

REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 6, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:02 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler; Councilpersons Canavera, Fine, Foster (7:15 PM), George, Hale (7:15 PM), Kim-Chohan; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Jover; Borough Clerk Hullings.

Absent: None.

Mayor Brill Mittler read proclamation proclaiming October as Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Fine, the minutes of the Regular/Work Session Meetings held June 23, 2020 and July 21, 2020, were approved, as distributed, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Fine, George, Kim-Chohan.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilpersons Foster, Hale.

Abstain: None.

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

Councilwoman Canavera reported that she was not able to meet with the Mental Health Commission as they did not meet because of the holidays. Ruth Beyers has been great about getting information out on resources that are available.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that there will be a Flu Clinic on October 19, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The clinic will be hosted by Unite Pharmacy at the Community Center. The clinic will be held outdoors in the parking lot. They accept all insurances, as well as Medicare and Medicaid. They will be providing flu shots free of charge for those with no health insurance. The Food Pantry will meet virtually on October 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The best protection is early detection.

Councilman Fine – No report.

Councilman George reported that the Department of Public Works will be distributing leaf bags, socially distanced, beginning on October 13, 2020. Bulk trash will be picked up this month. The North Side/Triangle will be done on October 20th and the South Side will be done on October 22nd. He congratulated Councilman Fine and the Arts Commission for the great job they did on the Art Walk. Absentee ballots have been sent out and there is a video on the Middlesex County website on how to fill out the ballot properly.

Borough Administrator Jover reported that the school reopening plans are delayed. The appointments of the Crossing Guards will be tabled and the portion of the salary resolution that contains Crossing Guard salaries on the consent agenda will also be tabled.

Borough Attorney Schmierer - No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that she would start her report tonight with some very good news. Last week, Highland Park received official notification that they were accepted into the AARP Network of Age Friendly States and Communities. Highland Park is the first municipality in Middlesex County to receive this distinction. This network, affiliated with the World Health Organization's Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, helps participating communities become livable and age-friendly by creating safer and more walkable streets, increasing housing and transportation options, broadening access to key services, and expanding opportunities for residents to participate in community activities. She thanked Kimberly Perkins McGraw, Senior Program Coordinator, of the Department on Aging, Kimberly McGraw, Community Services Assistant and the Public Information Officer, Harry Glazer, for their work on the application process and she thanked Councilwoman Kim-Chohan who will be overseeing all the follow-up efforts to take advantage of the opportunities now available to Highland Park. She pivoted to some discouraging news. As mentioned in her update yesterday, sent out by Nixle to all subscribers, the rate of new cases of COVID-19 in Highland Park has gone up and is now at the highest level of active cases since April. The ages of those confirmed positive is skewing younger, with many of them, in their younger teens or twenties. One of the effects of these increases is that at least two parochial schools in our area, which took great efforts to open with all the requisite precautions in September, are going temporarily remote. Just today, Dr. Taylor, Superintendent of the Highland Park Public Schools, postponed the opening of our lower grade schools due to the spike in cases. We are also seeing an impact on houses of worship. We all need to take this development very seriously. We do not want to become a poster community for COVID-19 cluelessness. The ways we decrease the risk of the virus spreading are remarkably simple and straightforward, the same CDC advice we have been reiterating for months. Wear a mask if you leave your home and will encounter others, inside or outside. Keep a social distance of six feet or more, whenever you interact with people outside your immediate family. If you are going to interact with others, outside is better and you should wear masks and stay socially distanced. Wash your hands frequently. In response to the rise of COVID-19 cases in the Borough, we will be celebrating Halloween a bit differently this year, all in a socially distant way. (1) Neighborhood trick-or-treating (following State/CDC guidelines to minimize contact and maximize safety and Governor Murphy's common sense protections): [a] Families should travel together in small groups; [b] Residents are encouraged to leave prepackaged treats on their front steps, or

outside their doors, for easy access. Please do not put treats in a bowl, leave them spread out on a tray or table. (2) The Police Department is putting together plans for a safe Trunk or Treat in two locations in town, from 4-6 p.m. on Halloween. (3) Along Main Street: [a] Legend of Highland Marsh: A socially distanced haunt – a self-guided, spooky walking tour along Main Street (open the week before and through October 31st) under the creative orchestration of Alex Dawson. [b] Music on the corners (South 3rd Avenue and North 4th Avenue). [c] Main Street Highland Park goody bags along Main Street (not entering businesses, MSHP is pre-making goody bags and they will be at tables along the main drag). [d] Outdoor Movie Night. Finally, she concluded with a small tale of commendable public service and heroism. Dr. Irving Kaufman, a long-time resident, shared with us that he called the Highland Park Police Department on Saturday night to ask for help in getting medication to two COVID-19 patients in a local high-rise building. Sgt. Mohab Hannout responded to the call, donned PPE, picked up the meds at Rite Aid, and personally delivered the meds to both patients. Dr. Kaufman reports that the patients are on the mend. He and the Borough thank Sgt. Hannout for his selflessness in aiding their recovery.

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.

Ravit Duncan, Lawrence Avenue, commented about language that was added to the deer management resolution that was deleted last time. She would like to see that language added back to the resolution.

Anna Hallin, 235 Montgomery Street, commented that she has obtained 400+ signatures on a petition against the deer hunt and she and other have sent over 120 email messages to the Governing Body.

Mary Forsberg, 317 Denison Street, commented about the deer hunt. She agrees with previous speakers. She listened to the September Council meeting where they talked about using science to deal with this issue. She noted the study done for Rutgers University.

Tammy Russ Fishbane, 232 Graham Street, commented that she is in support of the Deer Management Plan resolution. The deer situation is a public health issue and needs to be addressed.

Diane Feldman, 409 North 4th Avenue, commented that the handicapped parking wording is changing to accessible in the Borough's ordinances. She commended the Borough for moving forward with the necessary changes as the language has changed since the ordinance was created and it shows that the Borough is using more current terminology and it is a positive statement towards inclusiveness. She supports the adoption of the ordinance.

Gabor Grunstein, 416 Magnolia Street, commented that he is in support of the Deer Management Plan resolution.

Lindsay Holeman, 324 Magnolia Street, commented that the majority of Highland Park residents are against the deer hunting. There should be a plan developed, but it should not be a violent plan.

Tatiana Gelfand, 118 North 5th Avenue, commented about the deer hunt and her opposition to it. She also mentioned the many emails she has sent to the Governing Body.

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

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE BOROUGH CODE TO UPDATE LANGUAGE SUCH THAT IT MORE ACCURATELY REFERS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ACCESSIBLE PARKING ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, 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 Canavera, 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 Fine, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 20-2013, as amended, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

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

No. 10-20-256

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE BOROUGH CODE TO UPDATE LANGUAGE SUCH THAT IT MORE ACCURATELY REFERS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ACCESSIBLE PARKING ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his/her 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 that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX AMENDING CHAPTER 230, LAND DEVELOPMENT CONCERNING ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, GARAGES AND HOME OCCUPATION AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK", had been introduced in writing by the Health and Human Services Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 10-20-257

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX AMENDING CHAPTER 230, LAND DEVELOPMENT CONCERNING ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, GARAGES AND HOME OCCUPATION AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF 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, October 20, 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.

On motion made by Councilwoman Canavera, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, Resolution No. 10-20-266 was separated from the Consent Agenda.

