

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

MINUTES

1. Mayor Brill Mittler called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m.
2. PRESENT: Mayor; Council; Borough Attorney; Borough Administrator; Deputy Borough Clerk.

NOTE: Upcoming Meeting schedule:

Sept. 10, 2019 Standing Committee Meetings; Special Meeting if needed.

Sept. 17, 2019 Agenda Meeting 6:30 PM; Regular Meeting 7:00 PM; Conference Meeting to follow.

3. Public Discussion (15 minutes)
Abby Stern Cardinale, 221 Harper Street indicated that she would like to help Councilwoman Kim-Chohan with Splash Park. She indicated that she was happy that the comments were made by Mr. Gross were addressed. She and her husband encountered a young man in the evening who was extremely upset, did not want to call the police and asked what other avenues there was in situations like that. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin indicated that she could reach out to the Reform Church or the Community Center during the daytime hours.
4. Memorial or Commendatory Resolutions or Presentations scheduled as indicated:
 - a.
5. Ordinances on 1st Reading – no ordinances scheduled for introduction for 9/17/19:
 - a.
 - b.
6. Ordinances on 2nd Reading – no public hearings scheduled for 9/17/19:
 - a. Bond Ordinance Repealing Bond Ordinance No. 18-1966 and 18-1967 and Providing for the Replacement and Rehabilitation of Water Mains, Interconnections and Water Meters.
 - b. Bond Ordinance Providing for the Inspection and Survey of the Sanitary Sewer System.
7. Resolutions for Next Meeting - scheduled for 9/17/19:
 - a. Bills List (9/17/19).
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. Resolution Supporting a Moratorium on Fossil Fuel Projects in New Jersey (PG).
Councilman George said the resolution prepared by Sustainable Highland Park supporting a moratorium on Fossil Fuel projects in New Jersey has been vetted through the Public Works

Committee. The Borough Attorney will review the resolution for the September 17, 2019 agenda

b. Anti-Idling Resolution (PG).

Councilman George said that the draft anti-idling resolution was vetted through the Public Works Committee as well; he noted that law enforcement and first responders was exempt. This draft resolution was more in line with educating people on the benefits on not idling

c. Shared Services Agreement with East Brunswick (TJ).

Borough Administrator Jover indicating that she was looking into shared services with East Brunswick for road repair equipment, brine machine, etc., The Public Works Committee was in favor of this and she asked that the Borough Attorney review prior to any action.

d. Local Government Energy Aggregation Effort (TJ).

Borough Administrator Jover indicating that she was looking into a local government energy aggregation effort program where the Borough could purchase energy for the residents, residents would have the option to opt out of the program. She indicated that she was hoping to bundle with a larger town. The Borough would have to pass an Ordinance to establish the program, there would be a professional services agreement, consultant would manage the program and the bid is based on the market at that time. She indicated that she would share with the Council and Borough Attorney a draft ordinance.

e. Quote Threshold/Borough Administrator Threshold (TJ).

Borough Administrator Jover the Finance Officer indicated that the maximum amount a Business Administrator is permitted to approve for routine purchases is \$15,000, at this time she is permitted \$5,000. She requested the Council allow that to be increased to \$7,500 to allow her to approve routine purchases such as software updates on programs that already exist. She said that the quote threshold is 15% of the \$40,000 bid threshold. She said that this would require a change in the ordinance. All of Council agreed to increase the Business Administrators permitted purchase amount to \$7,500.

f. Update on Status of Anti-Semitism Resolution (MH)

Councilman Hale presented everyone with an updated draft resolution for Council consideration. He indicated that the draft went through the Human Relations Commission and that this version was a combination of the original and the changes made by the Human Relations Commission. Councilwoman Welkovits requested that the mention of middle school students be removed or re-worded and that she was not comfortable with that language. Councilman Hale indicated that there was a meeting of the Human Relations Commission and he would bring that to them to review. Mayor

g. Change orders - JADS Construction (TJ)

Borough Administrator indicated that the NJDEP demands repairs to Mill Brook and the County wants repairs to the Culvert and wanted to include those repairs with the current contract with JADS Construction in an amount not to exceed \$9,000. All agreed.

h. Water Line Repair Contract (TJ)

Borough Administrator indicated that a leak survey was underway and would forward more information as it comes in.

13. Goals

Councilwoman Welkovits said that there would be a community meeting on 130-134 Raritan Avenue, there would be some sketches for the neighbors, and this will take place at the Community Center on Wednesday at 7 PM. 31 River Road application is being heard at the next Planning Board meeting on Sept. 12, 2019. She said that she spoke with Rutgers about their e-scooter program

and some time in the near future they would like to present to the Council.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan indicated that she has been speaking to a company about the potential splash park in Donaldson Park. She indicated that the system is a lot different than those purposed years ago. There are fresh water options now, so no need for piping, etc. they are temporary, pop up types that are set and taken down, she was awaiting further information and would share at that time.

14. Executive Session – Cappell v. Highland Park.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Deputy Clerk