when it is in a community that does not allow hate.

Henry Schanzer, 29 Brookhill Road, Edison, commented that he is adding his voice to the protest of any rescheduling of any presentation by the author to the children of the Highland Park community. The Library is supported by our tax dollars. He referenced a tweet made by the author on May 9<sup>th</sup> that was racist.

John Kovac, 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, commented that he wanted to speak about the reading of the P is for Palestine book and was speaking on his on behalf as a Jewish resident of Highland Park. That's presume that there is a local group promoting a children's book on white culture. Let's assume this group gets support from the Ku Klux Klan, and the book emphasizes the gentility, chivalry and family orientation of a white anti-bellum plantation society and that it completely ignores the problem of slavery. Let's assume further, that an employee of the Library scheduled that book for a reading to the children of our town and the Library ratified that decision. Would residents tolerate this? Would the African American citizens of Highland Park not be justifiably outraged? Would it not be completely reasonable and morally justified to demand that the reading be cancelled and that the hate group promoting it be condemned? Jewish Force for Peace, which sponsors hate and is mostly non-Jewish, arranged for a reading of a book that promotes the agenda of Hamas. The Library Board approved it. This was orchestrated by a person named Yu Shu, who is a student for justice and Palestine leader, and is active in Jewish Force for Peace in Central Jersey. This group is supported by the terrorist connect NGO Samidoun. Their US Director is affiliated with the terrorist group, People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The German government has declared the boycott of Israel, that movement, anti-Semitic. Yet this is what we invited to read at our Library. These are the same people that harass and intimidate Jewish students on college campuses and shut down the speech of pro-Israel students. He called upon the Council members as individuals and respected members of the community to ask the Library Board members to reverse their decision. He called upon the churches in town, especially the one that has given Jewish Voice for Peace a meeting place, to urge the Library Board to banish hate from this community. All over Highland Park there are signs on lawns proclaiming that hate has no home here. Let us liv up to that slogan and not make a joke of it.

Michael Atkin, 117 North 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that he has two young children aged 7 and 9 that frequent the Library and he is very concerned about this scheduled reading of P is for Palestine. The Highland Park Library 2019-2021 strategic plan has a vision, mission and life-long learning on their plan. The vision is a community entrusted forum for enrichment and engagement. Mission is opening doors to information and imagination and life-long learning with library programs and services and enhance the quality of life in the community by tapping into curiosities and helping to increase knowledge and vitality without community education and personal enrichment in all life stages. The library's vision states that the community's trusted forum for enrichment and engagement. Our vision is what we hope to achieve for our community and we aspire to be a place where the community gathers to enrich their lives. Our community trusts the library to deepen their experiences in a multitude of ways. The reading of this book would do the exact opposite of this vision. The library's mission states, first and foremost, that we believe that we open doors to our community to access information and expand our imagination through programs, resources and collections. This is opposite of that mission by introducing an unbalanced, one-sided narrative, dissent, conflict and unjustifiable murder to toddlers with untrained minds for critical thinking. It is not expanding their imagination, certainly not in a healthy way. The library's strategic direction, life-long learning, optimization resources and organizational strength. Can the library really want to teach toddlers that the murder of women and children in buses, pizza stores, and on the way home from school or on the way to the supermarket is okay? Is that beginning the path to life-long learning? Right now, if the library continues on its current path, it will go from good to disastrous. The community will only learn about the library negatives. It will shun this library and be sure to keep its children away from the library. In summary, we say to the Highland Park Council that this reading has no business being read to the young and impressionable who still lack the power of critical thinking. It is opposite the community mission as if fosters hate, death, and anti-Semitism. Whatever side one might on, the community library should not be used to plant seeds of hatred in the minds of our toddlers. It is not consistent with the library bill of rights which speaks to the issue of books and other library resources that provide for interest information and enlightenment for its patrons. This provides darkness to those too young to challenge that darkness. This but the legitimization of the use of violence for conflict resolution; which is inappropriate reading material for minors. Consistent with the first amendment, a library may not censor a book based on view point, but may restrict its reading to children, if it finds it to be inappropriate for that audience. As a limited public forum, the Highland Park Public Library has discretion over the content and material it offers so long as the censorship is viewpoint neutral and is for the purpose that that forum was created.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that recently, the Council reviewed the rules of order and they are supposed to vote on extending this portion of the meeting beyond 9:00 p.m. when they want to do that. She asked for a motion to extend the meeting beyond 9:00 p.m.

