

REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 10, 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.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, 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, George, Hale, Kim-Chohan.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

No. 11-20-291

WHEREAS, Tara Canavera was appointed by the Borough Council at the Borough of Highland Park on July 21, 2020 to serve on the Borough Council as a result of the passing of Councilwoman Susan Welkovits until November 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, said Borough Council wishes to continue Councilwoman Canavera's service as a member of the Highland Park Borough Council until December 31, 2020 or until the holding of a Special Election to fill the remainder of the late Councilwoman Susan Welkovits' unexpired term.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Councilwoman Tara Canavera is hereby appointed to continue to temporarily fill the vacancy on the Borough Council created by the passing of Councilwoman Susan Welkovits until December 31, 2020 or the results of a Special Election are certified, whichever shall occur last.

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

Absent: None.

On motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, the minutes of the Regular/Work Session Meetings held August 18, 2020 and September 1, 2020, were approved, as distributed, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

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

Councilman Hale encouraged residents to shop in the downtown businesses. If they are going to say in business, they need residents to support them. He has talked to businesses who have not made it and they told him that they did not have enough foot traffic on a regular basis, especially since COVID. They need a bigger number of people coming downtown to shop in their businesses. In a small town like Highland Park, businesses rely a great deal on the residents. He thinks it is important that we shop in Highland Park and eat in Highland Park. He knows it is so easy to do Door Dash from Chipotle or Pizza Hut, but Highland Park has plenty of pizza places and Mexican places to order from. Started the very early stages of the process for downtown redevelopment. They have held a series of stakeholder meetings that have been really productive. They have learned from people at these meetings that there is some excitement about some of the ideas and possibilities, but there is some trepidation about making sure that they have thought through all of the issues surrounding parking and where a festival street might be or a public square. It has come to their attention that those are important issues. As they move forward in the process, a lot of feedback from the public is essential to making sure that this downtown redevelopment actually works in the way that we want it to work. This is the start of the process. They had three public meetings last week to discuss this with residents and business owners and people who are near the downtown. They will have a number of open public meetings with the Council and with the Planning Commission and those will be further opportunities for people to have input. Eventually, as the plan shapes and comes together, there is a process by which they will look for help in the development community and then the process starts all over again. There will be additional public meetings both with the Council, the Planning Board, the proximate stakeholders and the people right around the area. We are a long way away from shovels to the ground and there is a lot of opportunity for people to communicate their thoughts about how this should move forward. He is encouraged by the process so far. He is excited about the quality of discussion they have been having and he knows that it will continue. It is an important, big process for Highland Park; but it is an essential one. We need to get people downtown and this is a way of doing it.

Councilwoman Canavera reported that the Borough has received their 2019 audit. It showed no areas of concern and no recommendations were made. It is available on the website for review. If anyone has any questions on the audit, they can address them to Borough Administrator Teri Jover. The Highland Park Public Library will be open by appointment only starting this week for all services. In observance of Veteran's Day, she thanked all the Veterans for their service. November is National Diabetes Awareness Month.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan thanked the Veterans for their service. She mentioned that the Middlesex Black Jewish Coalition would be hosting a "Hear Thy Neighbor": Stories from Middlesex County's Black & Jewish Residents," event.

Councilwoman Foster reported that Veteran's Day is tomorrow and they are more than grateful for the services that they have continually provided. The cost of freedom is not free, there is a heavy price that they pay to keep us safe. Tomorrow, at 11:30 a.m., there will be a small gathering to lay a wreath at the site of the doughboy statue and to pay respects. The Trunk or Treat event was a success and she thanked the Highland Park Police Department for their efforts. Middlesex County has a new Prosecutor and she met with the Mayor and the Chief today at the Police Department. She is a part of the Obama Foundation and she has learned a lot. It is an organization that is across the entire United States. One of the leading Police Chiefs that has been on the foundation is the Chief from Charlottesville. He spoke about what happened in their town and shared a lot of insights. Charlottesville has a lot of similarities to Highland Park and she is working on having him come to one of our public safety zoom meetings so that he can share some of the ideas that he has. The Police Department is hiring a new Police Officer. They interviewed three candidates last week and there is one young lady that stood out and they made her an offer.

Councilman Fine reported that as the year is coming to an end, he wanted to thank the Highland Park Arts Commission for all it has done for the community, especially during this pandemic. There has been Window Art Walk, which is dedicated to artist Bill Giacalone, who passed away this year. Window Art Walk involves the work of 34 artists, 21 businesses, and 30 walkers and has been taking place since September and will continue through November. There has been Windows of Understanding, which has involved partnering with New Brunswick, Metuchen, HP Partnership, HP Gives a Hoot, DIRE, and Interfaith Rise. Three murals were created; one at Robert's Florals by Raul Ayala, one at Kybele Café by Shauna Figueroa, and one at All Colors LLC by Jessica Wu. The Arts Commission organized "Race Matters", a 10-week performance workshop and performance and recommended to the Council and saw to it that Black Lives Matter was painted in front of Borough Hall. The Commission also held a four week Spoken Word/Dance Workshop. A Memorial Art Bench, in honor of the first African-American Councilmember Charles Figg, is in the process of being worked on, and there was a 19th Amendment/Women's Right to Vote Installation at the Rite Aid Windows by Arts Commission member Anee Pollack. The Virtual Quarantine Gallery on the Borough website featured the work of 10 different artists. Arts Commission member Jennifer Evans worked on revamping the Arts Commission website. There was "Access Granted: 13 Artists, Fotos & Poetry" at Penstock Coffee Gallery curated by Allison Baldwin, and the creation of the Highland Park Arts Commission by its new Chairperson John Marron. Again, he thanked the Arts Commission for all its work. The Historical Commission's next virtual meeting will be held Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. The Commission's next event will feature Sue McClellan Plaisted of Heart to Hearth Cookery, for a food history program prior to Thanksgiving, which will be held virtually at 7:00 p.m. on November 24th. Check the calendar on the Borough's website for more details. Kim McGraw, Highland Park's Senior Program Coordinator and Municipal Alliance Coordinator, asked him to share the following. Highland Park has become a part of the AARP Network of Age Friendly States and Communities, the first municipality in Middlesex County to do so. Highland Park's Senior Services Department is taking next steps to continue working on its Aging Friendly initiatives and ongoing commitment to supporting older adults in our community. The department is working closely with AARP and continues to be excited to have this partnership and resource. The Department is preparing to install retractable awnings on the side of the Highland Park Community Center to be used in the patio area. The Borough is making this investment now in order to better support the community when the Department is able to resume some of its programming that has long standing benefits to members of the community. It will allow for the programs to resume in a safe manner when restrictions are lifted and expand the usage of the Community Center to those who seek its benefits. In regard to the Municipal Alliance, School Prevention programming will resume, in schools and virtually, this winter. The Municipal Alliance is in the process of applying and working on the submission of its Strategic plan for the Fiscal Year 2022 Grant Cycle, for which there will be a resolution for the Council to consider at our next meeting on December 1, 2020. The Senior Services Department continues to offer in person appointments, by appointment only, with the Borough's social worker and other department staff, and is there to help in any way they can. The In-Borough and limited medical service continues to increase and is working well. Limited one on one service is available Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 732-819-0052 for more details or to make an appointment. Stay tuned for details on additional dates for the Community Flu Shot clinic, which will be held at the Community Center. He thanked Andrea Baay, Highland Park's Recreation/Arts Coordinator for all of her help researching options for the skate park component at Karsey Street Park. Travel Baseball, 10U and 12U teams, have completed their seasons. 10U came in 1st place for their age group in the Intercounty League. 12U lost in the Championship game for their age group. Youth Soccer and Youth Flag football are ongoing, and the season lasts through November 22nd. The Adult Fitness Classes, Fitness for All and Sunday Circuit Training, are both running. Fireworks in the Park, which Highland Park is co-sponsoring with New Brunswick, will be held on December 31st at 8:00 p.m. In terms of theater classes, two classes ran virtually this fall, Annie and Descendants, and there will be a winter session for theater, beginning in early January, 2021. Visit www.highlandparkrec.com for all of the ongoing and upcoming programming and to register to participate. Veteran's Day is tomorrow, November 11th, and the Veteran's Alliance will be laying a wreath at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow at the place where the Doughboy Statue was, and will be again. He thanked all of the Borough's Veterans. Finally, as this is the only Borough Council meeting in November, he wished all Highland Park residents a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman George reported thanked the Veterans for their service and the sacrifices that they made. PSE&G's contractor is doing the milling of the roadways to get them ready for paving. They are working on the North Side this week and anticipate final paving next week. The project that the Borough completed or had scheduled, including South Adelaide Avenue, were completed. The Department of Public Works collected a record number 100 tons plus of bulk trash this year, making it the most successful, but largest pickup ever. They scheduled two days for pickups, one for the North Side/Triangle and one for the South Side, and it took them 7 days to do all the pickups. There is no more bulk pickup this year. Leaf collection is active and leaf bags are still available for pickup by social distancing through the window. Leaf collection will continue for the next month. The Library has reopened and the Board of Trustees went through the program at their last meeting. Kate Jagers and the Board have done a great job of putting a program together which involves visits by appointment only. The curb and Librarian's choice options will

also continue. Last week, the Shade Tree Advisory Committee, participated with the State Native Plant Society for the distribution of native plants. Highland Park was one of the three sites in New Jersey selected for distribution and it was done socially distanced. Between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. there were over 90 people, organizations and municipalities came to pick up their orders of native plants. The State Native Plant Society donated native plants to the Borough. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee sponsored a fall tree photography contest that ended on October 31st. There were over 100 submissions of trees in Highland Park. He congratulated the committee for their work on sponsoring this contest.

Borough Administrator Jover reported that the Borough sent out a Nixel/e-mail regarding the PSE&G roadway work. Phase I is milling and then they come back around and do the paving. There has been a change to the schedule that she was alerted about today. Due to Veteran's Day there will be a change to the schedule and she will get that information out shortly. The next Redevelopment Meeting is Tuesday, November 17th. There will be a presentation and they will reflect some of the comments they have received and update the timeline. Meeting information will be posted on the Borough's website. There will be an information session on the water and sewer system on November 24th at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. Representatives from Middlesex Water Company will be in attendance at that meeting.

Borough Attorney Schmierer - No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that CNN reported yesterday that the United States is on track to meet the milestone of 10 million cases of COVID-19 in this country. One month ago, Scientific American reported in a headline that "COVID-19 is now the third leading cause of death in the US, it kills more people than the flu, stroke, Alzheimer's and diabetes". The latest data from the New York Times states that over 238,000 people have died from the virus in the US alone; this number, by the way, does not touch the hundreds of thousands who have been greatly injured by it. Last week, the County reported that Highland Park had 13 new cases of COVID-19. But, just today, the County reported 6 new cases in Highland Park, almost half of all of last week. The total number of Highland Park cases to date through November 9th, is 293, 2% of our population. We must stay vigilant. I know it is hard, especially as we approach some of our most beloved holidays. We need you to continue wearing a mask in public; keep at least 6' of social distance from others; wash your hands frequently; and find creative ways to enjoy your extended family and friends in a COVID-safe way. On another matter of local and national importance, she congratulated Highland Parkers on the incredibly high rate of voter turnout in the community. She looks forward to a peaceful transfer of power that is a hallmark of our democracy. She welcomed Councilwoman Foster back for another term and soon to be Councilman Hersh back to the legislative body. She thanked everyone who voted and actively participated in the democratic process. She is pleased to note the participating of a growing number of business owners and residents in the Borough's plans for redevelopment of three tracts on Raritan Avenue. This initiative has been 20 years in the making and a top priority of the Mayor and Council for over five years. With no other source of ratables, our downtown development is the key to our economic future. Look for information on the front page of the Borough's website and plan to view the next public meeting on Tuesday, November 17th at 7:00 p.m. Halloween was a perfect example of Highland Park's ingenuity. From Main Street's Halloween on the Avenue (without entering stores), to Alex Dawson's magical Mystery tour of the Monster of Highland Marsh, to all of our neighbors who set up COVID-19 safe treat trays on their front steps or curbsides, we did it right. In fact, she was so delighted to see more trick or treaters than ever on her street. One of the best Halloween fun events happened after Halloween. She wanted to give a big thank you to the Highland Park Police Department for an amazing Trunk or Treat. Officer O'Mara and his team of treaters came through for the children once again; and they did it in a socially distant, safe way. She had the pleasure of meeting Middlesex County's new Prosecutor, Yolanda Ciccone. Prosecutor Ciccone is a resident of Metuchen and is very familiar with Highland Park. She has already put some new initiatives together which are sure to be beneficial to Highland Park. Finally, she wanted to take a few moments to recognize two of the Borough's many outstanding volunteers who have contributed a great deal to the Borough and are now stepping down. Beth Stevens formed the Civics in the Community lecture series a few years ago and it has held informative and engaging events, featuring respected authorities, to educate residents on how local and state government works. This program series has reached scores of residents and earned an Innovation in Government award from the NJ State League of Municipalities. Beth is stepping down in part to spend more time in her work with the League of Women Voters. Udi Schorr has been the tireless leader of Highland Park's effort to promote full participation in the US 2020 Census. He built a large and representative committee of residents and worked closely with Borough staff to keep this matter at the top of people's minds, throughout the last year. This was no simple task, as you might have noticed that we also battled a pandemic during that time and many traditional avenues of promoting the Census were closed to us. Udi and his committee's work met with remarkable success. When the 2020 Census ended last month, Highland Park had 75.9% of its residents completing the census. This self-reporting rate was 6.5% higher than the previous 2010 Census, 6.4% higher than the NJ State response rate, and 8.9% higher than the response rate of the nation as a whole. This all translates to greater state and federal support for programs in our area.

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.

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

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX ACCEPTING PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-3 A CONSERVATION EASEMENT WITH TRAIL PROVISION ON BLOCK 75, LOT 15.02 BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK TAX MAP, had been introduced in writing by the Economic Development and Planning Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, 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 Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 11-20-294

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX ACCEPTING PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-3 A CONSERVATION EASEMENT WITH TRAIL PROVISION ON BLOCK 75, LOT 15.02 BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK TAX MAP, 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, December 1, 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.

Resolution Nos. 11-20-295 through 11-20-305, 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: Councilperson George (Resolution No. 11-20-296).

Absent: None.

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

No. 11-20-295

WHEREAS, Section 8 of P.L.2020, c.34 provides that whenever a public health emergency, pursuant to the *Emergency Health Powers Act*, P.L.2020, c.11 (N.J.S.A. 26:13-1, *et seq.*), and/or a state of emergency pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251 (C.App.A.9-33 *et seq.*), or a state of local disaster emergency has been declared by the Governor and is in effect, a local public body may conduct a public meeting remotely by electronic means, provided that reasonable public notice and provision for public input is made under the circumstances; and

WHEREAS, P.L.2020, c.34 also provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs ("DLGS") shall adopt rules and regulations concerning the conduct of remote public meetings during a public health emergency or state of emergency that are necessary to implement the provisions of the law, which shall include minimum procedures to be followed to provide reasonable public notice and allowance for public input; and

WHEREAS, DLGS promulgated emergency regulations codified as N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 through -1.7 that implement P.L.2020, c.34; and

WHEREAS, DLGS issued Local Finance Notice LFN 2020-21 on September 24, 2020 to accompany and explain the new regulations; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.4(h) requires local public bodies to adopt, by resolution, standard procedures and requirements for public comment made during a remote public meeting and for public comments submitted in writing ahead of a remote public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Borough Council ("Council") desires to establish and adopt the procedures and requirements attached hereto as Exhibit A as its standard procedures and requirements for public comment during a declared public health emergency and/or state of emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park in Middlesex County, New Jersey, that the Procedures and Requirements for the Conduct of Remote Public Meetings during a Declared Public Health Emergency and/or State of Emergency, attached hereto as Exhibit A, are hereby adopted as the standard procedures and requirements for public comment during a declared public health emergency and/or state of emergency.

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

No. 11-20-296

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2014, the Crossings at Highland Park, The Pulte Group, heretofore posted with the Borough of Highland Park a Surety Performance Bond No. 1014102 issued by the Hanover Insurance Company in the amount of \$3,225,296.88 and a Cash Surety Bond (Check No. 85272564) in the amount of \$358,366.32 for a total amount of \$3,583,663.20 in connection with a site plan application on property known as Block 172, Lot 2 and Block 101, Lots 25-30 in the Borough of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 6-18-162 dated June 12, 2018, the Borough of Highland Park authorized the release of the aforementioned Performance Bond subject to the posting of a two-year Maintenance Bond in the amount of \$537,500.00 and the payment of the remaining Tree Balance in the amount of \$139,100.00; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 8-18-224 dated August 14, 2018, the Borough of Highland Park authorized a reduction in the above-referenced Maintenance Bond and a reduction in the amount of the remaining tree balance; and

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2018, the Crossings at Highland Park, The Pulte Group, posted with the Borough of Highland Park a Maintenance Bond No. 30051295 issued by the Continental Insurance Company in the amount of \$447,957.90 in connection with site plan application for property known as Block 172, Lot 2 and Block 101, Lots 25-30 in the Borough of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council wish to release said maintenance guarantee as of the date of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the borough of Highland Park that Maintenance Bond No. 30051295 issued for the above mentioned project is hereby released.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department, Borough Engineer, Construction Official and Pulte Homes' attorney, Scott Anderson, Esq., Giordano, Halleran & Ciesla, P.C., 125 Half Mile Road, Suite 300, Red Bank, New Jersey 07701 upon its adoption.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-20-297

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, \$3,697.54 is available for this purpose through the Middlesex County Improvement Authority (MCIA)'s 2017 Pooled Capital Equipment and Improvement Financing Programs and \$272.30 is available for this purpose through the 2019 MCIA program and \$11,852.16 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-20-298

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 1997, Chapter 99, a municipality may hold a tax lien sale within the last month of a calendar year for any unpaid taxes or other municipal liens or charges that are delinquent as of the 11th day of the eleventh month of the calendar year; and,

WHEREAS, an electronic tax sale provides a greater pool of potential lien buyers, thus creating a more complete tax sale process.

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector solicited three vendors for online tax lien services, Max Spann Real Estate Auction Company, ROK Industries, Inc. Agent for Realauction.com, LLC and Auction Advisors.com; and

WHEREAS, of the three vendors, ROK Industries Inc./Realauction.com has the capability to conduct the sale according to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Division of Local Government Services

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, New Jersey, that the Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to contract ROK Industries/Realauction.com as the vendor for the online tax sale and the amount not to exceed \$10,000.

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

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

No. 11-20-299

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Services seeks to continue programming for residents and requires an awning as protection from outdoor elements; and

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

Awning Design	\$18,960.00
Majestic Awning & Sign	\$18,904.00
Window Works	\$20,604.00

and

WHEREAS, the Aging Program Coordinator has recommended that said services be purchased from Window Works, Livingston, NJ based on their quote for same based on their professionalism and quality of work; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. 0-01-26-310-200, 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 Aging Program Coordinator is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for awning design and installation services from Window Works, 38 East Northfield Road, Livingston, NJ 07039, at a cost not to exceed of \$20,604.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Aging Program Coordinator, Assistant to the Borough Administrator and the Chief Financial Officer forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-20-300

WHEREAS, the Transfiguration of the Lord, Inc. has made application to the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park for a license to hold, operate and conduct a 50/50 Off-Premises Raffle in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law (NSJA 5:8-50 to 76), on March 13, 2021; and

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

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

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

No. 11-20-301

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection through the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF), has grant funds available to municipalities for the purpose of funding preliminary assessments, site investigations, remedial investigations and/or remedial action to determine the existence or extent of hazardous substance discharge conditions on properties; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has been awarded a grant from the HDSRF in the amount of up to \$54,332.00 to conduct a preliminary assessment and site investigation with respect to the property commonly known as the Rutgers Gun & Boat Shop at 127 Raritan Avenue, Block 173, Lots 41 and 42; and

WHEREAS, such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. is qualified and licensed as an environmental consulting firm in the State of New Jersey to conduct preliminary assessments and site investigation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, a Professional Services Agreement with Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. for the above described parcels for an amount not to exceed \$54,332.00. The scope of work shall be consistent with the Technical and Cost Proposal for Environmental Engineering and Consulting Services that was approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as part of the HDSRF grant application.

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

No. 11-20-302

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has a need for the services of an appraisal report in connection with litigation entitled JSM at Highland Park, LLC v. The Borough of Highland Park, Docket No. MID-L-4958-17; and

WHEREAS, such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, Paul T. Beisser of Integra Realty Resources – Northern New Jersey is a Certified Real Estate Appraiser in the State of New Jersey (Certificate #RG0000181); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide a written agreement providing for the compensation of Paul T. Beisser to serve as the Borough's Real Estate Appraiser in connection with the above-referenced matter; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$12,500.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$12,500.00 in account No. 0-01-20-155-245, as reflected by the Certification of Funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, an Agreement for professional services with Paul T. Beisser of Integra Realty Resources – Northern New Jersey, a copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of the executed Agreement be placed on file in the Office of the Borough

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

No. 11-20-303

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection through the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF), has grant funds available to municipalities for the purpose of funding preliminary assessments, site investigations, remedial investigations and/or remedial action to determine the existence or extent of hazardous substance discharge conditions on properties; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has been awarded a grant from the HDSRF in the amount of up to \$20,036.58 to conduct a site investigation with respect to the property commonly known as the Classic Cleaners at 125 Raritan Avenue, Block 173, Lots 43, 46 and 49; and

WHEREAS, such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. is qualified and licensed as an environmental consulting firm in the State of New Jersey to conduct preliminary assessments and site investigation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, a Professional Services Agreement with Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. for the above described parcels for an amount not to exceed \$20,036.58. The scope of work shall be consistent with the Technical and Cost Proposal for Environmental Engineering and Consulting Services that was approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as part of the HDSRF grant application.

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

No. 11-20-304

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:

NEENA ALTOMONTE, Public Safety Telecommunicator, at an annual salary of \$44,342.00, effective November 1, 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. 11-20-305

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 11/10/2020 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 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. 11-20-292

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that transfers of 2020 budget appropriation balances shall be made as follows:

Description	From	To
Police Dispatch S&W		30,000.00
Recreation S&W		10,000.00
Communications O/E	5,000.00	
Community & Economic Development O/E	10,000.00	
Central Services O/E	5,000.00	
Planning Board O/E	10,000.00	
Police S&W	10,000.00	
Total	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities 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. 11-20-293

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“Board”) has initiated an application process for year 2 of the Community Solar Pilot Program (“Program”) and has requested that applicants submit applications for the Program on or before February 5, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Program allows municipal entities to form subscriber groups for community solar projects by including the residents of the municipality in an ‘op-out’ participation program; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park (“Borough”) desires to submit an application to the Program and form a subscriber group of low and moderate income (LMI) customers to receive the economic benefit from a community solar project via energy savings; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Borough to submit a viable application to the Program, the Borough also needs to identify a third-party that will finance, own, operate, and maintain a community solar project located within the same electric utility service territory as the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to undertake the development and implementation of a competitive contracting Request for Proposals (“RFP”) seeking proposals from solar developers to fund, install, own, operate and maintain a photovoltaic energy system located within the same electric utility service territory as the Borough, partner with the Borough in the preparation and submission of an application to the Program, and virtually provide low cost renewable energy to the Borough’s subscriber group via a master service agreement; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to law, specifically, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1(j)*, and *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-15(44)* Borough of Highland Park is authorized to utilize competitive contracting process to procure solar developer proposals for completion of the Program application and award of a master services agreement for the Borough’s subscriber group; and

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that:

1. The Business Administrator is hereby authorized and directed, working with legal counsel, and Gabel Associates to develop, issue and administer a competitive contracting request for proposals seeking proposals from solar developers for completion of the Program application and award of a master services agreement for the Borough’s subscriber group which defines the terms and conditions of service by the successful respondent.

2. The Business Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to include in the request for proposals a requirement that the successful respondent reimburse the Borough for all costs associated with the development and implementation of the RFP and Program application process.

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.

Melanie O'Connell, 234 Karsey Street, commented about the placement of a skate park component in Karsey Street Park. She is concerned about the noise and the fact that it would draw older children to the area. Councilman Fine noted that the Council adopted a resolution to explore the siting of a skate park component at Karsey Street Park. What the skate park is going to look like and plans for it will have community input.

Amy Livingston, 229 South 11th Avenue, reminded the Council that she had asked them to consider a resolution to support the energy innovation and carbon dividend act at the September 15th and October 20th meetings. Mayor Brill Mittler asked that she send her an email with the proposed resolution.

Rebecca Cypess, 52 Brookdale Court, commented that she is a member of the Middlesex Black Jewish Coalition, an independent organization. Most of the membership is made up of residents of Highland Park. She mentioned bill S4656, which allows municipalities to establish a Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Jeffrey Longhofer, 245 South Adelaide Avenue, commented about the deer population plan and when they could expect to see the plan.

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

Work Session:

Downtown Redevelopment Plan – Councilman Hale noted that most of this was mentioned in his report. One of the things they have been hearing is to make sure they have a comprehensive parking management strategy as a part of this. The other component that they have heard is that there seems to be a wish for a significant public space component. The festival street and the way that they have designed it is there. There is another public hearing on November 17th.

2019 Audit – Borough Administrator Jover mentioned it in her report. There were no comments or findings of significance that would require a corrective action plan. This report speaks well of the CFO, Lori Majeski and her Finance team. There are physical copies of the audit in Council's mailboxes as well as it being published on the Borough website. At the next meeting, there will be resolution to accept the audit and the Borough Clerk will circulate an affidavit for the Council to sign.

E-scooter ordinance and VeoRide Contract – Discussion delayed until the December 1, 2020 meeting.

Goals – Not discussed.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Foster, seconded by Councilman Fine, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk