

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019

MINUTES

1. Mayor Brill Mittler called the meeting to order at 9:25 p.m.
2. PRESENT: Mayor; Council (Councilwoman Welkovits left meeting at 10:08 p.m.); Borough Attorney; Borough Clerk.

NOTE: Upcoming Meeting schedule:

**August 20, 2019 Standing Committee Meetings; Special Meeting if needed.
September 3, 2019 Agenda Meeting 6:30 PM; Regular Meeting 7:00 PM;
Conference Meeting to follow.**

3. Public Discussion (15 minutes) – 9:47 p.m.

Dan Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented that he has a problem with the BDS resolution in its current form.

Marc Kalton, 41 North 8th Avenue, commented that the objectives of BDS destroy the State of Israel

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented that there are a lot of great aspects in the resolution. She suggested that they remove the BDS component. These issues have brought a lot of controversy to the town. She suggested that the resolution keep to the fact that Highland Park condemns anti-Semitism.

A resident commented that BDS is anti-Semitic. It is important for the town to stand behind it as the national government has along with other States and Municipalities.

Michael Gordon, 207 South 5th Avenue, commented that this issue has lit a fire in town that you have not seen before. It is a local issue. BDS is not just a geo-political campaign.

Josh Pruzansky, 141 North 10th Avenue, commented that the State of New Jersey passed a BDS law 3-4 years ago. 25 municipalities have BDS resolutions. The P is for Palestine issue at the Library hurt. The community as a whole has to have a response to that. The sponsors of this resolution should be committed. There is a lot of anti-Semitism in the State of New Jersey. He implored every member of the Council to vote in support of this resolution and to stand in support with the Jewish community.

4. Memorial or Commendatory Resolutions or Presentations scheduled as indicated:
 - a.
5. Ordinances on 1st Reading – no ordinances scheduled for introduction for 9/3/19:
 - a.
 - b.
6. Ordinances on 2nd Reading – no public hearings scheduled for 9/3/19:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
7. Resolutions for Next Meeting - scheduled for 9/3/19:
 - a. Bills List (9/3/19).
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

8. Appointments – none.
9. Borough Attorney's Report – none.
10. Borough Administrator's Report – none.
11. Standing Committee Status Reports – none.
12. Discussion Items.
 - a. 2020 Meeting Schedule – Mayor Brill Mittler noted that because of the length of the public discussion sessions recently and having to stop Regular Meeting at 9:00 p.m. and finish Conference Meeting by 10:00 p.m., there is a recommendation to go back to having Regular Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month and Conference Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Will discuss further prior to Reorganization Meeting for 2020.
 - b. Bike/Pedestrian Plan – Councilwoman Welkovits noted that there will be a presentation of this plan to the Planning Board at their next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Councilman Fine asked if the plan was on the Borough website. Councilwoman Welkovits to check with Communications.
 - c. Police Academy Recruit for 2020 – Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that the Police Department is understaffed. There have been some retirements and promotions made and they need additional Officers. There are only two African Americans on the Police Force. The Borough needs to cast a wider net and need to recruit the best candidates and minorities as possible. There are two interested candidates that live in Highland Park. They would like to give a conditional offer to a candidate who would not start until January, 2020. The candidate currently works at a correctional facility and cannot carry a gun and would need to attend the Police Academy. Starting salary is low for the first 3-6 months while the candidate is being trained. It will take 18 months to become a full-fledged Police Officer. This candidate has been highly recommended by the Police Chief. They have met with the candidate and went through the whole interview process. There are no academies that have openings this year. Councilman George asked if the money for this Officer is in the budget for 2020. Borough Administrator Jover noted that the cost would be \$35,000 plus benefits. Councilman Hale asked what happens if candidate fails. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that the academy will advise if candidate will not be successful. Councilwoman Kim-Chohan asked how many openings there are. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that the Chief would like to see their number at 32. Currently, there are 26 Officers. The Police Department needs to backfill Pardo's position.
 - d. Resolution Condemning all Forms of Anti-Semitism – Discussion about this resolution and whether or not the Council supports it. Councilman Hale noted that he is still waiting for recommendation from the Human Relations Commission. They have not provided any additions to it. Thinks it is important that the Council move this along and vote at the September 3rd meeting. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she wants him to pass this resolution by the Chief due to incidents that have happened in Highland Park. She agrees that they need to take some kind of action in Highland Park. She thinks the Council should wait to hear what the Chief and the Human Relations Commission has to say. Discussion to be held in Conference Meeting on September 3rd. Councilman Hale asked when the Council would vote. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that discussion could be held on September 3rd and if everyone is in agreement and Borough Attorney approves the language, the vote could be held at the September 17th meeting. Councilman Hale noted that the Health and Human Services Committee unanimously approved this resolution. Discussion about mentioning certain incidents that occurred in town and that involved minors. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted

that they need to make sure nothing mentioned in the resolution involves an active investigation. Mr. Hersh noted that the Human Relations Commission circulated the resolution at last meeting. Does not know if the Chairman plans to schedule a separate meeting before August 21st to discuss it. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the Human Relations Commission is the group that is charged with addressing this type of issue. Due diligence needs to be done by the Human Relations Commission and the Police Department.

- e. Anti-Idling Resolution – Councilman George noted that Sustainable Highland Park has a list of recommendations to curb idling even more. The recommendations need some more cleanup before introduction.
- f. Bond Rating and Next Steps – Councilman Fine noted that he had a very brief discussion about the Borough's bond rating that has gone down. He used information from 2013. Borough Administrator Jover noted that she does not think it is as bad as it sounds. Mayor Brill Mittler suggested that Councilman Fine and his Finance Committee should meet with the Borough Administrator and Mr. Fehrenbach and then report back to the rest of the Governing Body.
- g. Band-Aid Bench – Councilwoman Kim-Chohan noted that Lucky Jo plans to finish the bench by September 1st. She will share more pictures of the progress of the bench with the rest of the Governing Body via email, but passed around some photographs. The bench is being placed by Rite Aid. Mayor Brill Mittler asked that those pictures be given to Harry Glazer.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting was extended to 10:30 p.m.

13. Goals – Not discussed.

14. Executive Session – none.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 10:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Deputy Clerk