

REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 1, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, June 1, 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 May 28, 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 May 28, 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.

Chief Abrams noted that Officer Shiffner's first day in the Police Department was the day that he found out that he was going to be promoted to Sergeant. Officer Shiffner knew before the Chief did and he had to keep quiet all day even when the Chief had to take him to get some work equipment. Officer Shiffner put himself through the Police Academy and it has been the Chief's honor since then to watch him grow up as a Rookie Officer, become a seasoned veteran and now becoming the leader that he is. He has very high expectations for him and he knows it. He expects great things from him and he is going to be a great asset to the department. He will be assigned to the midnight shift to run a squad.

Mayor Brill Mittler administered the Oath of Office and Allegiance to newly promoted Police Officer Kevin Shiffner.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Foster, 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. 6-21-137

Whereas, the position of Sergeant became available due to retirements/promotions; and

Whereas, Kevin Shiffner has applied for and is qualified to fill the position; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Board recommends that Kevin Shiffner be promoted to Sergeant, Highland Park Police Department;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park, that Kevin Shiffner be appointed to the position of Sergeant in the Highland Park Police Department, effective June 1, 2021 at a base salary of \$132,560.00.

Mayor Brill Mittler administered the Oath of Office and Allegiance to newly elected Deputy Fire Chief Michael Gershen.

The above appointment was confirmed on motion made by Councilwoman Foster, 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.

On motion made by Councilwoman Canavera, seconded by Councilman George, the minutes of the Regular/Work Session Meeting held May 4, 2021, was 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 Hale reported that this past weekend, Main Street Highland Park was able to do their planting project along Main Street in between some raindrops. He thanked Main Street Highland Park and all the volunteers who helped. The Farmer's Market is up, running, and going full steam. He encouraged residents to come out and support the Farmer's Market vendors on Friday afternoons. He is excited to announce that they are going to have the town-wide garage sale again after a Covid-19 hiatus. It will be held October 2nd and October 3rd and is a joint project between J.J. Laufer Century 21, the Department of Community Services and Main Street Highland Park. Information and signups are available on the Main Street Highland Park webpage. On tonight's agenda, the Governing Body will be adopting the Main Street budget and they are well every penny. Today is the first day of pride month and there is a new group in town led by Austin Morreale called LYT or (LGBTQ+Youth Together). They are going to be hosting a pizza party Tuesday, June 8th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Reformed Church. For more information, you can email Austin at Austin.lytgroup@gmail.com or text him at 409-944-1648. He wanted to say thank you to the first responders. Tonight a Police Officer and a Volunteer Firefighter were sworn in for promotions in their respective departments. He wanted to thank the Police, Fire and First Aid Squad for their assistance in putting on Highland Park's Memorial Day activities. We all know and appreciate the formal ceremony and in normal years, there is a parade sponsored by the Veteran's Alliance. The First Responders took it upon themselves to recognize those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to Highland Park over the years by traveling around town to various monuments to remember these fallen heroes. It really is a humbling

and beautiful tradition and one he hopes will encourage more residents to attend every year. Lastly, he reported that there has been a frightening rise in anti-Semitic incidents internationally, nationally and locally. As with all hate crimes and bias incidents, it is essential that these get reported to the local enforcement agencies. They cannot help if they do not know. We will hear more about this from the Chief later on, but please report these incidents. You can report anti-Semitic bias or discrimination or discriminatory incidents to the website of the Anti-Defamation League at adl.org. They track these incidents across the world and keep statistics about how often they occur.

Councilwoman Canavera reported that June is Pride Month and it is a time for remembering those who paved the way for the LGBTQA community and who continue to do so. It is a time for education and breaking down barriers. Look back at the changes and see what more work still needs to be done. The Human Relations Commission will be co-sponsoring the raising of the Pride flag on June 15th at 10:00 a.m. National Great Outdoors Month in June reminds us to explore our nation's abundant wildlife refuges, parks and natural beauty. No matter your preferred mode of enjoying the great outdoors – hiking, biking, kayaking to name a few – nature is calling. Pursue the beauty and majesty of the big skies and open spaces the outdoors offers. The Board of Health wants everyone to remember while enjoying the outdoors that it is mosquito season. Follow them on Instagram and Facebook for more information. The Housing Authority would like residents to be aware of the Middlesex County Emergency Rental Assistance Program. You can learn more about this program by visiting middlesexcountynj.gov/rentalassistance. Any questions can be emailed to mcerap@co.middlesex.nj.us. They would also like to pay tribute to Regis Methven who served on the Board and sadly passed away last month. Food insecurity is still high and we have two programs to help. The Community Food Pantry is open the second and fourth Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the Saturday following the Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Donations can be made using their Amazon wish list. The HP Gives a Hoot Food Pantry is open 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. These two programs serve over 300 families. The Mental Health Commission hosted wellness tables last month. They also hosted the first support group for parents of suicidal teens last month. They are working on a schedule and will put information on their Facebook page when scheduling is completed.

Councilman Hersh – No report.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that nearly 1 million New Jersey residents may be eligible for a \$500 rebate check as part of a \$319 million dollar package that Governor Murphy and lawmakers agreed to in September of 2020. Once the funding is approved, the rebates are expected to pay out between July 1st and July 31st. The deal includes a \$500 rebate check to married parents filing a joint tax return or who identify as head of household or as a surviving spouse. The parents must have at least one child and earn a maximum of \$150,000 or \$75,000 for a single parent or each parent who files separate returns. The rebate checks will be based on your tax filings this spring and 2020 gross income. You can find more information at www.nj.gov. Middlesex Water Company has filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for a \$31 million dollar rate increase. The company provides water service to Highland Park and eight additional municipalities in Middlesex County. In the filing with the BPU, Middlesex Water Company said the rate increase is needed to upgrade drinking water infrastructure and other improvements. At this time, we do not know the potential impact this proposed increase will have on Highland Park. We will keep you updated as we learn more information. Lastly, June is Pride Month and it is celebrated every June as a tribute to those who were involved in the stonewall riots. She asked residents to join her this month as she dusts off her rainbow flag and attend a parade or festival as well as learn some important history along the way. Love is love.

Councilwoman Foster thanked all those who participated yesterday in the Memorial Day Parade. The Police Department, Fire Department, First Aid Squad and Office of Emergency Management came out to make the day possible to lay wreaths at the different monuments in Highland Park. She thanked those who come out every year in remembrance of the gift we cannot repay them for, the gift of freedom. Freedom is not free, there is a cost to freedom, they pay the greatest sacrifice by providing us with what we have, and we all owe them a great debt of gratitude. June is Caribbean American Heritage Month and Caribbean Americans have given a lot to this country. We have given two Vice Presidents, both of which are of Jamaican descent. She encouraged her Caribbean brothers and sisters to go out and to please get vaccinated. Share that message with your friends and family because it is important. We all want to travel back home to visit family and friends. She congratulated Officer Shiffner and Mordy Gershen for their promotions tonight. The Junior Cadet Academy will be held July 12th to July 16th from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There are still a few slots available. Summer is here and bicycle safety is really important, so please wear your helmet and observe all safety protocols as you go about your daily activities. We all need to be safe and we all need to be kept safe, so safety is paramount with everything that we do. She is going to ask the Chief to say a few words about the increase of anti-Semitic violence that is occurring globally and locally. If you see something, say something. Do not wait to call the Police Department. That is what they are there for and they are there to help assist and serve. The next Police Community Forum is June 17th and they will be posting that information on our website and on our Facebook page. She encouraged residents to join them and to start submitting questions.

Chief Abrams noted that as Councilman Hale and Councilwoman Foster reported, there has been an uptick in bias crimes and bias incidents. The biggest obstacle for them right now as a Police Department is having them reported in a timely manner. There are multiple ways you can do it; call 9-1-1, you can call our dispatch center and you can go to the Anti-Defamation League page. You can also go to the Attorney General's website and it is posted under the Police section on the Borough's website. There are directions in multiple languages if you are not sure what to do. It gives you definitions of what a bias crime is versus a bias incident under the hate crime laws in New Jersey. It explains everything, but most importantly, we have to know about it. He has heard many different excuses of why it was not reported quickly; from we do not want to bother the Police; it was not an emergency, etc. What starts as somebody saying something hurtful or hateful to another individual might seem not like an emergency, but these kinds of incidents escalate quickly and the next time they might spit on somebody or the next time they might shove or punch

somebody. If we can track down who was committing these incidents sooner, we will be able to put a stop to it faster and keep everyone safe. You are not putting out the Police Department and you are not inconveniencing the Police Department. That is our job and that is something that they all signed up to do. It is something they are happy to do and they are happy to help the community. Please reach out when these things happen. If there is some reason why you cannot use a phone or do not have a phone near you or are unable to use a phone, ask another person nearby if they would call for you so that a Police Officer can come and take a report. We are getting some of these a week after the fact and it might have been captured on a store security camera, which is great, but a week old clothing description does not help them track down the offender. We have seen a big spike in anti-Semitic acts over the last month or two and we are seeing a giant spike in anti-Asian rhetoric and anti-Asian incidents. These are not going away any time soon. People seem to be getting more bold and more hateful lately. Please reports these incidents, it is very important. If you have questions, you can go their website. Under information and resources, you click a tab “bias incident reporting” and the information is available in English, Spanish and Chinese.

Councilman George congratulated all members of the community who are celebrating Pride Month. Love is love. He thanked them for being part of this community. The Borough is going to reinstitute the “Bring your own bag Program” effective July 1st. Like they did the first time they introduced the program, they will be rolling it out slowly. He spoke with Ms. Weishaus, Chairperson of Sustainable Highland Park, and the co-sponsor of the bill a couple of years ago. It looks like most stores are already in compliance and have been for a while. He reminded everyone that the primary focus of this is not to eliminate plastic or paper, which in many ways is just as harmful, but to encourage everyone to bring their own bags to the store. There is no reason why, with the ready availability of the bags, either in the store as giveaways from virtually everywhere, that we cannot eliminate all plastic and eliminate all paper. This is a great segue into the State’s bill which will go into effect next year which is a much broader ban and does not allow for plastic or paper in many circumstances. They will be putting out more information as the time drop draws closer through Sustainable Highland Park. He reminded everyone that yard waste collection is being done on Wednesdays. He asked that residents use the recyclable large 12 leaf bags for yard waste, grass clippings and leaves. A group that started with Sustainable Highland Park, Everyone’s Farm, sponsored by Wendy Rosen has started meeting on their own and held their first meeting last week. They are a small group and deal with things like growing fairly large plots in the yard. They got him to paint an old iron board and put a couple of herb pots on it. It is for everybody to try and enjoy a little bit of outdoors and a little bit of greening. They have tips for growing in places that you would not expect or where you think you cannot grow. We are going to be reviewing two particular ordinances in Public Works this month for introduction later on. The energy aggregation program amendment will allow a little more competitive participation in the audience by equalizing or bidding to make it a better than or as good as commercial rates has been discussed a lot at Sustainable Highland Park and the Environmental Commission. We will be discussing the possibility of introducing that very shortly. We will be discussing a resolution to encourage the State to divest its pension holdings from all fossil fuel related businesses, which he thinks is an initiative that was a long time coming and long overdue. He thanked all of the Police, Fire and First Aid Squad members who turned out yesterday to join them in saluting the fallen firefighters as they walked the town and visited the various sites. He was not aware that the firefighters were five to six years ahead of the town forming and were one of the two big movements that got Highland Park started and separated from Raritan Township. It was an enjoyable day, but also a sobering day. He thanked everyone who participated.

Borough Administrator Jover – No report.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that as of the week of May 23rd, Highland Park only had 4 new positive Covid-19 cases reported. For the month of May through May 23rd, Highland Park had 22 new cases, the lowest monthly levels since the beginning of the pandemic. Additionally, the County reports that as of May 27th, 71% of our population over the age of 18 has already had at least one of their Covid-19 shots, with 59% of the adult population fully vaccinated. She was pleased to announce that in response to the latest CDC recommendations and the decreasing number of new Covid-19 cases, as well as the increasing rate of vaccinations, Borough Hall and the Highland Park Community Center reopened to the public today. In the first phase of reopening, visitors to the buildings will be required to wear masks and maintain social distancing. There will be increased opportunities as well for visits and interactions with staff at the Police Department, the Public Library, the Department of Public Works and the Teen Center. Additionally, she has been watching the rising numbers of anti-Semitic acts in the country with great alarm. As she mentioned in a statement she issued on Friday, May 21st, as the Mayor of a community that proudly boasts of a large observant Jewish community that holds strong ties to family, friends and others in the State of Israel, she wanted to be very clear that no matter what someone’s views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there is no room and no license for any acts of anti-Semitism in our town. There should be no room and no license for it anywhere else in the United States. The Highland Park Police Department, as the Chief mentioned, is aware of the recent acts of bias and intimidation against Jews across the country and is actively monitoring the situation. She has asked the Police Department to give special attention to the synagogues and to be alert to threats to individuals, restaurants and community institutions. Please contact the Police Department immediately if you have concerns or see any alarming matters in the community. Call 9-1-1 to report anything suspicious. The State of New Jersey is holding a Primary Election on Tuesday, June 8th and there has been one change made in the in-person voting locations. Due to Covid-19, residents who had previously voted at Congregation Ohav Emeth on Raritan Avenue will be voting at the Community Center. In Highland Park, in-person voting will be available at three polling locations on June 8th, the Community Center at 220 South 6th Avenue, the Reformed Church of Highland Park at 19 South 2nd Avenue and the Irving School at 121 South 11th Avenue. The polling locations will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8th. Residents are encouraged to use mail in ballots if they have received them and you can put your mail in ballot in the Middlesex County drop box located in front of Borough Hall at 221 South 5th Avenue. As we continue to emerge from quarantines and mask restrictions, please remember our retailers, service shops, like nails salons, gyms, hair salons, and restaurant owners. They all rely on us to help them keep their doors open. As we had further into summer and warm weather, you can enjoy

breakfast, lunch, snacks, or dinner alfresco at one of our many American or ethnic food restaurants. She will continue to patronize the brick and mortar small businesses along Raritan Avenue and Woodbridge Avenue as well as the fun and delicious restaurants. When you are walking around town, stop to chat with friends at one of our many Arts Commission painted benches or street corners. You will be amazed at all the public art that has been popping up around town or on our walls, benches and more places. Whenever possible, she likes to conclude her remarks by highlighting one of the many admirable residents in the Borough. Tonight, she is pleased to talk about Michael Stasezki, also known as Mike the Crossing Guard. Mike has been serving the students of Highland Park since October, 2012. He has been assigned various crossing posts throughout the Borough before settling on the corner of North 4th Avenue and Wayne Street. Several years ago, long before his service to the residents of Highland Park, Mike served the community and the country honorably in the United States Navy from 1975 to 1984 aboard the USS Midway. He achieved the rank of Petty Officer, 2nd Class. During his time aboard the Midway, Mike was an aviation boatswain's mate handler supervising the movement of aircraft on the ship. Mike credits his service in the Navy for the opportunity to sail as far as Japan and Australia. Mike has been a resident of the Veteran's Housing Complex in Highland Park since 2011. When he is not ensuring the safe passage of our children, Mike enjoys collecting military and commercial aviation memorabilia, reading, walking and cycling. If you wondered how she knows so much about Mike, his friendly and dedicated service was pointed out to me by two residents who type out and share reports of their walks around town that they entitled "ramblings with Bill and Al". They send her these reports regularly and they praised Mike as well trained, disciplined and caring and glowingly described his professionalism and personal warmth. She thanked Al and Bill for forwarding information about Mike the Crossing Guard. She thanked Mike Stasezki for his honorable service to the Borough.

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.

Michael Zucker, 11 Raritan Avenue, commented about Parktowne Apartments at 11 Raritan Avenue in reference to the Business Improvement Budget. This is an ongoing issue where they are billed each year for the Main Street Budget and they are happy to contribute towards it, however the budget monies and improvements are all made to different areas of town without making any improvements to the Parktowne Apartments area. He requested improvements to lighting, streetscape or other improvements or he requested that they be relieved from contributing towards something that they do not directly benefit from. Mayor Brill Mittler asked Councilman Hale to discuss the matter with the Main Street Organization.

Max Wisotsky, 54 North 7th Avenue, wanted to comment about the water rates and water meters and he was asked to wait until the second public participation session.

Mary Forsberg, 317 Denison Street, commented that she is curious about some issues with the redevelopment plan. She heard at the Planning Board meeting that the Borough put out an RFP for the parking management plan for the traffic and pedestrian parking analysis that is supposed to be done before the plan is enacted. She wanted to know where to find the RFP. She asked who is responsible for negotiating the affordable housing and pilot agreements that the Borough has with all the new developments. She referenced a number of new developments such as 31 River Road and Cleveland Avenue. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the circumstances for both those cases are different. There was a court settlement for affordable housing lawsuits that were in existence that was negotiated by the Courts. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that the Borough has a court approved compliance plan through July of 2025 which means that the Borough has met their regional obligation through that date. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that there is an ordinance that requires any new development to have a certain number of affordable units. Any future developments that may come along will be discussed at Council Redevelopment Entity Meetings.

Shelee Saal, 366 North 4th Avenue, commented that she wanted to understand what is being discussed as far as cannabis, an item on tonight's agenda. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that when something is put on the work session agenda, it is an opportunity for whatever Council Committee has been working on something to advise the rest of the Council on what they are talking about. Ms. Saal wanted to know the difference between opting out and just choosing certain options. Mayor Brill Mittler advised that they will be discussing those options later in the meeting.

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

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 230, ARTICLE XX OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010 CONCERNING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT", 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 Councilwoman Canavera, seconded by Councilman George, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 21-2023, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

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

No. 6-21-138

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 230, ARTICLE XX OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, 2010 CONCERNING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT", passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his/her approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of Neptune, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported advertising and notification of Main Street Highland Park 2021 Budget for consideration of passage on final reading by title.

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

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the Budget 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, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was 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, George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: None.

No. 6-21-139

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 5-21-136 adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park on May 4, 2021, that approved the Main Street Highland Park Budget for the year 2021; and

WHEREAS, said Budget was advertised in the Home News Tribune issue of May 8, 2021 together with a notice of the public hearing on the Budget scheduled for June 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, Highland Park, NJ; and

WHEREAS, said Budget and Notice of Hearing had been posted in the Borough Hall where public notices are customarily posted and was made available to each person requesting the same prior to and during the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, notice had been served on all property owners within the Special Improvement District as certified by the Tax Assessor and as shown by the affidavit of the Borough Clerk attached hereto and a public hearing on the Budget was held on June 1, 2021;

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8, the said Main Street Highland Park Budget was introduced and adopted by title since, at least one week prior to the date of the hearing and at the hearing, a complete copy of the approved budget was made available for public inspection and was further made available to each person who requested a copy of said budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the 2021 Main Street Highland Park Budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of

<u>Income</u>	
Government Grants	35,000.00
Special Assessment (BID)	166,474.00
Fees/Sponsorships	22,070.00
Reserves	<u>56,000.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 279,544.00
<u>Expense</u>	
Administration and General	\$ 190,979.65
Program Expense	<u>88,550.00</u>
Total Expense	\$ 279,529.65
<u>Budget Surplus/(Deficit)</u>	\$ 14.35

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Main Street Highland Park, the Tax Assessor, the Tax Collector and the Finance Director forthwith.

Resolution Nos. 6-21-140 through 6-21-148 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Foster, 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.

Abstained: None.

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

No. 6-21-140

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need for a Financial Advisor in connection with an upcoming bond sale; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the various Capital Ordinances that will be included in this bond sale and 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 Mayor and Borough Administrator are hereby directed to execute and attest on behalf of the

Borough the Agreement for Financial Advisor services with Phoenix Advisors, LLC, 4 West Park Street, Bordentown, NJ 08505 for the amount of \$12,500.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forward to the Finance Director and Phoenix Advisors upon passage.

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

No. 6-21-141

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has received a written request authorizing enforcement of traffic regulations on private property pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:5A-1 *et seq.* and specifically requesting that the provisions of Subtitle 1, Title 39, of the Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey shall be made applicable to the following area:

- A. 433 Cleveland Avenue LLC, Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion Girls Division
Block 153, Lots 17, 18 and 19, Block 154, Lots 6.01, 10 & 11,
Block 191, Lots 6.01 and 6.02

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park deems that enforcement of traffic regulations on the aforesaid private property will benefit all of the citizens of the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Police Department of the Borough of Highland Park and other law enforcement agencies be and the same are hereby empowered to enforce the provisions of Subtitle 1 of Title 39 of Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey.

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

No. 6-21-142

WHEREAS, Almetra Lundy applied for a business license for Kinetics at 401 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the annual business license fee of \$50.00 was paid for said license; and

WHEREAS, Almetra Lundy applied for a business license for Inspired Me Fit, d/b/a Kinetics at 401 Raritan Avenue and paid an additional business license of \$50.00, and therefore, the applicant is due a refund; and

WHEREAS, the administrative fee for refunds charged by the Borough Clerk pursuant to Section 4 of Highland Park resolution No. 01-21-13 adopted by the Borough Council on January 5, 2021 shall be waived;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to remit to Almetra Lundy, 401 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904, the amount of \$50.00, the same being the amount of refund due for submittal of duplicate business license application.

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

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

No. 6-21-143

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:

CAROLYN GARCIA, Police Records Clerk, at an annual salary of \$34,480.00, effective June 1, 2021.

MARYANN AUTUNNALE, Housing Clerk, at an annual salary of \$38,802.00, effective May 10, 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 Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 6-21-144

WHEREAS, the Borough is committed to preserving the health of its new street trees planted in spring 2020 and 2021 and the street trees would benefit from consistent watering and health check-ups to get them to two-year maturity; and

WHEREAS, three (3) quotes were solicited for a per-watering price and were received as follows:

Bartlett Tree Experts	\$2,376.00
New Jersey Tree Foundation	-
Sava Tree	\$2,944.00

and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator has recommended that said services be purchased from Bartlett Tree Experts, Piscataway, NJ based on their quote for same and based on their quality of work; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. T-12-56-500-001, 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 Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for weekly watering services from Bartlett Tree Experts, 2 Lakeview Avenue, Suite 206, Piscataway, NJ 08854, at a cost not to exceed of \$15,000.00; and

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

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

No. 6-21-145

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of an engineer to provide engineering services in connection with the Implementation of the 2021 Roadway Improvements, in accordance with letter proposal from Bruce Koch, CME Associates, dated February 8, 2021, attached to the original of this resolution; 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, CME Associates, Parlin, N.J., is a firm of licensed engineers of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in providing these services; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of said consulting engineer; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-821-001 in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer, shown below; and

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 CME Associates, 3141 Bordentown Avenue, Parlin, NJ 08859, a copy of which is attached to the original of this original, 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. 6-21-146

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has a need to make repairs to the sanitary sewer line on South 3rd Avenue, as more fully described on the attached Purchase Order; and

WHEREAS, the expenses related to the repair of this sanitary sewer line affects the health, safety and welfare of the Borough that requires the immediate response, the need for which was not reasonably foreseen; and

WHEREAS, due to the emergent nature of the repair, it was necessary to have the sanitary sewer line repaired to address the situation; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 provides that public bidding and quotes is not necessary in an emergency situation; and

WHEREAS, NAP, North American Pipeline Services LLC, 210 Bennett Road, Freehold, NJ 07728 was contracted to provide the repair service in the amount of \$6,850.00; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 1-05-55-500-423 in the amount of \$6,850.00, 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 Superintendent of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for said repairs from NAP, North American Pipeline Services LLC, 210 Bennett Road, Freehold, NJ 07728, at a total price of \$6,850.00; and

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

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

No. 6-21-147

WHEREAS on January 21, 2021 the Borough of Highland Park entered into an Agreement with the Teamsters Local 97 that established a new wage scale for employees covered by Teamsters Local 97 for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that that the salary resolution No. 01-21-14 is hereby amended as articulated below.

Last Name	First Name	Title	2021 Salary	Effective Date
Autunnale	MaryAnn	Clerk Typist (Housing)	\$39,578.00	1/1/2021
Elizabeth	Chevry	Clerk Typist (Housing)	\$40,431.00	1/1/2021
		Technical Assistant to Construction		
Sorbino	Annette	Official	\$52,257.00	1/1/2021
Douglas	Sipos	Master Code Enforcement Officer	\$78,602.00	1/1/2021
Sumano	Christian	Housing Inspector	\$47,000.00	1/1/2021
Huff	Nicole	Social Worker	\$48,805.00	1/1/2021
McGraw	Kimberly	Community Services Assistant	\$43,827.00	1/1/2021
Molina	Janet	Clerk Typist (Aging)	\$43,552.00	1/1/-4/30/21
Molina	Janet	Principal Clerk Typist (Aging)	\$45,532.00	5/1/2021
Simons	Linda M	Deputy Court Administrator	\$53,071.00	1/1/2021
Berry	Megan	Police Records Clerk	\$43,827.00	1/1/2021
Fromhold	Barbara	Principal Clerk Typist (Police)	\$53,071.00	1/1/2021
Kopetsky	Joann	Administrative Assistant (Police)	\$61,144.00	1/1/2021
Altomonte	Neena	Public Safety Telecommunicator	\$48,421.00	1/1/2021
Cox	Kaitlyn	Public Safety Telecommunicator	\$57,111.00	1/1/2021
Keogh	Patrick	Public Safety Telecommunicator	\$57,111.00	1/1/2021
Marcik	Janet	Public Safety Telecommunicator	\$57,111.00	1/1/2021
Ciorciari	Catherine	School Crossing Guard	\$11,780.00	1/1/2021
	Maryanne			
Kinsey	A	School Crossing Guard	\$11,780.00	1/1/2021
May	Kibby	School Crossing Guard	\$11,780.00	1/1/2021
Morris	Lucille	School Crossing Guard	\$11,780.00	1/1/2021

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Rayside	Charlene	School Crossing Guard	\$11,780.00	1/1/2021
Rhein	Jacqueline	School Crossing Guard	\$11,280.00	1/1/2021
Riddick				
Smith	Deborah	School Crossing Guard	\$11,780.00	1/1/2021
Roesener	Elizabeth	School Crossing Guard	\$11,280.00	1/1/2021
Stazeski	Michael	School Crossing Guard	\$11,780.00	1/1/2021
Toman	Margaret	School Crossing Guard	\$11,780.00	1/1/2021
Austin	Maria	P/T Community Services Driver	\$19.50	1/1/2021
Gonzalez	Sebastian	P/T Public Safety Telecommunicator	\$22.45	1/1/2021
Parker	Annmarie	P/T School Crossing Guard	\$19.75	1/1/2021
Banks	Symone	Recreation Assistant	\$17.20	1/1/2021
Ravee	Dvir	Recreation Assistant	\$17.20	1/1/2021

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. 6-21-148

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 6/1/2021 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 41.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Sonya Elefante to serve as a Regular Member of the Arts Commission for a term to expire August 1, 2022.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Kamara Umbaugh to serve as a Regular Member of HP Gives a Hoot for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed the following to serve as Regular Members of the Human Relations Commission for terms to expire April 17, 2024:

Daniel Jacobs

Nasrin Rafiq

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Dov Fine to serve as a Student Member of the Recreation Advisory Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

Mayor Brill Mittler confirmed the appointments of Quinten Moore and Mario Diaz to the rolls of the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes and the discussion to end at 9:00 PM.

Mary Forsberg, 317 Denison Street, asked where she could find the RFP for the parking/traffic analysis for the redevelopment plan and who negotiates the pilot agreements, specifically like 31 River Road, where they have a 30-year contract for \$100,000 a year instead of \$249,000 a year in property taxes. Borough Administrator Jover noted that requests for the RFP can be made via email or phone to her or Jennifer Santiago. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that negotiations are done by the Council acting as the Redevelopment Agency and those negotiations are headed up by the Special Counsel to the Council, Joe Baumann. He is the individual that would follow Council's instructions to meet with the developer and come back and negotiate the final redevelopment agreement. Mr. Baumann added that when an application is filed, the application has a financial analysis and together with a consultant, they analyze the numbers that are negotiated and enter into a pilot agreement by ordinance.

Max Wisotsky, 54 North 7th Avenue, commented that Councilwoman Kim-Chohan mentioned the water rates that may be raised this year and he asked about what happened last year when the Borough changed companies and water meters and a number of residents had problems with their water bills being extremely high. They complained about the issue, there was a public meeting in November and they were told something would be done about the issue, but they have not heard anything. He wrote a letter in March to the Mayor and Council and was told again that the matter would be looked into and nobody has gotten back to him. He asked if anyone is going to look into the problem and wanted to know where the excess money that they paid last year is. Borough Administrator Jover noted that they look at every case individually and she does not think there is a systemic problem. The Borough entered into a contract with Middlesex Water Company in July for day-to-day operations, maintenance of the system and meter readings. Councilwoman Kim-Chohan referred to the request that Middlesex Water Company made to the BPU for a rate increase, similar to what other public utilities do from time to time. The surcharge from more than a year ago was to make up for a deficit in the utility. They plan to convert all the water meters in town and have a bid ready to be issued.

Shelee Saal, 366 North 4th Avenue, commented about cannabis and wanted to understand more about the timeframe for opting in or opting out. She asked if there was a deadline and at what point the Borough could opt in again if they wanted to. She is concerned that they are pushing something faster than it needs to happen. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that the date to opt out is August 22nd. Ms. Saal commented about putting PDF documents on the Borough website for upcoming projects. She also commented about the 5K race around town and that it only hits a certain part of town

Michael Klaser, 63 Cleveland Avenue, voiced his general support for the redevelopment plan as published in the April version. He noted that Mr. Baumann handles negotiations but wanted to know who handles the day-to-day management of the redevelopment process. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the Borough Administrator has an additional title as Redevelopment Director and she will be coordinating the redevelopment efforts for the Borough. Mr. Klaser commented that he supports a centralized parking location but he is concerned about chagrining for parking. He thinks it should be free, otherwise people will drive around the streets to search for free parking.

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

The Council took a brief recess at 8:22 p.m. and reconvened at 8:29 p.m. with all members previously in attendance still present.

Work Session:

Civilian Review Boards – Mayor Brill Mittler noted that Assemblywoman Angela McKnight graciously accepted the Borough's invitation to talk about legislation that she is sponsoring regarding civilian review boards. The Mayor has an Equity Advisory Council that is working on this for the Borough and she thought it would be important for the Council Members to learn a little bit more about the legislation and what has been going on around the State and where she thinks the State is in terms of civilian review boards. Assemblywoman McKnight thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak in reference to the CCRB, which came about after the killing of George Floyd. She wanted to do something to make sure that those types of killings and excessive force is not used and she wanted to make sure that the civilians of New Jersey have a say and hold bad Police Officers accountable. She worked with her team and discovered that Mayor Baraka and his team from Newark has been fighting this fight for many years. The Superior Court has knocked them down and stated that the State of New Jersey must give them subpoena power in order to put teeth into the CCRB. Her legislation has passed through the committee. It is a three-level CCRB, which will have a CCRB on a municipal level. If the municipality does not want to have one, there can be one on the County level because we have Sheriffs. There can also be a CCRB on the state level because we have State Troopers. Each level can have a CCRB, the makeup of the CCRB will consist of civilians, and the makeup will have to go to the Mayor for submission to the Council to approve those recommendations. If there is a criminal complaint, the CCRB cannot do anything. The CCRB would review use of force complaints and come up with findings. They will have subpoena powers, they would run a concurrent investigation along with the IA investigation, and then they will use the Attorney General Rules and guidelines on how they share documents and information. The CCRB could present recommendations to the IA and if those recommendations are not used, the Police will have to let them know why they are not using those recommendations. It is a working relationship. No group has more power than the other group and the Attorney General Guidelines will come into play. The CCRB can look at disciplinary actions for Police Officers and come up with recommendations on what those disciplinary actions should be. The focus of the CCRB is to include civilian citizens from each municipality to provide accountability and transparency. This is not an anti-police legislation. It is for accountability and transparency to make sure that the community and the police to build a relationship. She is happy to have Mayor Baraka on board and she has been working with the Council in Jersey City. Councilwoman Foster reached out to her to appear tonight to speak about this matter. The bill has \$800,000 attached to it to help municipalities build their CCRB. The legislation is now in appropriations and she is still working with advocates, activists, police unions and city officials to make this bill as strong as possible. Mayor Brill Mittler asked about the makeup of the CCRB and the requirements to serve. Assemblywoman McKnight noted that the members shall be residents of the municipality with training or experience in community relations, civil rights, law enforcement, sociology or other relevant fields. Councilman Hale asked Assemblywoman McKnight why she chose municipal CCRB rather than just county level CCRB. Assemblywoman McKnight explained that each town has their own Police Department and the legislation allows for a CCRB at each level, but it is not required. A municipality can have a CCRB, but if they do not want one, the County will pick it up. Councilman Hale asked if the parallel investigation with IA's would happen at the County level. Assemblywoman McKnight advised that it would. The AG will create the guidelines on how the CCRB and the IA would work together. Councilwoman Foster asked if both the Borough and the County had CCRB's, and the Borough received a complaint, the County would not supersede the Borough. Assemblywoman McKnight noted that if Highland Park has a CCRB in place, they would handle their own business. Councilwoman Canavera asked for confirmation that residents of each municipality should police their own Police Departments because the County may not know anything about that particular municipality. Assemblywoman McKnight agreed and noted that they are trying to build bridges and relationships with the community and the police. Councilman Hale commented about CCRB's at the municipal and county levels and the possible benefit of a matter being reviewed at the County level, as they would be able to take a dispassionate look at the matter. Councilwoman Foster asked about subpoena power for CCRB. Assemblywoman McKnight noted that she is fighting tooth and nail to make sure that CCRB's have full subpoena power. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she would gather any further questions from members of the Council and forward them to Assemblywoman McKnight.

Downtown Redevelopment Plan for Tracts A-D – Attorney Joe Baumann noted that he and Borough Administrator Jover appeared at the last Planning Board meeting with Borough Planner Constantine and made a presentation. They took a bunch of notes and wanted to come back and report on those items to the Governing Body. He will follow this up with a letter to the Planning Board that they can close the loop on a couple of issues. The first issue was, under the local Redevelopment Housing Law, when we send

the plan to the Planning Board, they have a deadline of 45 days from referral to reply. That deadline has expired and they have not replied. They have an upcoming meeting in June and he would like to write to them and say that while the deadline has passed the Governing Body is going to delay introduction of the plan with the expectation that we will receive a response from them at their next meeting, which is June 6th. There was a fair amount of discussion about the pedestrian and bicycle path and there was a request that we be more explicit in the redevelopment plan in terms of making sure that it is referenced and mentioned. The other item had to do with the public space, that has been a source of discussion at our multiple meeting, and it was a big point of discussion with the Planning Board meeting. He has had conversations with the Borough Administrator and Borough Planner and it seems like it would make a lot of sense if we reconsider the location of the public space to the south side of 3rd Avenue where the town tables are located. It would resolve a number of issues in the plan for locating it on the north side of 3rd Avenue such as bumping up against other properties, ingress and egress to the possible garage, etc. If it is moved in the other direction, the sense is that it has been working pretty well and the town tables area is well received by the property owners in that area. It is not a major change to the plan, but it was a topic that was debated a lot. It would be helpful to indicate that in a letter that the Governing Body agrees that that would be a preferred location. The only other item that was raised is that Jim do a more detailed discussion on the bulk and youth standards. Jim will do that at the next Planning Board Meeting and the Board Attorney was advised. He will detail all of this in a letter to keep the process moving. We expect them to take action at their next meeting in June so that the plan could be introduced, reflecting their comments, at the June 15th meeting. We recognize the importance of the bicycle/pedestrian path plan and will make sure it gets more explicitly included into the redevelopment plan. We have always prioritized the need for public space and the idea that if we move it across Raritan Avenue that would be a better preferred location which will allay a lot of concerns that have been heard. Lastly, Jim will give a more detailed description of the bulk and use standards. The public has had the benefit of that plan on the website for five or six weeks, but Jim will still go into it in some detail. Councilman Hale noted that the three points raised are tracked to the three points that the Planning Board Attorney raised as the most significant ones. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that we call this a redevelopment plan, but the word plan has been adding confusion in several people's minds. It is really a redevelopment vision. What will come out of this vision will be plans for redevelopment. There are things that go hand in hand with a redevelopment plan from a redeveloper that does not come at the visioning point of things. Attorney Baumann noted that unfortunately, the statute has plans and projects so that is distinction that the statute draws, which is a plan, but is a vision in your words. Borough Administrator Jover noted that the Parking RFP is out and they have gotten some responses, are in the process of evaluating the responses, and hope to have a recommendation soon. Attorney Baumann added that what they are looking for from the consultant is first a baseline analysis of how people park in a designated areas, which does include some of the neighborhood because there is concern about what happens not just on Raritan Avenue, but in the adjacent properties. The consultant will do a baseline analysis. From there, we will have them help us make decisions about regulating or not regulating parking and what is the best way to have people park in Highland Park in a manner that does what we need it to do which is not in the neighborhoods and to support the businesses in Highland Park. That is not a condition precedent to doing our redevelopment/vision plan. Borough Administrator Jover noted that there has been this idea about the sequencing of getting the findings from this parking consultant prior to the redevelopment plan being adopted. That is not how the master plan reads, nor do we think it is advisable. We want to evaluate actual projects against some of this information.

Cannabis – Mayor Brill Mittler asked the Borough attorney to talk briefly about the categories that are involved and the deadline date and then Councilman Hale will update the Governing Body on discussions regarding this topic. Borough Attorney Schmeierer explained that the legislation that was adopted in February has six classes of activity for recreational marijuana. Class 1 is a Cannabis Growers license for growing and cultivating cannabis. Class 2 is a Cannabis Processor's license for facilities involved in the manufacturing, preparation and packaging of cannabis. Class 3 is a Cannabis Wholesaler license for facilities involved in obtaining and selling cannabis items for later resale. Class 4 is a Cannabis Distributor's License and that is for businesses involved in transporting and distributing cannabis. Class 5 is a Cannabis Retailer's license is for locations at which cannabis items and paraphernalia would be sold. Class 6 is a Cannabis Delivery license for courier services for licensed cannabis retailers. The timeline for activity by a municipality is 180 days from when this legislation was adopted or until August 22, 2021. There are two things that a municipality should do before that deadline. The Borough can temporarily opt out of any of the class activities that he outlined. This would be a placeholder for the Borough, after the 180 days, to move forward with a licensing process for any of those classes that he outlined. If you wait until after August 22nd and not do an ordinance either to opt in or opt out, you have effectively opt in for five years and automatically, stuff like retail sales could happen in the Central Business District and perhaps the cultivation of marijuana could happen in the light industry zone of the Borough. Whether the Borough wants to get in or get out, they should do something prior to August 22nd in order to preserve the rights to control what you are going to have to do if you want to permit cannabis to be within the Borough. The League of Municipalities and the Institute of Local Government Attorneys have been looking at this issue and what they are recommending be done. Both of those institutions are recommending that for the time being, municipalities adopt a short opt out ordinance in order to buy some time to put together a complete ordinance after the 22nd. He has been working with Chris Cosenza because this would be part of the land use ordinance as well as part of the licensing ordinance where you will establish standards for folks to get licensed in the Borough. There are some provisions in this law that provide some additional "taxes" that municipalities can place on the whole process.

It was noted at this time that Councilman Hersh had to leave the meeting and Councilwoman Foster lost internet connection.

Borough Attorney Schmeierer noted that an ordinance could be prepared and introduced on June 15. The ordinance to permit cannabis would be more elaborate as it would permit one or more the outlined classes of activity, where to permit them and how many licenses to be issued in each category, what fees to charge, what taxes to charge, etc. Once the ordinance is introduced, because it is a land use ordinance, it has to go to the Planning Board for their review and recommendation and they technically have 35 days to do that. Additionally, he noted that the drug zone does not apply to recreational marijuana and the Borough could

authorize zoning that would allow retail operations closer than 1,000 feet from a school. These are substantive decisions that the Governing Body would have to make and then it would have to be put in the form of an ordinance to be adopted and published by the 22nd of August. Councilman Hale noted that there was a work session on cannabis at the last Council meeting and he believes that the Council made it pretty clear that they wanted to move forward. The vote totals for the legislation showed a lot of support for that. The Economic Development and Planning Committee looked at the six different classes and tried to do an overlay of those about what is appropriate and what works in Highland Park. There are several of the classes that logistically, organizationally, and space-wise that they have some questions about and those are cultivation, which is Class 1. Cultivation requires large land area, which Highland Park does not have and we can opt out of cultivation. At some point, there is going to be hydroponics and we might reconsider in the future. The Borough should opt out of manufacturing for the same reasons as cultivation. They also heard that with manufacturing, there could be odors and that was a concern. They had the same concerns with wholesale. They are not necessarily against those businesses, but logistically those do not seem to make a great deal of sense for Highland Park. Class 4 is distribution and it is not large 18-wheeler trucks that come in, but smaller trucks that go out and distribute in different areas. That is possible and could be something that could work. They do think there are places to limit locations to such as Upper Raritan, Woodbridge Avenue and the light industrial zones on Cleveland Avenue. Class 5 is retail and that is something the Borough could definitely use that would be helpful to the downtown. Those could be located in both the Central Business District and the Commercial Zones on Upper Raritan Avenue and Woodbridge Avenue. We can limit the number of establishments to 12 total. Class 6 is delivery and his understanding that delivery is not something you can say no to. They want to opt out of the options that require large spaces and big trucks and move forward on retail, distribution and delivery to try and position Highland Park to take advantage of those economic opportunities. Mayor Brill Mittler clarified that the ordinance would not allow imbibing on. Councilman Hale indicated that are unclear about how imbibing works as it is not clear in the legislation as to how it is regulated. Councilwoman Kim-Chohan spoke about businesses that could open to sell cannabis and also allow on premise consumption as being more attractive. Councilman Hale agreed that there is a possibility that on premise consumption will be attractive to some businesses and that is something they would have to consider. Chief Abrams noted that the way this legislation was explained to Police Chiefs was that if tobacco smoking is not permitted, then the smoking of cannabis is not permitted. If 75% or more of your income or more to your business comes from the selling of tobacco, he believes that you can then smoke in that establishment. It was explained to the Chiefs that if you cannot smoke tobacco, then you cannot smoke cannabis whether it is public property, private property or a business establishment. Borough Administrator Jover noted there is a considerable amount of edible consumption of marijuana and not smoking and that is part of the challenge. Councilman Hale noted that the rationale for holding off on on-site consumption for now is to get better information about how that might work. Borough Attorney Schmierer advised that in order to hit the deadline, he has to start working with Chris Cosenza, Planning Consultant, and work on ordinance according to the outline provided to him. They will work on the land use ordinance that would permit the three categories and prohibit the other three categories. He can work with the Economic Development Committee and/or the Administration Committee to put the ordinance together. He will have to put together an amendment to the smoking ordinance as well as establish a series of regulations in terms of how these businesses would be licensed.

E-scooter ordinance – Borough Administrator Jover noted that e-scooters are street legal in the State of New Jersey and any additional regulations is up to each individual municipality. The Borough has been discussing bringing VEO Ride, which is the vendor that is in the Rutgers Program, into Highland Park as part of the expansion of the Rutgers scooter program. The need to regulate the scooters became clear and the Public Safety Committee has been discussing this issue for a couple of meetings. We do not want this share program in place without more specific regulations on e-scooters. Use of e-scooters will not be permitted on sidewalks and will be limited to ages 17 and up.

Block Parties – Borough Administrator Jover noted that there will be a town-wide garage sale this year and with rules around outdoor mask wearing lightening up the Borough will now be comfortable with permitting block parties this summer and into the fall. There will be a rider on the letter that if for some reason the public health emergency takes a turn for the worse, the Borough reserves the right to pull the permit in advance of the event.

Basketball Hoops at Molimock-Graf Park – Discussion of this matter postponed until June 15, 2021.

Recreation Complex Track and Turf Field Improvements – Discussion of this matter postponed until June 15, 2021.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk