

REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 18, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:00 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

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

Absent: Councilperson Welkovits.

Mayor Brill Mittler asked the Council members to present their reports.

Councilwoman Foster Dublin reported that on February 13th, the Coffee with a Cop initiative was held at Dunkin Donuts. There will be a Police Community Forum held on March 26, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Community Center. The Police Department hired two additional Police Officers. Chief Abrams noted that they hired Roland Sams and Theo Richards. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reported that the promotional process is in place and is ongoing. The Teen Center Girls Program meets on Thursday nights. On Mondays, Panera Bread provides food and there is also tutoring available. The pavement by the Teen Center is almost completed and the planting project will start in the Spring. They are looking for artists to do a mural for the Teen Center. The Veterans at the Roosevelt Care Center had a lot of visitors during the holidays. There is bingo held every Monday night and she encouraged residents to visit and volunteer to serve refreshments.

Councilman Fine reported that the Arts Commission met last Thursday, February 13th, and has a number of activities planned for this year. The Windows of Understanding may be viewed at the windows on 4th gallery at Rite Aid. This year's themes are LGBTQ Issues and Mental Health. The art in the windows will continue to be up for viewing through February 29th. The Historical Commission will be meeting on February 20th at 7PM in the downstairs conference room in borough hall. Both the Arts Commission and the Historical Commission are seeking additional volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on one of these commissions, please visit Borough website, complete a volunteer application and submit it to the Office of the Borough Clerk. According to the National Eye Institute, low vision affects millions of Americans and it can make it hard to do things like reading, shopping, cooking or writing. Low vision can't be fixed with eyeglasses, contact lenses, medications or surgery. While it is most common in people aged 65 and older, it can affect anyone. Although it cannot be reversed, it can be managed. As the month of February is Low Vision Awareness Month, he wanted to remind everyone that regular eye exams are essential for all adults. Although he is not serving as the Liaison to the Library in 2020, having served as the Liaison for the Library for the last 5 years, he wanted to remind Highland Park residents that the long-time cherished librarian, Fran Lee, is retiring, and that her last day will be March 1st. Throughout the years, his family, especially his children, have benefitted greatly from having such a dedicated children's librarian, a sentiment that is shared by many of his fellow Highland Park residents. With that in mind, he hopes that residents who have benefitted over the years from the care and devotion that Ms. Fran has put into her work at the Highland Park Public Library will try to stop by the library between today and March 1st to express gratitude to her for all she has done for our community.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that the Food Pantry is updating their Facebook page and are preparing new brochures. They have distributed 130 shopping carts. She thanked the Commission for Universal Access for partnering with the Food Pantry to provide the shopping carts. They are looking to do another shopping cart distribution. The Health Department is working with the schools on mental health and to increase stress programs around mid-terms and finals. They also spoke about the Coronavirus and advised everyone to take precautions like you would for flu season. The Commission for Universal Access is working on a new brochure and Councilman Hale is working on updating ordinances to change wording from handicapped to accessible. The Housing Authority will hold their next quarterly tenant meeting and they will have a representative from the Department of Public works to show what they can or cannot recycle. The Human Relations Commission will meet on February 19th at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall. The Equity Commission will meet on February 26th at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall. Lastly, she encouraged resident support for the Park Partners voting.

Councilman Hale – No report.

Councilman George reported that the Department of Public Works would be adding South First Avenue and South Second Avenue to the automated pick-up route. Monitoring the routes since rolling out the new truck on the new route indicates we have the capacity to increase the route coverage. This will increase the tonnage being collected by the automated truck and further reduce the weights on the rear loading truck. It will also free up room for the dumpsters to be emptied a bit more frequently. Another Benchmark on the 2020 implementation of water and sewer management has been reached, the RFP submission is complete and we have received submissions from a number of leading water and sewer management companies. The Borough will begin the process of evaluation this week and this puts us slightly ahead of schedule. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) is now accepting applications for the Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Incentive Program. In order to facilitate a transition to cleaner transportation, the Program allows local governments to purchase electric vehicles at the State Purchasing Contract price and apply for grants through the NJBPU. Local government authorities can receive \$1,500 towards the purchase of one (1) Level two charging station and \$4,000 towards the purchase of an electric vehicle. Applicants may apply for up to two (2) eligible battery electric vehicles. This application tracks the borough's commitment to electric vehicle implementation. The Borough is not just concentrating on vehicles; our Meadows trail crew volunteers have nearly completed conversion to all electric tools for work in our environmentally sensitive trails and areas. Road repairs continue to be done when weather and crews permit. After discussing ways to improve road repairs and following up with the computer programming the Borough implemented last year, I reached out to East Brunswick for discussion of using their road repair equipment here to patch road cracking. Patching these cracks is faster and more

permanent than patching potholes and can extend useful life of roadways up to 5 more years. I will keep on this project and the Superintendent and I are hoping we can set up a meeting shortly with the East Brunswick Department of Public Works.

