

**BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL REDEVELOPMENT MEETING**

221 South Fifth Ave.
Highland Park, NJ
August 25, 2020 at 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Redevelopment Entity was called to order in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:00 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler indicated the Borough was using the telephone-meeting format in an effort to mitigate the chance of exposure to COVID-19, as part of the Borough's on-going effort to slow the rate of transmission and avoid overwhelming the treatment centers. The public was invited to attend to participate by way of a call-in number and password: <https://zoom.us/j/93318307027>, Dial-in: 1-929-205-6099, Webinar ID: 933 1830 7027.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler, Council Members, Canavera, Foster-Dublin, George, and Hale
Absent: Councilman Fine, Councilwoman Kim-Chohan
Professionals: Planner Jim Constantine, Special Counsel Joseph Baumann, Borough Administrator Teri Jover, Deputy Clerk Jennifer Santiago

Minutes:

July 14, 2020 Regular and Executive Session

It was MOVED by FOSTER-DUBLIN and seconded by HALE that the minutes of July 14, 2020 regular and executive session be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – Foster-Dublin, George, Hale,
Nays – None
Abstentions - Canavera

There being three (3) and one (1) abstention, and no nays, the minutes of July 14, 2020 regular and executive session were approved.

Resolutions:

Resolution 2020-06 Executive Session – Contract Negotiations (Downtown Redevelopment)

It was MOVED by HALE and seconded by GEORGE that Resolution 2020-06 be approved.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – Canavera, Foster-Dublin, George, Hale
Nays – None

There being four (4) ayes and no nays, Resolution 2020-06 was approved.

Discussion Items:

Borough Square

Ms. Jover said there are no comments; this was a hold over from the prior meeting.

Public Comment

Mayor Brill Mittler open the floor to the public.

Dean Adi, owner of Block 173, Lots 44 & 45 said that no one has reached to him to make a reasonable deal, he read the meeting minutes of the last meeting and the Town Planner said that you had tried to reach out to make a deal and make a generous offer and I refused and wanted it to be clear that that is totally bogus and false. The law firm that the Borough hired to do the condemnation reached out and offered \$50,000 for his property, which he feels, is absolutely offensively ridiculous, there was no attempt to engage in any good faith negotiations what so every. He has been coming to the meetings in hopes that there would be some sort of good faith effort to buy his property but there has not been. Whatever this passing of this resolution about securing the property and engaging in negotiations, how does he see, the whole process has been happening behind the scenes in the dark and he is patiently waiting for someone to reach out to him and begin to negotiate to buy his property. Mayor Brill Mittler indicated that they would take that under advisement and indicated that both the Planner and Attorney were on the line tonight and asked if they had anything to add.

Mr. Baumann indicated that his office had reached out to Mr. Adi a few months back and would be happy to speak with him again. Mr. Adi said yes and there was a \$50,000 offer and if that is reasonable please condemn but that is not market value. He said that he would much rather fight in court if the town's intention is to devalue his property and give him some bogus number like that. There is no property in Highland Park that would sell for \$50,000 and he has two. Mayor Brill Mittler said tat they would take that under advisement.

There being no one further, public comment was closed.

Adjournment to Executive Session

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman George and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM to go into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Deputy Clerk