Councilman Hale made motion to extend meeting beyond 9:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman George and carried by affirmative voice vote.

Councilwoman Welkovits left the meeting at 9:06 p.m.



Honey Wisotsky, 54 North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that even the most superficial review of Bashi and her book reveals that Bashi is not acceptable to any reasonable audience as she is a rabid anti-Israel, pro BDS bigot. Her book is directed to propagandize a one-sided vision of history aimed at propagating hatred and conflict. In view of Bashi's one-sided highly prejudiced view, it is inappropriate that she be invited or scheduled to speak to children who cannot differentiate or appreciate her one-sided presentation. Considering the children and the fair and measured education to which they should be rightfully subjected, there is not reasonable basis for scheduling a Bashi reading. The library is a public institution, supported by taxpayer money. Taxpayer money cannot be used for pushing a particular viewpoint. The library is a quasi-government body and inviting a speaker gives the speaker an aura of approval, respectability and authority. Children have a right to be protected from false, unethical and/or obscene material and presentations. The first amendment, anti-establishment provision, is designed to prevent any show of favoritism of any group. Bashi threats and the threats of her supporters to initiate a lawsuit, riot and mayhem should not deter our resolve to do what is right.

Susie Wolf, 128 North 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that she has lived in Highland Park for 30 years with her husband and 4 children, who spent a lot of time at the library. She is upset that the library has agreed to allow Ms. Bashi to read P is for Palestine at our library. She doesn't know whether it was a mistake by someone at the library who did not do their due diligence vetting this author and this book or if there is an employee or volunteer in the library who is pushing the anti-Israel pro BDS agenda, which is scarier to her. Our library is supposed to be a safe, non-political location and not a place where she has to worry about being openly being a Jew and a Zionist. Jewish Voice for Peace decided to push and sponsor this reading in Highland Park, not in Bordentown, not in Piscataway, because this town, which has a sizable Jewish population, and knew they would get the publicity that they are looking for. Bashi proudly declares her support of Jewish Voice for Peace and other anti-Israel groups on social media sites, including her live Facebook feed. Videos on her Facebook page are painful to watch. In these postings we how JVP is her sponsor of the reading and how delighted she is of anti-Zionist, American progressives. She tweets about her support of BDS, which is a group dedicated for the destruction of the state of Israel. Her book, P is for Palestine, is obviously anti-Semitic and anti-Israel and advocates violence against Israel and should not be read to children. Even if she was reading Frog and Toad to the children in the library, how could the library have agreed to host such a person in the library? The library and the Council especially, if Jews for Peace of Central New Jersey continues to claim that they are co-sponsors of the Bashi library event, should investigate further this author and her political views and stop the hosting of this children's program in the library.

Max Wisotsky, 54 North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that he has lived in his home since 1968 and has been a taxpayer for 51 years. In the years he has lived here, Highland Park has been an ideal town to live in and bring up their children. Unfortunately, the saddest spectacle he has witnessed in all these years is the one unfolding before us in this library fiasco. An outside group, apparently with the cooperation of library officials, placed a children's program on the agenda before it could be adequately review for suitability. The program was at best, controversial, and at worst, highly offensive to many Highland Park residents. However, once it was put on the agenda, it became a fate accompli and was very hard to remove. He found this whole sordid episode very disturbing and since the library is an agency of Highland Park, funded in part by taxpayer dollars, he asked what the role of the Council is in events like these. Without knowing exactly how the Council was involved here, he wanted to give them the benefit of the doubt and concede that they did not anticipate this type of reaction. He asked what procedures are in place to monitor agencies receiving tax dollars to ensure that they adequately serve the taxpayer's interests. A conflict playing out 7 thousand miles away has already infiltrated our local library. How can they be sure that another one like it won't happen again? Program selections are judgment calls, but they should be made after open discussion or legal proceedings so that events like politicizing children's programs in the library, using our toddlers as pawns, are not made again. Individuals must be held accountable for anything they do that reflects poorly on the community. He trusts the Council does not give agencies like the library money as a blank check and lets them do anything they want to do without any oversight. As residents, they are entitled to expect suitable transparency, oversight and accountability of their tax dollars from both the Borough Council and the Library Board.

Leon Haller, 334 North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that he is a resident of Middlesex County for 36 years and a resident of Highland Park for 26 years. When he bought his house in Highland Park, it was a remembrance of the old Cox mansion before he had it torn down and rebuilt. Two weeks after he bought it, he went inside and there were swastikas painted in red and the words Jews get out spray painted in the house. It was in the local papers at the time, it was 26 years ago, and it is still etched in his mind. It has been almost 74 years since the end of WWII and the end of the Holocaust. One third of his people were destroyed. His mother's family was wiped out, together with 6 million Jews and millions more undesirables. Jews say that never again would his people be gassed, burnt or have their property confiscated or be buried in mass graves.

Herb Gross, Adelaide Gardens, commented that he has listened to all the comments on prejudice and bigotry. The Veteran's of the United States of America have been fighting prejudice and bigotry for many years. He has yet to hear anybody come up and say that they are going to support the Veterans of the United States of America.

Rabbi Dr. Bernard Rosenberg, Edison, New Jersey, commented that he lives near the library and takes this extremely personally. His oldest child was almost murdered in the first intifada and they had to bring her home. The car she was in was attacked and sprayed with bullets. He and his wife were almost murdered in a restaurant and he ended up picking up body parts. He is certain that all of them agree with the eloquent statements that were made tonight. He sees on their faces the concern of lawsuit. The only reason that he agreed to the cancelling of the original meeting for the library and he communicated to the Mayor through her representative, was not because people would be hurt, but because what was the point. They were going to have this massive meeting and people were going to be hurt and he had a feeling because of the fear of lawsuit, they would go ahead anyway. The problem seems to be with the library. If anyone should be sued, it should be the library.

Mayor Brill Mittler thanked everyone for coming out and expressing their point of view. She also wanted to express that she does know that herself and many of the Council people were also quite surprised when they heard about this event even being scheduled. They do not learn of every single event being planned at the library until it is published. Councilman Fine is the Council Liaison to the library. She was quite appalled to learn that there is no procedure in place for reviewing any programs that go on at the library. There is no procedure in place. They have demanded of them that put a procedure in place and Councilman Fine was at a board meeting of the library last week and they have put together a subcommittee to put together a procedure. She does not know how they have existed for so long without any procedures in place, but they did. There is no lawsuit preventing the Governing Body from thinking about what to do. They will be working with the library moving forward. They are their own board. The Governing Body cannot tell them what to do, but to the point of many people, the Governing Body does have a say.

Councilman Fine reiterated something that was stated by the President of the Library Board of Trustees at the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Bruce Tucker did get up after all the public comment and he made it clear that the program was never a Jewish Voice for Peace program, that an individual had brought the book to the library and after it was scheduled and then postponed, that was when the individual came back and presented it as though the organization she belonged to had sponsored the program. The President said again that it was never a Jewish Voice for Peace sponsored program even though there is a connection and relation to that as we know and we won't be going forward.

Councilman Hale thanked everyone who came out tonight to speak so passionately and eloquently about this issue. The Council understands the pain that this has caused in the community and they are working very diligently as a Council and individuals to address this issue. They certainly do appreciate all of the voices they heard tonight.

Lois Lebbing, North 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, commented that handicapped parking has both State and Federal ADA minimum standards, 1 handicapped parking space for every 25 spaces. The tree ordinance has a clause for safety, there is no cost to residential tree removal for safety reasons. As it relates to the deer count, there is information at the library that someone will come and spray and it is guaranteed to remove your deer. She asked that they consider changing the public session to have the long session first.

Khalidra Hadhazy, South 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, commented that tonight they passed the zoning overlay ordinance. She wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Borough Council and the Mayor. She thanked them for encouraging the residents to attend the Planning Board meeting as it was really eye opening and they learned a lot in that meeting. One of the things that they learned in that meeting is that the Council took their concerns and considerations seriously and they appreciate that. They appreciate the concessions made on that building and they appreciate that there is a height restriction on the building and that there have been some efforts to expand the buffer on the outside. She knows that it is not 100% perfect and she knows that 100% of the people aren't 100% happy, but she spoke at the last council meeting and said that as long as everyone was treated fairly, everyone wouldn't be happy, but they would feel like they were treated fair and she feels like they have treated them fairly and they have listened.

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

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago  
Deputy Clerk