

REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 19, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:00 PM. Annual Notice of this meeting was provided to The Home News Tribune, the Star Ledger and the Highland Park Planet on January 6, 2021. In addition, notice of this meeting via zoom was faxed to The Home News Tribune and emailed to The Star Ledger and the Highland Park Planet on January 15, 2021 and was posted on the Borough website at www.hpboro.com and on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ on January 15, 2021 and has remained continuously posted as required by law.

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

Absent: Councilperson George (excused).

Mayor Brill Mittler asked for a moment of silence for the 400,000 deaths due to Covid-19.

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

Councilwoman Canavera reported that the Board of Health encourages residents to remember to wear masks at all times when in public. Please keep trying to sign up for the vaccine. Please follow their Instagram account at hpboroboh. The Commission for Universal Access is looking for community input on events the community would like to see to promote inclusion for all residents. Food insecurity is at an all-time high and there are two programs to help. The Community Food Pantry is open on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the following Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Donations can be made using their Amazon wish list. HP Gives a Hoot has a food pantry every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Donations can be made by mailing a check to Borough Hall with a memo that it is for HP Gives a Hoot. Also, all school age children can get free lunch Monday through Friday. The Housing Authority is working to try to get all residents vaccinated. The Human Relations Commission just had their Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Awards via Zoom with honoree Boris Franklin. January is National Blood Donor Month. According to the American Red Cross, winter is one of the most difficult times of year to collect enough blood products to meet patient needs. If you can, please consider donating. Lastly, anyone with a mental health crisis can reach out for help to the Middlesex County Crisis hotlines. Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care Hotline (855)515-5700 or Raritan Bay Medical Center Hotline (732)442-3794.

Councilman Hale thanked the Human Relations Commission and Ashton Burrell for the MLK event that took place yesterday. He thought it was very informative and he really appreciated their efforts to continue the tradition through Covid-19. He encouraged residents to continue to shop in Highland Park and do whatever they can to help the businesses in town. The Borough is getting some new businesses that are percolating downtown and he encouraged residents to do their best to take a look at these new businesses. It is really important that we continue to shop in our downtown. The Safe Walking and Cycling Committee is moving from the Economic Development and Planning Committee to the Recreation and Arts Committee. This is a committee that straddles a lot of different things. He recognizes that having a walkable community, having a safe community and a cycling community is an economic development issue and he hopes to be involved with them even though it is no longer in his portfolio. He congratulated Sterling Stanley on his 18th Assembly nomination to fill the seat for Nancy Pinkin. He welcomed Matt Hersh back to council for his first council meeting and it feels like he never left and was always here.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that she is excited to be the new Chair of the Finance Committee. This year on Finance with her is Councilman Hale and Councilwoman Foster, and you the residents. We have a lot of work ahead. This year, she will be working with the Borough Administrator and Tax Assessor on laying the groundwork for the Borough Reevaluation, at the same time being as transparent as possible. The Borough is long overdue for a re-valuation and they would like to see everyone's quarantine DIY kitchen upgrades. She encourage all residents to take a look at their 163 page latest municipal audit. You can view it at hpboro.com and search for municipal audit. The Community Development Block Grant Committee will be holding their public hearing on applicants on February 23, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Meeting will be noticed. She has not yet discussed this, but she will be proposing a meet the CFO and Tax Assessor sometime this year. She will keep everyone posted. During 2020, you heard us all discuss the importance of wearing your mask, practicing social distancing, being tested, and staying safe. A week before the Christmas holidays, I tested positive for Covid. She had almost every symptom; 101 to 105 fever for over a week. She felt like death was on her back and according to the CDC; she is a low risk person. She was in denial for a few days and could not believe she had come so far to now test positive. She begged everyone to please continue to wear their masks and follow CDC guidelines. She thanked her colleagues and residents that offered help and sent get well wishes during her time of need. She truly appreciated it. She thinks it is great we have a vaccine and she applauds all of our residents that have been vaccinated but, she also understands residents' concerns regarding the vaccine; especially in our black and brown communities. The Tuskegee Experiment was not that long ago, so she gets it. What she will say is make an appointment and talk to your doctor about the vaccine. It is an important conversation. Thursday, she attended a stakeholders meeting with the Governor's Office to discuss GetCoveredNJ Now. More than ever, we need affordable health insurance. Get Covered New Jersey is the State's official health insurance marketplace that gives access to the resources and financial help needed to find the right coverage. This year, there is more financial help available than ever before. Eight in ten consumers will qualify for assistance to lower the cost of a plan. The Open Enrollment Period for 2021 health coverage runs until January 31, 2021. More information can be found at www.nj.gov/getcoverednj. She attended the MLK day celebration yesterday and it gets better and better every year. She thanked the Human Relations Commission. Lastly, she is looking forward to a new day coming out of Washington tomorrow and some great promises from the Biden/Harris Administration.

Councilwoman Foster thanked Ashton Burrell and his team. They continue to be engaged in participating in events and she gave kudos to all those who participated and to Boris Franklin, who amongst great obstacles, succeeded and has come a long way and is doing some great work in our community. She is quite sure that he will continue to do so. Last year, we saw a rash of burglaries in town and she is happy to report the person has been apprehended by the Police Department. She thanked the Police Department for their efforts in making sure that we are all kept safe. We should continue to do what we have to do to keep ourselves safe during this epic pandemic. We need to all wear our masks, but we must dispose of our masks and gloves in the garbage. We have seen gloves and masks strewn around town and we must be responsible citizens and dispose of them properly. Lastly, she is happy for the Biden/Harris team. She is really happy for Kamala Harris as her dad hails from the beautiful islands of Jamaica.

Councilman Hersh reported that The Highland Park Arts Commission is off and running with Windows of Understanding, a public art project designed to transform our “main street” spaces into literal windows of understanding. Now in its fourth year, approximately 20 non-profit organizations will be paired with an artist facilitator to create an original work of art that addresses the following issues: CLIMATE CHANGE; FOOD INSECURITY; HEALING FROM TRAUMA; PUBLIC HEALTH; and YOUTH ENGAGEMENT. The works are currently on display at venues throughout New Brunswick, Highland Park, and Metuchen through February 28. Please go to www.windowsofunderstanding.org for more information. Tomorrow, the country gets the chance to begin healing; to begin renewing; to begin again with the mandate to create a fair, just, safe society. For the last four years, we have treated New Jersey and our towns as the bulwarks against injustice from the outgoing administration. We have resisted. We have done the things within our authority to continue a path toward a more equitable society, and we have learned new ways to organize and to create lasting change. However, when things are so up in the air, our charge, this time, is not a return to normalcy. That is what we saw with the false MAGA claim. “Normal” is subjective and does not reflect a sense of justice or fairness; it reflects how things once were when we were comfortable and dispassionate. I have no doubt that President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris will sow less division, project more empathy, and promote policies that work toward justice, peace, and fairness. No doubt about it. Unlike 2008, when we let the populist movement that was underway out of our grips, and allowed it to be co-opted by folks who spread misinformation, fear, and lies. While history will hopefully show how we got here and what we must do differently, we also need to look more deeply on the inequity that has always existed and kept neighbors sidelined, voiceless, marginalized, or in danger. That requires more than just unity, but taking a bold stance on what lies ahead. If we learn anything from this president and from this pandemic, it is that our communities have been in crisis and that this national nightmare has put those crises into sharper relief from housing to healthcare. It is understanding that advocating for systemic change when it comes to social, economic, and environmental equity benefits all the fruits that society can offer. It is understanding that environmental protection starts at home. It is understanding that we can flourish as a community when we look deeply at what has held us back. It might be unfamiliar terrain, but it is not scary; it is hopeful. And, it is the opposite of the state of fear that has tried us to our core. I hope justice is served for those responsible for putting our lives at risk, for making our communities weaker and divided, for organizing an insurrection at the Capitol on January 6. They deserve it. President Trump deserves justice. But more, we can all work to make sure justice is served for those who have been subjected to actual systemic injustice for generations. If we can do those things and if we can identify how those core equity principles can be woven into our daily lives, we will be in a much, much better place. Please join us all in watching the swearing in of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. It is as good a place as any to continue working toward a fair, just society.

Borough Administrator Jover reported that they just announced the new bulk trash pickup by appointment program for this year. It was based on the successful short pilot program last year. As a reminder, the appointments are during the months of March, April, May, June, September and October. All of this information is on the website. On the Wednesdays of those months will be days where the workers generally have more flexibility because there is no recycling or garbage pickup on those days. You can call now for an appointment for one of those months. Be advised that the appointments do not start in January. There was a bit of a misunderstanding when the communication went out and there was a miscommunication with Public Works. They were not ready to handle the scheduling when it was announced and the situation has since been rectified. She apologized to anyone who was in the middle of that confusion. They are excited to be able to offer the program and they believe it will offer more flexibility to folks who were not able to fit their needs into our existing schedule. On the agenda tonight, if Council passes the resolution, is an award to Hartz Mountain, a solar developer, as part of our community solar project. The Board of Public Utilities has opened up applications for its pilot program for the second wave of applications and with the support of our consultants at Gabel Associates; we have been putting together an application that is due in February. One of the things we needed was a partner who is a solar developer. We did a solicitation for proposals and found a very qualified partner for that application. It does not mean we have a community solar project at this point, but movement ahead with that resolution will allow us to fill out that application and present a very strong application for the Borough. We are targeting 100 low and moderate-income residents with what we are putting together. That was something that the Council felt very strongly about and if it was to move forward, it will basically allow for reduced energy costs for low-moderate income residents in Highland Park who could not have otherwise put solar panels up on their residence for one reason or another. Also on the agenda is a resolution to approve the resolution to go out to bid for the spring tree planting program. This is our third year of a much more proactive, energized approach towards the planting program. They did a program on the North Side, and a very big program on the South Side, and this year they are targeting the Triangle. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee is identifying the locations and they are excited to go out to bid so that we can be ready to plant come March and April. Lastly, she mentioned that they completed the 2020 road resurfacing program and in 2021, they have the following roads on deck that are currently being reviewed with the DOT. This is DOT funding that will go towards resurfacing and the roads they are looking at are South 6th Avenue, Magnolia Street to Benner; South 9th Avenue, Eden Avenue to Graham Street; North 9th Avenue, Raritan Avenue to Abbott Street; Benner Street, South 7th Avenue to South 9th Avenue; North 4th Avenue, Montgomery Street to Madison Avenue; and Barnard Street, Woodbridge Avenue to Central Avenue. These are not new, as she has reported on them before, but it is a new year and she wants to make sure everybody is aware. We cannot pave now and are awaiting DOT sign off, but they anticipate being able to so in the early

spring/summer if all goes well. There is also a project to resurface Woodbridge Avenue. We are collaborating with the County on that but she does not have a timetable yet for that as they are still in engineering discussions. It is a big project and it will also touch upon the side streets adjacent to Woodbridge Avenue from 11th Avenue to the boundary with Edison.

Borough Attorney Schmierer- No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler gave a Covid-19 update. Current Covid-19 numbers through January 18th is 51 cases in the last week. In April of 2020, there were 100 cases and in December of 2020, there were 161 cases. In January of 2021, there have been 121 cases. Since Covid-19 began, Highland Park had 641 confirmed cases, or 4.5% of our population. To register for a Covid-19 vaccine, you can apply at <https://healthconnect.rwjbh.org/CV19MS/qR8nwEPZPi8> or <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/covid-19-vaccine-locations-for-eligible-recipients>. If you have any questions regarding the vaccine, please call the County Call Center at 732-745-3100. Please be patient with the sites. There are many more people wanting to get a vaccine than vaccines available to Middlesex County. Site fills up in 3 minutes of opening. During this period, please get outside and stay active in a healthy, masked, socially distanced way. Utilize our high school field, walk downtown to view murals and the Windows of Understanding Annual Art displays, Meadows Trail, Rutgers Nature Preserve, Donaldson Park and Johnson Park. Highland Park's management of Covid-19 continues to get regional and statewide attention. Last weekend, she served on a zoom panel with 4 highly regarded medical professionals about the vaccine that reached about 300 viewers from Highland Park, Edison, East Brunswick and other places. When that panel discussion on the vaccines is posted to YouTube, we will make the link for viewing this important information available. Highland Park's efforts to fight the pandemic were highlighted in a page long article of NJ Municipalities Magazine this month. Kudos to the Covid-19 Task Force, chaired by former Mayor Jim Polos, our OEM Coordinator, for their work. The Task Force is made up of Borough Employees, volunteers, our Board of Health members and meets every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. She encouraged residents to order meals for delivery or pick up from downtown businesses and to patronize the small businesses. To help the downtown businesses get through this crisis, she is donating her Mayor's stipend to Main Street to aid the downtown businesses. The new Main Street Mayor's Fund will be set up within the next week. They will be sending out a notice to all the small businesses with specifics on how to apply for funds. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee held a tree photo contest. There were an amazing 91 entries. The photos will be exhibited in the Rite Aid window gallery and online. The very successful, award winning Park Partners Give Back Program will be held this year on February 21st. Residents have submitted 12 projects. They will present their projects on zoom this year. All information on how to view the presentations and vote will be available on our website, www.hpboro.com when all Covid-19 safe details are worked out. She wanted to discuss Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms for a moment. Last week's horror in DC highlighted the dangers these media pose. They have become the breeding grounds for discourteous language, conspiracy theories, false rumors, and lies. Let us not use Facebook that way here in Highland Park. We are a small municipality. She and the other Council Members are all very approachable. They are not always going to agree on things. If you have concerns, call them or email them. Highland Park is a community that can and likes to talk things through. Do not get sucked into the black hole that Facebook, Twitter and other social media have become.

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.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented that she appreciates everything the Council has done in adapting to the circumstances with zoom and continuing to support the town and keep everything running. She commented about the bulk pickup schedule change mentioned by the Borough Administrator and felt that her explanation about the change was dishonest. She encouraged the Borough to go forward in 2021 in a more transparent manner. Borough Administrator addressed her comment about the bulk pickup program. The Borough will come up with a strategy for better communication in 2021. Information to be printed on the door hangers that are distributed to every household.

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

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 3, "ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT", had been introduced in writing by the Council as a Whole for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman Hersh, 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, Foster, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson George.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Hersh, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:
No. 1-21-19

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 3, "ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT", 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, February 2, 2021, 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. 1-21-20 through 1-21-46 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson George.

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

No. 1-21-20

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park desires to use Balken Risk Management Consulting Services, LLC for risk management consulting services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the agreement for aforesaid services, attached to the original of this resolution, is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough Administrator, the Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund and Balken Risk Management Services, LLC forthwith.

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

No. 1-21-21

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Municipal Attorney for the calendar year of 2021; 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, Edwin Schmierer, Esq., is an Attorney at Law of the State of New Jersey with experience in municipal law and has heretofore been appointed as Borough Attorney for 2021;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide a written agreement providing for the compensation of the Borough Attorney; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$170,000.00, without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$170,000.00 in Account No. 1-01-20-155-233, upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available 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 Edwin Schmierer, Esq., a copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

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

No. 1-21-22

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Tax Appeal Counsel for the calendar year 2021; 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, Martin Allen of the Law firm of Di Francesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum is an Attorney at Law of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in tax appeal matters and has heretofore been appointed as Tax Appeal Counsel for 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide compensation for the Tax Appeal Counsel; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$25,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose will be available in the amount of \$25,000.00 in Account No. 1-01-20-155-245, upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available 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 Martin Allen, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of hereof, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

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

No. 1-21-23

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Labor Consultant for the calendar year of 2021; 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, Arthur Thibault, Esq., is an Attorney at Law of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in labor relations matters and has heretofore been appointed as Labor Consultant for 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of said Labor Consultant; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$40,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$40,000.00 in Account No. 1-01-20-155-234, upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget, 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 Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for professional services with Arthur Thibault, Esq., Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy, 25 Independence Boulevard, Liberty Corner, NJ 07938, a proposed copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

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

No. 1-21-24

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of Bond Counsel for bonding and related matters the calendar year of 2021; 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, Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, Esqs., is a firm of attorneys at law of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in bonding and related matters and has heretofore been appointed as Borough Bond Counsel for 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of Bond Counsel; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$40,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$40,000.00 in Account No. 1-01-20-130-233, upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available 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 Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, Esqs., a proposed copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

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

No. 1-21-25

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Municipal Engineer for the calendar year of 2021; 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, David J. Samuel, of CME Associates, is a licensed engineer of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in municipal engineering and has heretofore been appointed Borough Engineer for 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation for the Borough Engineer; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed \$20,000.00 or the amount specified in agreements for specific projects; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$20,000.00 in Account No. 1-01-20-165-233, upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available 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 David J. Samuel, CME Associates, a copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

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

No. 1-21-26

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Planning Consultant for the calendar year of 2021 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, James Constantine, PP of LRK, Inc. is a licensed professional planner of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in municipal land use and planning matters and has heretofore been appointed as Borough Planner for 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide compensation for the Planning Consultant; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 1-01-21-180-233 in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.00, upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below, and in various escrow accounts now or hereafter established pursuant to Chapter 17-10.12 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Highland Park.

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 Jim Constantine, a copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-21-27

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Special Counsel for Affordable Housing for 2021; 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, Surenian, Edwards & Nolan, LLC, is an Attorney at Law Firm of the State of New Jersey with experience in municipal law and has heretofore been appointed as Special Counsel for the above mentioned period; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide compensation for the Special Counsel; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$15,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$15,000.00 in Account No. 1-01-20-155-250, upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available 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 Surenian, Edwards & Nolan, LLC, a copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-21-28

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Municipal Auditor for the calendar year of 2021; 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, Gerard Stankiewicz of Samuel Klein and Company, is a certified Public Accountant and Registered Municipal Accountant of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in municipal auditing and has heretofore been appointed Borough Auditor for 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation for the Borough Auditor; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$48,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$48,000.00 in Account No. 1-01-20-135-249, upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available 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 Gerard Stankiewicz of Samuel Klein and Company, a copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-21-29

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Special Counsel for Redevelopment for 2021; 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, McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, is an Attorney at Law Firm of the State of New Jersey with experience in municipal law and has heretofore been appointed as Special Counsel for Redevelopment for the above mentioned period; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of the Special Counsel; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$70,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$70,000.00 in Account No. 1-01-20-170-233, upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available 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 McManimon, Scotland, Baumann, LLC, a copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-21-30

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Municipal Prosecutor for the calendar year of 2021 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2B:12-27; 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, Robert Janzekovich, Esq., is an Attorney at Law of the State of New Jersey with experience as a Municipal Prosecutor and has heretofore been appointed as the Municipal Prosecutor for 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of said Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose and are not to exceed the amount of \$34,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$34,000.00 in Account No. 1-01-25-275-235 upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget, 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 Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for professional services with Robert J. Janzekovich, LLC, 6 Julia Drive, Monroe Township, NJ 08831, a proposed copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

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

No. 1-21-31

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Public Defender for the calendar year of 2021 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2B:12-28; 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, Roselli & Roselli, are Attorneys at Law in the State of New Jersey with experience as Public Defenders and have heretofore been appointed as the Public Defender for 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of said Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose and are not to exceed the amount of \$9,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$9,000.00 in Account No. 1-01-43-495-235 upon adoption of the 2021 municipal budget, 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 Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for professional services with Roselli & Roselli, 11 Stephen Street, South River, NJ 08882, a proposed copy of which is attached hereto, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

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

No. 1-21-32

WHEREAS, advertisement was made for receipt of bids on December 10, 2020, for the 2021-2022 Annual Maintenance Contract for Tree Pruning, Tree Removal, Stumps Removal and/or Root Grinding; and

WHEREAS, one (1) bid was received as follows:

1. Rich Tree Service, Inc.: \$183,750.00

WHEREAS, following the receipt of the above-referenced bid, said bid was reviewed by the Borough Attorney's office to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Notice to Bidders and other bid documents; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the review, it has been recommended by the Borough staff that the bid be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, Rich Tree Service, Inc. in the amount of \$183,750.00; and

WHEREAS, funds for said contract shall be made available in Account No. 1-01-26-290-237 in an amount not to exceed \$91,875.00, pending the adoption of the 2021 Municipal Budget, as reflected by the certification of funds of by the Finance Department, shown below;

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 a contract on behalf of the Borough with Rich Tree Service, Inc. 325 Bergen Street, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, in an amount not to exceed \$183,750.00 without further resolution of Council for pruning, tree and stump removal as described above, said contract to cover period beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2022. Said contract shall be in accordance with the specifications and bid documents and in a form approved by the Borough Attorney.

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

No. 1-21-33

WHEREAS the Highland Park Finance Department is in need of a maintenance contract for the financial software and hardware for 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Borough may purchase said maintenance contract from Edmunds & Associates, 301A Tilton Road, Northfield, NJ 08225 for an amount not to exceed \$11,800.00; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 0-01-20-130-235 in the amount of \$11,800.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Finance Director.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to execute said maintenance contract for the financial software and hardware from Edmunds & Associates, 301A Tilton Road, Northfield, NJ 08225, for a total amount not to exceed \$11,800.00; and

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

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

No. 1-21-34

WHEREAS, JJCKEC, LLC (James Coyle) and Robert Hala have filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for an Owners License to operate taxicabs in this Borough under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such licenses for the year 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and/or his designee has investigated said applicant sand has reported favorably upon said applications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Council hereby determined that said applicants are qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of such Licenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue an Owner License to the aforesaid applicants.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-21-35

WHEREAS, James Coyle has filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for a License to operate taxicabs under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such Licenses for the year 2021; and WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and/or his designee has investigated said applicant and has reported favorably upon said application;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that said applicants are qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of said License.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue an Operator Licenses to the aforesaid applicant.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-21-36

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 5, 2021 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:

Police Officer*	Bryant	Fitzgerald	78,017.00	1/1/21-11/23/21	78,017.00
	Bryant	Fitzgerald	86,409.00	11/24/21-12/31/21	86,409.00
Police Officer*	Joseph	Olarra, Jr.	78,017.00	1/1/21-11/23/21	78,017.00
	Joseph	Olarra, Jr.	86,409.00	11/24/21-12/31/21	86,409.00

*effective January 1, 2021

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 5, 2021 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:

MARIA AUSTIN, Community Service Driver, at an hourly rate of \$19.11, effective January 1, 2021.

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 Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-21-37

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have proposed an amendment to the Borough's Holiday Schedule which would exchange the 2021 Lincoln's Birthday Holiday (February 12, 2021) for the 2021 Juneteenth Holiday (June 18, 2021); and

WHEREAS, employees covered under collective bargaining units, Teamsters IBW 64 and the Department of Public Works Association (DPWA), have ratified said proposal for the year 2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the date of June 18, 2021, heretofore a normal day of employment, shall hence be taken and considered for all such purposes as a paid holiday for all non-union and administrative employees and all members of the Teamsters IBW 64 and Department of Public Works Association (DPWA) bargaining units; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the date of Friday, February 12, 2021, heretofore a paid holiday, shall hence be taken and considered for all such purposes as a normal day of employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to all non-union and administrative employees and all members of the Teamsters IBW 64 collective bargaining unit and members of the DPWA bargaining unit.

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

No. 1-21-38

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park ("Borough") desires to undertake the development and implementation of a Community Solar Renewable Energy Program ("Program"); and

WHEREAS, under the Program, the Borough will select a firm to be a co-applicant in connection with the Board of Public Utilities ("BPU") Round Two Community Solar Pilot Program for the approval of a solar project to be designed, permitted, financed, owned and operated by the Successful Respondent at a remote location; and

WHEREAS, Successful Respondent will also be required to enter into a Master Performance Agreement with the Borough pursuant to which the Successful Respondent will be required to virtually provide low cost renewable energy to low and moderate income Borough residents; and

WHEREAS, the Borough issued a *Request for Proposals for a Developer of a Community Solar Renewable Energy Project to be a Co-Applicant on the Board of Public Utilities Year 2 Pilot Program and to Enter into a Master Performance Agreement with the Borough of Highland Park*, dated November 13, 2020 (the "RFP"); and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2020, the Borough received one (1) proposal in response to the RFP from the following firm:

- Hartz Solar, L.L.C

WHEREAS, the Evaluation Team undertook a legal and technical review of the proposal received; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.5(d), the Evaluation Team has completed an Evaluation Report, dated January 15, 2020 and attached hereto as Exhibit A recommending a Successful Respondent to the Borough; and

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

1. The recommendation of the Evaluation Team contained in the Evaluation Report attached hereto as Exhibit A that Hartz Solar, L.L.C. be selected as the Successful Respondent and awarded a Master Performance Agreement is hereby accepted.
2. The Business Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to (1) work with legal counsel, and the energy consultant to develop an acceptable form of Master Service Agreement with Hartz Solar, L.L.C, (2) execute same along with any other ancillary documents necessary to effectuate the intent and purpose of this Resolution and the Master Performance Agreement; (3) submit a Round 2 application to the BPU with the Successful Respondent; and (4) following BPU award implement the Program which shall allow the development, ownership, and operation of an opt-out community solar project, contingent on the proposed rules being approved by the BPU.
3. Notice of this award shall be published in the Borough's official newspapers.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

No. 1-21-39

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. Spring 2021 Tree Plantings

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 Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-21-40

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, the Borough of Highland Park engaged McManimon, Scotland & Baumann to serve as Special Environmental Counsel to assist the Borough in its representation in the matter known as JSM at Highland Park, LLC v. the Borough of Highland Park, Docket No. MID-L-4958-17; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to authorize an additional work on this case beyond the \$80,000 previously authorized by Borough Council and that additional amount is not to exceed \$70,000; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in Account No. 1-01-20-155-235 in the 2021 budget once adopted, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park in the County of Middlesex that the Council does hereby authorize an increase to the contract with McManimon, Scotland and Baumann, in accordance with the above stated limitations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Borough Administrator and Assistant Finance Officer.

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

No. 1-21-41

WHEREAS, under the terms and conditions of the Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey, a municipality may purchase items without competitive bidding from a firm or corporation currently under contract with the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS the Highland Park Police Department is in need of a maintenance contract for their portable radios, as more fully described on the attached quote; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 83932, the Borough may purchase said maintenance contract from Tactical Public Safety, 1036 Industrial Way, West Berlin, NJ 08091, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 1-01-25-240-235 in the amount of \$13,215.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Finance Director.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief of Police is hereby authorized and directed to execute said maintenance contract for the portable radios from Tactical Public Safety, 1036 Industrial Way, West Berlin, NJ 08091, for a total amount not to exceed \$13,215.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Richard Abrams, Chief of Police and the Finance Director, forthwith.

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

No. 1-21-42

WHEREAS, under the terms and conditions of the Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey, a municipality may purchase items without competitive bidding from a firm or corporation currently under contract with the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS the Highland Park Police Department is in need of a maintenance contract for their E-Ticketing System; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 83904, the Borough may purchase said maintenance contract from Gold Type Business Machines, 351 Paterson Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 1-01-25-240-235 in an amount not to exceed \$11,000.00 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 Chief of Police is hereby authorized and directed to execute said maintenance contract with Gold Type Business Machines, 351 Paterson Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073, at a total cost not to exceed \$11,000.00; and

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-21-43

WHEREAS, under the terms and conditions of the Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey, a municipality may purchase items without competitive bidding from a firm or corporation currently under contract with the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS the Highland Park Police Department is in need of Police ballistic vests for new hires and replacement of expired vests; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. A81351, the Borough may purchase said vests from Lawman Supply Company, 7150 Airport Highway, Pennsauken, NJ 08109, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 1-01-25-240-219 in an amount not to exceed \$9,000.00 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 Chief of Police is hereby authorized and directed to purchase said ballistic vests from Lawman Supply Company, 7150 Airport Highway, Pennsauken, NJ 08109, at a total cost not to exceed \$9,000.00; and

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-21-44

WHEREAS, the Police Department of the Borough of Highland Park is in need of the services of Axon Enterprise, Inc. for their body camera footage storage, as more fully described on the attached Purchase Requisition; and

WHEREAS, Axon Enterprise Inc. is able to provide said evidence storage; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 17-FLEET-00738, the Borough may purchase said evidence storage from Axon Enterprise, Inc. PO Box 29661, Department 2018, Phoenix, AZ, 85038-9661, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. 1-01-25-240-235 in the amount of \$13,000.00, 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 issue payment in the amount of \$13,000.00 to Axon Enterprise, Inc., PO Box 29661, Department 2018, Phoenix, AZ, 85038-9661; and

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Administration Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-21-45

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Elsa Y. Diaz (License No. T-8542) is hereby appointed to the position of Tax Collector, effective January 1, 2021 and expiring January 1, 2024.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-21-46

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 1/19/2021 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 41.

The following resolution, introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Canavera, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilperson George.

No. 1-21-47

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is dedicated to promoting the welfare and well-being of all its residents and recognizes that mental health disorders are a serious and prevalent concern, with the National Institute of Mental Health (a division of the National Institute of Health) reporting that nearly one fifth of U.S. adults live with some form of mental illness (<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness.shtml>);

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health concerns, with a recent CDC study reporting that “40.9% of 5,470 respondents who completed surveys during June reported an adverse mental or behavioral health condition” (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6932a1.htm>);

WHEREAS, the Borough recognizes that mental health disorders, including depression and suicide ideation, may be particularly challenging to teens and young adults, whose sense of identity is still developing and who may lack the capability to adequately describe the struggles they face and/or determine the most effective means to handle their disorder. The World Health Organization reports that “Globally, depression is one of the leading causes of illness and disability among adolescents,” and that “suicide is the third leading cause of death in 15-19-year-olds” (<https://www.who.int/news-room/factsheets/detail/adolescent-mental-health>);

WHEREAS, the Borough recognizes that the parents of these young people, and adults facing their own mental health struggles, may be daunted by the challenge to find affordable, accessible, and effective mental health counseling, support, and resources. The unmet challenges faced by these individuals generate unfortunate ripple effects that negatively affect families, neighborhoods, schools, and the larger community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Council hereby establish a Highland Park Mental Health Commission (HPMHC), whose goal will be to support the mental health and welfare of all Borough of Highland Park residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the HPMHC will facilitate the creation of a comprehensive mental health support system for the Highland Park community that promotes lifelong mental wellness, educates the public, and helps the public to access the resources available both in Highland Park and within the larger community area;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the betterment of the Borough of Highland Park, the HPMHC will develop recommendations for initiatives that educate and provide enhanced support and resources for improved mental health in the community. The HPMHC shall coordinate and align efforts among the various organizations that provide mental health services; create greater awareness for existing community resources; identify best practices for support and crisis prevention measures; and establish additional mental health programs and support for Highland Park residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission shall consist of up to twelve (12) members appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Borough Council.

The Commission shall be comprised of appointed members and representatives of interested groups in the Borough, as well as resident volunteers, as follows: Mayor's representative, Borough Council representative, Highland Park schools representative, local private schools representative; Board of Health representative; Borough Social Worker, Highland Park Youth Officer; Highland Park Teen Center Coordinator; local mental health services provider; mental health professional; and two (2) residents to be selected from volunteer applications. Volunteers shall demonstrate a strong personal interest in making an impact in the community related to mental health. The members shall serve without compensation and must be residents of the Borough of Highland Park, except where they serve the Highland Park community as local service providers.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilperson George.

No. 1-21-48

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2021, President Donald J. Trump incited supremacist groups and other extremist supporters to occupy the United States Capitol in an attempt to disrupt the final certification of the 2020 presidential election; and

WHEREAS, these violent insurgents threatened the safety and wellbeing of the Vice President of the United States, both chambers of Congress, Congressional staff members, and members local, state and federal law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the violence resulted in the deaths of five people, including a United States Capitol Police officer, Brian D. Sicknick, who was a native of South River, Middlesex County, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the United States Capitol is the seat of the federal government, meeting place of the nation's legislature, and an enduring symbol of our representative democracy; and

WHEREAS, this desecration of the United States Capitol and everything it stands for is wholly unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, this unprecedented attack on the United States Capitol, the United States Constitution, and the democratic process of the United States of America will forever be a stain on our history.

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Council, as sworn defenders of the U.S. Constitution, take their oaths and the responsibilities of their elected positions with utmost seriousness, do hereby condemn the actions of the insurgents on January 6, 2021 at the United States Capitol and hope to see swift punishment for all the perpetrators pursued to the fullest extent of the law, without leniency or favor.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Brian Slauch to serve as the Special Planner (COAH) for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Lt. Thomas Hammill to serve as the Safety Officer for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: Councilperson George.

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.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, asked whether there was any coordinated method going on for the town for residents who are over 65 to help them with the technology needed to get signed up for a vaccine. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the Aging Coordinator and her staff at Community Services have begun a process to help senior members sign up and register for vaccinations. She has called for interested residents to send her an email if they are interested in volunteering to help register seniors. Borough Administrator Jover added that the County will be offering assistance to folks without the ability or the access to technology for online registration. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she and Harry Glazer are working with the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council to assist seniors.

Lois Lebbing, North 2nd Avenue, thanked Harry Glazer for the list of snow shovelers. She mentioned the 2005 downtown redevelopment plan by former Mayor Frank. She asked if there would be a draft copy available of the new downtown redevelopment plan and if not, she wanted to know what law allows them not to provide a copy. Lastly, she noted that she got a construction permit for a chimney liner and there is no contact information or town name on the permit to call if you have questions. Councilman Hale noted that there will be draft plans available, but they are still working on it. Borough Administrator Jover to follow up with Code Enforcement office regarding permit.

Dan Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented about the redevelopment plan and the flurry of discussion that is going on. It is exactly the kind of focused development that Highland Park needs; particularly between 1st and 4th Avenues. Borough Administrator Jover noted that there is a Redevelopment Meeting of Council next Tuesday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m.

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

Work Session:

Rules of Order – Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that the Council has been working on the Rules of Order for several months. At the end of last year, the Council discussed this in a Work Session. Because of that discussion, he prepared a revised set of rules of order that were circulated, with the changes highlighted in red. There was a mistake about adding items to the agenda. He and Council President George discussed his recommendation, but the recommendation was not accurately reflected. He issued a supplemental memorandum on the 14th and it does include the language that Council President George recommended to have members of Council work through the Council President to add matters to the agenda with the caveat that if it was added to the agenda for a given week, it would not be discussed until the following week. The last paragraph of the Rules of Order indicates that if you want to amend your Rules of Order, you have to do so over two meetings. Councilman Hale noted that he appreciated the addition to the Rules of Order because he thinks it is an important addition to allow Council a mechanism to put things on the agenda. His recollection is that we had discussed being able to add items to the agenda with four Council Members and the revised version has five Council Members.

Water/Sewer Update – Borough Administrator Jover noted that Middlesex Water Company serves as the Borough's Contract Operator for the system. The Borough still owns and retains the responsibility for the system, but they do the day-to-day operations for the Borough. There are a number of projects that we have started advancing that were built into our contract with them; many of which are intended to keep the Borough compliant, if not ahead of the curve in terms of best practices and regulatory standards. One of the items they are responsible for as a capital improvement is the TV inspection of the entire sewer system. They just held a kickoff meeting with the contractor who will be doing the work. That data will be used to not only feed future capital projects, but it is also going to tell us a lot of things about our system that we do not know. The work will start on the high end of town and continue throughout the rest of the Borough. The Police Department will provide traffic management when necessary. The project is expected to start in February and it will help the Borough address the inflow and infiltration costs that have been problems that have been added to our sewer processing costs. A couple of meetings ago, Council authorized a bid package soliciting proposals for meter replacements and the specifications are almost completed. Middlesex Water Company's Engineers have been working on the bid specifications. Replacement of the meters will be a lengthy process and there will be a lot of communication with customers on this project that is expected to start in the first quarter of the year. The types of meters they will be looking at have the radio heads that will help do quicker and more efficient readings of the system. One of the obligations Middlesex Water Company has under the contract is the creation of an Asset Management Plan for the water and sewer system, which will be compliant with the requirements of the Water Quality Accountability Act. A big part of that project is going to be mapping, using GIS, Geographic Information Systems, of our entire system and building into that a mechanism for capturing information about the system as we make improvements. This will be a helpful decision-making tool as we start to map out the capital projects. They hold monthly operations committee meetings and Council President George sits in on those with her and the Chief Financial Officer.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk