

## REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 20, 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 7:01 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

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

Absent: None.

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

Councilman Hale reported that he wanted to make sure all the small businesses in town know about a new potential funding opportunity. The New Jersey Economic Development Authority has a Phase III for small business emergency assistance grant program. Pre-registration opened on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Main Street Highland Park has a link. Phase III sets aside \$70 million dollars for restaurants and micro-businesses, including non-profits and home-based businesses with 50 or fewer full-time employees. It increases the amount of funding available for these businesses and their grant awards calculated on the number of full-time employees. It is an opportunity for any of our businesses in need. The Farmer's Market is still going on and is going strong and is open until 4:30 p.m. for the rest of the season which concludes on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Attendees are encouraged to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that the Human Relations Commission will be meeting on October 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. She will be discussing with the Commission about bringing back their book club, but with a twist and recommend movies and/or documentaries. Yesterday's flu clinic was cancelled due to Unite Pharmacy experiencing a shortage in supplies and they have asked to reschedule the clinic. Mask fatigue is starting to get the best of us. At the next meeting with the Board of Health, she will be discussing this obstacle and she is sure that they will have many recommendations. The Commission for Universal Access has a new Chairperson, Jan Verstraete. She attended the Municipal Innovation Webinar on the benefits of 5G and what it means for municipalities. There was discussions around smart public parking with real time information, and public safety being completely revamped in regards to video surveillance and ultra-high definition. With these smart technologies comes more cell antennas on light and utility poles. Tomorrow is National Pumpkin Cheesecake Day.

Councilwoman Foster reported that daylight savings time is coming up and you need to remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and radon detectors. Yesterday, Irving School and Bartle School went back to in-person learning. She reminded everyone to slow down in town when they are driving. Trunk or Treat is coming up and information will be shared soon on the Borough's website and Facebook pages. The event will be held at the Community Center and the Police Department is working along with Khalidra, a PTO Board Member at the Irving School. Safety is paramount and the event will be conducted socially distant and the treats will be pre-packaged. On Saturday there was an unfortunate incident in town where a driver made a wide turn and the doughboy statue was knocked down. The statue will be repaired and placed back in its rightful place.

Councilwoman Canavera reported that the Mental Health Commission would like to remind everyone that it is Emotional Wellness Month. Self-care is very important. If you do not take care of yourself, you cannot take care of others. Make sure to take time for yourself and do something that you enjoy and take care of not just your emotional self, but your physical self.

Councilman Fine reported that he is looking forward to voting on Consent Agenda Resolution No. 10-20-282, which is being introduced tonight by the Recreation and Arts Committee which he chairs, which will approve the siting of a skate park component at Karsey Street Park. On Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6PM, the Highland Park Historical Commission will be hosting a virtual presentation about the indigenous people of New Jersey and Middlesex County at which participants will learn about the general pre-history of the region and explore prehistoric sites and artifacts that have been found near to Highland Park. The presentation will be led by Gregory Lattanzi, Curator for the Bureau of Archaeology & Ethnography at the New Jersey State Museum and the New Jersey State Archaeologist. On December 31, 2020, there will be a Fireworks Spectacular Program jointly sponsored by Highland Park and New Brunswick. October is Mental Health Awareness Month. It is important to remember that there is no shame in seeking help when you are struggling with your mental health. To learn more about the mental health resources available in New Jersey, please check out [nj211.org/mental-health-resources](http://nj211.org/mental-health-resources). In Highland Park, we are proud to be stigma free. Let us all work together to "Break the Stigma".

Councilman George reported that the Shade Tree Advisory Committee is sponsoring a photography contest solely for residents and solely for trees. Submissions can be submitted until October 31<sup>st</sup>. The photo has to be a tree in Highland Park and no people. Bulk trash pickup on the South Side will be on Thursday. There is no recycling pickup so that the Department of Public Works can focus on bulk trash pickup. On the consent agenda, there is a resolution appointing Gabel Associates as the Borough's Consultant for the Community Solar Program. The Library is offering pickups and virtual programming. Lastly, he note that prior to the meeting he received a robo call supposedly from Social Security. It is a warning for residents, especially seniors that Social Security does not call.

Borough Administrator Jover reported that there have been questions raised about water and sewer bills this quarter. She has looked into the matter more closely and wanted to share a few of the things that she learned, which she hopes will address some of the residents' concerns. (1) When reviewing your bill, it is best to compare water usage against the same quarter from the prior year. There are seasonal variations in usage that occur. In addition, water use is typically higher in the third quarter as it includes

some of the spring and summer months when people start watering their gardens, filling their pools and washing their cars more. (2) Added to the typical increase we see in the third quarter, there is the fact that most of us have been at home a lot more due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Residents are working from home, learning from home and many of us had to skip summer camp and opt-out of vacations in exchange for “staycations”, which all adds up to more water usage this quarter. (3) Leaks can be a cause for a high water bill. A leak does not have to be as obvious as a pipe leaking through a ceiling, it can be as small as a fixture dripping, a toilet running or a hose trickling outside. If left undetected, it can account for a significant amount of water usage over time without anyone realizing it. (4) Lastly, you should know that Middlesex Water Company’s utility workers handled the readings for this quarter, their first since our operations and maintenance contract went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Their meter readers went to great lengths to get accurate readings, in fact, they re-read more than 250 meters to verify readings prior to issuing the third quarter bills. (5) There was an increase to the water and sewer rates. Each case is unique and if you have any questions, she encouraged them to contact the Tax and Utility Department. They can help residents better understand their bill and work with residents to address any issues that are identified.

Borough Attorney Schmierer - No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that the Borough has to work a little harder to arrest the spread of COVID-19 in Highland Park. Two weeks ago, we saw a surge in cases here of 20 to 23 cases per week. Just this last week started with 1-2 new cases a day, yet by the end of the week, we were up to 4 a day. In one recent case we learned about, an older couple was hit hard by the virus and the husband had to spend time in the hospital. This is still serious business. We are not out of the woods yet. We should not be congregating casually. Please, when you are outside, keep your masks on whenever you may encounter anyone. Please wash your hands frequently. Do it for your family, do it for your vulnerable neighbors, and do it for you. As she mentioned in her Nixle message to the community last week, we have heard from some residents who have received water bills that look unusually high. We are actively looking into it. Our water utility is a complicated matter. Keep in mind that the municipality owns the infrastructure (pipes) that bring the water to our homes. We buy our water from Middlesex Water Company. We are digging into this and look forward to holding an open public meeting on the topic next month. In the interim, the Borough Administrator is taking proactive steps to address the questions about the unusual bills that residents have been receiving. As the weather starts getting colder, I urge you to please keep supporting our downtown businesses. Everyone who shops local helps maintain a vibrant downtown, be it by getting take-out, using the town tables and dining outdoors, participating in the Farmer’s Market and patronizing our small shops. Please keep in mind that you can fill many of your needs without traveling out of town. Want candy for Halloween? Need clever gifts for birthdays? Want something different for weekend meals? Need some new jewelry or repairs? We’ve got it covered. Please give our businesses another look. The Borough is proud to host a Middlesex County Voter Information Center in Borough Hall. Representatives from the County’s Board of Elections will be here from today through November 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 11 am to 7 pm. County residents can stop by without an appointment to get a replacement ballot, perform a signature verification, or collect important information on how to register your vote in the 2020 General Election. Please note, we are limiting the amount of visitors at one time to accommodate social distancing. Masks are required to be worn at all times. However you deliver your ballot, please vote. In November 1921, a welcome new addition of the Doughboy statue to Highland Park brought together 2,000 people from our Borough and neighboring towns to celebrate the sacrifices of our servicemen and women in World War One. In the years since, the Doughboy statue has continued to bring people together in our area, in respectful homage to our veterans. Our annual Veterans Day Parade, shared with the town of New Brunswick, which annually attracts hundreds of participants and spectators, always culminated or began at the Doughboy. The statue also served as one of the starkest landmarks in our region, aiding navigation for countless motorists and serving as a local point of pride. This past weekend, sadly, the Doughboy statue was accidentally knocked down and heavily damaged by a tractor-trailer, along with the flagpole behind it. The Highland Park Police Department, on hearing of the accident, immediately informed the New Brunswick Veterans of Foreign Wars outpost of this loss. She was also encouraged to immediately hear from the Chairperson of the Highland Park Historical Commission, who offer their help. She hopes to see the Doughboy statue rise again soon and assume its proud place in town. Now, more than ever, we need its message of bravery, sacrifice and unity.

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.

Matt Hersh, 333 Felton Avenue, commented about the doughboy statue and questioned who owns it. Borough Administrator Jover noted that the Borough does not own the property but has an agreement to have the statue placed in that location. Mayor Brill Mittler will have the Police Department look into what they can do to prevent large tractor trailers from coming through town and trying to make U-turns. She would like to see reports of accidents over the last five years involving tractor trailers.

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

The Clerk reported advertising 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”, 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 Councilwoman Foster, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 20-2014, 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 Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 10-20-275

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the 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", 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.

Resolution Nos. 10-20-277 through 10-20-288, were 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, Kim-Chohan.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 10-20-277

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has applied for and has been awarded a grant in the amount of up to \$20,036.58 from the Hazardous Discharge Remediation Fund Municipal Grant Program through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority for Site Investigation of the Classic Cleaners property;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Highland Park that the above referenced grant is hereby accepted and the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized to execute grant documents as an authorized representative thereunder, as the representative for the Highland Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a comprehensive plan exists specifically for the development or redevelopment of contaminated or potentially contaminated real property in the host municipality or that a realistic opportunity exists that the Project Site will be developed or redeveloped within a three-year period form the completion of the remediation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

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

No. 10-20-278

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:

TYLER TRIHN, Seasonal Recreation, at an hourly rate of \$11.00, effective October 11, 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. 10-20-279

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:

CATHERINE CIORCIARI, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$11,549.00, effective October 19, 2020.

MARY ANN KINSEY, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$11,549.00, effective October 19, 2020.

KIBBY MAY, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$11,549.00, effective October 19, 2020.

LUCILLE MORRIS, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$11,549.00, effective October 19, 2020.

CHARLENE RAYSIDE, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$11,549.00, effective October 19, 2020.

BEVERLY ROBINSON, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$11,549.00, effective October 19, 2020.

MICHAEL STAZESKI, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$11,549.00, effective October 19, 2020.

MARGARET TOMAN, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$11,549.00, effective October 19, 2020.

DEBORAH RIDDICK SMITH, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$11,059.00, effective October 19, 2020.

JACQUELINE RHEIN, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$9,208.00, effective October 19, 2020.

ELIZABETH ROESENER, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$9,208.00, effective October 19, 2020.

EARL SMITH, Crossing Guard, at an annual salary of \$9,208.00, effective October 19, 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 Recreation and Arts Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 10-20-280

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, The Borough of Highland Park Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highland Park Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highland Park Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Middlesex.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Highland Park Borough Council does hereby authorize acceptance of funding for strategic plan for the Highland Park Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2021 (October 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) in the amount of:
 

DEDR	\$5,838.00
Cash Match	\$4,378.50
In-Kind	\$1,459.50
2. The Highland Park Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

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

No. 10-20-281

WHEREAS, there exists various outstanding checks on the books of the Claim Fund of the Borough of Highland Park, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that these checks are at least one year old and should be canceled,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following outstanding checks in the Claims Fund IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8609.25 be cancelled to Current Fund Surplus:

<u>CHECK #</u>	<u>CHECK DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>CHECK AMOUNT</u>
7044	10/10/2018	Two Rivers Title Co.	\$ 49.20
7077	10/24/2018	Core Title LLC	56.76
7090	10/24/2018	Hard Rock Hotel & Casino	308.00
7871	3/16/2019	Gary Panichella	116.15
8403	6/12/2019	HP Board of Education	1275.00
8557	7/3/2019	HP Volunteer Fire Dept	717.67
8815	9/4/2019	Steve Barnes	49.91
8893	9/4/2019	Midd Cty Conf Muni Court Judge	300.00
9281	11/12/2019	JoAnn Boscarino	200.00
9536	12/17/2019	AAA All Service Inc	3000.00
9631	12/17/2019	Parker III Assisted Living	1217.16
9632	12/17/2019	Park Dental Group	1319.40
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 8609.25</b>

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

No. 10-20-282

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council believe that construction of a Skate Park in Highland Park will increase recreational opportunities and improve the quality of life of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council are committed to exploring cost estimates for the construction of a Skate Park, and the potential increase in premiums for the Borough’s liability insurance through the Joint Insurance Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council plan to obtain Highland Park residents’ input into the design of a Skate Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council agree to siting a Skate Park at Karsey Street Park near the current fenced-in concrete area, but not limited to it.

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

No. 10-20-283

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Department of Public Works had a need to make emergency repairs to existing storm sewers, as more fully described on the attached quotation; and

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

WHEREAS, quotes were solicited and only two quotes were received as follows:

Jo-Med Contracting Corp.	\$18,500.00
B & W Construction Co. of NJ Inc.	\$74,200.00

and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works has recommended that said repairs be done by Jo-Med Contracting Corp. based on their quote; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the amount of \$18,500.00 in Account No. C-04-55-821-001 as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for said repairs from Jo-Med Contracting Corp. 300 So. Second Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07206, and

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

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

No. 10-20-284

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant economic impact on businesses and restaurants located in Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to further assist businesses in the Borough's downtown, Borough Council authorizes the temporary closure of So. Third Avenue off of Raritan Avenue and partial closure of No. Fourth Avenue off of Raritan Avenue until the pandemic emergency has been abated; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the closure is to offer restaurants and businesses additional space to set up tables and chairs for outdoor dining and displays of their items for sale; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:4-8, street closings that exceed forty-eight (48) continuous hours require the approval of the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park:

1. Pending approval from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, So. Third Avenue off of Raritan Avenue and partial closure of No. Fourth Avenue off of Raritan Avenue shall be closed to vehicular traffic until the pandemic emergency has abated.
2. The Police Department shall work to prepare a plan to minimize traffic issues from the closure.

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

No. 10-20-285

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for receipt of bids for the following contract items:

1. Annual Tree Maintenance Contract for 2021 and 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said bids will be received at a date and time to be determined by the Borough Clerk and the Superintendent of the Public Works Department, said bids to be in accordance with specifications prepared by the Public Works Department.

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

No. 10-20-286

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough and its residents to publicly bid for the services of its Professionals, including but not limited to, the Borough Attorney, Bond Attorney, Labor Attorney, Auditor, Engineer, Planner, Planning Board Attorney, Board of Adjustment Attorney, Redevelopment Attorney, Planning Board Engineer, Board of Adjustment Engineer, Tax Appeal Attorney, Special COAH Planner, Special COAH Attorney, Risk Manager, Prosecutor, and Public Defender to perform services for the Borough;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough is hereby authorized to publicly bid for the services of its Professionals to perform professional services for the Borough by a Request for Qualifications.

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

No. 10-20-287

WHEREAS, the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as "NJSBA"), is the Lead Agency in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq, Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 et seq. ("EDECA") and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

WHEREAS, under EDECA, NJSBA is authorized to provide other energy-related services to its members; and

WHEREAS, NJSBA and the New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA) has created, and is offering to schools districts and others, the ACESplus Program, which is designed to assist participating members with the evaluation and implementation of certain energy related programs, including Renewable Energy Programs; and

WHEREAS, as a member of ACES, the Borough of Highland Park desires to participate in the ACESplus Program; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency, via its professional energy consultant Gabel Associates, will work with the Borough of Highland Park to evaluate and implement a Community Solar Program in accordance with the requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq, EDECA and the Proposal attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Proposal").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park:

1. The Borough of Highland Park authorizes NJSBA as the Lead Agency to provide Renewable Energy-related services under the ACESplus Program.
2. The Borough of Highland Park accepts the Proposal and authorizes and directs Gabel Associates to execute same.
3. The Lead Agency, via its professional energy consultant Gabel Associates, is hereby authorized to work with the Borough Administrator representatives to evaluate and implement a Community Solar Program for the Borough of Highland Park, as authorized by, and in accordance with the requirements of, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., EDECA, the Clean Energy Act of 2018, and the Proposal.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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

No. 10-20-288

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 10/20/2020 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 40.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted, on motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, 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. 10-20-289

**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.

**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 in the sum of \$666.83, which is now available from the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Grant, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the like sum of \$666.83 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Alcohol and Rehabilitation Grant.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance 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 Canavera, Fine, Foster, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

No. 10-20-290

**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.

**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 in the sum of \$24,975.40, which is now available from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Clean Communities Grant, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the like sum of \$24,975.40 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Clean Communities Grant.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed the following to serve as Crossing Guards for terms to expire June 30, 2021 (end of school term):

Catherine Ciorciari

Kibby May

Charlene Rayside

Michael Stazeski

Deborah Riddick Smith

Elizabeth Roesener

Mary Ann Kinsey

Lucille Morris

Beverly Robinson

Margaret Toman

Jacqueline Rhein

Earl Smith

The above appointments were confirmed on motion made by Councilwoman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

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.

Amy Livingston, 229 South 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, reminded the Council that she had asked them to consider a resolution to support the energy innovation and carbon dividend act. She also reminded them of the benefits of the bill. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she will have Councilman George look into this and get information to the rest of the Council. Councilman George noted that he has a model resolution and will put in on the Public Works Committee agenda for their next meeting.

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

Councilman Foster was not present during the Work Session.

#### Work Session:

Adopting Remote Public Meeting Procedure – Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, on September 24<sup>th</sup>, issued some emergency regulations which will be codified in the New Jersey Administrative Code about how to operate remote meetings during an emergency. Highland Park is in complete compliance with the suggested language that they would like you to put in the resolution pledging to allow the public to participate and following the proper protocol for recording and noticing these meetings. There is a provision about allowing the public prior to a public meeting submit comments or questions in writing and if we get those, we would have to put them on the record. Mayor Brill Mittler asked if there were any guidelines about them being physically present at the meetings and about backdrops. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that there is nothing in the regulations about backdrops. He noted that there were concerns raised by the League of Municipalities where Council Members in other towns were not present for the entire meeting as they could not be seen on the screen. League suggested that language be added that once you are counted as present at the meeting you remain present, unless you ask to be excused by the Chair. A resolution will be placed on the next agenda for adoption. These rules apply to all the Boards and Commissions and Board Chairs should be notified. Borough Administrator Jover noted that not all Board/Commission members may not have the proper technology to be on screen for the meeting and may just be able to call in.

Micromobility Study – Rutgers University and Professor Clint Andrews got funding from the National Science Foundation to look at micromobility and safety. Micromobility includes e-scooters and e-bike, something we have been exploring. Last year, the Borough supported their application to the NSF and they were awarded the money. Rutgers has reached out again and the team that is responsible for the study to gauge our interest in continuing that participation. The study would involve some monitoring at key intersections so that they can detect when one of these devices goes by. This is a multi-year project and they are looking at various ways to make all of these things, pedestrian and micromobility devices, all work safely and more effectively to create transportation options for people that work.

Water & Sewer Capital Projects – Borough Administrator Jover noted that she was able to brief the Public Works Committee. There are some capital projects emerging from the new water and sewer team that she wanted to get on their radar. These are projects that would be funded through a capital ordinance that was already passed for \$3 million dollars. The first project would be the water meter replacement project. The Borough is responsible for water meters that are 5/8 or 3/5 inch. The Borough would like to update them to make them smarter so that they have radio read capability. Middlesex Water would like to get authorization to do an RFP for the purchase of those meters as well as the installation of those meters. There are two issues where there is either a storm pipe or sewer pipe running through a manhole and the cost of fixing that would require them to issue a bid. It has become highly recommended from the Operator that they address those two issues.

Parking Lot Outdoor Pop-up Use - Councilman George noted that he discussed this with Councilman Hale. The Borough owns the Bergen Auto site and he would like to see it used for all different kinds of art (spoken art, visual art). They discussed the possibility of having a pop-up of the parking lot and have vendors set up like the Artisan Market. There are potholes in the parking lot and the Department of Public Works will patch them. He would like the Council's blessing to use it as a public space.

#### Goals

Councilman Fine thanked everyone for supporting the resolution for siting of Skate Park that was on the agenda. Has asked Andrea Baay to obtain cost estimates from skate part instruction companies. Councilwoman Canavera noted that she and Andrea would be meeting with representatives from Edison, North Brunswick and New Brunswick to gather information about what they have done with their skate parks. Councilman Hale noted that he has a contact at a skate shop that has assisted with skate parks.

REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 20, 2020

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Foster, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings  
Borough Clerk