Resolution Nos. 10-20-258 through 10-20-271, except Resolution No. 10-20-266, were duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Canavera, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 10-20-258

WHEREAS, McKenna's Gym LLC applied for a business license for 75 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the annual business license fee of \$125.00 was paid for said license; and

WHEREAS, the original business license fee was processed as a zoning license fee and the applicant, McKenna's Gym LLC, had to resubmit the application and subsequent fee and therefore, the applicant is due a refund; and

WHEREAS, the administrative fee for refunds charged by the Borough Clerk pursuant to Section 4 of Highland Park resolution No. 01-20-13 adopted by the Borough Council on January 7, 2020 shall be waived;

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 remit to McKenna's Gym LLC, (Michael McKenna and Sally Van de Water) 25 Walter Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904 (home address), the amount of \$125.00, the same being the amount of refund due for error in submittal of business license application

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Recreation and Arts Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-20-259

WHEREAS, the Recreation Department’s 2019 Summer Camp utilized services and materials from STEM Academy for Young Kids; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has funds available to pay the outstanding invoice balance to STEM Academy in an amount not to exceed \$8,200.00 from Account No. #9-01-28-370-240, 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 Recreation Department is hereby authorized to pay the outstanding invoice balance for a total of \$8,200.00 to STEM Academy for Kids, 1665 Oak Tree Road, Suite 400, Edison, NJ 08820.

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

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

No. 10-20-260

WHEREAS, the Police Department purchased three new Ford Police Utility Interceptor Hybrids; and

WHEREAS, the new vehicles need to be properly outfitted with radios before being brought into service; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has funds available to spend on the radios through the Middlesex County Improvement Authority’s 2019 Pooled Capital Equipment and Improvement Financing Programs; and

WHEREAS, Tactical Public Safety LLC is on NJ State Contract #17-FLEET-00723 for this equipment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Police Department is hereby authorized to utilize Tactical Public Safety LLC to outfit the new police vehicles with radios for the total price of \$9,117.60.

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

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

No. 10-20-261

WHEREAS, the Police Department purchased three new Ford Police Utility Interceptor Hybrids; and

WHEREAS, the new vehicles need to be properly outfitted with lights before being brought into service; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has funds available to spend on the lighting through the Middlesex County Improvement Authority’s 2017 and 2019 Pooled Capital Equipment and Improvement Financing Programs; and

WHEREAS, East Coast Emergency Lighting, Inc. is on NJ State Contract #17-FLEET-00761 for this equipment and services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Police Department is hereby authorized to utilize East Coast Emergency Lighting, Inc. to outfit the three new police vehicles with lights for the total amount not to exceed \$39,693.27.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and the Assistant to the Borough Administrator forthwith.

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

No. 10-20-262

WHEREAS, the Police Department purchased three new Ford Police Utility Interceptor Hybrids; and

WHEREAS, the new vehicles need to be properly outfitted with cameras before being brought into service; and

WHEREAS, \$4,729.63 is available for this purpose through the Middlesex County Improvement Authority’s 2019 Pooled Capital Equipment and Improvement Financing Programs and \$11,092.37 is available in Account No. 0-01-25-240-243, as reflected by the certification of funds available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below; and

WHEREAS, WatchGuard Video is on NJ State Contract #17-FLEET-00793 for this equipment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Police Department is hereby authorized to utilize WatchGuard Video to outfit the new police vehicles with cameras for the total amount not to exceed \$15,822.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and the Assistant to the Borough Administrator forthwith.

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

No. 10-20-263

WHEREAS, there is a need for an additional roadway message sign board for the Police Department to communicate with the community and visitors during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, three (3) quotes were solicited as follows:

Glenco Supply Inc.	\$18,180.00
Traffic Safety Service	\$17,425.00
Wanco	\$18,150.00

and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has recommended that said item be purchased from Traffic Safety Service, South Plainfield, NJ based on their quote for same and their track record of experience working with Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. 0-01-25-240-219, 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 Police Department is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for roadway message sign board from Traffic Safety Service, 601 Hadley Road, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, at a total cost of \$17,425.00; and

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

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

No. 10-20-264

WHEREAS, there is a need for charging stations to charge our new fleet of electric vehicles in our Code Enforcement Department; and

WHEREAS, three (3) quotes were solicited as follows:

Astro Electrical Contractor	\$34,600.00
Bryan Electric Co. (ESCNJ Contract #18/19-40)	\$28,926.65
Greenlots	\$40,434.96

and

WHEREAS, the Administrator’s Office has recommended that said services be purchased from Bryan Electric Co., Trenton, NJ based on their quote for same and their track record of experience; and

WHEREAS, \$25,000.00 is available for this purpose in Account No. C-04-55-823-001 and \$3,926.65 is available in Account No.0-01-26-315-232, as reflected by the certification of funds available 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 Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for electric vehicle charging stations from Bryan Electric Co., 1926 Chestnut Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08611, at a total cost of \$28,926.65; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and the Administrator’s Office forthwith.

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

No. 10-20-265

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, December 31, 2020.

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

No. 10-20-267

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, recently settled, James Coleman is entitled to unused accrued time payments in the amount as calculated below.

2020 Accrual Balance	Hours	Per Hour	Total
VACATION	91.00	1.39	\$126.49
TOTAL			\$126.49

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 \$126.49 be approved and distributed in the next available pay cycle.

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

No. 10-20-268

WHEREAS, RONALD ROWE, Public Works Maintenance/Custodian, has retired from the Borough of Highland Park effective September 1, 2020; and

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

2020 Accrual Balance	Hours	Per Hour	Total
SICK* (Capped)	422.67	22.06	\$5,000.00
VACATION	91.00	22.06	\$2,007.46
TOTAL			\$7,007.46

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 \$7,007.46 be approved and distributed in the next available pay cycle.

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

No. 10-20-269

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 4-20-142, adopted April 21, 2020, the Borough Council authorized execution of a contract with Esposito Construction, LLC for Improvements to Cherry Street, South Park Avenue and South Adelaide Avenue, in an amount not to exceed \$790,229.95, without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said resolution a contract was duly executed; and

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 1, filed by CME Associates, that certain work under said contract has been completed and approved, and there is due to Esposito Construction, LLC the sum of \$83,719.20 in accordance with said Pay Estimate for work performed from August 10, 2020 to September 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-821-001, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer Lori Majeski, show below; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has prepared the attached Change Order No. 2 to the said contract to allow for supplemental work for the above referenced project; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has prepared the attached Change Order No. 2 to the said contract to allow for the supplemental work, resulting in an overall decrease of \$17,560.00 in the contract amount; and

WHEREAS, Council has reviewed the proposed Change Order No. 2 for this contract and has approved the same subject to satisfaction of N.J.A.C. 5:30-11.9 relating to change orders;

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 Esposito Construction, LLC the sum of \$83,719.20, as certified by the Engineer in Pay Estimate No. 1, subject to the Clerk's receipt of the Certified Payroll and Project Manning Reports and additional documents as necessary;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute Change Order No. 2, dated September 9, 2020, to the contract of Esposito Construction, LLC upon satisfaction of N.J.A.C. 5:30-11.9 relating to the submission of a certification relating to the change orders to date, to the satisfaction of the Borough Attorney and Engineer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough Administrator, Chief Financial Officer and Esposito Construction, LLC forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-20-270

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Tax Collector shall be and is hereby authorized to cancel taxes for 2020 for the following due to tax exempt status:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
95	25 (212 Amherst St.)	\$74.77
164	19 (202 No. 3 rd Ave.)	\$83.56
52	36 (201 So. 7 th Ave.)	\$3,774.13
88	24 (89 Woodbridge Ave.)	\$5,274.21

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 10-20-271

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 10/6/2020 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 40.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Fine, Foster, George, Hale.

Opposed: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

No. 10-20-272

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council have received numerous concerned calls and emails from residents regarding Highland Park's deer population; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council are concerned about the negative impact that Highland Park's deer population are having on the Borough's natural areas, neighborhoods, quality of life, and public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council have been presented information regarding deer management from the wildlife biologists at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Division of Fish & Wildlife and have hosted two work sessions on the issue, soliciting input from the Environmental Commission, Board of Health, Sustainable Highland Park, Meadows Trail volunteers, and Native Plant Sanctuary, and have invited public comment throughout the process; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's 14-acre Meadows property has been identified by the NJDEP's Division of Fish & Wildlife as an appropriate location for a controlled deer hunt with bow and arrow; and

WHEREAS, the Borough commissioned a drone study to identify areas of high deer density throughout the Borough which identified Donaldson Park and the adjacent Meadows property as having the highest deer density in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, during the work session at the September 15, 2020 Council Meeting, the Mayor and members of Borough Council expressed interest in reviewing a Deer Management Plan that would include the logistical and safety details for a controlled bow hunt on the Borough's 14-acre Meadows property as well as non-lethal and regional deer management strategies.

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

1. The Borough Administrator is hereby authorized to develop a multi-strategy Deer Management Plan as outlined above.
2. The Deer Management Plan is to be considered and voted on by Borough Council prior to implementation.
3. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Borough Administrator forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted, on motion made by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Fine, Foster, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan.
Opposed: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

No. 10-20-273

WHEREAS, the idea of Indigenous People's Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native nations to the United Nations sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, the United States endorsed the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People on December 19, 2010, and Article 15 of that declaration reads:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations, which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
2. States take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park recognizes the earliest people of the land that would become Highland Park were the Lenape; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park recognizes and deeply values Indigenous peoples' contributions to our community, both historical and contemporary, in the areas of science, art and culture; and wishes to ensure those contributions are never forgotten; and

WHEREAS, as citizens of Highland Park we shall set aside this day to celebrate and honor the thriving diverse cultures of the Indigenous peoples in the New Jersey region, and that Indigenous People's Day shall be used to reflect upon the ongoing and interconnected struggles of all Indigenous peoples locally and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park mark October 9, 2020 Indigenous People's Day in the Borough of Highland Park.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Fine, Foster, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan.
Opposed: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

No. 10-20-274

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount, and

WHEREAS, the Middlesex County Information and Assistance Grant was already in the 2020 Budget of the Borough of Highland Park in the amount of \$6000.00, and

WHEREAS, Middlesex County has increased the funding for 2020 for this grant from \$6,000.00 to \$15,000.00 by their resolution dated 9/3/2020,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the 2020 budget for an additional amount of \$9,000.00, which is now available from the County of Middlesex for the Information and Assistance Grant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of an additional \$9,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Middlesex County Information and Assistance Grant.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted, as amended, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Fine, Foster, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan.
Opposed: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

No. 10-20-266

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 hourly basis, there have been the following changes, to wit:

GRACE MCKENNA, Desk Assistant, Circulation Department, at an hourly rate of \$13.00, effective October 5, 2020.

ROSE TEIXEIRA, Desk Assistant, Circulation Department, at an hourly rate of \$13.00, effective October 5, 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 appointments of the Crossing Guards was tabled from consideration on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

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.

The Governing Body took a five minute recess prior to the Work Session.

Councilwoman Foster was not present during the Work Session.

Work Session:

RGEA/Community Solar Update – Andrew Conte and Belle Gabel of Gabel Associates appeared via zoom to give presentation to the Governing Body. They explained that municipalities can develop a “Community Solar Pilot Program”. This innovative program allows low and moderate income customers to reap the many benefits of solar energy, including reduced electric costs and support for clean energy. Under Community Solar, participants can buy solar energy at a reduced cost, as if the solar panels were on their roof, but from a solar project that is remote from their location, but within their utility’s service area. The Clean Energy Act of 2018 requires the New Jersey board of Public Utilities (BPU) to develop rules for the Community Solar Pilot Program and afterwards to establish rules that create a permanent Community Solar Program. The proposed rules issued by the BPU establishing the Pilot Program call for at least 40% of total annual solar capacity to be allocated to projects benefiting low and moderate income residents, with an additional 10% of total annual capacity set aside by the BPU for low-income Community Solar projects. These rules also state that each solar project will be limited to 5 MW, which is equal to about 800 residential customers in each individual Pilot Program. The Pilot Program is currently in Year 2, for which 150 MW of projects will be awarded. The Key Program Components are: (1) the BPU has proposed a program and rate design that will allow individually metered customers to avoid paying their full utility energy rate when they purchase solar energy, equaling more than 10% savings for each customer. Master metered multi-family housing are also permitted to participate. (2) LMI customers will be enrolled on an opt-out basis, the same enrollment approach being used for the community energy aggregation program currently being implemented by Highland Park. The opt-out process will serve to efficiently gather a pool of participants without the burdensome and expensive task of going door-to-door. (3) Gabel Associates will provide significant community outreach on behalf of the municipality to ensure all residents are aware of the program and their right to opt-out at any time with no penalty. (4) If a participating customer in the Program drops out, other identified low and moderate income customers will be added in their place. It is important that a customer base be maintained so that the solar provider can count on a secure level of revenue flow. Gabel Associates will work with the municipality to establish and maintain a customer sign-up process. (5) A solar provider will be procured under Local Public Contract Law and DCA Guidelines to develop and maintain a solar project and serve the participating customers. This service will be provided through a long-term (15 year) Power Purchase Agreement whereby the solar provider develops, finances, owns, and maintains the Project, and takes on all financial risk for the solar project. (6) All participating customers will continue to be connected to their local electric utility and will have the same reliability of service. The solar project will inject the electricity into the grid at a remote location and its value will be “financially transferred” to customers; i.e., there will be physical connection between the Solar Project and the customers, so there is no change in electric service to customers.

Best Practices Inventory – Borough Administrator Jover noted that this is required by the State of New Jersey. The Chief Financial Officer and the Borough Administrator answer a set of questions and the score from those answers impacts the amount of State Aid the Borough receives. Highland Park has exceeded the requirements of the State and will receive 100% of their State aid. Borough Clerk can now access FAST system to certify that this was discussed with the Governing Body. Borough Administrator to provide the Governing Body with a detailed copy of the Best Practices Inventory.

PSE&G Smart Meter Initiative – Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she will be testifying this week before the BPU about PSE&G’s new smart meter program. PSE&G would install new smart meters for customers and it would automatically tell PSE&G that service was off.

Bring your Own Bag Ordinance Resumption – Councilman George noted that his committee discussed the possible resumption of the plastic bag ban. When COVID-19 hit, merchants were requiring customers to fill their own bags if they brought them. Plastic bags are a cheaper option for businesses. The Borough would need to give sufficient notice to the merchants should they resume the plastic bag ban.

Native Plant Society – Plant Sale – Councilman George noted that the Native Plant Society would like to use the Native Plant Sanctuary as a drop off spot. Customers would have to pre-order/pre-pay and this would happen on the last Thursday in October.

Native Plant Sanctuary – Rutgers Work Day – Councilman George noted that this event has been cancelled.

Skate Park Component – Karsey Street Park – Councilman Fine noted that on September 16, 2020, the Recreation and Arts Committee met and they want to recommend to Council a proposal to the Governing Body that was suggested by Councilwoman Welkovits that a skate park component be added to Karsey Street Park. The goal for placement of the park would be in the spring of 2022. He would like the Council to consider passing a resolution at the next meeting committing to the siting of a skate park component at Karsey Street Park. Council Members raised concerns about the location, liability, and maintenance of the skate park. Councilman Fine noted that he would support the skate park component be constructed out of concrete. The area would be fenced in and they would not take out the playground equipment.

Goals – Not discussed.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 9:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk