

REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 2, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:01 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 February 26, 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 February 26, 2021 and has remained continuously posted as required by law.

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

Absent: None.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the minutes of the Regular/Work Session Meetings held February 16, 2021, were approved, as distributed, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

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

Councilman Hersh reported that he got his FREE Covid test in Highland Park yesterday and it came back negative! I am excited because now my family and I can be tested regularly. We had 18 participants yesterday and we have received six calls today with COVID testing questions and about ten yesterday. People are interested in the service. With Bartle and Irving schools headed back to five-day, in-person learning, getting tested is essential and easy. I hope that we will not have to provide this service for that long as President Biden said today that Johnson & Johnson would boost its vaccine production, allowing the U.S. to produce enough vaccines for every adult in the U.S. by the end of May, while making a fresh push to vaccinate school staff over the next month. Need a Covid test? Ridgewood Diagnostic Lab will be on-site at the Highland Park Community Center (220 So. 6th Avenue) to administer COVID-19 tests on the following days and times: Mondays, 10 am - 4 pm; Wednesdays, 12 pm - 4 pm; and Fridays, 10 am - 1 pm. This testing is at NO COST to participants; tests will either be billed directly to your insurance company or billed to the CARES Act if uninsured. Participants are encouraged to pre-register (<https://testnj.online/reg.aspx>) prior to coming to the testing site but it is not required - walk-ins are welcome! If you have insurance, please bring a photo ID and your insurance card. If you are uninsured, please bring a form of identification. If you have any questions, please refer to our FAQ page on our website. If you have further questions, please contact emissey@hpboro.com.

Councilwoman Canavera reported that March is National Women's History Month. The theme for Women's History Month in 2021 captures the spirit of these challenging times. Since many of the women's suffrage centennial celebrations originally scheduled for 2020 were curtailed, the National Women's History Alliance is extending the annual theme for 2021 to "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced. The Borough is now offering Covid 19 testing at the community center. Testing is available Mondays, 10 am - 4 pm; Wednesdays, 12 pm - 4 pm; and Fridays, 10 am - 1 pm. March is also National Nutrition Month. The Community Food Pantry is open the second and 4th Thursday 9 am to 10:45 am and 6 pm to 7 pm and the Saturday following Thursday of every month from 9:30am -10:30 pm. Donations can be made using their Amazon wish list. The HP Gives a Hoot Food Pantry is held every Tuesday at the Zone 6 teen center from 10:00 a.m. until 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. Between these two programs, they are serving over 300 families. Also ALL school age child can get free lunch Monday through Friday at the high school cafeteria 1pm to 2 pm. The Mental Health Commission will be holding its first event on March 21 @ 4pm entitled "Grieving our losses together". It will be a zoom meeting and the link will be on the Borough website. Anyone with a mental health crisis please reach out for help: Middlesex county crisis hotlines - Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care HOTLINE: (855) 515-5700 and Raritan Bay Medical Center HOTLINE: (732) 442-3794.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that the community development block grant committee would be holding their public hearing on applicants March 4, 2021 at 6pm. The meeting was rescheduled from February 23, 2021. The Finance Committee will be meeting March 11, 2021 at 4pm. The meeting will be noticed with details. Voluntary Automated Paperless Water & Sewer Billing - Residents can enroll to receive their quarterly utility bill via email. If you choose not to enroll, you will continue to receive a paper postcard bill. Questions? Please call 732-819-3788. Covid hate crimes against Asian Americans are on the rise once again. In recent weeks, celebrities and influencers have spoken out after several disturbing incidents went viral on social media. Here are some of the recently reported attacks: An 84-year-old Thai immigrant in San Francisco, California, died last month after being violently shoved to the ground during his morning walk. In Oakland, California, a 91-year-old senior was shoved to the pavement from behind. An 89-year-old Chinese woman was slapped and set on fire by two people in Brooklyn, New York. A stranger on the New York subway slashed a 61-year-old Filipino American passenger's face with a box cutter. The key word here is reported. I encourage our AAPI residents to report any form of abuse to the Highland Park police department immediately. Today is NATIONAL READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY! Read a book you have read before. You may discover that it has new meaning to you since you last read it.

Councilwoman Foster reported that some wonderful things have been going on over at the Zone 6 Teen Center. Last month they had Alpha Aviation come in to do a program and 12 people signed up to learn how to get involved in aviation and how to fly drones. They will be creating a drone program at the

Teen Center. They are in need of cultural books and asked if residents would consider donating some to the Teen Center. A former Highland Park basketball player that came back to town has been helping at the Teen Center and he started a sponsorship for bank accounts for four students. They are doing a financial literacy workshop and have taken the students under their wings and they are showing them how to be financially stable. The Police Department will be hosting a Community Forum in the near future and information will be posted on our Facebook page. She is happy that the Borough is celebrating Women's History Month and we can read about great women in history such as Jane Austen, Anne Frank, Maya Angelou, Queen Elizabeth, Catherine the Great and Rosa Parks. This year we have seen our first African-American Vice President of the United States. We have come a long way and we are cracking that glass ceiling. We are hoping the next time around that we will crack it wide open.

Councilman Hale reported that he wanted to give a very brief update on the downtown redevelopment plan. As you know, we had a great deal of public feedback on the plan. We are diligently working with our professionals to write up the results of the public input and do a redevelopment plan that will really outline the zoning possibilities or thresholds for downtown development. We had been hopeful that we could introduce those at the regularly scheduled Redevelopment entity meeting next week, but we are not ready yet. Therefore, since nothing has really changed and there is not anything new to discuss or report we have decided to postpone the next Redevelopment meeting. It was originally scheduled for March 9th. We will continue to work on the overall written plan and do our best to get it out for public comment and review as soon as it is ready.

Councilman George thanked Councilman Hersh and the Administration for setting up the Covid-19 testing. It is very difficult lately to register online and this is very convenient. He got tested yesterday, the staff were courteous and enthusiastic, and he was in and out in five minutes. You get your test results texted to in less than 24 hours. They set up the committee to review snow protocols and he spoke with Councilmembers Canavera and Hersh and they will break out the particular areas that were of most concern and focus on those areas first. They have added extra DPW Committee meetings specifically devoted to snow plowing. The Native Plant Sanctuary received a \$500 grant from the State Native Plant Society and they are running their second statewide sale as a distribution center. It is a contactless exchange and they had over a hundred people pickup plants last fall. Individuals order plants online and prepay and the plants are pre-packaged for pickup. They have asked to do it again at the Native Plant Sanctuary and that will be held on March 13th. The Environmental Commission meets again tomorrow night and they have been discussing the storm water changes, which are being worked on that need to be adopted. There are mandatory state and federal law changes to storm water management that need to be made and our Borough Attorney has been working with the Borough Engineer to make those changes to the ordinance that all towns need to adopt. He is pushing for the Borough to become more electric vehicle friendly in the coming year. They reviewed the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership proposal that is on the agenda tonight. The proposal was reviewed and approved by the Public Works Committee and the Environmental Commission. He attended the monthly Library Board meeting where they did an annual reporting on the 2020 experience in running a library. Some of the programs they designed as a coping mechanism have turned out to be very successful such as curated books, and a curated book pickup. He is hoping the annual report will be available shortly to be posted.

Borough Administrator Jover reported that the Council Redevelopment Meeting scheduled for March 9, 2021 is cancelled. They will continue to work on the redevelopment plan.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that Highland Park residents continue to show how much they care about their neighbors, in Highland Park and beyond. This past week she was inspired to read about the efforts of a Highland Park resident, Jeff Suchon, whose remarkable personal initiative was covered in a story on CNN.com last month. Despite the fact that he is not currently working due to health concerns related to the pandemic, he saw a clear need and responded generously to it. He took the Federal stimulus check he received in the spring and used it to purchase over 30,000 facemasks for those of limited means. He worked with the local soup kitchen, Elijah's Promise, homeless shelters, churches, and food pantries to distribute the masks. Jeff understood that each person who has a mask does not just benefit her or himself but also everyone they come into contact with. She thanked Jeff for his exceptional generosity and firm commitment to public health. The Borough is very grateful for your efforts. As of Monday, March 1st, the total weekly number of new confirmed Covid-19 cases in Highland Park is 21. This is the lowest weekly total we have had since November of 2020. February's monthly cases are roughly half of what we had last month and are very close to our numbers in April 2020. Through March 1st, the County reports 809 total cumulative COVID positive cases in town since the pandemic began. Sadly, Highland Park has one additional Covid-related death that was reported on February 25th. This brings total Covid-19 deaths in town to 16. Our flags fly at half-mast in honor of them and all Americans that were lost due to this pandemic. Though the decline in the number of our positive cases for February is certainly encouraging, and more and more residents have been able to procure vaccine appointments, we are not out of the woods with this pandemic yet. She encouraged residents to please continue to be vigilant against this virus. Wash your hands often; wear a mask when you leave your home; and, of course, stay 6' socially distant from others, indoors and outdoors. Highland Park is now the proud host of a regular, no cost COVID-19 testing site. As of yesterday, Ridgewood Diagnostic Lab will be on-site at the Highland Park Community Center (220 So. 6th Avenue) to administer COVID-19 tests on the following days and times: Mondays, 10 am - 4 pm; Wednesdays, 12 pm - 4 pm and Fridays, 10 am - 1 pm. If you have any questions, please refer to our FAQ page on our website at <https://www.hpboro.com/covid19testing>. She was delighted to announce that the Department of Transportation has just approved an extension of our Popular Town Tables Dining on North 4th and South 3rd Avenues. The extension runs through May 31, 2021. As the weather improves....yes, spring is on the way....please patronize our downtown restaurants and cafes; join your friends in safe conversation and socialization at our Town Tables. As we have just recently concluded African American History Month, and started Women's History Month, she wanted to take a moment to recognize one person, raised in Highland Park, whose accomplishments reflect the best aspirations of both months. Danelle Morgan, daughter of Bruce and Deborah Morgan, began her dance studies at the Dance Exchange School

of the Performing Arts. To expand her technique, Danelle enrolled in the Pre-Professional Scholarship Program at The Ailey School at the age of sixteen. She became one of the first African American women to be selected as a Radio City Rockette dancer. Danelle performed in the Christmas Spectacular starring the Radio City Rockettes for over twelve years and has been the face of the Rockettes in various print and commercial advertising campaigns. As a Rockette, she has performed for President Obama, Oprah Winfrey, in Dick Clark's Rockin' New Year's Eve Celebration, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Wendy Williams Show, and The Today Show. She has appeared in many magazines (Vanity Fair, Marie Claire, Time Out New York) and has had her own feature in the New York Times Sunday Routine. Danelle is also proud to be the recipient of the 2017 NAACP NJ State Conference Performing Arts Award for achievements in the arts. In the spring of 2019, Danelle led a diversity drive to help recruit more women of color to the Rockettes and her work on that effort was profiled in the NY Post. She knows her parents beam with pride at Danelle's achievements and she is here to say that the entire Borough does too.

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.

Rebecca Cypess, 52 Brookdale, commented about Resolution 3-21-84 and urged the Governing Body adopt the resolution to show support of this important legislation and to get up to speed with twenty-nine other states that are more transparent than New Jersey such as Florida and Ohio. She has an open letter to Senator Diegnan and currently has over 110 signatures to urge them to support and co-sponsor this legislation.

Sonya Headlam, 133 Benner Street, commented about Resolution 3-21-84 and noted that making police disciplinary records public is needed to ensure greater accountability and transparency in policing, but also in the criminal justice system. She mentioned that often Grand Juries are not made aware that a Police Officer killed a civilian or that they had a history of excessive force. The Innocence Project does a lot of work on this subject and she would be happy to provide the link that would provide more information.

Mary Curran, 7 Cleveland Avenue, commented that she urged the Council to vote yes for the resolution in support of both the senate bill and the assembly bill. The bill expressly provides protection for law enforcement and that certain information pertaining to the law enforcement officer or the officer's family, the complainant or the complainant's family and a witness or a witness's family can be redacted to sufficiently protect those individuals while providing transparency.

Cassandra Oliveros-Moreno, 53 Lincoln Avenue, commented that S2656/A5301 has been endorsed by over a hundred organizations and individuals impacted by police misconduct in our state such as the Hotel Trades Council, the ACLU, Black Lives Matter and many others.

Ravit Duncan, Lawrence Avenue, commented about S2656/A5301 and pointed out that the transparency and accountability is important not only in terms of policing but also earns the public's trust which leads members of the public to be more likely to cooperate with investigations and report crimes. The transparency directives would greatly benefit officers of color and women officers because it would allow law enforcement to identify racial and gender disparities in how major discipline has been imposed upon officers.

Dan Battey, 304 Montgomery Street, spoke about S2656/A5301 and noted that according to the internal affairs policy and procedural manual, one of the areas that often involves internal affairs is an employee's fitness for duty. This is not exclusively an internal affairs issue and an officer's fitness may be impacted for reasons other than misconduct.

Pastor Antoinette Gaboton Moss, Montgomery Street, commented that she is the Co-Chairperson of the Mayor's Equity Advisory Council. She is glad to see the resolution in support of S2656/A5301 will come to a vote tonight. The Advisory Council voted unanimously to support this important resolution. Several law enforcement coalition groups support this bill and a group of lead law enforcement agencies in Florida and Ohio recently wrote to Governor Murphy to express their support for this bill.

John Valeri, 106 South 6th Avenue, commented about police accountability and that he was excused from jury duty due to the fact that he said he would not take the word of a Police Officer over a witness.

Michael Stralka, 60 Cedar Avenue, spoke in favor of the resolution for S2656/A5301. He mentioned cost concerns related to this bill and that there is no reason to think that this bill would cause additional OPRA requests. He thinks it should make life easier for custodians because it takes away some of the ambiguity that exists now.

Peter Spool, 146 Graham Street, spoke about the resolution for S2656/A5301. Police Department's Internal Affairs Units are the only entities that can access complaints filed against Officers and how they were handled. Residents do not have access to them so when a complaint is filed, they never really know what the result was. Elected officials do not have access to police disciplinary files in order to hold Police Officers accountable. Opening police disciplinary records would not only benefit the public, but it would also benefit Police Officers directly along with elected officials.

Jessica Hundson, 304 Montgomery Street, commented that at the last council meeting several Council Members expressed concern related to nuisance complaints. She referenced data from 2019 for the Highland Park Police Department's Internal Affairs summary. Transparency actually benefits law enforcement because the complaints would be public as well as the investigation files and the public would be able to review the complaint and the file and see for themselves that the complaint was totally frivolous and the situation was investigated properly.

Michelle McFadden DiNicola, 118 South 2nd Avenue, commented that Attorney General Grewal believes that New Jersey needs to end its outlier status and move toward greater openness. She is speaking in support of the resolution. In June of 2020, Attorney General Grewal issued a directive that would require future disclosure of the names of officers who have been subject to major discipline. The State Police and other state law enforcement agencies would be required to make a retroactive disclosure of those officers who had received major discipline for the past 20 years.

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

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, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan.
- Opposed: None.
- Abstain: None.
- Absent: None.

No. 3-21-70

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:19 allows for a municipality to adopt a temporary budget within the first 30 days of its budget year when contracts, commitments or payments need to be made prior to the adoption of the regular budget, and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park requires additional appropriations to maintain operation until such time that the Borough Budget is adopted,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, that the following additional temporary budget appropriations be authorized:

2021 Temporary Operating Budget

DESCRIPTION	ACCOUNT NUMBER	2021 TEMPORARY BUDGET
GENERAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS		
BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION		
Salaries & Wages	20-100-1	55,000.00
Other Expenses	20-100-2	6,000.00
MAYOR & COUNCIL		
Salaries & Wages	20-110-1	8,500.00
Other Expenses	20-110-2	5,000.00
MUNICIPAL CLERK		
Salaries & Wages	20-120-1	44,000.00
Other Expenses	20-120-2	2,000.00
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION		
Salaries & Wages	20-130-1	48,000.00
Other Expenses	20-130-2	3,000.00
ANNUAL AUDIT		
Other Expenses	20-135-2	7,000.00
TAX COLLECTION		
Salaries & Wages	20-145-1	30,000.00
Other Expenses	20-145-2	5,000.00
TAX ASSESSMENT		
Salaries & Wages	20-150-1	16,000.00
Other Expenses	20-150-2	3,500.00
LEGAL SERVICES		
Other Expenses	20-155-2	80,000.00
ENGINEERING		
Other Expenses	20-165-2	5,000.00
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
Salaries & Wages	20-170-1	7,000.00
Other Expenses	20-170-2	26,000.00
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		
Other Expenses	20-140-2	28,000.00
CENTRAL SERVICES		
Other Expenses	20-316-2	20,500.00
LAND USE ADMINISTRATION		
PLANNING BOARD		
Salaries & Wages	21-180-1	2,000.00
Other Expenses	21-180-2	12,500.00
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT		
Salaries & Wages	21-185-1	5,500.00
Other Expenses	21-185-2	1,000.00
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	21-195-2	500.00

INSURANCE		
GENERAL LIABILITY/WORKERS COMPENSATION		
Other Expenses	23-211-2	125,000.00
EMPLOYEE GROUP HEALTH		
Other Expenses	23-220-2	400,000.00
PUBLIC SAFETY FUNCTIONS		
POLICE		
Salaries & Wages	25-240-1	1,000,000.00
Other Expenses	25-240-2	65,000.00
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		
Salaries & Wages	25-250-1	12,000.00
Other Expenses	25-252-2	6,000.00
FIRST AID CONTRIBUTION		
Other Expenses	25-260-2	4,000.00
FIRE		
Salaries & Wages	25-265-1	65,000.00
Other Expenses	25-265-2	22,000.00
MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR		
Other Expenses	25-275-2	9,000.00
PUBLIC WORKS FUNCTIONS		
STREETS & ROADS		
Salaries & Wages	26-290-1	450,000.00
Other Expenses	26-290-2	32,000.00
APARTMENT COLLECTION		
Other Expenses	26-305-2	60,000.00
PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS		
Salaries & Wages	26-310-1	14,000.00
Other Expenses	26-310-2	46,000.00
MOTOR POOL		
Salaries & Wages	26-315-1	25,000.00
Other Expenses	26-315-2	43,000.00
STORMWATER MAINTENANCE		
Other Expenses	26-1297-2	8,000.00
BOARD OF HEALTH		
Other Expenses	27-330-2	500.00
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	27-335-2	250.00
COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE AFFAIRS		
Other Expenses	27-336-2	250.00
SAFE WALKING & CYCLING COMMITTEE		
Other Expenses	27-337-2	500.00
SUSTAINABLE HIGHLAND PARK		
Other Expenses	27-338-2	275.00
UNIVERSAL ACCESS COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	27-334-2	500.00
HISTORICAL COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	27-339-2	250.00
PARKS & RECREATION FUNCTIONS		
COMMUNITY SERVICES - RECREATION		
Salaries & Wages	28-370-1	20,000.00
Other Expenses	28-370-2	4,000.00
COMMUNITY SERVICES - AGING		
Salaries & Wages	28-371-1	55,000.00
Other Expenses	28-371-2	7,500.00
ARTS COMMISSION		
Other Expenses	28-374-2	500.00
SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE		
Other Expenses	28-375-2	200.00
CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS	30-420-2	1,250.00

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Other Expenses		
TEEN CENTER		
Salaries & Wages	28-373-1	22,000.00
Other Expenses	28-373-2	
UTILITY EXPENSES & BULK PURCHASING		
ELECTRICITY		
Other Expenses	31-430-2	29,000.00
STREET LIGHTING		
Other Expenses	31-435-2	44,000.00
TELEPHONE		
Other Expenses	31-440-2	12,500.00
FUEL OIL/GASOLINE/NATURAL GAS		
Other Expenses	31-460-2	30,000.00
SANITARY LANFILL		
Other Expenses	32-465-2	95,000.00
UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE		
Salaries & Wages	22-195-1	92,000.00
Other Expenses	22-195-2	2,100.00
UNCLASSIFIED		
CABLE TELEVISION		
Other Expenses	30-411-2	2,500.00
ACCUMULATED SICK LEAVE		
Salaries & Wages	30-415-1	
COMMUNICATIONS		
Salaries & Wages	20-105-1	28,000.00
Other Expenses	20-105-2	6,000.00
MUNICIPAL COURT FUNCTIONS		
MUNICIPAL COURT		
Salaries & Wages	43-490-1	50,000.00
Other Expenses	43-490-2	3,200.00
PUBLIC DEFENDER		
Other Expenses	43-495-2	1,500.00
LIBRARY		
Salaries & Wages	29-390-1	200,000.00
Other Expenses	29-390-2	100,000.00
INTERLOCAL MUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS		
COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES		
Other Expenses	42-401-2	12,000.00
M.C.I.A. RECYCLING		
Other Expenses	42-402-2	4,000.00
ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES		
Other Expenses	27-340-2	4,500.00
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS		
NJDEP Radon Awareness	41-724-2	
STATUTORY EXPENDITURES		
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM		
Other Expenses	36-472-2	150,000.00
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION INSURANCE		
Other Expenses	23-225	
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM		
Other Expenses	36-471-2	
POLICE AND FIREMAN'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM		
Other Expenses	36-475-2	
	TOTAL	3,786,275.00

DEBT SERVICE		
BOND PRINCIPAL	45-920-2	
NOTE PRINCIPAL	45-925-2	25,000.00
INTEREST ON BONDS	45-930-2	
INTEREST ON NOTES	45-935-2	
M.C.I.A. LEASE/LOAN	45-950-2	
DBIZ LOAN	45-925-2	
		-
	TOTAL	25,000.00

	3,811,275.00
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2021 Temporary Water and Sewer Budget

DESCRIPTION		2021 TEMPORARY BUDGET
OPERATING		
Other Expenses		1,000,000.00
Middlesex County Utilities Authority		643,000.00
	TOTAL	1,634,000.00
DEBT SERVICE		
Payment of Bond Principal		
Interest on Bonds		
Interest on Notes		
	TOTAL	

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO SO. 6TH AVENUE, SO. 9TH AVENUE, NO. 9TH AVENUE, BENNER STREET AND BARNARD STREET, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$475,000.00 THEREFORE TO PAY THE COST THEREOF" for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the ordinance open to all officials and persons present and called upon all those wishing to speak for or against the ordinance to do so.

No one appearing to be heard and no objections having been received in writing, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 21-2017, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: Councilperson Foster.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote: No. 3-21-71

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO SO. 6TH AVENUE, SO. 9TH AVENUE, NO. 9TH AVENUE, BENNER STREET AND BARNARD STREET, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$475,000.00 THEREFORE TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, passed on final reading at this meeting, be delivered to the Mayor for her approval, and if approved by her, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in "The Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law and that said Clerk shall annex to and publish with said Ordinance a Notice in substantially the following form –

The ordinance published herewith has been finally passed and the ten (10) day period of limitation within which suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such ordinance may be commenced has begun to run from the date of the first publication of this statement.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, "" for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the ordinance open to all officials and persons present and called upon all those wishing to speak for or against the ordinance to do so.

No one appearing to be heard and no objections having been received in writing, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 21-2018, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 3-21-72

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO NO. 10TH AVENUE, SO. 10TH AVENUE, LEXINGTON AVENUE, ALCAZAR AVENUE AND AURORA STREET, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$438,225.00 THEREFORE TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, passed on final reading at this meeting, be delivered to the Mayor for her approval, and if approved by her, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in "The Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law and that said Clerk shall annex to and publish with said Ordinance a Notice in substantially the following form –

The ordinance published herewith has been finally passed and the ten (10) day period of limitation within which suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such ordinance may be commenced has begun to run from the date of the first publication of this statement.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE #1968 PROVIDING FOR HE APPROPRIATION OF A NEW NJDOT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$596,550 AND A REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF PRIOR NJDOT GRANTS, had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, 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, George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 3-21-73

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE #1968 PROVIDING FOR HE APPROPRIATION OF A NEW NJDOT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$596,550 AND A REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF PRIOR NJDOT GRANTS, 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, March 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 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 Joan Hullings 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.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PHASE 2 INTERSECTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$250,000.00 THEREFOR TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 3-21-74

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PHASE 2 INTERSECTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$250,000.00 THEREFOR TO PAY THE COST THEREOF; 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 March 16, 2021, at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that 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 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. 3-21-75 through 3-21-82 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, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan.
Opposed: None.
Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 3-21-75

WHEREAS, Oasis Towing, Edison Automotive Repairs, Inc., Dependable Motors, and Rich's Towing Service, Inc., have filed with the Clerk of this Borough for a Wrecker/Towing License to operate heavy duty wreckers in this Borough under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such licenses; and
WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has investigated said applicants and has reported favorably upon said applications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Council hereby determines 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 be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue Heavy Duty Wrecker/Towing Licenses to the aforesaid applicants.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 3-21-76

WHEREAS, Robert Hala has 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 application;

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 License.

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

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

No. 3-21-77

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, on behalf of the Borough, the ADRC Grant Agreement – Highland Park – Assisted Transportation, in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Highland Park Department of Community Services, a copy of which is attached to the original of this resolution.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 3-21-78

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has a need for the services of an Environmental Consultant who is a Licensed Site Remediation Professional ("LSRP") 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, Jonathan Perse, P.G., of Cornerstone Environmental Group, LLC – A Tetra Tech Company, is an LSRP licensed in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Perse, P.G. has already served as the Borough's Environmental Consultant in connection with the above-referenced matter; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide a written agreement providing for the compensation of Jonathan Perse to continue to serve as the Borough's Environmental Consultant; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose 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 the Borough's temporary or permanent budget for the Calendar Year 2021 in account No. 1-01-20-155-233, 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 Jonathan Perse, P.G., LSRP, 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 Clerk.

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

No. 3-21-79

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Administrator shall be and is hereby authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership and the Borough of Highland Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said agreement, in a form approved by the Borough Attorney, shall be attached to the original of this resolution.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 3-21-80

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:

EMMA MISSEY, Assistant to the Borough Administrator/Project Manager, at an annual salary of \$56,100.00, effective March 2, 2021.

ANDREW BERARDO, Firefighter Supervisor, at an annual salary of \$18,860.00, effective January 1, 2020.

ANDREW BERARDO, Firefighter Supervisor, at an annual salary of \$19,227.00, effective January 1, 2021.

NORMAN SHAMY, Acting Firefighter Supervisor, \$500.00 per month, effective March 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 7, 2020 showing the names of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park whose salaries are on an hourly basis, there have been the following changes, to wit:

ANNMARIE PARKER, Crossing Guard, at an hourly rate of \$19.36, effective February 22, 2021.

DONASHE SMITH, Building Maintenance Worker, at an hourly rate of \$22.22, effective March 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 3-21-81

WHEREAS, the following business/property owners have submitted a completed application to the Borough of Highland Park for matching grant under the Highland Park Façade Improvement Program and/or the Highland Park Awning Promotion Program, both funded through the Community Block Development Grant and further described on the Purchase Requisition attached to the original of this resolution for the location designated, to wit:

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>BUSINESS LOCATIONS</u>
What the Cluck NJ, LLC	323 Raritan Avenue

WHEREAS, the Main Street Design Committee has reviewed the applications and has recommended that the above applications be approved by the Mayor and Council; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose will be available in Account No. G-02-41-707-001 in the amount of \$3,000.00, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the application from the above named business/property owner be approved for funding under the Highland Park Façade Improvement and Awning Promotion Program in the amount set opposite, to wit:

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
What the Cluck NJ, LLC	\$3,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the applicant, Finance Department and the Main Street Executive Director forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 3-21-82

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 3/2/2021 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 41.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

No. 3-21-83

WHEREAS, Section 3-20 of the "Code of the Borough of Highland Park" provides that the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park shall adopt Rules of Order to govern all Council proceedings; and WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park wish to amend the Rules of Order which were adopted by said Council on January 5, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Article XV of the Rules of Order adopted on January 5, 2021, Section 3 permits the Rules of Order to be amended by a two-thirds vote on a roll call, taken at two successive Regular or Adjourned meetings of the Borough Council; and

WHEREAS, a roll call vote was taken at the Borough Council regular meeting on February 16, 2021 approving amendments to the Rules of Order; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the roll call vote on February 16, 2021, the Borough Council will again consider the adoption of amended Rules of Order at its meeting on March 2, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, Middlesex County as follows:

1. The Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park by a two-thirds vote on a roll call hereby agrees to adopt Amended Rules of Order to govern the Borough Council proceedings during the calendar year 2021 or until said Rules are further amended by the Council.
2. The Council of the Borough of Highland Park pursuant to Article XV, Section 3 of the Rules of Order of the Highland Park Council voted again on March 2, 2021 to amend said Rules of Order. This vote was the second vote that was taken at successive regular meetings of the Borough Council.
3. The proposed Amended Rules of Order dated March 2, 2021 are on file at the Office of the Borough Clerk and may be inspected during regular office hours.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

No. 3-21-84

WHEREAS, access to government records promotes general transparency in government, and can expose significant failings and provide insight into what can be done to effectuate meaningful change, which is especially critical in the context of police disciplinary records; and

WHEREAS, shielding police disciplinary records from the public is one action that significantly reduces trust in law enforcement and causes the community to believe that misconduct is being swept under the rug; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey lags far behind other states when it comes to transparency in the police internal affairs process and police disciplinary records, including states such as Florida, Colorado, Alabama, and New York; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 2656/Assembly Bill No. 5301 would make law enforcement disciplinary records accessible as government records under the New Jersey Open Public Records Act; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 2656/Assembly Bill No. 5301 provides that certain information pertaining to the law enforcement officer, or the officer's family, the complainant, or the complainant's family, and a witness, or the witness' family, will be redacted to sufficiently protect those individuals while providing transparency; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 2656/Assembly Bill No. 5301 provides that law enforcement disciplinary records include, but are not limited to: complaints, allegations, and charges; the name of the officer complained of or charged; the transcript of any disciplinary trial or hearing, including any exhibits; the disposition of any proceeding; and the final written opinion or memorandum supporting the disposition and discipline imposed including the agency's complete factual findings and its analysis of the conduct and appropriate discipline of the covered officer; and internal affairs records; and videos that record incidents that gave rise to complaints, allegations, charges, or internal affairs investigations; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council wish to urge State lawmakers to adopt legislation that would require access to law enforcement disciplinary records as government records, and that such records be retained for a certain period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

1. The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park hereby urge 18th District Senator Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr. to support and co-sponsor Senate Bill No. 2656.
2. The Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park hereby urge 18th District Assembly Members Sterley Stanley and Robert Karabinchak to support and co-sponsor Assembly Bill No. 5301.
3. A certified true copy of this Resolution, upon its adoption, shall be furnished to 18th District Assembly Members Sterley Stanley and Robert Karabinchak, and State Senator Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr.
4. A certified true copy of this Resolution, upon its adoption, shall also be furnished to the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Abstain: Councilpersons Canavera, Hersh.

Absent: None.

No. 3-21-85

WHEREAS, The Mayor and members of the Highland Park Borough Council strongly believe in and support labor unions, collective bargaining, and paying workers a fair and reasonable wage; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Highland Park Borough Council also believe that it is a moral responsibility AND good fiscal stewardship to ensure that new housing developments in Highland Park meet or exceed the borough's Fair Share affordable housing requirements and by ordinance require new development to have 15% (for sale) and 20% (for rent) affordable units; and

WHEREAS, Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) are the single-most powerful tool available to municipalities to encourage property owners and developers to make improvements to property or to locate a project in a distressed or blighted area; and

WHEREAS, PILOTs and tax abatements are granted only where the municipality has determined that the project would not occur but for the PILOT; and

WHEREAS, PILOTs and tax abatements have been instrumental in the construction of affordable housing, environmental remediation, historic preservation, and the installation of infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, A1571 and A1576 imposes prevailing wage requirements on any property where a public body has provided, approved, or authorized a tax abatement or tax exemption including PILOT agreements; and

WHEREAS, increasing the cost of already challenged projects by requiring a private property owner to pay prevailing wage for improvements on their property will prompt a greater demand on the municipality to provide additional concessions, concessions that are particularly difficult for small municipalities with limited development opportunities requiring the purchase and combining of small lots, like Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, one of the most recent Highland Park developments (31 River Road) would not have been possible without a PILOT agreement and as a result, it would have been more difficult, if not impossible, for the borough to meet its moral and legal obligation to provide affordable housing units to future residents of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, Highland Park generally lacks the space for the type of large scale development projects where paying prevailing wages is not cost prohibitive; and

WHEREAS, the type of comparatively small development opportunities available to Highland Park are those that are least likely to be able to afford paying prevailing wages if this legislation advances, all future Highland Park redevelopment projects will likely not occur, or if they do occur, will force the municipality to accept less than optimal amounts of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, Highland Park needs every tool available to encourage and spur post-COVID development, without the economy-stunting limitations of A1571 and 1576.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of Highland Park in the county of Middlesex strongly opposes A1571& 1576 and urge our legislators, and in fact all legislators, to oppose the same for the benefit of all New Jersey taxpayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to our State Senator Patrick Diegnan, State Assembly Representatives Robert Karabinchak and Sterley Stanley as well as Senate President Steve Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

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.

Charlie Kratovil, Food & Water Watch, thanked the Borough Administrator for responding to his questions about the Borough's initial bidding process on the renewable energy aggregation. He attended the most recent Sustainable Highland Park meeting and there is a consensus on the need to modify the ordinance that was adopted last summer. Edison Township is moving forward with their model ordinance and it would be a great time to collaborate with them. He asked if Councilman George would be able to make time to meet with him.

John Valeri, 106 South 6th Avenue, asked if the Borough is going to be doing vaccinations like the do with the flu shots. Trying to get vaccination appointments is obnoxious. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that there are volunteers in town assisting with appointments.

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

Work Session:

A1571 – Legislative proposal requiring prevailing wage for projects receiving tax abatements/exemptions – Matter not discussed. Resolution adopted prior to work session.

Snow Removal Planning – Councilman George noted that they broke down the major areas into three areas of concern: (1) equipment; (2) manpower; and (3) use of that manpower. They are working with the Borough Administrator, and the Superintendent of Public Works and the Foreman. He received a full inventory from DPW of their equipment. Once they do their initial assessment, they will make a report to the Council by the end of March. Discussion about getting some smaller pieces of equipment to make it easier to clear crosswalks, sidewalks, etc.

Accessible Parking Ordinance Amendments – Councilwoman Foster explained that the ordinance needs to be amended to remove accessible parking spaces no longer needed and to add some that are needed. The Police Department reviewed this request/ordinance amendment with the Commission for Universal Access. This ordinance request was from last September and it did not make it to an agenda for action until now. Lt. Sachau clarified that he was tasked with looking at the accessible spots in town and that he prepared a memorandum to update the ordinance.

Goals

Councilman George noted that he is moving forward with the Electric Vehicle Ordinance. He has had some discussions with residents and one concern in particular is having an electric vehicle, but no driveway.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk