

SPECIAL MEETING – MARCH 24, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 6:30 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

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

Absent: Councilperson George.

On motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, the minutes of the Regular and Conference Meetings held on October 29, 2019, were approved, as distributed, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson George.

Abstain: None.

Council Reports - No Reports.

Borough Administrator Jover – No report.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that on behalf of the entire Borough, she thanked the dozen plus members of the Borough's COVID-19 task force who have been working incredibly hard these past two weeks. This group is composed of leaders of all our first responder groups – First Aid, Fire and Police, our Public Schools, the Library, Recreation, Department of Public Works and Code Enforcement, our Health Inspector, myself and the Borough Administrator, and our Communications Staff. The group meets daily, in a 9:00 a.m. conference call, and coordinates the Borough's response to the Coronavirus pandemic that has impacted the world and has gained a foothold in New Jersey. We are very fortunate to have our Emergency Coordinator, Jim Polos, a former County Freeholder and former Highland Park Mayor, at the helm of this group. Jim has attended over 24 hours of training annually to prepare for this role and his leadership demonstrates his skill and sage grasp of the situation. She is very grateful to Jim and all the members of this task force for their service at this time. She is pleased to announce the launch of the Borough's new Civilian Outreach Program Exercise (COPE) to address the needs of residents who are most vulnerable during this state of emergency. The COPE volunteers will draw on the experience and expertise of the existing Highland Park Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to lead and coordinate its staff and additional community volunteers. COPE will also benefit from the CERT team's direct links to Middlesex County officials and County issued best practices with COVID-19. COPE volunteers will offer the following services to residents: daily or regular "well" calls via phone or internet; delivery of food, prescriptions, and other essential items; telephone, texting, or email conversation to promote social interaction; arranging transport to medical appointments if necessary; providing support to anyone who may be quarantined. If you need assistance from COPE, please email the coordinator at [HPCOPES@hporo.com](mailto:HPCOPES@hporo.com) or call 732-819-0052. If you would like to volunteer to provide assistance to COPE participants, please email the OEM Deputy Coordinators at [GPalumbo@hpboro.com](mailto:GPalumbo@hpboro.com) and [JCulver@hpboro.com](mailto:JCulver@hpboro.com) and provide your name and phone number. She reminded everyone of the basic precautions put in place by the Governor, to discourage the spread of the Coronavirus in our communities: there should be no public gatherings of any kind; you should stay home as much as possible, going out to only get food or essential supplies or to exercise; if you do go out, practice social distancing by standing at least six feet apart from anyone else; and make sure to get enough rest, drink fluids, try to relax and wash your hands often. If anyone has questions about COVID-19, they can call the 24-hour public Middlesex County hotline at 800-222-1222. You can also visit the Middlesex County Office of Health's COVID-19 web page at the following link: [www.middlesexcountynj.gov/COVID-19](http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/COVID-19). Also, all borough messages sent out about the COVID-19 situation are available on the following borough website: <https://www.hpboro.com/i-want-to-important>. She gave a special shout out to Rebecca Hersh, the Main Street Highland Park Executive Director. She has been disseminating an incredible amount of information about people being laid off and where business owners can go for aid and other information. Residents should pay attention to Main Street Highland Park's Facebook page, social media posts and emails. Lastly, she ended her remarks by taking a moment to acknowledge the economic pain that is rippling throughout our community. For many, bills are going to be harder to pay, including property taxes and water and sewer expenses. The Borough is waiting for authorization from the State to extend the tax collection period to allow more time for people to pay. Without that authorization and approval from the State, we must follow the usual payment schedule. She has been in touch with the Governor's Office about this issue on a daily basis. It is her understanding that there is a bill under consideration now and they will be ready to respond once it moves forward and signed by the Governor. Stay healthy and together we will beat this.

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

Barbara Vacarelli, 603 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, commented that she is concerned about the President wanting the country open and that they will end up seeing a lot more people out and not practicing social distancing. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that we have to follow what the Governor of New Jersey has put in place. The Police Department was asked to keep an eye on places where people might be gathering such as parks, sports complexes, etc. Ms. Vacarelli noted that she has friends in Europe and on the West Coast and she has warned them. She wished everyone the best and thanked them for this meeting.

No one else asking to speak; the Mayor closed the public discussion.

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, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson George.

**No. 3-20-110**

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 \$11,603,099.00; 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
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS</b>		
<b>BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Salaries & Wages	20-100-1	89,871.00
Other Expenses	20-100-2	11,875.00
<b>MAYOR &amp; COUNCIL</b>		
Salaries & Wages	20-110-1	16,518.00
Other Expenses	20-110-2	5,994.00
<b>MUNICIPAL CLERK</b>		
Salaries & Wages	20-120-1	78,910.00
Other Expenses	20-120-2	13,188.00
<b>FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Salaries & Wages	20-130-1	19,600.00
Other Expenses	20-130-2	67,350.00
<b>ANNUAL AUDIT</b>		
Other Expenses	20-135-2	13,500.00
<b>TAX COLLECTION</b>		
Salaries & Wages	20-145-1	37,806.00
Other Expenses	20-145-2	8,200.00
<b>TAX ASSESSMENT</b>		
Salaries & Wages	20-150-1	27,956.00
Other Expenses	20-150-2	6,875.00
<b>LEGAL SERVICES</b>		
Other Expenses	20-155-2	175,000.00
<b>ENGINEERING &amp; PLANNING</b>		
Other Expenses	20-165-2	10,000.00
<b>COMMUNITY &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>		
Salaries & Wages		3,570.00
Other Expenses	20-170-2	52,500.00
<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>		
Other Expenses	20-140-2	54,750.00
<b>CENTRAL SERVICES</b>		
Other Expenses	20-316-2	42,250.00
<b>LAND USE ADMINISTRATION</b>		
<b>PLANNING BOARD</b>		
Salaries & Wages		3,570.00
Other Expenses	21-180-2	25,075.00
<b>ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT</b>		
Salaries & Wages	21-185-1	10,357.00
Other Expenses	21-185-2	6,075.00
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION</b>		
Other Expenses	21-195-2	525.00
<b>INSURANCE</b>		
<b>GENERAL LIABILITY/WORKERS COMPENSATION</b>		
Other Expenses	23-211-2	206,660.00
<b>EMPLOYEE GROUP HEALTH</b>		
Other Expenses	23-220-2	645,029.00
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY FUNCTIONS</b>		
<b>POLICE</b>		
Salaries & Wages	25-240-1	1,759,173.00
Other Expenses	25-240-2	105,968.00

<b>POLICE DISPATCH/911</b>		
Salaries & Wages	25-250-1	119,361.00
Other Expenses	25-250-2	2,250.00
<b>OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</b>		
Salaries & Wages	25-252-1	10,000.00
Other Expenses	25-252-2	13,250.00
<b>FIRST AID CONTRIBUTION</b>		
Other Expenses	25-260-2	7,500.00
<b>FIRE</b>		
Salaries & Wages	25-265-1	117,325.00
Other Expenses	25-265-2	36,465.00
<b>LOSAP</b>		
Other Expenses	25-265-2	8,250.00
<b>MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR</b>		
Other Expenses	25-275-2	17,500.00
<b>PUBLIC WORKS FUNCTIONS</b>		
<b>STREETS &amp; ROADS</b>		
Salaries & Wages	26-290-1	569,798.00
Other Expenses	26-290-2	60,350.00
<b>APARTMENT COLLECTION</b>		
Other Expenses	26-305-2	112,500.00
<b>PUBLIC BUILDINGS &amp; GROUNDS</b>		
Salaries & Wages	26-310-1	22,496.00
Other Expenses	26-310-2	85,500.00
<b>MOTOR POOL</b>		
Salaries & Wages	26-315-1	38,359.00
Other Expenses	26-315-2	69,500.00
<b>HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES FUNCTIONS</b>		
<b>BOARD OF HEALTH</b>		
Other Expenses	27-330-2	525.00
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION</b>		
Other Expenses	27-335-2	275.00
<b>COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT &amp; REFUGEE AFFAIRS</b>		
Other Expenses	27-336-2	263.00
<b>SAFE WALKING &amp; CYCLING COMMITTEE</b>		
Other Expenses	27-337-2	1,313.00
<b>SUSTAINABLE HIGHLAND PARK</b>		
Other Expenses	27-338-2	1,150.00
<b>HISTORICAL COMMISSION</b>		
Other Expenses	27-339-2	263.00
<b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION FUNCTIONS</b>		
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES - RECREATION</b>		
Salaries & Wages	28-370-1	35,460.00
Other Expenses	28-370-2	8,250.00
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES - AGING</b>		
Salaries & Wages	28-371-1	101,978.00
Other Expenses	28-371-2	14,603.00
<b>ARTS COMMISSION</b>		
Other Expenses	28-374-2	525.00
<b>SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>		
Other Expenses	28-375-2	302.00
<b>TEEN CENTER</b>		
Salaries & Wages	28-373-1	34,959.00
Other Expenses	28-373-2	
<b>CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS</b>		
Other Expenses	30-420-2	5,000.00
<b>UTILITY EXPENSES &amp; BULK PURCHASING</b>		
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>		
Other Expenses	31-430-2	55,000.00
<b>STREET LIGHTING</b>		
Other Expenses	31-435-2	85,000.00
<b>TELEPHONE</b>		
Other Expenses	31-440-2	26,000.00
<b>FUEL OIL/GASOLINE/NATURAL GAS</b>		
Other Expenses	31-460-2	50,000.00
<b>SANITARY LANDFILL</b>		
Other Expenses	32-465-2	159,548.00

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<b>UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE</b>		
Salaries & Wages	22-195-1	171,336.00
Other Expenses	22-195-2	6,675.00
<b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>		
<b>CABLE TELEVISION</b>		
Other Expenses	30-411-2	5,000.00
<b>ACCUMULATED SICK LEAVE</b>		
Salaries & Wages	30-415-1	40,000.00
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
Salaries & Wages	20-105-1	52,833.00
Other Expenses	20-105-2	11,591.00
<b>MUNICIPAL COURT FUNCTIONS</b>		
<b>MUNICIPAL COURT</b>		
Salaries & Wages	43-490-1	90,012.00
Other Expenses	43-490-2	6,325.00
<b>PUBLIC DEFENDER</b>		
Other Expenses	43-495-2	3,000.00
<b>LIBRARY</b>		
Salaries & Wages	29-390-1	328,256.00
Other Expenses	29-390-2	176,143.00
<b>INTERLOCAL MUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS</b>		
<b>COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES</b>		
Other Expenses	42-401-2	22,664.00
<b>M.C.I.A. RECYCLING</b>		
Other Expenses	42-402-2	5,384.00
<b>ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES</b>		
Other Expenses	27-340-2	7,800.00
<b>PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS</b>		
NJDEP Radon Awareness	41-724-2	
Art & History Grant		3,750.00
Township Match		938.00
Rivers Reforestation Grant		2,335.00
<b>STATUTORY EXPENDITURES</b>		
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM</b>		
Other Expenses	36-472-2	164,630.00
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION INSURANCE</b>		
Other Expenses	23-225	15,000.00
<b>PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM</b>		
Other Expenses	36-471-2	489,601.00
<b>POLICE AND FIREMAN'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM</b>		
Other Expenses	36-475-2	837,812.00
<b>DCRP</b>		
Other Expenses	36-476-2	5,775.00
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>7,815,823.00</b>
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>		
<b>BOND PRINCIPAL</b>		
Other Expenses	45-920-2	625,000.00
<b>INTEREST ON BONDS</b>		
Other Expenses	45-930-2	242,369.00
<b>M.C.I.A. LEASE/LOAN</b>		
Other Expenses	45-950-2	291,704.00
<b>DBIZ LOAN</b>		
Other Expenses	45-925-2	-
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,159,073.00</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>8,974,896.00</b>

**2020 TEMPORARY WATER AND SEWER BUDGET**

DESCRIPTION	2020 TEMP
<b>OPERATING</b>	
Salaries & Wages	120,444.00
Other Expenses	1,239,409.00
Middlesex County Utilities Authority	740,900.00
<b>STATUTORY EXPENDITURES</b>	

Public Employee Retirement System		-
Social Security System		-
<b>DEFERRED CHARGES</b>		
Over expenditure Budget Appropriation		-
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>2,100,753.00</b>
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>		
Payment of Bond Principal		460,000.00
Interest on Bonds		67,450.00
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>527,450.00</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2,628,203.00</b>

2. Said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2020 budget under the various captions listed herein.
3. 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, 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 Councilwoman Welkovits, the ordinance entitled as above, was continued to the April 7, 2020 meeting. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.  
 Opposed: None.  
 Absent: Councilperson George.

Resolution Nos. 3-20-112 through 3-20-123, were 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, Hale, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.  
 Opposed: None.  
 Absent: Councilperson George.  
 Abstained: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 3-20-112

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Finance Director be and is hereby authorized to remit the amount as indicated, the same being the amount of overpayment of taxes, including accrued interest, if applicable, for the year 2019 based on successful tax appeal to the Middlesex County Board of Taxation in 2019; and

<u>BLOCK LOTS</u>	<u>CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO</u>	<u>REFUND</u>
99 2	Benjamin & Jessica Schellack	\$1,110.78
	Interest Accrued	\$ 21.14
	TOTAL	\$1,131.92

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Finance Director and Tax Collector forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 3-20-113

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2017, New Jersey voters approved the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act (the "Bond Act") which authorizes the issuance of \$125 million in State General Obligation Bonds ("Bonds") to provide grants for the construction, reconstruction, development, extension, improvement and furnishing of public libraries in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Bond Act is to improve New Jersey's public library facilities in order to ensure the well-being and success of New Jersey residents and for public libraries to best serve the residents of their communities now and into the future, modern, efficient, and technologically-current buildings with flexible space are necessary; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2020, the first solicitation for grant applications was issued with \$87.5 million in available funding and grant applications will be accepted on or after March 9, 2020 up until April 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Bond Act requires that proceeds from the Bonds can fund no more than fifty percent (50%) of the costs of the Project and the remaining fifty percent (50%) shall be supported by the appropriate local governing entity in the area served by the public library; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has determined that the Highland Park Public Library is in need of renovations to continue to serve the community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park have determined that it is in the best interest of its residents and the community to prepare and submit a grant application in the amount of \$944,929.00 in accordance with the Bond Act to fund a portion of the costs of renovations of the Highland Park Public Library on a matching basis; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park have also determined that in the event that the Borough of Highland Park and the Highland Park Public Library are awarded the Grant, the Borough and Library shall take the necessary action to authorize sufficient matching funds for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park desire to authorize the preparation and submission of application for a grant for the project entitled New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act.

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

- 1) The preparation and submission of a grant application in the amount of \$944,929.00 to the State of New Jersey pursuant to the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act on behalf of the Borough of Highland Park is hereby authorized.
- 2) The Mayor, Borough Administrator and/or Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the grant application, and any other supporting documents, including but not limited to Exhibits B (Resolution II) and C (Certification Statements) of the grant application.
- 3) The Mayor, Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk and other Borough Officials and its employees and contractors are hereby authorized to take all action necessary for the completion and submission of the grant application and to effectuate this Resolution.
- 4) In the event that the Borough of Highland Park and the Highland Park Public Library receive the grant for the renovation of the Highland Park Public Library, the Borough and Library shall take the necessary action to authorize sufficient matching funds for the completion of the project.
- 5) This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The following resolution, introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 3-20-114

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:8-1 et seq. authorizes municipal local units to enter into contracts with one another for the purpose of providing shared services; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is desirous of procuring Animal Control Shelter Services for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021 inclusive, to comply with the laws of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Edison is desirous of supplying and undertaking the duties of Animal Control Shelter Services and fulfilling the obligations thereof as prescribed by law; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park represents that the funds to meet the costs of this contract are included in the current budget of appropriations, or in the alternative, that there has been and there will continue to be an Ordinance authorizing the appropriation sufficient to meet the costs of carrying out the provisions of the contract.

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 Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the attached shared service agreement with the Township of Highland Park for the purpose of providing Animal Control Services to said Borough.
2. The Borough Clerk is directed to forward and execute shared service agreement to the Edison Township Clerk, at 100 Municipal Boulevard, Edison, New Jersey 08817, with the instructions to return a fully signed copy of the Borough for its records.

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

No. 3-20-115

WHEREAS, Dependable Motor Car Company has 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 application;

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 License.

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 applicant.

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

No. 3-20-116

WHEREAS, Transfiguration of the Lord, Inc. has made application to the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park for a license to hold, operate and conduct an On-Premise 50/50 for Cash Raffle in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law (NSJA 5:8-50 to 76), on June 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has made or caused to be made an investigation of the qualifications of said applicant and the merits of said application and have determined that said applicant is qualified to hold, operate and conduct Raffles in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law and the findings set forth in the attached Form 5A of the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue a license to the Transfiguration of the Lord, Inc., for the holding, operation and conduct of a raffle on the above date upon payment of a legal fee therefor, subject to the provisions of the Raffles Licensing Law and the rules, regulations and amendments thereto promulgated by said Control Commission.

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

No. 3-20-117

WHEREAS, 47 Raritan, LLC owns real property identified as Block 173, Lot 54 in the Borough of Highland Park, commonly known as 47 Raritan Avenue (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Borough Tax Assessor reviewed the property tax assessment for the Property and has determined that it is not accurate; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, the Borough Council finds it to be in the best interest of the Borough to authorize the Borough Tax Attorney to file an appeal of the 2020 property tax assessment of the Property to seek an increased assessment to reflect the true value of the Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, in the County of Middlesex, and the State of New Jersey that the Borough Tax Attorney, Sandra Belli, Esq., of DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum, P.C., is hereby authorized

to file a tax appeal of the 2020 property tax assessment of the Property for an increased assessment to reflect the true value of the Property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect pursuant to law.

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

No. 3-20-118

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2020 the Council (the "Borough Council") of the Borough of Highland Park, New Jersey (the "Borough") adopted Resolution R-10-19-311 authorizing the use of the competitive contracting provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 et seq. ("LPCL") to seek proposals for an operation and management contract for the Borough's water and sewer systems (the "Systems"); and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2020 the Borough issued a Request for Proposals ("RFP") through the competitive contracting process of the LPCL, to solicit proposals from qualified and experienced firms or entities to enter into an operating and management agreement (the "Contract") with the Borough for a ten (10) year term for the provision of the operation and management services associated with Systems, as more particularly described in the RFP (the "Services"). The Borough advertised the issuance of the RFP; the Borough issued three (3) addenda to the RFP which were emailed to all recipients of the RFP; and

WHEREAS, the Borough formed an evaluation committee (the "Committee") to review and evaluate the proposals submitted in response to the RFP (the "Proposals") in accordance with the criteria set forth in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, the RFP includes provisions for the Borough Council to i) reject all Proposals or ii) to reject incomplete or non-responsive Proposals; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2020 the Borough received Proposals from Suez Water Environmental Services, Inc. ("Suez") and Utility Service Affiliates, Inc. (a Middlesex Water Company Affiliate) ("USA") in response to the RFP; and

WHEREAS, the proposals were reviewed by the Committee and McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, Special Counsel to the Borough, (the "Special Counsel") for compliance with the RFP; and

WHEREAS, after extensive review of the Proposals, the Committee concluded that the Proposals were not economically feasible; and

WHEREAS, the competitive contracting provisions of the LPCL do not provide for negotiation of a proposal once submitted; and

WHEREAS, the Committee recommends rejecting all of the Proposals and the immediate re-issuance of the RFP with revisions to the Contract regarding the financing by the Borough of a portion of the Services; and

WHEREAS, in light of the Committee's findings and recommendations as to the cost proposal included in the Proposals, the Borough desires to reject the Proposals submitted by Suez and USA; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to re-solicit Proposals for the Services as authorized under and in accordance with the competitive contracting provisions of the LPCL.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, as follows:

1. The above referenced Recitals are incorporated by reference as if set forth at length.
2. The Proposals submitted by Suez and USA are hereby rejected and the RFP is to be re-advertised in accordance with the LPCL.
3. The Borough is hereby authorized to re-issue the RFP for the Services, in such form as Special Counsel may approve, to comply with all requirements of the competitive contracting provisions of the LPCL.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

No. 3-20-119

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 7, 2020 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:

MARY ANN AUTUNNALE, Tax Clerk Typist, at annual salary of \$37,970.00 effective March 23, 2020.

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 Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 3-20-120

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Highland Park of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to sign the contract agreement with Garden State Fireworks for the Fireworks Display to be held on Thursday, July 2, 2020 with a rain date of Sunday, July 5, 2020.

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

No. 3-20-121

WHEREAS, Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. applied for grant funding to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for site investigation and remedial investigation of the property at Classic Cleaners, 125 Raritan Avenue, Block 173, Lots 43, 46, and 49 on behalf of the Borough of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has reviewed the Borough's application and determined that the proposal to conduct supplemental Site Investigation is technically eligible for funding under the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF); AND

WHEREAS, the DEP has approved costs from the HDSRF in the amount of \$20,036.58, which does not include the Authority application fee of \$500.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the grant for the above mentioned project be accepted;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor and the Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Borough of Highland Park and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

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

No. 3-20-122

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Planner to provide redevelopment planning services in connection with advancing redevelopment in the downtown area; and

WHEREAS, the Borough seeks assistance with testing design options for structured parking and identifying the development densities necessary to support it; 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, LRK, Inc., is a firm of licensed planners 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 for this purpose will be available in a Capital Fund Account No. C-04-55-814-001 in an amount not to exceed \$16,250.00, as reflected by the Certification of Funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below; and

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 LRK, Inc., Public Ledger Building, Suite 756, 150 S. Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106, 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. 3-20-123

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 3/24/2020 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 40.

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.

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

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, seconded by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings  
Borough Clerk