Borough Administrator Jover – No report.

Borough Attorney Schmierer - No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that the Borough has gone through and gotten a grant from the BPU for a microgrid study in Phase I last year. She just heard back from the BPU that they are about to open up their round 2 questions and the Borough hopes to participate in that to get some additional grant funding so that they can continue pursuing a microgrid here in Highland Park. She and the Borough Administrator went down to Trenton last week and they testified before the BPU about the importance of having LED lights as part of an overall New Jersey project. LED lights would be much better for lighting the streets and safety is very important. The cost to the municipality for using LED lights versus current lighting is lower. They were trying to ensure that all the cost savings would be bestowed upon the municipalities. Additionally, New Jersey currently ranks 30 out of 50 states in terms of its usage of LED lights. There is a goal for 100% green energy by 2050. She was delighted to represent the needs of many different Mayors and communities in New Jersey, but specifically in Highland Park. There has been an uptick in the number of pedestrian incidents with cars in Highland Pak over the last year. She has that everyone be careful crossing the streets and not to text while crossing. Also, do not walk out between parked cars. The Police Department is looking at programs that they can put together to ensure that everyone is safer as they cross the streets. The Police Department has been paying attention to speeding traffic in town. It is a two-pronged program. Pedestrians need to be more aware crossing the street and motorists need to be stopping at stop signs and maintaining proper speed limits. Lastly, she mentioned the Park Partners Program and that they have more applicants than ever before. Residents get to vote on the projects that receive the grants and they are encouraged to show up on Sunday for the voting.

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

Herb Gross, Adelaide Gardens, noted that he has received many calls from tenants about when next meetings are. Council should make sure that they are posted on the brochure. He encouraged the Council to visit the Roosevelt Care Center.

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Welkovits.

No. 2-20-71

WHEREAS, a need has arisen to provide adequate funds for certain budget items pending adoption of the Local Municipal Budget for 2020 and NJSA 40A:4-20 provides for the making of emergency appropriations in such cases; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary resolutions adopted in the year 2020 pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 40A:4-20 (Chapter 96, PL 1951), as amended, including this resolution, total \$11,597,251.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Highland Park (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with NJSA 40A:4-20;

1. An emergency temporary appropriation be and the same is hereby made for the budgetary appropriations herein:

DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT NUMBER	2020 TEMPORARY BUDGET
GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS		
BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION		
Salaries & Wages	20-100-1	89,871.00
Other Expenses	20-100-2	11,875.00
MAYOR & COUNCIL		
Salaries & Wages	20-110-1	16,518.00
Other Expenses	20-110-2	5,994.00
MUNICIPAL CLERK		
Salaries & Wages	20-120-1	78,910.00
Other Expenses	20-120-2	13,188.00
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION		
Salaries & Wages	20-130-1	19,600.00
Other Expenses	20-130-2	67,350.00
ANNUAL AUDIT		
Other Expenses	20-135-2	13,500.00
TAX COLLECTION		
Salaries & Wages	20-145-1	37,806.00
Other Expenses	20-145-2	8,200.00
TAX ASSESSMENT		
Salaries & Wages	20-150-1	27,956.00

Other Expenses	20-150-2	6,875.00
LEGAL SERVICES		
Other Expenses	20-155-2	175,000.00
ENGINEERING & PLANNING		
Other Expenses	20-165-2	10,000.00
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
Salaries & Wages		3,570.00
Other Expenses	20-170-2	52,500.00
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		
Other Expenses	20-140-2	54,750.00
CENTRAL SERVICES		
Other Expenses	20-316-2	42,250.00
LAND USE ADMINISTRATION PLANNING BOARD		
Salaries & Wages		3,570.00
Other Expenses	21-180-2	25,075.00
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT		
Salaries & Wages	21-185-1	10,357.00
Other Expenses	21-185-2	6,075.00
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	21-195-2	525.00
INSURANCE		
GENERAL LIABILITY/WORKERS COMPENSATION		
Other Expenses	23-211-2	206,660.00
EMPLOYEE GROUP HEALTH		
Other Expenses	23-220-2	645,029.00
PUBLIC SAFETY FUNCTIONS		
POLICE		
Salaries & Wages	25-240-1	1,759,173.00
Other Expenses	25-240-2	105,968.00
POLICE DISPATCH/911		
Salaries & Wages	25-250-1	119,361.00
Other Expenses	25-250-2	2,250.00
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		
Salaries & Wages	25-252-1	10,000.00
Other Expenses	25-252-2	13,250.00
FIRST AID CONTRIBUTION		
Other Expenses	25-260-2	7,500.00
FIRE		
Salaries & Wages	25-265-1	117,325.00
Other Expenses	25-265-2	36,465.00
LOSAP		
Other Expenses	25-265-2	8,250.00
MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR		
Other Expenses	25-275-2	17,500.00
PUBLIC WORKS FUNCTIONS		
STREETS & ROADS		
Salaries & Wages	26-290-1	569,798.00
Other Expenses	26-290-2	60,350.00
APARTMENT COLLECTION		
Other Expenses	26-305-2	112,500.00
PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS		
Salaries & Wages	26-310-1	22,496.00
Other Expenses	26-310-2	85,500.00
MOTOR POOL		
Salaries & Wages	26-315-1	38,359.00
Other Expenses	26-315-2	69,500.00
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FUNCTIONS		
BOARD OF HEALTH		
Other Expenses	27-330-2	525.00
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	27-335-2	275.00
COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE AFFAIRS		
Other Expenses	27-336-2	263.00
SAFE WALKING & CYCLING COMMITTEE		
Other Expenses	27-337-2	1,313.00

SUSTAINABLE HIGHLAND PARK		
Other Expenses	27-338-2	302.00
HISTORICAL COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	27-339-2	263.00
PARKS & RECREATION FUNCTIONS		
COMMUNITY SERVICES - RECREATION		
Salaries & Wages	28-370-1	35,460.00
Other Expenses	28-370-2	8,250.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES - AGING		
Salaries & Wages	28-371-1	101,978.00
Other Expenses	28-371-2	14,603.00
ARTS COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	28-374-2	525.00
SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE		
Other Expenses	28-375-2	302.00
TEEN CENTER		
Salaries & Wages	28-373-1	34,959.00
Other Expenses	28-373-2	
UTILITY EXPENSES & BULK PURCHASING		
ELECTRICITY		
Other Expenses	31-430-2	55,000.00
STREET LIGHTING		
Other Expenses	31-435-2	85,000.00
TELEPHONE		
Other Expenses	31-440-2	26,000.00
FUEL OIL/GASOLINE/NATURAL GAS		
Other Expenses	31-460-2	50,000.00
SANITARY LANDFILL		
Other Expenses	32-465-2	159,548.00
UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE		
Salaries & Wages	22-195-1	171,336.00
Other Expenses	22-195-2	6,675.00
UNCLASSIFIED		
CABLE TELEVISION		
Other Expenses	30-411-2	5,000.00
ACCUMULATED SICK LEAVE		
Salaries & Wages	30-415-1	40,000.00
COMMUNICATIONS		
Salaries & Wages	20-105-1	52,833.00
Other Expenses	20-105-2	11,591.00
MUNICIPAL COURT FUNCTIONS		
MUNICIPAL COURT		
Salaries & Wages	43-490-1	90,012.00
Other Expenses	43-490-2	6,325.00
PUBLIC DEFENDER		
Other Expenses	43-495-2	3,000.00
LIBRARY		
Salaries & Wages	29-390-1	328,256.00
Other Expenses	29-390-2	176,143.00
INTERLOCAL MUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS		
COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES		
Other Expenses	42-401-2	22,664.00
M.C.I.A. RECYCLING		
Other Expenses	42-402-2	5,384.00
ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES		
Other Expenses	27-340-2	7,800.00
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS		
NJDEP Radon Awareness	41-724-2	
Art & History Grant		3,750.00
Township Match		938.00
Rivers Reforestation Grant		2,335.00
STATUTORY EXPENDITURES		
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM		
Other Expenses	36-472-2	164,630.00
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION INSURANCE		
Other Expenses	23-225	15,000.00

