

REGULAR MEETING – MAY 19, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:03 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.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, the minutes of the Regular/Work Session Meeting held January 21, 2020, were approved, as distributed, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Welkovits.

Abstain: Councilperson Fine.

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

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reported that Zone 6 Teen Center will be graduating 16 students. They will do a virtual graduation for all of the students. They have been having virtual meetings. OEM meetings at 9:00 a.m. every morning. Jim Polos has been a wonderful resource. The buildings are cleaned every day by the Department of Public works and they have the proper equipment and cleaning supplies. They get daily and weekly updates are doing the best to keep the town safe. The Food Pantry has been getting many clients. She has been picking up stuff for people in town. The Police Department has helped in securing areas so that the food can be distributed. The First Aid Squad, last week, was offered an ambulance by FEMA, but they did not take it as RWJ is in pre-COVID state. The Municipal Court had virtual sessions last week. Memorial Day events will not take place at the monuments, but they will do virtual remembrances with readings from Council Members. She spoke with Bob Porter of the Veteran's Alliance and they will be laying wreaths, but not throwing them into the Raritan River.

Councilman Hale reported that the Farmer's Market was held the last couple of weeks with drive by pickup. He thanked the Police Chief for helping plan and organize the market. There were 7 vendors and they are looking to expand on this as the health situation warrants. They are looking at a number of different initiatives and talking to business owners as restrictions on who can be open are lifted. They are looking at different options such as changes in parking, open areas as we move forward in lessening the restrictions. He encouraged residents to increase their shopping downtown and order from the restaurants. He learned today about CDBG funds from the county for small businesses in the form of grants.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported In April, our amazing community donated over 2,300 pounds of food to the Highland Park community food pantry. She thanked the residents for helping us support our neighbors! However, the need remains. You can find the most needed items on our amazon wish list: www.tinyurl.com/s7pxpzn. The Board of Health held their monthly meeting on May 14th via zoom. They had a lot of input for many of our departments. The chair of the Board of Health has now been invited to attend the mayor's Covid-19 Task Force phone conferences every weekday morning at 9AM. Since the start of the pandemic, we have observed a large number of used masks and plastic gloves that have been discarded in yards, on sidewalks, and in our streets and parks. The Board of Health recommends training of public works employees and appropriate personal protective equipment to these employees to reduce the risks presented by this hazardous work. In addition, members of the public should not take it upon themselves to clean up waste other than their own. The Board of Health recommends and urges the immediate closing of several streets in each of the neighborhoods of the borough to through traffic. Closures are essential for increasing the amount of outdoor space available for safe enjoyment. Other communities across the country have successfully taken this approach. (I know we will be discussing this later on the agenda as well). The Board of Health continues to work to make additional recommendations following their meeting in June. The Housing Authority received \$32,312.00 from the Cares Act to spend on Covid needs. She thanked Pastor Seth Kaper Dale, Reformed church member Tim McGraw, and the HP Chinese Association for their mask donations to the HP Housing Authority. If income goes down or jobs lost, their rent will be adjusted. Veterans can get up to extra 9 points homeless and disabled (NJ law). The Human Relations Commission will be meeting tomorrow, May 20th at 7pm via zoom. May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. While many Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent will use this time to celebrate their racial and ethnic identities, we should also use this time to organize against the violence that has plagued us for centuries. I know many who lived in fear of being discriminated against, physically harmed or even killed because of their race. For many Asians and Asian Americans living across the country during the pandemic, those fears have become a reality. The coronavirus pandemic and the anti-Asian racism it brought out in Americans is just the latest in a centuries-long history of struggle and oppression for Asian people. We should not only celebrate our Asian heritage, but weaponize it in the fight against white supremacy. This means we must extinguish the racist violence committed by our oppressors by any means necessary, whether these oppressors live in our neighborhoods or live in the White House. Please report bias crimes at NJbias@njdcj.org or call 800-277-2427. This Thursday the Health & Human relations committee will be discussing a resolution condemning anti-Asian racism prompted by covid-19. Last, but not least, on this social distancing Memorial Day, May God bless our fallen and their families and keep their stories alive about how they embodied the best of America. If you are heading to the shore, remember to obey local social distancing laws. I could not convince my husband, so enjoy some extra vitamin D for me. Stay Safe.

Councilman Fine noted that he would be reporting on the work of the Highland Park Arts Commission, the Municipal Alliance and the Borough's plans for camp this summer. The Highland Park Arts Commission is working with artist's in-town and in nearby communities to contribute original works that will continue to be featured in Highland Park's Virtual Art Gallery, which may be viewed on the hpboro.com website. The first two installations of the Virtual Gallery titled Albany Street Bridge Project and HP Artist Collective & Friends were prepared for the web with the help of the Borough Communications Director. Next up will be Mason Resnick and Jennifer Goff Photography of downtown HP/Arts in the Park before and after shelter in place. After those installations, the Virtual Gallery will feature selections from Amalya Sherman, art benches, a Jess Wu mural, some National Night Out Chalk Art & Windows of Understanding favorites. Additional exhibits will be added to the gallery every 10-14 days. If you are an artist interested in displaying your work, please contact the Vice Chair of the Highland Park Arts Commission at johnjmarron@gmail.com. The Borough's Municipal Alliance Coordinator, Kim McGraw, has informed me that in regard to the Municipal Alliance, all funding from the State was suspended as of March 23, 2020. Fortunately, the Borough was able to submit all programming costs from School Prevention and the Community Afterschool Programs prior to March 23, 2020 for reimbursement. The Borough's Recreation and Arts Coordinator Andrea Costas has informed me that in regard to Highland Park summer camps, the Borough has been planning a variety of scenarios depending upon when camps are allowed to resume by the State, including the possibilities of on-site a combination of on-site and remote, and virtual. The Borough's Recreation and Arts Department recently sent out a survey to past participants, which asked many questions regarding what people would feel comfortable participating in. For now, everything is on hold until the Governor makes a decision. The Borough's Recreation and Arts Department has been in contact with Recreation Departments throughout the State through the New Jersey Parks and Recreation Association. They are all in the same holding pattern.

Councilman George reported that the Library Board met last night, May 18, 2020. Kate Jagers presented a draft plan for reopening when the restrictions are lifted in stages. The Board made several recommendations and our Librarian will be revising accordingly. Opening in stages or otherwise is based on what the Governor does with relaxing the Executive Orders, so that we will have to wait for the "brick and mortar" opening, but there are a number of online activities and links on the Library's website. The Public Works Department continues their work as the staff tries to catch up with maintenance tasks as spring moves into full bloom. The Department of Public Works Superintendent advised me that there is a noticeable up-tick in both trash and recycling volume, due to the "stay home, stay safe" measures in place. They met this afternoon to come up with a plan to implement several of the plans for safe walking and cycling which were reported out by the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee with expert help from the State's experts under a grant of professional services from the Department of Transportation. This will be discussed more during the work session. The Borough has finished the evaluation of the Water and Sewer management process and Middlesex Water Company had the most competitive bid for the work. This also includes the preparation and updating of the mandatory Water Quality Assessment Act, which is required by the DEP because of State statutes. However, it will include two full time staffers to work on our systems including the serious problem of aging lines and infiltration of water into our sewer system, resulting in a higher treatment cost. The Environmental Commission has commenced its meetings by virtual media. Biggest news is that the Borough has been awarded the grant, which has been pending for installation of a dual charging station for electric vehicles. This comes at a great time, as the borough should take delivery of two electric vehicles for use by inspector staff in town. It will be installed at the Community Center adjacent to the generator and be available to the public for a cost. Sustainable Highland Park bids a grateful thank you to Tina Weishaus, who is stepping down as Chairperson. As the Borough Administrator knows, since she was Chairperson before Tina, Sustainable Highland Park put in great efforts to win Silver Certification, move our ordinances in to a sustainable worldview, and put forth ideas. He worked with Tina to draft the plastic bag ban and the implementation of it, and he personally thanked her for her service and spirited discussions of sustainability and other issues. Hagit Mano and Irene Chan-Marx will be Co-Chairs. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee's tree replanting for 2020 is moving forward and we are considering the revisions and modernization of the tree replacement ordinance tonight for which STAC worked so hard. He thanked them for their work, much of which involved detailed assessments. The Meadows Trail and Native Plan Sanctuary are reopened and the volunteer crews are trying to catch up on spring growth so that the trails are cleared and planting can begin.

Borough Administrator Jover reported that the grace period for 2nd quarter taxes is June 1, 2020.

Borough Attorney Schmierer - No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that the number of new COVID-19 confirmed cases has largely leveled off in the past week. This is definitely encouraging, but we must not get complacent. The best advice we are receiving from the Governor, and from health care leaders, is to "stay the course" and not ease up on the measures we have taken to slow the spread of COVID-19. The stay-at-home order is still in effect and social distancing (six feet or more) is still advised. If you go out and may encounter others, she strongly urged you wear a facemask, not only for your own protection, but also for the safety of your neighbors. If we continue to exercise precaution, we will get through this frightening episode sooner and with less loss. She thanked everyone for doing his or her part. The current conditions we all face occupy much of our attention these days. That is understandable. Yet, as responsible citizens, we must also continue our work on serious social dangers. One vital cause we raise each year at this time is the fight against gun violence. In fact, the Council will be voting on a resolution tonight as we commemorate Gun Violence Awareness Month. What can we do this year, when we cannot assemble and wear orange together, to show our commitment to this cause? Merely, print out a "Say #ENOUGH to Gun Violence" sign, and post it in your front window or on your door. On Tuesday, June 2nd, we will take photos of all the signs and post them on our Facebook and Instagram pages. We will forward a link at that time so that folks can follow along at #HPWEARSORANGE. In addition, we will be publicizing the WEAR ORANGE day and Highland Park's participation in this event. As part of our Earth Day 2020 celebration, Sustainable Highland Park is launching a community-wide gardening initiative called Everyone's Farm. Everyone's Farm will provide a

virtual hub in which to gather, share, and engage in ongoing learning and discussion about growing our own food, providing each other with knowledge, skills and support as we learn how to garden anywhere. You can grow food everywhere, in containers on a balcony or next to a sunny window. There is no such thing as a “green thumb” and anyone and everyone can do this. Join us as we kick-off our Zoom gatherings on Sunday, May 28th at 2PM. Each Highland Park registered voter, whether Democrat or Republican, should have received a Vote by Mail application. New Jersey will hold its primary election in early July. Given the COVID-19 restrictions, only one physical voting location will be open to the public in Highland Park. To ensure that everyone has an equal chance to vote in the July primary, she strongly urged all residents to complete their Vote by mail registrations and mail them back in as soon possible.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves. The total time for this session is 21 minutes; three minutes maximum per speaker. Comments are limited to items on the agenda. If you want to speak on an item that is not listed, there will be an opportunity to do so later in the meeting.

Jeff Perlman, 116 North 3rd Avenue, thanked the Mayor and Council, the Borough Administrator and the Police Chief for working through the shared streets concepts so that residents and children can have space to walk and bike outdoors. He offered his assistance in communicating the information to the public. Over the weekend, he spoke to a Councilman in Metuchen about some of the ways that main street can support their businesses. He shared the conversation with Rebecca Hersh. Using some of the parking spaces for curbside pickup, with a 10-minute limit is one of the ideas he shared. They plan to close New Street between Main Street and Pearl Street for outdoor dining. Mayor Brill Mittler thanked Councilman Hale and Borough Administrator Jover for inviting all of the downtown merchants to a zoom meeting to discuss ideas and programs for the downtown.

Jeff Vardaro, Wayne Street, commented that a rough draft of the map should be reviewed and once approved, it should be sent out to the residents. Thinks it is a great idea, especially if people are not aware of it. Councilman George noted that there will be public outreach before they start marking and putting out signs.

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, 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. 5-20-158

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 \$11,685,211.00; 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:

2020 TEMPORARY OPERATING BUDGET

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	46,462.00
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	20,000.00
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	95,500.00
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	525.00
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	1,150.00
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	-
CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS		
Other Expenses	30-420-2	5,000.00
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 LANFILL		
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
CORONAVIRUS MITIGATION		
Salaries & Wages		5,000.00
Other Expenses		25,000.00
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	6,000.00
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
Middlesex County Census Grant		2,000.00
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	7,897,935.00
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	9,057,008.00

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	
Overexpenditure 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

- 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 that an ordinance entitled, **BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS WATER AND SEWER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$3,320,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WATER/SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,320,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF AND REPLACING/REPEALING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBERS 19-1988 AND 19-1989,** had been introduced in writing by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman George, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Welkovits.

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

No. 5-20-159

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, **BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS WATER AND SEWER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$3,320,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WATER/SEWER UTILITY OF THE BOROUGH, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,320,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF AND REPLACING/REPEALING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBERS 19-1988 AND 19-1989**, 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, June 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, forthwith and that the Joan Hullings 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. 5-20-160 through 5-20-167 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, 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. 5-20-160

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park desires to become more resilient, particularly with respect to critical facilities, as a result of Superstorm Sandy; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park previously participated in the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)'s Town Center Distributed Energy Resources (TCDER) Microgrid Feasibility Study Program; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's Feasibility Study was one of 12 found to meet Feasibility Study program requirements; and

WHEREAS, the NJBPU's Phase II TCDER Microgrid Design Incentive Program provides funding for a design of a TCDER Microgrid which will aid the Borough in moving its project towards the development and construction phases; and

NOW, THEREFORE, 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 make an application to the NJBPU for the Phase II TCDER Microgrid Design Incentive Program.

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

No. 5-20-161

WHEREAS, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has 465 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 5.3 deaths per 100,000 people. New Jersey has the 46th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, gun homicides predominantly occur in cities, with more than half of all firearm related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities; and

WHEREAS, cities across the nation, including Highland Park, New Jersey, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is mayors' highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; and

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic facing America has drastically impacted communities and individuals sheltering in place which may result in situations where access to firearms results in increased risk in intimate partner violence gun deaths, suicide by gun and unintentional shootings;

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in the presidential inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 23rd birthday; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya – and the more than 100 Americans whose lives are cut short every day and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 5, 2020, the first Friday in June, as the 6th National Gun Violence Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 5th, the first Friday in June in 2020, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 5, 2020 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler of the Borough of Highland Park, declares the first Friday in June, June 5, 2020, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 5-20-162

WHEREAS, in light of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, the Division of Local Government Services in Local Finance Notice No. 2020-07 has strongly recommended that municipalities prepare to issue estimated real property tax bills for the third quarter of 2020, and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Highland Park Borough Tax Collector will not be in receipt of a certified tax rate in enough time to be able to complete the mailing and delivery of real property tax bills by June 14, 2020 as is required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Borough Tax Collector and the Highland Park Borough Chief Financial Officer have requested that the Council provide them with the authorization to issue estimated 3rd quarter real property tax bills, which would allow the Tax Collector to complete the mailing and delivery of real property tax bills by June 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Borough Tax Collector, in consultation with the Highland Park Borough Chief Financial Officer, has computed an estimated tax levy in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3 and they have both signed a certification showing the tax levy for the previous year, and the range of permitted estimated tax levies; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter 72, P.L. 1994, the Tax Collector requests the Council approve the estimated tax levy of \$49,031,479.23 at a tax rate of \$8.4105; and

WHEREAS, the above levy and rate have been calculated on a worksheet that is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference; and

WHEREAS, the above levy amount falls between the mandated estimated range required by N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3(a)(1) and approval will enable the Borough to meet its financial obligations; maintain the tax collection rate; provide uniformity for tax payments; and save the unnecessary cost of interest expenses on borrowing.

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

1. The Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and timely issue estimated tax bills for the Borough of Highland Park for the third quarter installment of 2020 taxes.
2. The entire estimated tax levy for 2020 is hereby set at \$49,031,479.23. The estimated tax rate for 2020 is hereby set at \$8.4105.
3. In accordance with applicable law, the third quarter installment of 2020 taxes (whether estimated or not) shall not be subject to interest until the later of August 10 or the twenty-fifth calendar day after the date the estimated bills were mailed. The estimated tax bills shall contain a notice specifying the date on which interest may begin to accrue.
4. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Highland Park for their records.
5. The Tax Collector and the Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.
6. This resolution shall take effect as herein provided.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 5-20-163

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park will experience a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer and Qualified Purchasing Agent on or about June 21, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is interested in hiring a Director of Finance; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has conducted a thorough search for qualified personnel to fill the positions; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has identified Lori Majeski, C.M.F.O. #N-0149 and QPA Certificate #Q-1063, as an excellent candidate for appointment to the open positions; and

WHEREAS, Lori Majeski meets all statutory requirements for appointment to these positions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park in the County of Middlesex that

1. Lori Majeski is hereby appointed to the position of Chief Financial Officer, effective June 22, 2020 and ending December 31, 2022 per NJSA 40A:9-140.10, for an annual salary of \$50,000.
2. Lori Majeski is hereby appointed as the Director of Finance, effective June 22, 2020, for an annual salary of \$65,000.
3. Lori Majeski is hereby appointed as the Qualified Purchasing Agent, effective June 22, 2020, to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2.30.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 5-20-164

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:

JOSE CURBELO, Captain of Police, at annual salary of \$153,929.00 effective April 17, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 5-20-165

WHEREAS, JAMES COLEMAN, Public Works Department Driver, has retired from the Borough of Highland Park effective May 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, per the requirements of the Agreement between Borough of Highland Park and the DPWA Union Contract, James Coleman is entitled to unused accrued time payments in the amount as calculated below.

2020 Accrual Balance	Hours	Per Hour	Total
SICK	422.67	34.52	\$5,000.00
VACATION	91.00	34.52	\$3,141.32
TOTAL			\$8,141.32

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the unused accrued time payment in an amount not to exceed \$8,141.32 be approved and distributed in the next available pay cycle.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 5-20-166

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park desires to apply for and obtain a First Responder Outreach Grant for their Emergency Services Departments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and/or Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to execute the grant application for the First Responder Outreach Grant on behalf of the Borough.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee and Finance Director forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 5-20-167

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 05/19/2020 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 40.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was 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.

No. 5-20-168

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park, Middlesex County, New Jersey (the "Borough"), a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey, provides, among other things, certain water and sewer services to the residents of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough owns and operates the water system, including distribution facilities, all properties, assets and franchises and all improvements, additions and extensions thereto which relate to the purposes of distributing potable water service to residents and commercial and industrial establishments in the Borough (the "Water System"); and

WHEREAS, the Borough owns and operates the sewer system, including the collection systems and force mains used to collect and transport wastewater generated in the Borough from its point of origin to Middlesex County Utilities Authority treatment facility (the "Sewer System" and together with the Water System, the "Systems"); and

WHEREAS, the Systems provide water distribution and sewer collection services to the Borough's residents and customers; and

WHEREAS, the proper provision of such water distribution and sewer collection services are necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the Borough's residents and customers and the financial well-being of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2019 the Council of the Borough (the "Borough Council") 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 Systems (the "Services"); and

WHEREAS, for the purpose of determining the best candidate to provide the Services, the Borough issued a Request for Proposals ("RFP") through the competitive contracting process of the LPCL on January 21, 2020, 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 Services; and

WHEREAS, the Borough advertised the issuance of the RFP, posted the RFP on the Borough's website and 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 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 (the "2/28 Proposals"); and

WHEREAS, the 2/28 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 2/28 Proposals, the Committee concluded that the 2/28 Proposals were not economically feasible and included both capital items and excessive risk protection in their proposed annual fee; and

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

WHEREAS, the Committee recommended the Borough Council reject the 2/28 Proposals and re-issue the RFP with revisions to the capital improvement, minor repair/replacement and annual fee provisions of the Contract; and

WHEREAS, On March 24, 2020 the Borough Council adopted a resolution no. 3-20-118 the 2/28 Proposals and authorizing the re-issuance of the RFP; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the Borough re-issued the revised RFP; and

WHEREAS, the Borough issued one (1) addendum to the re-issued RFP which was emailed to all recipients of the re-issued RFP; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2020, the Borough received proposals from USA and Suez which incorporated their February 28, 2020 Proposals by reference and amended certain sections thereof, including a revised Cost Proposal (the “4/30 Proposals”); and

WHEREAS, following review of the 4/30 Proposals, the Borough determined to modify the scope of services in the Contract; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2020, the Borough sent Suez and USA the revised scope of services and clarified certain issues raised by the 4/30 Proposals; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2020, the Borough received amended and supplemented proposals from Suez and USA, including a revised Cost Proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Committee conducted a comprehensive review and evaluation of the proposals from USA (“USA Proposal”) and Suez (“Suez Proposal” and together with the USA Proposal, the “Proposals”); and

WHEREAS, the review of the Proposals was based upon (i) legal compliance; (ii) qualifications; (iii) administrative, technical, experience and financial strength requirements; (iv) proposed operation and management plan and approach; (v) project team and staffing; (vi) cost proposal and (vii) other factors, as set forth in the Proposals; and

WHEREAS, the review and evaluation of the Proposals was conducted in accordance with the proposal evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, in the report prepared by the Committee and Special Counsel in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.5(d) (the “Evaluation Report”) and attached hereto as Exhibit A, the Committee ranked the Proposals based on the scores from the evaluation form and concluded that USA has the experience, administrative and technical capability and financial strength to work with the Borough and efficiently and effectively provide the Services sought under the RFP and that the Cost Proposal in the amount of \$747,000 per year for the term of the Contract for the Annual Fee and \$789,242 for the Initial Capital Improvements is reasonable and justifiable based on the Services to be provided; and

WHEREAS, the Committee recommended that the Borough Council award the Contract to USA in the total contract amount of \$8,259,242 for the ten (10) year term set forth in the RFP with a Net Present Value of \$6,863,293.37.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK AS FOLLOWS:

1. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.
2. The Borough hereby awards the Contract for the operation and management of the Systems to Utility Service Affiliates, Inc. at the annual fees attached hereto as Exhibit B. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the Contract in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit C with such changes, omissions or amendments and any and all other documents necessary to effectuate the purposes therein as the Mayor deems appropriate in consultation with the Borough counsel and consultants.
3. A copy of this Resolution and the Evaluation Report shall be available for distribution to the public and for public inspection at the Borough offices.
4. Notice of Award of the Contract shall be published in the local paper in accordance with N.J.S.A 40A:11-4.5(g).
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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.

Matthew Hersh, 333 Felton Avenue, thanked Councilwoman Kim-Chohan for her update. He reminded everyone that is listening that Highland Park is 66% rental and that there is an executive order regarding homeowner and tenant rights (www.covid19.nj.gov). He echoed the comments made by Mr. Perlman and Mr. Vardaro and thanked the Governing Body for figuring out ways to use the streets. He noticed a line of new trees that were planted and he thinks it is awesome. Councilman George noted that the Shade Tree Advisory Committee and the Department of Public Works began discussing tree planting early last year and decided to do a bulk purchase. They found that certain trees to plant that do not lift up the sidewalks. They now have an arborist to assist with the planting and care of the trees.

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

Work Session:

Emergency Services Update – Public Safety Director Pat Renaldi advised that the Fire Department is proposing a new ordinance to update their existing ordinance so that it is more clear and more in compliance with State law and standards. He is closely monitoring the latest staffing developments at the First Aid Squad over the last few months. He is hoping that they can get in line and bolster their membership by June. He has not been able to address many other items due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but he has met with all agencies. Addressing those items will take a little time. Borough Administrator Jover asked Mr. Renaldi to clarify the coverage being provided by the First Aid Squad. Public Safety Director Renaldi

advised that the First Aid Squad is covering shifts from 6PM to 6AM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. RWJ is covering all the other times they are unable to cover. If there are members around during the day and they are able to respond, they respond.

Fire Department Ordinance Amendments – Borough Administrator Jover advised that the Public Safety Committee discussed the ordinance amendments that are being proposed. That ordinance needs to be reviewed by the Borough Attorney and she wanted the Governing Body to be aware that the ordinance will be introduced at a future meeting. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that the changes to the ordinance are being made as some items in the ordinance are not in compliance with State law. Mayor Brill Mittler thanked Mr. Renaldi for all his assistance and guidance. He has 30 years of experience with Fire and First Aid and is a valuable resource for the Borough.

Renewable Government Energy Aggregation Ordinance – Borough Administrator Jover noted that this is yet another project helped along the way by Tina Weishaus. New Jersey allows municipalities to purchase energy. The Borough needs to pass an ordinance in order to get into the weeds on what type of package they could get for the Borough. There is an opt out option for residents and the Borough is doing this to save money. Councilman Hale asked if it is advisable to join with other municipalities. Borough Administrator Jover indicated that it could be advantageous to join with other municipalities. It was suggested that once we adopt the ordinance that the Borough reach out to other towns that already have this in place such as New Brunswick and Piscataway. Ordinance to be placed on June 9th agenda for introduction.

Regional Deer Management Approach – Borough Administrator Jover noted that the Borough is still in the interim stage with this issue. She met with the Division of Fish and Wildlife, her Assistant, the County Parks Department, the Piscataway Mayor's Office and Rutgers regarding this issue. Highland Park has very little space to manage the deer. The Division of Fish and Wildlife has agreed to come back and talk about a deer management approach. Borough will schedule a public zoom meeting so that residents can participate. The Borough will post the report and will publicize the meeting date.

Walking/Running Path – Councilman George noted that this matter was discussed earlier. Borough Administrator showed a map on her screen of the proposed route for the walking/running path.

Goals

Councilman George reported that the goal for water and sewer management is completed. Will need a designated liaison after the initial three-month set up.

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 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk