

## REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 15, 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 June 11, 2021 and was posted on the Borough website at [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com) and on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ on June 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.

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

Councilwoman Canavera reported that before she gives her report, she wanted to thank the Highland Park First Aid Squad and Officer Olarra. A few weeks ago, she had to call 911 and Officer Olarra was the first to arrive. He was professional and compassionate. Once the First Aid Squad arrived, they did a great job in caring for her uncle. While she was busy with the First Aid Squad, Officer Olarra spent time speaking with her 12-year old son who was scared and worried. Officer Olarra helped calm her son to the point that he was able to relax and worry less. Her son asked that she call the Chief and tell him in her son's words "how great Officer Olarra is". She again thanked Officer Olarra and the First Aid Squad. June is National Men's Health Month. It is important to encourage the men in our lives to get regular checkups and be aware of the risks for the age, ethnicity and lifestyle. The Human Relations Commission will be meeting tomorrow. You can find the link on the Borough website. The Board of Health has heard tick season is bad this year. Please see their link on the Borough website. They will also be handing out repellent at the fireworks. 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](http://middlesexcountynj.gov/rentalassistance). 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 wants everyone to remember anyone with a mental health crisis to 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.

Councilman Hale reported that he attended the Pride Flag raising today and it was very inspiring as it always is. He thanked Councilwoman Canavera, the Human Relations Commission and the Pride Center for being involved. It is a nice and important thing for the community to do. He thanked Officer Caitlyn Dean who took it upon herself to create and start a program in Highland Park, working with Main Street Highland Park, to create a "Safe Place". Stickers are available for residents to put on their homes, businesses, etc. and if someone is facing harassment or bullying and they see one of these stickers, they know it is a safe place where they can go and the Police will then be called. There have been numerous meetings about the downtown redevelopment plan, including Planning Board meetings, and they have received a lot of great comments and ideas. The original plan was to introduce the ordinance tonight, but they are going to hold off on that based on some comments from the Planning Board and the rest of the community to make sure that we have incorporated all the various aspects and ideas into a redevelopment plan. They have a regularly scheduled Redevelopment Entity Meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and they will go into more detail about where they are in the plan and the specific changes and things that are going on. He believes that the Council will be tabling introduction of the e-scooter ordinance to make sure that they get things right in terms of compliance with State laws. Lastly, he wished everyone a Happy Flag Day, which was June 14<sup>th</sup> and wished everyone a Happy Juneteenth, which is June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Hersh reported that he chairs the Council's Arts and Recreation Committee. Highland Park, in conjunction with New Brunswick, will host the annual Independence Day fireworks on July 1<sup>st</sup> with a rain date of July 5<sup>th</sup>. The park will open at 6:00 p.m. and the fireworks will launch at approximately 9:00 p.m. Because of the pandemic, the event will be pared down with pre-recorded music. They hope to return to live music in 2022. There will be a wide variety of food vendors who will be setting up shop around 6:00 p.m. and residents are encouraged to come down to enjoy dinner and refreshments. The Borough has been working with Congressman Pallone's office and is happy to announce that there will be a vaccination clinic on site that day between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and they will be offering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The 2021 Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program is for residents ages 60 and up. The Office on Aging is currently in the process of accepting applications for residents meeting the necessary criteria and income requirements to receive vouchers for the Farmer's Market. Each eligible older adult will receive five \$6.00 vouchers for a total of \$30.00. All eligible couples will receive a total of \$60.00. More information can be obtained by contacting the Community Services Department at 732-819-0052 to make an appointment. You must show proof of residence and identification at your appointment and only 100 vouchers will be available. The Office of Aging has announced that they will be resuming small outdoor activities and programs to be held under its recently installed retractable awning on the side of the Community Center, as well as in the parking lot, weather permitting. Registration is open for three summer camps – day camp, sports camp and theater camp. The Recreation summer season is underway and there will be three summer camps that will be running at Donaldson Park. The day camp will run from July 5<sup>th</sup> through August 13<sup>th</sup>. The camp offers music, arts and crafts, recreation, science and nature activities that keep campers happy and engaged. The sports camp will feature coaching experts in the field and this year they will present football speed and agility, soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball, track and baseball. The musical theater camp will run Moana Jr. The camp counselors are the backbone of the summer camp and

consist of local teachers as well as past campers, returning college students and high school students. More information can be obtained at [highlandparkynj.myrec.com](http://highlandparkynj.myrec.com). Councilman Hale mentioned Juneteenth and he noted that Borough offices would be closed on Friday. On Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at Monument Square in front of New Brunswick's Performing Arts Center a number of community groups have come together to create this year's celebration in conjunction with the unveiling of the community Juneteenth street chalk mural at the intersection of George Street, Liberty Street and Livingston Avenue, at the Arts Institute of Middlesex County, the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center and the New Brunswick Cultural Center. Interested members are invited to come out and participate in the creation of the chalk art mural under the direction of artist Louis Miguel Carrabeo. The Thursday Juneteenth program will open with remarks by Professor Davis, followed by performances including dance, a collaborative oration by New Brunswick High School Senior Ayana Slackham and a New Brunswick High School Health and Sciences teacher, and a tribute presentation by soprano and Highland Park resident Sonya Headlum of Lift Every Voice and Sign. We have heard her perform this at the MLK observance sponsored by the Human Relations Commission. This is in recognition of the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of James Waldon Johnson. The program will culminate with the raising of the Juneteenth Flag. Tonight the Council will be voting on a resolution in support of a bill in the legislature, Assembly Bill A4656/S2963, to authorize towns to create local civilian review boards to review police operations and conduct. This bill and this resolution is deeply important and it provides for increased oversight, accountability and transparency that he feels will positively benefit the community and law enforcement. At the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Council heard from the bill's prime sponsor in the Assembly, Assemblywoman Angela McKnight. She is motivated to get this through and with the Borough's support and the support of other towns throughout New Jersey, it is hopeful that this bill can be passed to authorize municipalities and counties to establish civilian review boards. A civilian review board would review and investigate law enforcement complaints and make related policy recommendations and it would consist of at least seven members who would be appointed by the Mayor and Council. This is a real and major step toward true police reform. Our Police Officers play a critical role in keeping our community safe and he believes this legislation will make the Borough even safer by working together to make positive, necessary community-based change. He thanked the advocates who have worked to advance this bill. The Borough lost a giant in the community this past week. Fred Cole, who served the Borough in a number of capacities, passed away last week after an illness. He was a long-time coach in Old Bridge and the baseball field in Old Bridge was named after him. He will remember him and honor his legacy by carrying on the work that he did.

Councilwoman Foster reported that the Police Community Forum would be held on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. There are a few more spaces available in the Jr. Cadet Academy that will be starting July 12<sup>th</sup> and running until July 16<sup>th</sup>. Her fellow Council Members mentioned the flag raising and spoke about Juneteenth. She encouraged interested residents to join in on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. for the mural painting in New Brunswick. She is thrilled and happy to see that we will finally recognize and celebrate Juneteenth. It is a big deal to recognize this one day but to also recognize all the contributions that former enslaved people made to make this country a great country. She noted that they would be tabling the E-Scooter ordinance, as there are some changes that need to be made. She asked Chief Abrams to address some of the changes that are going to be happening.

Chief Abrams noted that the Mayor and Councilwoman Foster asked him to speak about a new directive that the Attorney General's Office put out that was first issued in mid-June of 2020. It was challenged by Police Departments and Police Unions and went to the Supreme Court on June 7<sup>th</sup> of this year. The Supreme Court released their findings and the policy has to do with discipline. It is a huge shift in the way Police Departments have handled discipline in the past. Under this new policy, anyone who faces major discipline from the Police Department, major discipline is being defined as a five-day suspension, termination or demotion, now has to have their names released to the public in addition to a synopsis of what the IA was for, what the investigation found out and how they reached the conclusions. This is going to be retroactive to June of last year and going forward. They have until August 9<sup>th</sup> to go through everything that they have to find out if they have any instances. Currently, they do not have any instances from mid-June forward. There is the ability to go backwards up to 20 years and look at 20 years' worth of disciplinary records, but the decision on how far to go back is going to be left in the hands of each County Prosecutor and all the municipalities within that County are going to have to follow that decision. They are still waiting on a decision from the Middlesex County Prosecutor. There is a way for Officers to appeal this due to labor considerations from past agreements. The State does not want towns to be sued for violating agreements that were made that had confidentiality, as part of the disciplinary agreement so there is a mandatory 45-day notification and a hearing by a Judge from any Officer who wants to fight their name being released to the public. The Supreme Court decision is available online and it is 60 pages. There are two different versions of the decision, one is for municipal Police Departments and the other is for departments that are part of the State or County.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that she was happy to see that the e-scooter ordinance was on the agenda. She understands that it is being tabled but she is happy that they will be working on increasing safety from the rider side and pedestrian side. She has had an e-scooter for three plus years. It is kind of dangerous and you do feel unsafe at times. She is happy that the Borough is taking this on as scooter sharing evolves. Scooter sharing systems are one of the least expensive and most popular micro mobility options. She is happy to see the resolution to support civilian review boards on the agenda. June is Pride Month, but it is also Black Music Appreciation Month, the annual celebration of African-American music. President Carter proclaimed it on June 7, 1979. African-American music and musicians have helped this country to dance, to express our faith through song, to march against injustice and to defend our country's most endearing promise of freedom and opportunity for all.

Councilman George recognized and joined in celebrating Juneteenth with fellow residents. It is a regular holiday at his house and they usually host a barbecue, but last year they were not able to gather. This year he hopes to do so. The Borough will be opening the RFP's for the paving project for this year. The roads listed are South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Magnolia Street to Benner Street; South 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Eden Avenue to Graham Street; North 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Raritan Avenue to Abbott Street; Benner Street from South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to South 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Barnard Street from Woodbridge Avenue to Central Avenue; Cliff Court from South Adelaide Avenue to its end; and the Lincoln Avenue repair to North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He thanked the Administration, Sustainable Highland Park and Teri Jover for their work on the Clean Communities Grant; Highland Park received \$26,590.52. The Department of Public Works and the Shade Tree Advisory Committee are proceeding with the planting project. They switched to a zone approach so that they could concentrate planting, growing and watering in certain areas rather than be spread out across town. This year, they have targeted the triangle for the planting project. There are two more bulk trash pickups and then they will cease until September. If you do have bulk trash, you need to make a reservation for the last two dates in June. During the work session, Council will be reviewing the meter replacement program. The Borough Administrator has been working very hard to put it together is also working with Middlesex Water on the requirements. In conjunction with Matt's watch on Arts and Recreation, on Sunday, Meadows Trail Volunteers led members of the Arts Collective and New York Commission through the Meadows to look at a bench replacement or replenishment project. The volunteers were out there with their t-shirts and were proud to show everything off. The artists in the group were amazed by what is going on down there. They then went to the Environmental Education Center to look at a general clean up and to see if it can be used as an art venue.

Borough Administrator Jover reported that Juneteenth is a new holiday and the Borough will be closed. She mentioned the reinstatement of the bring your own bag ordinance that will be effective August 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be no plastic bags and a ten-cent charge for paper bags. An education campaign will occur ahead of the State legislation that was passed and signed by the Governor. The Borough will be sending out letters to the businesses to remind them of the reinstatement of the program.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that as a clear sign of the waning threat of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the County has discontinued sending out current new positive test results to municipalities. On the other hand, rates of vaccination continue to come in to my office. As of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 59% of our adult population has been fully vaccinated. Another 12% have had at least one shot. Accordingly, 72% of our adult population has completed or is on the way to being vaccinated and we had a target goal of 70%. These are encouraging figures and she thanked all of the residents who have made it a priority to protect themselves, their families and their neighbors by getting the Covid-19 vaccination. For those who have not yet been vaccinated, we are working to get more pop-up local vaccination sites in Highland Park. We continue to offer Covid-19 testing at the Community Center on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Remember, while the new relaxation of mask requirements outdoors is so very welcome, we are not completely out of the woods with this pandemic yet. She urged residents to remain cautious and try to maintain some social distance. The Borough buildings and some private businesses in town still require facemasks and social distancing and she urged residents to respect these individual decisions. Our businesses and restaurants are experiencing a welcome return; please patronize them. At the last Borough Council meeting, we were privileged to host Assemblywoman Angela McKnight, chief sponsor of Assembly Bill A4656. This bill enables municipalities and/or counties across the State to set up Civilian Review Boards with subpoena powers. The Council will vote tonight on a resolution in support of this legislation. New Jersey is blessed with so many good, community-oriented police officers. We cannot allow the few bad officers to hide behind a wall of secrecy that destroys trust and tarnishes the relationships between our residents and police departments any longer. The time has come for greater transparency and community input. She is grateful to the Mayor's Equity Advisory Council for their ongoing work regarding the creation of a CCRB in Highland Park. She also greatly appreciates the Human Relations Commission for their input on the importance of this bill. She thanked the members of the public who have spoken up about this issue. This morning, we held our annual Pride Flag raising at Borough Hall and the Community Center. She thanked the Pride Center of New Jersey for participating in this each year and for choosing Highland Park as their home. She also commended the Police Department and Officer Caitlyn Dean on their new initiative to highlight safe spaces for LGBTQ+ members of the community and visitors to our community, by distributing "Safe Place" stickers to participating neighbors, businesses, and organizations. Anyone who displays the sticker on their front door agrees to serve as a secure location for victims of bias against LGBTQ+ community members, where they can receive support and assistance as they inform the Highland Park Police Department of their experiences. In late 2020, Governor Murphy established an official state holiday to honor Juneteenth, the day commemorating the emancipation of all slaves in America. This Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> marks the first official holiday for all Borough employees in Highland Park. Our offices will be closed in commemoration of this important date in our country's history. June 19, 1865, is when Union soldiers brought news of the Emancipation Proclamation to enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, and declared that all people held in slavery in the United States must be freed. The event happened more than a month after the end of the Civil War and more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Highland Park lost a true friend last week when Fred Cole passed on. Fred was unique, a renaissance man, that rare combination of a sports (baseball) coach and great fan plus a soulful artist. She first met Fred about 22 years ago through Highland Park politics when she campaigned for her friend Meryl Frank, who became Mayor. Fred taught physical education in Old Bridge for 40 years. He coached baseball in Old Bridge and Metuchen High Schools for 30 years. Fred trained 11 players who went on to play baseball professionally, and many others who had successful collegiate, all-state and all-county careers. It was Fred's art that she remembers the most. Well into his mid-fifties, Fred began sculpting and assembling art from objects, he picked up on the street, in junk yards, and garage sales. Fred created over 200 pieces of art, many of which have been featured in museums and galleries. It is his colorful, and sometimes whimsical, pieces often displayed at our Highland Park Arts in the Park events or our pop-up galleries in town that she will always remember. The family is planning a memorial to Fred on Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> at the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center at 3:00 p.m. She thanked Fred Cole for being her friend and for all the joy he brought to so many in Highland Park.

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 Court, commented about the resolution in support of Senate Bill 2963 and Assembly Bill 4656 that enables the creation of a civilian complaint review board at the municipal and/or county levels with subpoena power. She urged the Council to support passage of the resolution.

Dan Battey, 304 Montgomery Street, commented about the resolution in support of Senate Bill 2963 and Assembly Bill 4656 and he urged the Council to vote to pass this resolution.

Ravit Duncan, Lawrence Avenue, commented on her support of S2963/A4656 and urged the Council to support this resolution. The civilian complaint review boards must have adequate funding and the composition of the boards must represent the full economic and racial diversity of the communities they represent.

Pastor Antoinette Moss, 419 Montgomery Street, commented on her support of A4656/S2963 and called for the Council to vote to support this resolution. The Mayor has publicly expressed her support for greater accountability and transparency in policing. The Highland Park Community Relations Commission had recommend a civilian complaint review board, and 19 years later, it can finally happen.

Dan Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented that the topic of cannabis is on the work session and he is pleased with how all of this is moving forward. He voiced his strong support not just retail for cannabis in town, but also for on-site consumption, if Highland Park is going to get the biggest economic bang for their buck.

John Hsu, 219 Shirley Avenue, Edison, commented on his support of the work session item regarding the Medicare for All Act. He hoped that the resolution would be voted on at the next Council meeting.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented on the work session item regarding in-person meetings. She would like to see in-person meetings continue to be record live. She is concerned with in-person meetings and being able to keep people safe as Covid-19 spreads

Peter Spool, 146 Graham Street, expressed his support for the resolution regarding civilian complaint review boards. He also commented about the e-scooter ordinance and the use of them in County parks that are not governed by the Borough.

Tina Weishaus, 143 North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented about future in-person meetings and hoped that they would also be streaming the meetings for people who are immune compromised and could not attend in person. She mentioned that it was the Human Rights Commission that had pushed for a civilian complaint review board and she wholeheartedly supports the legislation. She voiced her support for the Medicare for All Act and is happy that it would be voted on at a future meeting. Lastly, she noted that the plastic bag program will be reinstated August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Maureen Cranley, 130 Forest Glen Drive, commented that she is opposed to any attempts to bring marijuana businesses into Highland Park.

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

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF EACH OFFICER AND EMPLOYEE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION", had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

No. 6-21-149

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF EACH OFFICER AND EMPLOYEE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION", 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, July 6, 2021, at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage after public hearing thereon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said a Notice of Pending Ordinance and Summary of said Ordinance be published once at least one (1) week prior to the time fixed for further consideration of said Ordinance for final passage in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published daily in this municipality, together with a notice of the introduction thereof and of the time and place when and where said Ordinance will be further considered for final passage as aforesaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, forthwith and that the Borough Clerk have available in her office for the members of the general public of Highland Park copies of said Ordinance for those members of the general public who may request the same.

On motion made by Councilwoman Foster, seconded by Councilman Hale and carried by affirmative voice vote of all councilpersons present, the ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE LICENSING ELECTRIC SCOOTERS AND AMENDING THE “CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK” BY ADDING ARTICLE V TO CHAPTER 247 OF SAID CODE” was tabled from consideration until the July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On motion made by Councilman Hersh, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, Resolution No. 6-21-157 was tabled from consideration.

Resolution Nos. 6-21-152 through 6-21-163, except Resolution No. 6-21-157, were 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.

Absent: None.

Abstained: Councilperson Canavera (Resolution No. 6-21-160).

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 6-21-152

WHEREAS, applications for renewal licenses issued in the Borough of Highland Park under the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) have been made by the hereinafter applicants, and

WHEREAS, said applications have been examined and the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park have made the following findings of fact with respect to each of the applicants:

1. Said applications are complete in all respects.
2. The applicants and the premises are qualified to be licensed in accordance with Title 33, all regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control and local ordinances as amended and supplemented pertinent to and consistent with Title 33.
3. The applicants have disclosed, and the issuing authority has ascertained and reviewed, the source of any additional financing obtained in the previous license term for use in the licensed business.
4. The Mayor and Council are of the opinion that said applications should be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following renewal licenses issued under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) to sell alcoholic beverages upon the premises set forth opposite their names under the terms and conditions prescribed in the Act aforesaid, the amendments and supplements thereof, and the ordinances, rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, State of New Jersey, shall be and are hereby approved, to wit:

PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSES

- Pad-Thai, Inc. d/b/a Pad Thai, 217 Raritan Ave. – 1207-33-005-004
- Wilhelm & Young, Inc. d/b/a Park Pub, 180-182 Woodbridge Ave. - 1207-33-011-002
- Kiadan Inc., 13B North 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Pino’s Wine Cellar - 1207-33-010-011
- Kiadan Inc., d/b/a Pino’s Fruit Basket Shoppe, 13A North 4th Ave. – 1207-44-006-010
- Highland Park Wine & Liquor LLC, 97 Woodbridge Ave., WITH BROAD PACKAGE PRIVILEGE-1207-32-003-007

PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSES

- Rite Aid of New Jersey, Inc., d/b/a Rite Aid 2561, 332 Raritan Avenue – 1207-44-001-005
- New Athens Corner, 28 Woodbridge Avenue – 1207-44-007-005

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue to the aforesaid licensees the license aforesaid, which licenses shall be effective July 1, 2021 and shall expire June 30, 2022.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 6-21-153

WHEREAS, application for renewal licenses issued in the Borough of Highland Park under the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) have been made by the hereinafter applicant, and

WHEREAS, said applications have been examined and the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park have made the following findings of fact with respect to each of the applicants:

1. Said application is complete in all respects, including submission of the club member list.
2. The officers and directors of the club are qualified according to all statutory, regulatory and local governmental ABC laws and regulations.
3. The club maintains all records required by N.J.A.C. 13:2-8.8. (special events open to non-club members) and N.J.A.C. 13:2-8.12 (true books of account for receipts and disbursements).
4. The Mayor and Council are of the opinion that said application should be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following renewal licenses issued under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) to sell alcoholic beverages upon the premises set forth opposite their names under the terms and conditions prescribed in the Act aforesaid, the amendments and supplements thereof, and the ordinances, rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, State of New Jersey, shall be and are hereby approved, to wit:

CLUB LICENSES

- The White Mountains Cretans Fraternity, 1152-1154 Raritan Avenue - 1207-31-012-002

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue to the aforesaid licensees the license aforesaid, which licenses shall be effective July 1, 2021, and shall expire June 30, 2022.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 6-21-154

WHEREAS, applications for renewal licenses issued in the Borough of Highland Park under the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) have been made by the hereinafter applicants, and

WHEREAS, said applications have been examined and the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park have made the following findings of fact with respect to each of the applicants:

1. Said applications are complete in all respects.
2. The applicants and the premises are qualified to be licensed in accordance with Title 33, all regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control and local ordinances as amended and supplemented pertinent to and consistent with Title 33.
3. The applicants have disclosed, and the issuing authority has ascertained and reviewed, the source of any additional financing obtained in the previous license term for use in the licensed business.
4. The Mayor and Council are of the opinion that said applications should be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following renewal licenses issued under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) to sell alcoholic beverages upon the premises set forth opposite their names under the terms and conditions prescribed in the Act aforesaid, the amendments and supplements thereof, and the ordinances, rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, State of New Jersey, shall be and are hereby approved, to wit:

**PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSES**

Eisigian LLC, d/b/a The Blue Horse Restaurant, 247 Raritan Ave. - 1207-33-004-008 (Inactive)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue to the aforesaid licensees the license aforesaid, which licenses shall be effective July 1, 2021 and shall expire June 30, 2022.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 6-21-155

WHEREAS, application for renewal license issued in the Borough of Highland Park under the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) has been made by the hereinafter applicant, and

WHEREAS, said application has been examined and the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park have made the following findings of fact with respect to the applicant:

1. Said application is complete in all respects.
2. The applicant has obtained a Special Ruling to permit the filing of renewal application of an Inactive License for the 2021-2022 license term.
3. The applicant is qualified to be licensed in accordance with Title 33, all regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control and local ordinances as amended and supplemented pertinent to and consistent with Title 33.
4. The applicant has disclosed, and the issuing authority has ascertained and reviewed, the source of any additional financing obtained in the previous license term for use in the licensed business.
5. The Mayor and Council are of the opinion that said application should be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following renewal application of an inactive license issued under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) under the terms and conditions prescribed in the Act aforesaid, the amendments and supplements thereof, and the ordinances, rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, State of New Jersey, shall be and is hereby approved with the specific condition that no further renewals of this license shall be granted unless the license is being actively used at an approved site on or before June 30, 2022 to wit:

**PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE W/ BROAD PACKAGE PRIVELEGE**

Four W. Properties, 149 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 – 1207-32-008-013

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to maintain the aforesaid license certificate in the municipal file, which license shall be effective July 1, 2021, and shall expire June 30, 2022.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 6-21-156

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 5-21-126 adopted by the Borough Council on May 4, 2021, the Highland Park Police Department was authorized and directed to arrange for emergency repairs to Police Vehicle #8 in the amount of \$9,943.84; and

WHEREAS, Police Vehicle #8 is in need of additional repairs totaling \$936.16; and

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

WHEREAS, the expenses related to the repair of this Police vehicle 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 vehicle towed and 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, Car Care Collision, 126 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904 was contracted to provide the additional repairs in the amount of \$936.16; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 1-01-26-315-232 in the amount of \$936.16, 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 Police Department is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for said repairs from Car Care Collision, 126 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904, at a total price of \$936.16; and

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

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

No. 6-21-158

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Recreation Department offers opportunities for kids and teens to participate in full-length theater productions; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Department does not have staff that specializes in theater production; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Department solicited three competitive quotes from production companies and Fresh Theater Arts was the only company interested in a production of this scale; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account Number G-02-41-741-005 in the amount of \$9,000.00, as reflected by the Certification of Funds by the Finance Department, shown below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Fresh Theater Arts for \$9,000.00 for the production of "Moana Jr." in June, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and the Recreation Department forthwith.

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

No. 6-21-159

WHEREAS, the Fire Department obtained two new pickup trucks; and

WHEREAS, the new vehicles need to be properly outfitted with lights; and

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

Island Tech Services \$11,243.84

Tropic Window Tinting \$11,944.00

Garden State Public Safety LLC \$18,017.84

and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department has recommended that said installation be performed by Island Tech Services, 46 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Somerville, NJ 08876; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. 1-01-25-265-252 for a total amount not to exceed \$11,243.84, 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 Department of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for installation from Island Tech Services, 46 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Somerville, NJ 08876, at a total cost not to exceed \$11,243.84; and

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 6-21-160

WHEREAS, HP Gives a Hoot would like to apply for a grant from Feeding Middlesex County for lockable shelves for the Zone 6 Teen Center; and

NOW, THEREFORE, 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, submit and accept, on behalf of HP Gives a Hoot, the grant application to Feeding Middlesex County, a copy of which is attached to the original of this resolution.

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

No. 6-21-161

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following shall be and are hereby appointed to serve as a member of the Highland Park Housing Authority for a term to expire as indicated:

Darlene Michelle Sharp

September 1, 2024

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

No. 6-21-162

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:

LINDA MONTE, Administrative Assistant, at an annual salary of \$61,144.00, with longevity of \$1,350.00, for a total salary of \$62,494.00, effective June 1, 2021.

JOANN KOPETSKY, Administrative Assistant, at an annual salary of \$61,144.00, with longevity of \$1,350.00, for a total salary of \$62,494.00, effective January 1, 2021.

JANET MOLINA, Clerk Typist, at an annual salary of \$43,552.00, with longevity of \$1,350.00, for a total salary of \$44,902.00, effective January 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021.

JANET MOLINA, Clerk Typist, at an annual salary of \$45,532.00, with longevity of \$1,350.00, for a total salary of \$46,882.00, effective May 1, 2021.

NORMAN SHAMY, Firefighter Supervisor, at an annual salary of \$60,000.00, effective June 15, 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. 6-21-163

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 6/15/2021 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 41.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance 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.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

No. 6-21-164

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the 2021 budget in the sum of \$26,590.52, which is now available from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Clean Communities Grant, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the like sum of \$26,590.52 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Clean Communities Grant.

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.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

No. 6-21-165

**WHEREAS**, Highland Park holds a deep commitment to government and police oversight, accountability, and transparency in order to further and advance effective, accountable government and law enforcement practices; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 would authorize municipalities and counties to establish Civilian Review Boards to review police operations and conduct; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that Civilian Review Boards would serve to foster transparency, fairness, and equality in policing practices and policies, which in turn will help promote positive relations between police and the local communities they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that a municipal Civilian Review Board would consist of at least seven members who are appointed by the Mayor or other Chief Executive Officer of the Municipality with the consent of the Governing Body of the Municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that a County Civilian Review Board would consist of at least seven members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners or, if the County is organized pursuant to the provisions of the "Optional County Charter Law," P.L.1972, c.154 (C.40:41A-1 et seq.), the County Executive, the County Supervisor, or the County Manager, as applicable, with the consent of the Board of County Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that a County Civilian Review Board would operate in municipalities that opt to participate with such a board; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that the members of a Civilian Review Board would be residents of the Municipality or County, as applicable, who are qualified persons with training or experience in community relations, civil rights, law enforcement, juvenile justice, sociology, or other relevant fields. They would serve for terms of six years, with certain shorter terms for some of the initial board members to allow for staggered terms; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that members of a Civilian Review Board would be required to take a training course developed and provided by the Attorney General, or an alternative course approved by the Attorney General, within six months of appointment. The Attorney General would be required to develop its training course within 45 days of the bill's effective date and offer the first course as soon as practicable thereafter; and

**WHEREAS**, a Civilian Review Board could not investigate the conduct of any law enforcement officers, or recommend the imposition of discipline of such officers or members, without a quorum of members who have completed this training; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that a Civilian Review Board would be permitted to utilize resources of the Municipality or County to the extent that funds for the utilization of such resources are made available by the Municipality, County, State, or other entity; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that it would be the duty of a Civilian Review Board to: (1) conduct an investigation of the operation of the police force of the Municipality, or other law enforcement officers that serve in the capacity of a municipal police force for the Municipality, as applicable; (2) recommend the establishment of policies by the appropriate authority; (3) review and



investigate the conduct of any law enforcement officer; and (4) recommend the imposition of discipline of such officer consistent with any tenure or civil service laws and contractual agreements. A Civilian Review Board could only initiate one of these actions in response to a civilian complaint of excessive or unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, or offensive language; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that a Civilian Review Board would have the power to subpoena witnesses and documentary evidence. The board would also have any additional powers of inquiry delegated to the board by the Municipality or County as deemed necessary for the conduct of any hearing or investigation; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that a Civilian Review Board investigation may run concurrent to an internal affairs investigation of related conduct by law enforcement, but the Civilian Review Board investigation would have to cease upon the initiation of a criminal prosecution concerning the related conduct. Further, a law enforcement agency may refrain from sharing evidence, or may direct a Civilian Review Board to cease an investigation, if the law enforcement agency determines that evidence sharing, or the investigation itself, would be significantly detrimental to its disciplinary process due to the existence of a related criminal investigation; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 permits an ordinance or resolution establishing a Civilian Review Board to set forth guidelines for the operation of the board consistent with the provisions of the bill. The guidelines may adopt any relevant guidelines issued by the Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that a Civilian Review Board whether it is housed by a municipality or within the County would report its findings and recommendations concerning police operations and conduct to the Mayor or other Chief Executive Officer of the Municipality, the Governing Body of the Municipality, the chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer of the Municipality where the incident in question occurred, the County Prosecutor, and, in the case of a Municipality in which the State Police serves in the capacity of a municipal police force for the Municipality, the Superintendent of State Police and the Attorney General; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that, all records made, maintained, or kept on file by a Civilian Review Board would be confidential and unavailable to the public while an investigation is pending, and all personal identifying information contained in all records made, maintained, or kept on file by a Civilian Review Board would be confidential and unavailable to the public at all times.

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that the bill also provides that the "Internal Affairs Policy and Procedures" of the Police Management Manual promulgated by the Police Bureau of the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety be revised to require the disclosure of reports, complaints, and other investigative materials, including video, sound, or other recording, to the appropriate authority, as defined in N.J.S.40A:14-118, as well as any Civilian Review Board; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963 provides that the bill would appropriate \$600,000.00 from the General Fund to the Attorney General to fund the Civilian Review Board training course, or any reimbursements for the alternative training course, required by the bill; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Highland Park discussed this legislation with Assemblywoman McKnight at the work session of their June 1, 2021 Council Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Highland Park wishes to urge State lawmakers to adopt Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963, which would establish Civilian Review Boards to review complaints against Police Officers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Highland Park, as follows:

1. They hereby urge the elected representatives in the New Jersey State Legislature to adopt Assembly Bill No. 4656/Senate Bill No. S2963.
2. A copy of this Resolution upon its adoption shall be furnished to Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak, Assemblyman Sterley Stanley and State Senator Patrick J. Diegan, Jr.
3. A copy of this Resolution upon its adoption shall also be furnished to the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

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.

Josephine Giaimo, 123 Johnson Street, commented that she wanted to share her support for the Medicare for All Act legislation.

Mary Botteon, 709 Madison Avenue, commented that she thinks the Council should table the marijuana conversation. The League of Municipalities and the Institute of Local Government Attorneys have both recommended that towns opt out and the Borough should not blatantly disregard that advice. Marijuana is not approved under federal law or by the FDA and that if the Borough invites these businesses into town and take fees from them, that they are breaking the law. She believes that bringing marijuana into town will reduce property values and increase crime.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented on the previous speaker's assertion that allowing marijuana businesses in town is breaking the law. She mentioned again the lack of public comment at the work session portion of the agenda. She wants the Council to allow the public to be part of the discussion again as it takes away from their ability to really engage with the topic being discussed.

Harold Sackowitz, 617 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented about the redevelopment process and community involvement. Not many residents think that three minutes for comments/questions every month, that often do not get answered, is community involvement. He mentioned that Councilman Hale spoke with him and his wife for over an hour and discovered things that were never mentioned in any of the presentations. He thinks it is wrong that the redevelopment group has not involved Main Street in any meaningful way. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that it is erroneous to think that they are not involving Main street in the process.

Pam Dorman, 423 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented about the way Borough business is being conducted remotely. She is concerned that the format does not allow for residents to know who is present at these meetings. She is on many different remote organizations and this is the only one where there is no list of participants and it does not feel transparent.

Dan Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented about cannabis and noted that it is harder for minors to acquire a drug once it is legal. Retail cannabis is not associated with an increase in crime rate and there is no increase in traffic accidents and deaths associated with cannabis use. Highland Park voted 70/30 in favor of legalization in the election last year. He has been following redevelopment very closely and he thanked everyone for all of their work and he is really happy to see that is moving forward.

Mary Botteon, 709 Madison Avenue, commented that marijuana businesses are not eligible to receive any state or local economic incentives and that is important for redevelopment. Once a town gets into any of the marijuana businesses, it cannot get out. She asked the Council to table the discussion of marijuana.

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

The Council took a brief recess at 8:48 p.m. and reconvened at 8:57 p.m. with all members previously in attendance still present.

Work Session:

Basketball Hoops at Molimock-Graf Park – Councilman Hersh explained that there have been a number of requests over the last year. The park, commonly known as Karsey Street Park, is a beautiful, small park nestled into the neighborhood. There was a small basketball court area with two hoops, which were removed in the mid 1990's. Would like to discuss the steps needed in reestablishing that component of active recreation. Borough Administrator Jover is looking into the history of the park and trying to gauge the potential costs for reinstallation of the hoops and whether or not the surface of the court is salvageable or needs replacement. Councilman George noted that if the hoops were going to be put back up, the Borough would need to look at resurfacing the area. It is an asset for the neighborhood and is designed to serve the kids. Councilwoman Canavera commented that she believes it is a good idea, but noted that the Council has talked about a skate park for that site. A basketball court would be much less costly and more people would benefit from that than a skate park. Councilman Hale noted that the Council did discuss a skate park for that site and he believes that we should do something to make a recreation improvement. Councilwoman Foster and Councilwoman Kim-Chohan noted that Karsey Street Park was also considered as a possible site for a spray park. Councilman Hersh noted that the Recreation and Arts Committee discussed this issue. He does not believe that the neighborhood can sustain a skate park, as they tend to be regional destinations for skateboarders. Reinstalling basketball hoops would be a better use for that park and no lighting will be installed. A skate park in Donaldson Park would be a better site as it could handle the level of regional attraction. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the basketball courts were used all the time in the past and brought the neighborhood kids together in a safe place.

Recreation Complex Track and Turf Field Improvements – Councilman Hersh noted that the track and field is falling into disrepair and needs major improvements. Meets cannot be hosted at the track because of the condition of the site. The Borough has a complicated arrangement for that facility with the school district. The Board of Education owns the land and the Borough has an easement. Borough Administrator Jover noted that she has had general communications with the Business Administrator at the Board of Education and the general understanding was that the school and the Borough share evenly the expense related to maintenance and operations. We applied for funding and were not awarded the funding and they are in the process of regrouping. The schools are very concerned about the condition of the track and turf field. The recreation field is an important asset for recreational use, especially with the fields in Donaldson Park being flooded due to flood plain issues. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she has been working with the legislators and Frank Pallone's office to try to get some funding for the recreation complex at the high school.

Medicare for All Act – Councilwoman Canavera noted that this was discussed at the last work session but it was not put up for a vote because a new version had come out. Some of the Council had problems with some of the wording. She pointed out that she is one of the people who does not have insurance because she cannot afford what her job wants her to pay for it. She was hospitalized again this weekend and now has to worry about where she will get the money to pay the hospital bill. If she had Medicaid for all, she would not be in this situation. She hopes that the Council will join with her at the next meeting in support of this resolution.

In-person Meetings – Borough Administrator Jover advised that they are considering and recommending that the Council re-establish in-person Council meetings starting with the first meeting in September. They are not envisioning social distancing and mask requirements and their expectation is that they will see numbers and vaccination rates improving. Should the public health situation take a turn, they will revisit that decision. Councilwoman Foster asked whether the Borough would still have the zoom option in September. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that they have not made a decision about that yet. Councilman George noted that the Municipal Court uses the same room and they have been wired for television. Councilman Hale noted that he believes there is a value in having some streaming capacity for people to watch when we do go back. Councilman Hersh noted that back in 2009 when he and Councilwoman Canavera were on the Public Information Committee, when it was initially formed, this is something they would have done if they had the technology to encourage public participation. Conducting Council business in person is the best way to do it and to have people participate at home, if they choose to, is important. Borough Administrator Jover noted that if they want to maintain zoom, there are some technological challenges that need to be sorted out.

Cannabis Next Steps – Mayor Brill Mittler advised that she has been talking to the Board of Education about what they are going to do in terms of cannabis and education for the students and teenagers in town. The schools are running an education program to make teens aware of the possible dangers of underage marijuana use. It will be similar to the successful underage drinking program that has been in effect at the high school for decades. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that following the last Council meeting, his office began and finished reading the 244 pages of the legislation that was adopted in February which would permit municipalities to allow for recreational marijuana in their communities. Because of that, they prepared an outline of how the ordinance would work. In the first instance, there would be a land use component of the ordinance, which would make as permitted uses in the specific zones the class of activity that you want to permit in the Borough. The land use ordinance would then have to be referred to the Planning Board for their review, comment and recommendation. There is also another component which involves licensing the entities who may want to come into the Borough and participate in the program under one or more of the classes of activity that are permitted under the law and that licensing would be similar to the way the Borough licenses and regulates alcoholic beverages in town. The Borough would have to come up with the number of retail licenses that they would like to authorize and the methodology for the issuance of those licenses. If there were more individuals interested in licenses than the Borough has available, a lottery would need to be conducted. The Borough would need to discuss whether they wanted to adhere to any of the regulations in terms of having these retail operations. For example, be so many feet away from a school or a house of worship. The legislation is not as mechanical as the drug legislation, which established drug zones. You do not have to a thousand feet away from a school in order to authorize a cannabis operation in town. We would have to go through the element of the ordinance, which would be the licensing portion of the ordinance. There is a third section that deals with the user fees or the tax that the municipality can collect from the conduct that you might allow in the Borough. The municipal level of the user fee cannot exceed two percent of the actual sales. He has been in touch with the Administration Committee and the Economic Development and Planning Committee and he has received direction from them in terms of how to move forward. His recommendation would be that they continue to gather that information and any other information that the Council may wish to gather from the community so that they can build an ordinance and have something for the Governing Body to review, debate and then introduce. He reminded the Governing Body that if they do want to authorize any of the classes of activity as authorized by the State law, the ordinance would have to be adopted on or before August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Borough does have time to introduce an ordinance, have the Planning Board review the ordinance and conduct a public hearing and adopt the ordinance prior to August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Questions were raised about what other municipalities might be charging for these licenses and the Borough needs to be competitive with the municipalities that surround Highland Park. Councilman Hale noted that there was discussion of a public meeting on cannabis. Borough Administrator Jover noted that they were looking at Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> to hold a forum where the Borough Attorney could present the ordinance that he is working on.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings  
Borough Clerk