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM		
Other Expenses	36-471-2	489,601.00
POLICE AND FIREMAN'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM		
Other Expenses	36-475-2	837,812.00
DCRP		
Other Expenses	36-476-2	5,775.00
	SUBTOTAL	7,809,975.00
DEBT SERVICE		
BOND PRINCIPAL		
Other Expenses	45-920-2	625,000.00
INTEREST ON BONDS		
Other Expenses	45-930-2	242,369.00
M.C.I.A. LEASE/LOAN		
Other Expenses	45-950-2	291,704.00
DBIZ LOAN		
Other Expenses	45-925-2	-
	SUBTOTAL	1,159,073.00

GRAND TOTAL	8,969,048.00
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2020 TEMPORARY WATER AND SEWER BUDGET

DESCRIPTION	2020 TEMP
OPERATING	
Salaries & Wages	120,444.00
Other Expenses	1,239,409.00
Middlesex County Utilities Authority	740,900.00
STATUTORY EXPENDITURES	
Public Employee Retirement System	-
Social Security System	-
DEFERRED CHARGES	
Over expenditure Budget Appropriation	-
	SUBTOTAL 2,100,753.00
DEBT SERVICE	
Payment of Bond Principal	460,000.00
Interest on Bonds	67,450.00
	SUBTOTAL 527,450.00

GRAND TOTAL	2,628,203.00
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- Said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2020 budget under the various captions listed herein.
- A certified copy of this Resolution will be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 247, "LICENSING", 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 Councilman Hale, 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 Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman George, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 20-1996, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Welkovits.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 2-20-72

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 247, "LICENSING", passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his approval, and if approved by him, 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 Neptune, 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 TO AMEND §407-12 OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010" ESTABLISHING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR BASIC TOWING SERVICE AND STORAGE FEES, 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 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 Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 20-1997, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Welkovits.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 2-20-73

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND §407-12 OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010" ESTABLISHING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR BASIC TOWING SERVICE AND STORAGE FEES, passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his approval, and if approved by him, 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 Neptune, 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 THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010" CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK PLANNING BOARD AND THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, 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 Councilman George, 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 Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Fine, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 20-1998, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Welkovits.

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

No. 2-20-74

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010" CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK PLANNING BOARD AND THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his approval, and if approved by him, 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 Neptune, 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, ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF A REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 433 CLEVELAND AVENUE PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 ET SEQ., 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 Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman Fine, 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 Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman George, the ordinance entitled as above, was continued to the March 3, 2020 meeting. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Welkovits.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND § 230-124 OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010" TO ADOPT AN UPDATED ZONING MAP FOR THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, had been introduced in writing by the Economic Development and Planning Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman Hale, 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.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Welkovits.

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

No. 2-20-76

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND § 230-124 OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010" TO ADOPT AN UPDATED ZONING MAP FOR THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 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, March 3, 2020, at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage after public hearing thereon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said a Notice of Pending Ordinance and Summary of said Ordinance be published once at least one (1) week prior to the time fixed for further consideration of said Ordinance for final passage in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published daily in this municipality, together with a notice of the introduction thereof and of the time and place when and where said Ordinance will be further considered for final passage as aforesaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, forthwith and that the Borough Clerk have available in her office for the members of the general public of Highland Park copies of said Ordinance for those members of the general public who may request the same.

Resolution Nos. 2-20-78 through 2-20-95, were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Welkovits.

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

No. 2-20-78

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 5-19-158, adopted by the Borough Council on September 3, 2019, a contract was awarded to JADS Construction Company, Inc. of South River, NJ, for the Improvements to North Third Avenue and Hilton Street, Improvements to Merilind Avenue and South Seventh Avenue and Improvements to Various Municipal Parking Lots; and

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 3 and Close-out Change Order, filed by the CME Associates, that certain work under said contract has been completed and approved, resulting in an overall decrease in the original contract in the amount of \$109,226.97, and there is due to JADS Construction Company, Inc. the sum of \$101,192.46 in accordance with said Pay Estimate for work performed from September 24, 2019 to February 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-821-001 in the amount of \$101,192.46, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available 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 Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized and directed to pay JADS Construction Company, Inc. the sum of \$101,192.46, as certified by the Engineer in Pay Estimate No. 3, subject to the Clerk's receipt of the Certified Payroll and Project Manning Reports and posting of a one-year maintenance bond in the amount of \$94,561.80; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and CME Associates forthwith.

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

No. 2-20-79

WHEREAS, Highland Investment Group, Inc. ("Taxpayer"), the owner of 1018 Raritan Avenue, Block 89, Lot 2 on the Borough of Highland Park Tax Assessment Maps (the "Property"), filed appeals of its 2016, 2018 and 2019 tax assessments in the Tax Court of New Jersey, Docket Nos. 010208-2016, 010687-2018 and 009403-2019; and

WHEREAS, the Property was assessed in said years at a total tax assessment of \$324,100 which, based upon the common level ratio for said years, equalized to a value of \$757,243 (42.80% ratio) for Tax

Year 2016, \$777,218 (41.70% ratio) for Tax Year 2018; and \$794,752 (40.78% ratio) for Tax Year 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park met and discussed the aforesaid tax appeal and the recommendations of its Borough Tax Assessor and Special Tax Attorney; and

WHEREAS, an acceptable settlement of the aforesaid tax appeals has been negotiated which withdraws the 2016 Tax Court Complaint; which reduces the 2018 tax assessment to a total tax assessment of \$270,000 (\$647,482 equalized value); which reduces the 2019 tax assessment to a total tax assessment of \$250,000 (\$613,046 equalized value); which provides that the tax assessor shall set the 2020 total tax assessment on-the-books at \$220,000 (\$532,044 equalized value); and which provides that as long as the 2020 total tax assessment is set at \$220,000, neither party will file a tax appeal for Tax Year 2020, as more specifically set forth in the Stipulation of Settlement annexed to this Resolution, which has been reviewed by the Mayor and Council; and

WHEREAS, the Taxpayer has agreed to waive interest provided that any refunds are paid within 60 days of entry of the Tax Court Judgment, made payable to "Michael A. Vespasiano, Attorney Trust Account"; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid settlement has no general application to other properties within the Borough as a result of the aforesaid specific fact situation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council make this settlement with Taxpayer without prejudice to its dealings with any other Borough taxpayer's request for tax assessment reduction.

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

1. The Special Tax Attorney is hereby authorized to execute the Stipulation of Settlement, a copy of which is annexed hereto, relative to the tax appeals captioned Highland Investment Group, Inc. vs. Borough of Highland Park, Tax Court of New Jersey, Docket Nos. 010208-2016, 010687-2018 and 009403-2019, which settlement results in the 2016 Tax Court Complaint being withdrawn, the 2018 total tax assessment being reduced to \$270,000 for the Property, and the 2019 total tax assessment being reduced to \$250,000 for the Property, at the allocation between land and improvements, as more fully set forth in the annexed Stipulation of Settlement; and which provides that the tax assessor shall set the 2020 total tax assessment on-the-books at \$220,000; and which provides that as long as the 2020 total tax assessment is set at \$220,000, neither party will file a tax appeal for Tax Year 2020; and which further provides that the Taxpayer waives the payment of interest provided that any refunds are paid within 60 days of the entry of the Tax Court Judgment and made payable to "Michael A. Vespasiano, Attorney Trust Account."
2. The settlement outlined above shall be without prejudice to the Borough's dealings with any Borough's taxpayers' request for tax assessment reductions.

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

No. 2-20-80

WHEREAS, on December 24, 2019 there were two water main breaks on Valentine St and on So. Fifth Ave, respectively; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2020 there were two water main breaks on No. Fifth Ave and Exeter St, respectively; and

WHEREAS, emergency repairs were necessary to permit the continuance of water service by the Highland Park Water Department to avoid danger of life and/or property; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 allows a contracting unit to award contracts without public advertising for bids for the immediate delivery of services under emergency conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Licensed Operator for the Water and Sewer Utility required that said repairs be performed as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, J. Fletcher Creamer & Son Inc. was the contractor that was able to mobilize most quickly and has experience with water and sewer repairs in the Borough of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified as to the availability of funds for the services provided on Valentine St and So. Fifth Ave in Account No. 9-05-55-500-423 in an amount not to exceed \$14,160.08; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified as to the availability of funds for the services provided on No. Fifth Ave and Exeter St in Account No. 0-05-55-500-423 in an amount not to exceed \$19,239.82.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that an award for emergency water main repairs in an amount not to exceed \$33,399.90 be made to J. Fletcher Creamer & Son Inc., 101 East Broadway, Hackensack, NJ 07601 as indicated on the attached.

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

No. 2-20-81

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Department of Public Works had a need to make emergency repairs to water mains at North 5th Avenue and Raritan Avenue, as more fully described on the attached quotation; and

WHEREAS, J. Fletcher Creamer and Son, Inc. was called out to make said emergency repairs; and

WHEREAS, emergency repairs were necessary to permit the continuance of water service by the Highland Park Water Department to avoid danger of life and/or property; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 allows a contracting unit to award contracts without public advertising for bids for the immediate delivery of services under emergency conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works has confirmed that said repairs were completed by J. Fletcher Creamer and Son, Inc. and payment is due to them for said repairs for a total amount not to exceed \$15,082.53; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the amount of \$15,082.53 in Account No. 9-05-55-500-423, as reflected by the certification of funds by Chief Financial Officer, shown below:

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 issue payment in the amount of \$15,082.53 to J. Fletcher Creamer and Son, Inc, 101 East Broadway, Hackensack, NJ 07601, for services in connection with said water main repairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Superintendent of Public Works Michael Wieczorkiewicz and the Chief Financial Officer.

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

No. 2-20-82

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, on behalf of the Borough, the 2019 CDBG subgrant agreement with Middlesex County in the amount of \$76,004.00, a copy of which is attached to the original of this resolution.

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

No. 2-20-83

WHEREAS, the Borough is committed to electrifying its fleet to reduce carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has funds available to spend on a new 2020 Nissan Leaf through the Middlesex County Improvement Authority's 2019 Pooled Capital Equipment and Improvement Financing Program; and

WHEREAS, Hudson Motors Partnership is on state contract #T0099 for the 2020 Nissan Leaf;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized to purchase a new Nissan Leaf for \$28,768.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and the Department of Code Enforcement forthwith.

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

No. 2-20-84

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, that the following petty cash funds be rescinded:

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>CUSTODIAN</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Recreation	Karenga Arifu	\$100.00
Finance	J. Agosto	\$400.00
Police	R. Haskins	\$250.00
Aging	Marilyn White	\$200.00
Public Assistance	M. Hehir	\$100.00
Fire	V. Bradley	\$ 50.00
Public Works	L. Young	\$200.00
Water/Sewer	J. Davino	\$100.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park authorizes such action and that two copies of this resolution be filed with the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

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

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

No. 2-20-85

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-2 authorizes the establishment of a Petty Cash Fund in a municipality by application and resolution, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, to establish such a fund for Administration in the amount of \$500.00 when such application is approved, and

WHEREAS, the custodian for this fund is Josephine T. Jover, who is bonded for the amount of \$25,000.00 and such custodian shall maintain records for this fund in a manner conducive to proper accounting and auditing procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park authorizes such action upon approval by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services and that two copies of this resolution be filed with the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approval.

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

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

No. 2-20-86

WHEREAS, Keystone Purchasing Network maintains National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement Contracts, which are competitively awarded national leverage cooperative purchasing contracts, through which members can make purchases; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park, by joining Keystone Purchasing Network at no cost, can participate in the available National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement Contracts to competitively source purchases; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey passed Public Law 2011, Chapter 139, that allows local contracting units to utilize national cooperative contracts as an acceptable procurement method, explained in detail in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, and Local Finance Notice No. LFN 2012-10, dated May 14, 2012; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that it authorizes the Borough Administrator to executive the membership agreement with the Keystone Purchasing Network for the purposes of purchasing from their cooperative contracts.

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

No. 2-20-87

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park was awarded a Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant to support tree plantings in the floodplain of the Raritan River in the Meadows area; and

WHEREAS, the grant award was in the amount of \$2,335.00 and must be fully expended by July 1, 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Administrator and the Environmental Commission are authorized to implement the project.

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

No. 2-20-88

WHEREAS, Car Guys Auto Repair, LLC, Guaranteed Motor Towing Service, Inc., George Logan Towing, Inc., and Rich's Towing Service, Inc., have filed with the Clerk of this Borough for a Wrecker/Towing License to operate heavy duty wreckers in this Borough under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such license; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has investigated said applicants and has reported favorably upon said applications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Council hereby determines that said applicants are qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of such Licenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue Heavy Duty Wrecker/Towing Licenses to the aforesaid applicants.

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

No. 2-20-89

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 maintenance contract for their portable radios, as more fully described on the attached quote; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 83932, the Borough may purchase said maintenance contract from Tactical Public Safety, 1036 Industrial Way, West Berlin, NJ 08091, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 0-01-25-240-235 in the amount of \$13,215.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Finance Director.

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 execute said maintenance contract for the portable radios from Tactical Public Safety, 1036 Industrial Way, West Berlin, NJ 08091, for a total amount not to exceed \$13,215.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Richard Abrams, Chief of Police and the Finance Director, forthwith.

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

No. 2-20-90

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. 17-FLEET-00721, the Borough may purchase said ammunition 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. 0-01-25-240-255 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 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 ammunition from Eagle Point Gun/T.J. Morris, 1707 Third Street, Thorofare, NJ 08086 at a total cost not to exceed \$15,000.00; and

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

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

No. 2-20-91

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 maintenance contract for their E-Ticketing System; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 83904, the Borough may purchase said maintenance contract from Gold Type Business Machines, 351 Paterson Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 0-01-25-240-235 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 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 execute said maintenance contract with Gold Type Business Machines, 351 Paterson Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073, at a total cost not to exceed \$10,000.00; and

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-20-92

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 Jersey State Police approved alcohol breath-testing system; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 20-TELE-00933, the Borough may purchase said system from Drager Safety Diagnostics, Inc., 1221 S. Belt Line Road, Suite 700, Coppell, TX 75019, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-812-003 in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 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 system from Drager Safety Diagnostics, Inc., 1221 S. Belt Line Road, Suite 700, Coppell, TX 75019, at a total cost not to exceed \$25,000.00; and

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-20-93

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 maintenance contract for their Phone Recording System; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 83896, the Borough may purchase said maintenance contract from Office Business Systems, 350 Passaic Avenue, Suite 206, Fairfield, NJ 07004, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 0-01-25-240-235 in an amount not to exceed \$6,139.00 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 execute said maintenance contract with Office Business Systems, 350 Passaic Avenue, Suite 206, Fairfield, NJ 07004, at a total cost not to exceed \$6,139.00; and

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-20-94

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 Police ballistic vests for new hires and replacement of expired vests; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. A81351, the Borough may purchase said vests from Lawman Supply Company, 7150 Airport Highway, Pennsauken, NJ 08109, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 0-01-25-240-219 in an amount not to exceed \$9,000.00 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 ballistic vests from Lawman Supply Company, 7150 Airport Highway, Pennsauken, NJ 08109, at a total cost not to exceed \$9,000.00; and

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-20-95

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 2/18/2020 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 40.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Lt. Thomas Hammill to serve as the Safety Officer for a term to expire December 31, 2020.

The above appointment was confirmed 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.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: Councilperson Welkovits.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes and the discussion to end at 9:00 PM.

Ruth Bickhardt, 307 Magnolia Street, asked about information for recycling that she could share with her tenants as they don't recycle correctly. Mayor Brill Mittler advised that she would have Public Information Officer Harry Glazer get her the information. Ms. Bickhardt commented about sidewalks around town in disrepair and the fact that it is dark at night without proper illumination. Councilman George noted that the LED lighting would be more efficient and brighter than regular lighting. Lastly, Ms. Bickhardt commented that the traffic lights on Raritan Avenue do not change properly.

Josh Pruzansky, 141 North 10th Avenue, thanked the Mayor and Council for attending their event last week at Congregation Ohav Emeth on anti-Semitism. He thanked the Mayor and Council for the installation of the crosswalk lights on Raritan Avenue and Washington Avenue. Hopefully, this will need to the next improvement in that area with the road diet. He was driving down South Park Avenue and at the corner by 9th Avenue, there was a raccoon outside during the daytime and it went into the abandoned house on the corner. Information should be reported to the Department of Code Enforcement.

Michael Gordon, 207 South 5th Avenue, thanked the Mayor and Council for attending the event last Monday night and hopes they find the event educational and informative. The feedback they got was that people thanked them for bringing the architect and the author of anti-Semitism to the town. He thanked Josh Pruzansky for arranging for the speaker. He looks forward to continuing conversation he had with one of the Council Members on working with different communities in town. He has talked with the Mayor and the Borough Administrator about the assistive listening device and he offered his services.

Juan Ratliffe, 219 South 6th Avenue, commented about cars not stopping at the stop signs and he was almost hit last Friday. Chief Abrams noted that they are doing systematic enforcement throughout town and stopping cars and writing tickets. They have a camera in place in different areas based on complaints and are issuing tickets.

Michael Gordon, 207 South 5th Avenue, thanked the Police Department for having an Officer in the synagogue every Saturday and for having an Officer at the event last Monday.

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

Work Session:

CDBG Grants – Borough Administrator Jover noted that there was a resolution on the agenda to execute the 2019-2020 grant for which they received \$76,004. This is considerably more than the \$58,567 received in the prior year. Emails were sent out to all the Chairpersons of the various committees the grant supports as the County is looking for the submissions for the 2020-2021 funding cycle. The CDBG public hearing will be held next week.

Area in Need of Redevelopment Designation – Borough Administrator Jover provided a status report that there was a hearing at the last Planning Board meeting where the Planner presented the case for an area in need of redevelopment with condemnation for lots on Raritan Avenue, most notably the Gun and Boat property and the vacant lots behind it. There was support from the Planning Board for the designation. The next thing to happen is that it would come back to the Council to make a decision to formally move ahead with that designation. The Redevelopment Attorney would provide information and guidance on that matter. Councilman Hale noted that the Planning Board was very supportive of the designation and they memorialized their findings in a resolution at that same meeting.

433 Cleveland Avenue Redevelopment Plan Update – Borough Administrator Jover noted that the Mayor has taken the lead on negotiations with the proposed developer so that they have the redevelopment agreement at the same track as the ordinance for the plan.

Anti-Semitism Resolution – Mayor Brill Mittler provided copies of the proposed resolution to members of the Governing Body. She thanked Councilman Hale for picking up on this while she was away and thanked the Council Members for their contributions. This resolution was in their packets and it is the resolution she hopes that they will be voting on at the next meeting. Minor changes need to be made to the resolution to reflect that Highland Park is a Borough, not a Township. Councilwoman Kim-Chohan noted that she has not yet met with the Human Relations Commission and she wanted to know if they have already agreed with this version of the resolution. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that Mr. Glazer made a presentation to them at a former meeting. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that she is okay with the resolution, however, she was watching something on television last week and Stockton University did a virtual reality program with Holocaust survivors. This would be a nice addition to the education process. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that Steven Spielberg interviewed Holocaust survivors around the Country and her mother-in-law was one of the people interviewed. The Human Relations Commission is reorganizing and will have a subcommittee on anti-Semitism and they will be charged with the educational component. Borough Attorney Schmierer to revise the resolution and it will be posted on the website prior to the meeting as a draft.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Implementation – Borough Administrator Jover noted that the Planning Board endorsed the plan. One of the key components for implementation was a recommendation by the Planning Board for a Task Force, mostly of internal folks, to focus on road projects, the e-scooter project and signage.

Human Relations Commission Ordinance Amendment – Councilwoman Kim-Chohan noted that they have been going back and forth on emails and this process started before she became the Liaison. The Immigration and Refugee Commission are on board to become a standing committee of the Human Relations Commission. The Equity Commission is still meeting separately and she does not think they will become a standing committee. The Borough Attorney has been working on the ordinance with the information provided by Ashton Burrell.

School Board Elections – Borough Clerk Hullings provided history of school board elections. The last time a school budget was voted on separately was 2011 and the election was always held in April from 2PM to 9PM. They changed the process in 2012 and the election of school board members was done in November during the General Election. Once they moved it to November, it had to stay that way for 4 years. To run an election, it costs approximately \$3,300 to pay all the poll clerks. Budgets were only defeated in 1989 and 2001. Councilman Fine commented about restrictions put in place to move it to November and that were it to revert back, then the School Board would not have the 2% capping. The Council needs to start forming a better relationship with the Board of Education moving forward. If election is moved back to April, residents would have a chance to vote on the school board budget.

Goals

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan – if anti-Semitism resolution is approved at next meeting, one of her goals will be achieved.

Councilman Fine – one of his goals is the splash park and he did have some contact with someone to provide information on what is involved in maintenance of such a park. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she had a conversation with Freeholder Tomaro and he wants Highland Park to be somewhat conservative in what we expect. They talked about their childhoods and how they played around in gated areas and in the center was a big sprinkler. He should work with Andrea to look at a range of possibilities from bare minimum to finding something conservative. Borough Administrator Jover noted that one of the goals was siting the splash park, but the issue is location. This was discussed during meeting about the track and the turf field.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin – huge goals this year. Would like to know when there are road repairs and they will do those streets first. Borough Administrator Jover will provide her with the top 30 intersections for the Safe Waking Commission.

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 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk