

REGULAR MEETING – JULY 6, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, and was called to order by Council President George at 7:02 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 July 2, 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 July 2, 2021 and has remained continuously posted as required by law.

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

Absent: Mayor Brill Mittler; Councilperson Hale.

Council President George asked the Council members to present their reports.

Councilwoman Canavera reported that July is National Independent Retailer Month. The month long, observance offers an opportunity for us to show all the local small businesses appreciation. The Board of Health has heard tick season is bad this year. She encouraged residents to check out their link on the Borough website for tips. They are happy that the Medicare for all resolution is on the agenda and they hope it passes. 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 Hersh mentioned National Independent Retailer month. Shopping locally has a profound impact on the local economy, supports local jobs, and provides services that you cannot get elsewhere. The Department of Recreation summer camp is up and running and all weeks are still open for registration except for this week, which launched on July 5th, without a hitch. They are excited to be up and running. This six-week camp runs through August 13th. Camp will take place at Donaldson Park from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. They have the day camp, the sports camp and the musical theater camp. Registration can be done at www.highlandparkrec.com. He thanked everyone who came out to the fireworks yesterday. It was an amazing display of community unity and gathering and it was great to see people in person. He thanked the Police Department, the Volunteer Fire Department, the CERT Team, the Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Recreation for putting such an amazing program together. Walgreens of New Brunswick had a Covid-19 vaccine clinic at the event. It was a successful program, slightly pared down from previous years.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that a year ago today, the Borough lost Councilwoman Welkovits. She wanted to recognize that and that they truly miss her.

Councilwoman Foster reported that the Fourth of July celebration yesterday was wonderful. She gave special thanks to the staff of the Department of Community Services. They went above and beyond. She sat with them for a while and they served until it was very dark and nothing left. They did an awesome job, they did it with a smile and they were happy to see everyone and to serve. She thanked the Fire Department, the Police Department, Emergency Management, the CERT team and the First Aid Squad. She also thanked the River Road First Aid Squad that came out to lend a hand. Summer is here and when we ride our bikes around town, it is important that you wear your helmet. The Jr. Cadet Academy is starting there are a few open spots. She is working with the Chief to host a Civilian Cadet Academy. The Zone 6 Teen Center has been busy and they will have eight graduates and will host a graduation party on July 18th. They will be hosting animation workshops on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In June they held a Zone 6 Day with over 200 people attending. They celebrated the Police Department, the Public Works Department and the NAACP (New Brunswick Branch). There was food and prizes and it was a lot of fun. They have an Alpha Aviation Program coming out that will emphasis flight school and teach students to be pilots and to fly drones. The Girls in Power Program is going strong and they are doing blogs and teaching internet technology. They Zone 6 Teen Center will be hosting a food and clothing drive, with the donations going to Kingston, Jamaica. Lastly, they will be doing a back-to-school drive and she will provide updates at a future meeting.

Council President George recognized the anniversary of the loss of Councilwoman Welkovits who was one of the more loyal Council Members and a resident of the town. She was always outspoken and an advocate for safe routes to school advocacy. Sidewalk and bicycle safety, as well as pedestrian safety has benefited the Borough in a concrete way as well as a more general way. We have the electric scooter ordinance that Councilwoman Kim-Chohan worked on, but it follows up on Susie's legacy. He extended his best wishes to the family. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee discussed the long-term planting and watering schedule as well as the opting in or opting out for tree planting and will bring that issue to the Public Works Committee in the early fall for a more robust discussion by the Borough Council. On the agenda tonight is the resolution to award the bid for the 2020 roadway improvements for of South Sixth Avenue between Magnolia Street and Benner Street, South Ninth Avenue between Eden Avenue and Graham Street, North Ninth Avenue between Raritan Avenue and Abbott Street, Benner Street between South Seventh Avenue and South Ninth Avenue, Cliff Court, Lincoln Avenue between Lawrence Avenue and North Fifth Avenue, and Barnard Street between Central Avenue and Woodbridge Avenue. It is based upon funds from NJDOT's annual grants. There is a change in schedule for trash and recycling this week because of the holiday. Tomorrow is the business district, north side and the triangle for trash pickup; Thursday is south side recycling and Friday is the business district and

south side trash pickup. The Environmental Commission will meet tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. Information is posted on the website. He congratulated Library Director Kate Jagers for being chosen as the President of the New Jersey Association of Libraries for the entire State. He finds it a pleasure to serve as the liaison to the Library Board of Trustees and to work on new projects that she plans to implement. One of the new projects would be the possibility of a new book drop on North 6th Avenue and that idea would be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee for consideration as there is one parking space there between the driveways. On July 8th at 7:00 p.m., there is an outdoor live concert at the library featuring Eileen Lafron and Bob McHugh. The library continues with their reopening and they are broadening their outdoor programming. The library has been accepted for membership into the LMX, which is the Libraries of Middlesex County Automated Consortium, which allows them access to the digital libraries throughout the County. It expands the ability of the library to serve the residents and the program will go live on July 22nd.

Borough Administrator Jover reminded everyone that there will be a Mayor and Council Redevelopment Entity meeting next Tuesday, July 13th at 7:00 p.m. There is a Planning Board meeting on Thursday, July 8th at 7:30 p.m.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No report.

Council President George 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.

David Evans, Sr. Counsel, Cannabis Industry Victims Educating Litigators, Flemington, NJ, noted that his organization helps the victims of the marijuana industry assert their rights in terms of personal injury caused by marijuana. They are involved in promoting litigation against the marijuana industry. By allowing marijuana into Highland Park, they are inviting something that is going to degrade the town. If the town thinks they are going to make money out of this, they are mistaken. He plans to send the Governing Body some scientific information about marijuana and the damage it causes. There is a legal proceeding called “Rico” and they are going to be recruiting plaintiffs in town to sue any marijuana store that comes into town because of the damage to property values.

Dan Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented that the passage of the cannabis ordinance is a good thing for the town. They know the public health statistics and the economic statistics. He really likes this ordinance and he encouraged everyone to vote for it.

John Hsu, 209 West Shirley Avenue, Edison, commented that he is currently the Chair of the Our Revolution Middlesex County Chapter. He thanked the members of the Council, especially Councilwoman Canavera and Councilman Hersh for their support of the resolution of Medicare for All.

Laurel Kornfeld, 106 North 6th Avenue, thanked the Mayor and Council for adopting the Medicare for all resolution. The Board of Health adopted a similar resolution in 2012/2013, but the Council was not in support of it at that time. Congressman Pallone signed on to the house bill for Medicare for all and she thanked Our Revolution Middlesex County Chapter for working on this.

Dylan Simpson, 173 Walnut Court, commented that he wanted to encourage the members of the Council to vote for the resolution in support of Medicare for all.

Mary Botteon, 709 Madison Avenue, commented that the fireworks last night were fantastic. This is the type of Highland Park that we should be promoting; family friendly with everybody getting together in good spirits and being able to walk through town safely and not past pot shops, courier services and weed laboratories. Highland Park needs to be aware of the fact that five years after allowing these types of businesses and things are not working out; you cannot get rid of them. Highland Park will lose local control if they allow them in. She mentioned the ordinance and the fact that the Board of Education, the local Department of Health and the Borough Social Worker will be charged with developing programs. She asked about the additional revenue they expect to generate. She requested a cost benefit analysis.

Mary Forsberg, Denison Street, commented that she believes there should be a cost benefit analysis of redevelopment. She commented about electric scooters and noted an article where an actor was killed in a hit and run accident in New York. She asked who would be monitoring the use of electric scooters. She commented about \$6.3 million dollars in The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 8-21-200

ing and wanted to hear a breakdown of what was being funded.

Michelle McFadden DiNicola, 118 South 2nd Avenue, commented about the dog bit incident that occurred yesterday. She proposed that there be some sort of ordinance or policy that would require a town-wide alert if there is a dog bit that happens on public property. She encourage the Council to move forward with the adoption of the Medicare for All resolution.

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

The Clerk reported advertising 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, 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 Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above-entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

The Council President 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 Council President closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilwoman Canavera, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 21-2024, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Hale.

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

No. 7-21-166

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the 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, 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 that an 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, had been introduced in writing by the Public Safety Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilwoman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Hale.

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

No. 7-21-167

WHEREAS, an 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, 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, August 3, 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.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, TERMINATING AND VACATING A DRAINAGE EASEMENT ON BLOCK 2001 (FORMERLY BLOCK 75), LOT 15.02, BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK TAX MAP, had been introduced in writing by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Hale.

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

No. 7-21-170

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, TERMINATING AND VACATING A DRAINAGE EASEMENT ON BLOCK 2001 (FORMERLY BLOCK 75), LOT 15.02, BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK TAX MAP, has been introduced and duly passed on first reading;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that this Council meet at the Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, on Tuesday, August 3, 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.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK ALLOWING CLASS V RETAIL CANNABIS BUSINESSES, CLASS VI CANNABIS DELIVERY SERVICES, AND MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARIES IN THE CBD AND C ZONING DISTRICTS, ESTABLISHING LICENSING, TAXATION, AND ZONING REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND PROHIBITING ALL OTHER CLASSES OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE BOROUGH, had been introduced in writing by the Council as a Whole for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Hale.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Hersh, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 7-21-171

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK ALLOWING CLASS V RETAIL CANNABIS BUSINESSES, CLASS VI CANNABIS DELIVERY SERVICES, AND MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARIES IN THE CBD AND C ZONING DISTRICTS, ESTABLISHING LICENSING, TAXATION, AND ZONING REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND PROHIBITING ALL OTHER CLASSES OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE BOROUGH, 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, August 17, 2021, at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage after public hearing thereon.

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

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

Resolution Nos. 7-21-172 through 7-21-186, were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Foster, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Hale.

Abstained: None.

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

No. 7-21-172

WHEREAS, pursuant to a duly advertised Notice to Bidders, on May 27, 2021 the Borough of Highland Park received three (3) bids for a Contract for "Emergency Repairs to the Water & Collection System," as follows:

Bidder	J.F. Kiely Construction Co.	J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc.	B & W Construction Co. of NJ, Inc.
Bid Proposal #1	\$483,767.00	\$164,382.00	\$173,171.00
Bid Proposal #2	\$14,496.00	\$12,864.00	\$11,050.19
Total Bid Price	\$498,263.00	\$177,246.00	\$184,221.19

WHEREAS, the Bidding Documents requested bidders to submit both separate and combined bids for #1, Emergency Repairs to the Collection System and #2, Emergency Repairs to the Distribution System, and

WHEREAS, through the Bidding Documents, the Borough reserved the right to award one single contract based on the combined price for both proposals or two separate contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Administrator, in consultation with the Borough's consultants and Attorney's office, recommends that a single contract for both proposals be awarded to one bidder to ensure efficiency of administration of the services; and

WHEREAS, J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc. has submitted the bid that is lowest in price for all work under the combined proposals; and

WHEREAS, the Administrator, Borough's consultants and Attorney's office have reviewed the bid submission from J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc. and recommend that the award be made to J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc. as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that the availability of sufficient funds for this contract in 1-05-55-500-423.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The foregoing preamble is hereby incorporated herein as if fully restated.
2. The Council hereby awards a contract to J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc. for the Emergency Repairs to the Water & Collection System for the not to exceed amount of \$177,246.00.
3. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an Agreement consistent herewith.

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

No. 7-21-173

WHEREAS, every person in Highland Park, Middlesex County, deserves high quality health care and everyone's health is at risk when our neighbors cannot receive care; and

WHEREAS, before the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of Americans without health insurance was nearly 30 million with about 50 million Americans underinsured, the pandemic will greatly increase these numbers; e.g., up to 45 million additional people will lose job-related health insurance, with the impacts most severe on our black and brown neighbors; and

WHEREAS, without new strategies, the never-ending rising costs of health care further challenge our already strapped municipal budget and our small businesses that keep our communities thriving; and

WHEREAS, recent polls show that a growing majority of Americans support Medicare-for-All; cities/town approving Medicare for All Resolutions include: Los Angeles (CA), South Bend (IN), Ann Arbor (MI), Knoxville (TN), New Orleans (LA), Putnam (CT), Hanover (NH); Essex County (NJ); Maplewood (NJ); and Red Bank (NJ); and

WHEREAS, the Senate Medicare for All Act of 2019 and the House Medicare for All Act of 2021 would provide national health insurance for every person in the United States for all necessary medical care including diagnostic (e.g., virus) testing; prescription drugs; hospital, surgical and outpatient services; primary and preventive care; emergency services; women's reproductive care; dental and vision care; and long-term care; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Medicare for All Act of 2019 and the House Medicare for All Act of 2021 would provide coverage without copays, deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs, and would slash bureaucracy, protect the doctor-patient relationship, and assure patients a free choice of doctors; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Medicare for All Act of 2019 and the House Medicare for All Act of 2021 would save millions in taxpayer dollars now spent on premiums that provide often inadequate health insurance coverage for government employees; and

WHEREAS, the Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act of 2020 will cover, through Medicare, the costs of Covid-19 related treatment for uninsured Americans as well as all out-of-pocket costs for those with private or public insurance throughout the duration of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for the residents of Highland Park, Middlesex County, will vastly improve because everyone would be able to get preventative and ongoing care, when they need it to keep themselves and their neighbors healthy and avoid further burdening local resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highland Park Borough Council enthusiastically supports the (Improved) Medicare for All Act(s) of 2019 and 2021 (S.1129 and H.R. 1976) and the Healthcare Emergency Guarantee Act(s) of 2020 (H.R. 6906 and S.3790) and calls on our federal legislators to work toward their immediate enactment, assuring appropriate and efficient health care for all residents of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the Highland Park Borough Council, acknowledge the following:

- The Covid-19 pandemic has shown the importance of making high-quality healthcare available to everyone; our existing system leaves out too many people of color and those with limited resources; and
- Millions who have no insurance or insurance with high out-of-pocket costs, face the possibility that a major illness would lead to financial ruin; medical illness and bills contribute to two-thirds of all bankruptcies; and
- Managed care and other market-based reforms have failed to contain health care costs, which threaten the international competitiveness of U.S. businesses; and
- The existence of thousands of public and private insurance providers and regulators has resulted in extraordinarily complex (and unsustainable) health care business procedures that consume almost one-third of our nation's expenditures for health care; and
- Administrative waste stemming from our reliance on private insurers consumes one-third of private health spending while the single-payer Medicare system has administration costs of less than 5 percent; and
- Rationing health care according to ability to pay has diminished the overall health of our citizens to the point that the United States ranks last among industrialized nations in health outcomes and as many as 30,000 people in the United States die each year due to inadequate health care; and
- Numerous academic studies have concluded that the administrative savings under a single-payer, (Improved) Medicare for All system would be enough to cover the currently uninsured and improve coverage for all those who now have only partial coverage; and
- Entrusting care to profit-oriented firms diverts billions of dollars to outrageous incomes for CEOs and threatens the quality of care; and
- The failure to provide affordable and appropriate preventative health care services places unnecessary and more costly demands upon Red Bank emergency health care services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Highland Park Borough encourages all of our residents to their Members of Congress and U.S. Senators and encourage them to co-sponsor this critical legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to U.S. Senator Robert Menendez; U.S. Senator Cory Booker; Congressman Frank Pallone, representative of NJ's sixth Congressional District; NJ Senator Patrick Diegnan, representative of NJ's 18th Legislative District, Assemblyman Sterley Stanley, representative of NJ's 18th Legislative District; Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak, representative of New Jersey's 18th Legislative District; NJ Governor Philip Murphy; and the Middlesex County New Jersey Board of Commissioners.

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

No. 7-21-174

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park wishes to enter into an agreement with the Middlesex County Utilities Authority (MCUA) for disposal of municipally controlled solid waste in the Middlesex County Landfill for the period beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-1 et seq., a municipality may enter into a contract for such services with another governmental subdivision without public bidding; and

WHEREAS, MCUA has offered to contract with the Borough for solid waste disposal at the rate of \$70.00/ton maximum through 2022, \$71.25/ton maximum for 2023, \$72.50/ton maximum for 2024, \$73.75/ton maximum for 2025, and \$75.00/ton maximum for 2026, a copy of which contract and addendum are attached to the original of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, funds will be made available in subsequent budgets for this purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk shall be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough a contract with Middlesex County Utilities Authority for the disposal of municipally controlled solid waste at the rate, \$70.00/ton maximum through 2022, \$71.25/ton maximum for 2023, \$72.50/ton maximum for 2024, \$73.75/ton maximum for 2025, and \$75.00/ton maximum for 2026, said contract and addendum to be in a form approved by the Borough Attorney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Director and Middlesex County Utilities Authority forthwith.

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

No. 7-21-175

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE COMBINATION OF CERTAIN BOND ISSUES AND DETERMINING THE FORM AND OTHER DETAILS OF THE OFFERING OF \$14,102,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2021 OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CONSISTING OF \$10,233,000 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2021 AND \$3,869,000 WATER/SEWER UTILITY BONDS, SERIES 2021, AND PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF SUCH BONDS, AND DETERMINING CERTAIN MATTERS WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:2-26(f), the bonds of the Borough of Highland Park, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey (the "Borough"), authorized pursuant to the bond ordinances of the Borough heretofore adopted and described in Section 2 hereof, shall be combined into a single issue of General Improvement Bonds, Series 2021 in the aggregate principal amount of \$10,233,000 (the "General Improvement Bonds").

SECTION 2. The principal amount of bonds authorized by each bond ordinance to be combined into a single issue as above provided, the bond ordinances authorizing the General Improvement Bonds described by reference to the bond ordinance number, description and date of final adoption, amount of issue and average period of usefulness determined in each of the bond ordinances, are respectively as follows:

<u>Ordinance Number</u>	<u>Description and Date of Final Adoption</u>	<u>Amount of Issue</u>	<u>Useful Life</u>
13-1843, as amended by 13-1850	2013 sidewalk improvement program along various real properties, finally adopted April 2, 2013 (13-1843) and October 15, 2013 (13-1850)	\$404,000 (\$271,000 under 13-1843 and \$133,000 under 13-1850)	10.00 years
14-1869	Various sidewalk improvements, finally adopted October 7, 2014	\$75,000	10.00 years
14-1870	Various roadway improvements, finally adopted October 7, 2014	\$1,050,000	10.00 years
14-1871	Acquisition of garbage receptacles and recycling buckets, finally adopted October 7, 2014	\$75,000	10.00 years
15-1880	Roof improvements to the Borough Library, Fire House and Senior Center, finally adopted February 17, 2015	\$228,000	15.00 years

<u>Ordinance Number</u>	<u>Description and Date of Final Adoption</u>	<u>Amount of Issue</u>	<u>Useful Life</u>
15-1881, as amended by 15-1894, as amended by 15-1897, as amended by 17-1928, as amended by 18-1965	Acquisition of an approximate 0.1148 acre tract of land designated as Block 446, Lot 1 on the Borough’s official tax map, the demolition of existing structures and the construction of a teen center thereon, and the acquisition of additional parcels of real property in the Borough, finally adopted February 17, 2015 (15-1881), October 1, 2015 (15-1894), December 1, 2015 (15-1897), February 21, 2017 (17-1928) and September 4, 2018 (18-1965)	\$6,302,000	39.33 years
16-1909	Acquisition of senior center, police, and fire equipment, finally adopted April 19, 2016	\$180,500	5.00 years
18-1968	Various roadway improvements, finally adopted September 4, 2018	\$1,619,000	10.00 years
18-1969	Acquisition of police, fire, and public works equipment, finally adopted September 4, 2018	\$299,500	6.67 years
TOTALS		\$10,233,000	

SECTION 3. The following matters are hereby determined with respect to the combined issue of General Improvement Bonds:

(a) The average period of usefulness, computed on the basis of the respective amounts of General Improvement Bonds presently authorized to be issued pursuant to each of the bond ordinances and the respective periods or average periods of usefulness therein determined, is not more than 27.98 years.

(b) The General Improvement Bonds of the combined issue shall be designated “General Improvement Bonds, Series 2021” and shall mature within the average period of usefulness determined in Section 3(a) above.

(c) The General Improvement Bonds of the combined issue shall be sold and issued in accordance with the provisions of the Local Bond Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:2-1 et seq., as amended and supplemented (the “Local Bond Law”), specifically N.J.S.A. 40A:2-26(f), that are applicable to the sale and issuance of bonds authorized by a single bond ordinance and accordingly may be sold with other issues of bonds.

(d) The General Improvement Bonds are being issued to (i) refund, on a current basis, an \$8,585,000 portion of prior bond anticipation notes of the Borough issued in the aggregate principal amount of \$10,589,000 on March 23, 2021 and maturing on October 22, 2021 (the “Prior Notes”), and (ii) permanently finance various general capital improvements in and for the Borough in the amount of \$1,648,000.

SECTION 4. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) None of the General Improvement Bonds described in Section 2 hereof have been sold or issued heretofore, and the several bond ordinances described in Section 2 have not been rescinded heretofore and now remain in full force and effect as authorizations for the respective amounts of bonds set opposite the descriptions of the bond ordinances set forth in Section 2 hereof.

(b) The several purposes or improvements authorized by the respective bond ordinances described in Section 2 hereof are purposes for which bonds may be issued lawfully pursuant to the Local Bond Law and some of such improvements or purposes, if applicable and permitted by law, a deduction may be taken in any annual or supplemental debt statement.

(c) Any General Improvement Bonds issued pursuant to this Resolution and said bond ordinances described in Section 2 shall be general obligations of the Borough, and the Borough’s full faith and credit are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on said General Improvement Bonds and, unless paid from other sources, the Borough is required by law to provide for the payment thereof by the levy of *ad valorem* taxes on all the taxable property located within the Borough without limitation as to rate or amount.

SECTION 5. The \$10,233,000 aggregate principal amount of General Improvement Bonds referred to and described in the bond ordinances described in Section 2 of this Resolution duly adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough pursuant to the Local Bond Law on July 6, 2021, shall mature in the principal amounts on September 1 in each of the years as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount¹</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount*</u>
2022	\$303,000	2032	\$570,000
2023	325,000	2033	580,000
2024	350,000	2034	590,000
2025	375,000	2035	600,000
2026	400,000	2036	600,000
2027	430,000	2037	600,000
2028	460,000	2038	600,000
2029	540,000	2039	600,000
2030	550,000	2040	600,000

¹ Preliminary, subject to change as described herein.

2031 560,000 2041 600,000

The General Improvement Bonds shall be subject to redemption prior to maturity in accordance with the terms provided in the Notice of Sale authorized herein and attached hereto as Exhibit C. The General Improvement Bonds shall be twenty (20) in number, with one certificate being issued for each year of maturity and shall be designated and numbered GI-1 to GI-20, inclusive.

SECTION 6. Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:2-26(f), the bonds of the Borough, authorized pursuant to the bond ordinances of the Borough heretofore adopted and described in Section 7 hereof, shall be combined into a single issue of Water/Sewer Utility Bonds, Series 2021 in the aggregate principal amount of \$3,869,000 (the “Water/Sewer Utility Bonds”).

SECTION 7. The principal amount of bonds authorized by each bond ordinance to be combined into a single issue as above provided, the bond ordinances authorizing the Water/Sewer Utility Bonds described by reference to the bond ordinance number, description and date of final adoption, amount of issue and average period of usefulness determined in each of the bond ordinances, are respectively as follows:

<u>Ordinance Number</u>	<u>Description and Date of Final Adoption</u>	<u>Amount of Issue</u>	<u>Useful Life</u>
13-1854	Replacement of a water main on Montgomery Street, finally adopted October 1, 2013	\$349,000	10.00 years
17-1926	Repair of water and sewer mains, finally adopted February 7, 2017	\$200,000	10.00 years
20-2003	Various water and sewer improvements, finally adopted June 23, 2020	\$3,320,000	20.00 years
TOTALS		\$3,869,000	

SECTION 8. The following matters are hereby determined with respect to the combined issue of Water/Sewer Utility Bonds:

(a) The average period of usefulness, computed on the basis of the respective amounts of Water/Sewer Utility Bonds presently authorized to be issued pursuant to each of the bond ordinances and the respective periods or average periods of usefulness therein determined, is not more than 18.58 years.

(b) The Water/Sewer Utility Bonds of the combined issue shall be designated “Water/Sewer Utility Bonds, Series 2021” and shall mature within the average period of usefulness determined in Section 8(a) above.

(c) The Water/Sewer Utility Bonds of the combined issue shall be sold and issued in accordance with the provisions of the Local Bond Law, specifically N.J.S.A. 40A:2-26(f), that are applicable to the sale and issuance of bonds authorized by a single bond ordinance and accordingly may be sold with other issues of bonds.

(d) The Water/Sewer Utility Bonds are being issued to (i) refund, on a current basis, a \$2,004,000 portion of the Prior Notes, and (ii) permanently finance various water and sewer capital improvements in and for the Borough in the amount of \$1,865,000.

SECTION 9. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) None of the Water/Sewer Utility Bonds described in Section 7 hereof have been sold or issued heretofore, and the several bond ordinances described in Section 7 have not been rescinded heretofore and now remain in full force and effect as authorizations for the respective amounts of bonds set opposite the descriptions of the bond ordinances set forth in Section 7 hereof.

(b) The several purposes or improvements authorized by the respective bond ordinances described in Section 7 hereof are purposes for which bonds may be issued lawfully pursuant to the Local Bond Law and some of such improvements or purposes, if applicable and permitted by law, a deduction may be taken in any annual or supplemental debt statement.

(c) Any Water/Sewer Utility Bonds issued pursuant to this Resolution and said bond ordinances described in Section 7 shall be general obligations of the Borough, and the Borough’s full faith and credit are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on said Water/Sewer Utility Bonds and, unless paid from other sources, the Borough is required by law to provide for the payment thereof by the levy of *ad valorem* taxes on all the taxable property located within the Borough without limitation as to rate or amount.

SECTION 10. The \$3,869,000 aggregate principal amount of Water/Sewer Utility Bonds referred to and described in the bond ordinances described in Section 7 of this Resolution duly adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough pursuant to the Local Bond Law on July 6, 2021, shall mature in the principal amounts on September 1 in each of the years as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount²</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount*</u>
2022	\$199,000	2030	\$270,000
2023	205,000	2031	275,000
2024	235,000	2032	275,000
2025	240,000	2033	280,000
2026	245,000	2034	285,000
2027	250,000	2035	295,000
2028	255,000	2036	300,000
2029	260,000		

The Water/Sewer Utility Bonds shall be subject to redemption prior to maturity in accordance with the terms provided in the Notice of Sale authorized herein and attached hereto as Exhibit C. The Water/Sewer Utility Bonds shall be fifteen (15) in number, with one certificate being issued for each year of maturity and shall be designated and numbered WSU-1 to WSU-15, inclusive.

² Preliminary, subject to change as described herein.

SECTION 11. The General Improvement Bonds and the Water/Sewer Utility Bonds are sometimes collectively referred to herein as the “Bonds”.

SECTION 12. The Bonds will be issued in fully registered form. One certificate shall be issued for the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds of each series maturing in each year. Both principal of and interest on the Bonds will be payable in lawful money of the United States of America. Each certificate will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (“DTC”), which will act as securities depository for the Bonds (the “Securities Depository”). The certificates will be on deposit with DTC. DTC will be responsible for maintaining a book-entry system for recording the interests of its participants (the “Participants”) or the transfers of the interests among its Participants. The Participants will be responsible for maintaining records regarding the beneficial ownership interests in the Bonds on behalf of individual purchasers. Individual purchases may be made in the principal amount of \$5,000 each or any integral multiple thereof, with a minimum purchase of \$5,000 required, except that any Bonds in excess of the largest principal amount equaling a multiple of \$5,000 shall be in denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiple thereof, through book entries made on the books and records of DTC and its Participants. The Bonds will be dated their date of delivery and shall bear interest therefrom, which interest shall be payable semiannually on the first day of March and September (each an “Interest Payment Date”), in each year until maturity or earlier redemption, as applicable, commencing March 1, 2022, at a rate or rates per annum as proposed by the Winning Bidder in accordance with the Notice of Sale authorized herein. The principal of and the interest on the Bonds will be paid to the Securities Depository by the Borough, or some other paying agent as the Borough may designate and appoint, on the maturity dates and due dates and will be credited on the maturity dates and due dates to the Participants of DTC as listed on the records of DTC as of the fifteenth day of February and August preceding each Interest Payment Date for the Bonds (the “Record Dates”). The Bonds shall be executed by the manual or facsimile signatures of the Mayor and the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough, under the official seal (or facsimile thereof) affixed, printed, engraved or reproduced thereon and attested to by the manual signature of the Clerk of the Borough. The following matters are hereby determined with respect to the Bonds:

Date of Bonds:	Date of delivery
Principal Payment Dates:	September 1, 2022 and each September 1 thereafter until maturity or earlier redemption, as applicable
Interest Payment Dates:	Semiannually on each March 1 and September 1 of each year until maturity or earlier redemption, as applicable, commencing March 1, 2022
Place of Payment:	Cede & Co., New York, New York.

SECTION 13. The Bonds shall be substantially in the forms set forth in Exhibit A and Exhibit B, respectively, attached hereto with such additions, deletions and omissions as may be necessary for the Borough to market the Bonds of each series in accordance with the requirements of DTC, upon the advice of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., Woodbridge, New Jersey, in its capacity as Bond Counsel to the Borough (“Bond Counsel”), and Phoenix Advisors, LLC, Bordentown, New Jersey, in its capacity as Municipal Advisor to the Borough (the “Municipal Advisor”).

SECTION 14. The Bonds shall be sold upon receipt of electronic proposals on or about Tuesday, August 10, 2021 (the “Bid Date”) at or about 11:00 a.m. by the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough or the Administrator of the Borough, as applicable, on i-Deal’s Bidcomp@/PARITY@ electronic competitive bidding system (“PARITY”), in accordance with the Notice of Sale authorized herein in Exhibit C which Notice of Sale may be adjusted prior to the Bid Date by the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough or the Administrator of the Borough, as applicable, upon consultation with the Municipal Advisor and Bond Counsel. The use of the services provided by PARITY and the fees associated therewith are hereby approved. Bond Counsel, on behalf of the Clerk of the Borough, is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for (i) the publication of a summary of such Notice of Sale to be published not less than seven (7) days prior to the Bid Date in The Bond Buyer, a financial newspaper published and circulating in the City of New York, New York, (ii) the publication of the full text of such Notice of Sale to be published not less than seven (7) days prior to the Bid Date in the Home News Tribune, and (iii) the posting of the full text of the Notice of Sale on www.MuniHub.com, the website provided by or for PARITY. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-34, the Borough hereby designates the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough or the Administrator of the Borough, as applicable, as the financial officers authorized to sell and to award the Bonds in accordance with the Notice of Sale authorized herein, and such financial officers shall report in writing the results of the sale to the Borough Council at its regularly scheduled meeting thereafter. The Chief Financial Officer of the Borough or the Administrator of the Borough, as applicable, are each hereby further authorized and directed to do and accomplish all matters and things necessary or desirable to effectuate the offering and sale of the Bonds.

SECTION 15. The Notice of Sale for the Bonds shall be in the form set forth in Exhibit C attached hereto (the “Notice of Sale”) with such additions, deletions and omissions as may be necessary for the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough or the Administrator of the Borough, as applicable, to market the Bonds, upon the advice of the Municipal Advisor and Bond Counsel to the Borough.

SECTION 16. Each series of Bonds shall have attached thereto a copy of the written opinion with respect to such series of Bonds that is to be rendered by Bond Counsel, complete except for omission of its date.

SECTION 17. Bond Counsel is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for the printing of the Bonds of each series and for the printing and electronic posting of the Preliminary Official Statement (as defined herein) and the Official Statement (as defined herein), and any and all fees associated therewith. The Preliminary Official Statement and the Official Statement are hereby authorized to be prepared by Bond Counsel, the Municipal Advisor, Samuel Klein and Company, Freehold, New Jersey, auditor to the Borough (the “Auditor”), and other Borough officials. Bond Counsel and the Municipal Advisor are also authorized and directed to arrange for the distribution of the Preliminary Official Statement on behalf of the Borough to those financial institutions that customarily submit bids for such Bonds. The Mayor, the Chief Financial Officer or the Administrator of the Borough are each authorized and directed to execute and deliver any certificates necessary in connection with the distribution of the Preliminary Official Statement and the Official Statement. The Chief Financial Officer of the Borough, the Administrator of the Borough, Bond Counsel, the Municipal Advisor, and the Auditor are each further authorized and directed

to obtain ratings on the Bonds, to prequalify the Bonds for municipal bond insurance, and to prepare and submit financial and other information on the Borough to rating agencies and municipal bond insurers, and the preparation and submission of any such applications is hereby ratified and confirmed.

SECTION 18. The Borough hereby covenants that it will comply with any conditions subsequently imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), to preserve the exemption from taxation of interest on each series of the Bonds, including the requirement to rebate all net investment earnings on the gross proceeds above the yield on the Bonds, if necessary.

SECTION 19. The Borough is hereby authorized to make representations and warranties, to enter into agreements and to make all arrangements with DTC, as may be necessary to provide that the Bonds will be eligible for deposit with DTC and to satisfy any obligation undertaken in connection therewith.

SECTION 20. In the event DTC may determine to discontinue providing its services with respect to the Bonds or is removed by the Borough and if no successor securities depository is appointed, the Bonds which were previously issued in book-entry form shall be converted to Registered Bonds (the "Registered Obligations") in denominations of \$5,000 each or any integral multiple thereof, with a minimum purchase of \$5,000 required, except that any Bonds in excess of the largest principal amount equaling a multiple of \$5,000 shall be in denominations of \$1,000 or any integral multiple thereof. The beneficial owner under the book-entry system, upon registration of the Bonds held in the beneficial owner's name, will become the registered owner of the respective Registered Obligations. The Borough shall be obligated to provide for the execution and delivery of the respective Registered Obligations in certified form.

SECTION 21. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to "deem final" the Official Statement (the "Official Statement") prepared with respect to the issuance of the Bonds and pursuant to the provisions of Rule 15c2-12 (the "Rule") promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended and supplemented, and to execute a certificate regarding same. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to authorize and approve the use and distribution of the Official Statement in preliminary form (the "Preliminary Official Statement") in connection with the offering and sale of the Bonds. Upon the sale of the Bonds, the Preliminary Official Statement shall be modified, in consultation with Bond Counsel, the Municipal Advisor and the Auditor, to reflect the effect of the sale of the Bonds, and said modified Preliminary Official Statement shall constitute the final Official Statement (the "Final Official Statement"). The Chief Financial Officer or the Mayor of the Borough is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Final Official Statement to the purchaser of the Bonds in accordance with the provisions of the Rule, for its use in the sale, resale and distribution of the Bonds, where and if applicable.

SECTION 22. The final Official Statement to be dated on or about August 10, 2021 (the "Final Official Statement"), prepared with respect to the issuance of the Bonds, is hereby authorized to be executed on behalf of the Borough by the Chief Financial Officer or the Mayor of the Borough, as the case may be, and delivered to the purchaser of the Bonds for its use in connection with the sale, resale and distribution of the Bonds, where and if applicable. The Chief Financial Officer and the Mayor of the Borough are further hereby authorized and directed to deliver any certificates necessary in connection with the distribution of the Official Statement.

SECTION 23. The Borough hereby covenants and agrees that it will comply with and carry out all of the provisions of the Continuing Disclosure Certificate (the "Certificate") which will set forth the obligation of the Borough to file, as applicable, budgetary, financial and operating data on an annual basis and notices of certain enumerated events deemed material in accordance with the provisions of the Rule. The Chief Financial Officer of the Borough or the Borough Administrator are each hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver this Certificate to the purchaser of the Bonds, evidencing the Borough's undertaking with respect to the Rule. Notwithstanding the foregoing, failure of the Borough to comply with the Certificate shall not be considered a default on the Bonds; however, any Bondholder may take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate, including seeking mandamus or specific performance, to cause the Borough to comply with its obligations hereunder and thereunder.

SECTION 24. The Chief Financial Officer of the Borough or the Administrator of the Borough, as applicable, are each hereby authorized and directed to determine all matters and terms in connection with the Bonds, as applicable (including adjusting the maturity schedule for the Bonds in accordance with the terms set forth in the Notice of Sale attached hereto as Exhibit C, or any matters set forth in this Resolution that are deemed necessary and advisable to change by the Chief Financial Officer or the Administrator of the Borough, as applicable, in consultation with Bond Counsel, the Municipal Advisor, and the Auditor, prior to the sale or closing of the Bonds), all in consultation with Bond Counsel, the Municipal Advisor, and the Auditor, and the manual or facsimile signature of the Chief Financial Officer or the Administrator of the Borough upon any documents shall be conclusive as to all such determinations. The Mayor, the Chief Financial Officer, the Administrator, the Clerk, and any other Borough officials or professionals, including, but not limited to, Bond Counsel, the Municipal Advisor, the Auditor, the Borough Engineer, and the Borough Attorney (collectively, the "Borough Officials"), are each hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver such documents, certificates, agreements and opinions as are necessary to consummate the authorization, sale, issuance, execution, delivery, and closing of the Bonds and to take such actions or refrain from such actions as are necessary for the authorization, sale, issuance, execution, delivery, and closing of the Bonds, and all such actions or inactions taken by the aforesaid Borough Officials and professionals heretofore are hereby ratified and confirmed.

SECTION 25. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 7-21-176

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:

KIM A. MCGRAW, Acting Director of Community Services, at an annual salary of \$87,000.00, effective July 1, 2021.

KIM A. MCGRAW, Municipal Alliance Coordinator, at an annual salary of \$7,500.00, effective July 1, 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Borough Finance Director that since the adoption of a resolution on January 5, 2021 showing the names of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park whose salaries are on an hourly basis, there have been the following changes, to wit:

STELLA DRAPER, Summer Camp Administrator, at an hourly rate of \$16.00, effective June 2, 2021.

CAMILA YANEZ, Summer Camp Health Director, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 5, 2021.

AKUA ASAMOAH, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$16.00, effective July 5, 2021.

JACOB BARRIE, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 5, 2021.

LIA BLANK, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 5, 2021.

ARLINGTON BURRELL, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 5, 2021.

OZ DUNCAN, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 5, 2021.

ETHAN GILDENBERG, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 5, 2021.

DIEGO GONZALEZ, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 5, 2021.

MARZIA KARIM, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 5, 2021.

MICHAEL LANDIS, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 5, 2021.

LYDIA LEKHAL, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 5, 2021.

KEVIN LIN, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$16.00, effective July 5, 2021.

COLIN MARX, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$16.00, effective July 5, 2021.

CARA MCMAHON, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 5, 2021.

OLIVIA PARKER, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 5, 2021.

MASUMA QURESHI, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 5, 2021.

EVAN RODGERS-FARMER, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 5, 2021.

ILYSSA ROIG, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$16.00, effective July 5, 2021.

KEITH ROIG, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 5, 2021.

GIAVANNA SCALETTI, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 5, 2021.

VERONICA SMITH, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 5, 2021.

ASHLEY SOSA, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$19.00, effective July 5, 2021.

ROHAN THOMPSON, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 5, 2021.

TYLER TRINH, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 5, 2021.

AKILI TULLOCH, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective July 5, 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 Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 7-21-177

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 40A:14-118.3 has been enacted by the New Jersey Legislature to require the use of body worn cameras by certain police officers in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Police Department previously submitted a grant application to the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General for the SFY21 Body-Worn Camera Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General awarded the Borough of Highland Park a total amount of \$61,140.00 under Award # 21-BWC-192 for the purchase of Body Worn Cameras, storage fees and ancillary items; and

WHEREAS, the award period shall run from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the awarded funds are provided solely by the State of New Jersey with no in-kind or cash match required by the Borough of Highland Park.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, Middlesex County that the Borough does hereby authorize the acceptance of the Awarded funds and the said funds shall be used for the purposes described in the application.

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

No. 7-21-178

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Police Department compressor needs to be replaced; and

WHEREAS, quotes were solicited for said replacement and two (2) quotes were received as follows:

East Coast Mechanical Contractors Inc.	\$12,900.00
Lightning Mechanical, LLC	\$15,015.00
All County Mechanical	No response

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works has recommended that said replacement be performed by East Coast Mechanical Contractors Inc., Farmingdale, NJ; and

WHEREAS, funds shall be made available for this purpose in Account No. 1-01-26-310-232 in the amount of \$12,900.00, 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 accept the quote for the replacement of the HVAC compressor from East Coast Mechanical Contractors Inc., Farmingdale, NJ, at a total cost of \$12,900.00.

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

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

No. 7-21-179

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021 pursuant to a duly advertised Notice to Bidders, the Borough of Highland Park (“Borough”) received six (6) bids for the) resurfacing and reconstruction of South Sixth Avenue between Magnolia Street and Benner Street, South Ninth Avenue between Eden Avenue and Graham Street, North Ninth Avenue between Raritan Avenue and Abbott Street, Benner Street between South Seventh Avenue and South Ninth Avenue, Cliff Court, Lincoln Avenue between Lawrence Avenue and North Fifth Avenue, and Barnard Street between Central Avenue and Woodbridge Avenue. Which bids are as follows;

JADS Construction South River NJ	\$773,337.70
D.L.S. Contracting, Inc. Fairfield, NJ	\$773,475.00
Black Rock, Inc. Old Bridge, NJ	\$939,939.39
Top Line Construction Corp. Somerville, NJ	\$950,575.56
Crossroads Paving Newark, NJ	\$1,006,600.00
Lima Charlie Construction, Inc. Freehold, NJ	\$1,039,600.00

WHEREAS, upon recommendation of the Borough Engineer and review by the Borough Attorney, the Borough desires to award the contract for the Project to JADS Construction; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that sufficient funds are available for the award of the contract purpose in the amount of \$773,337.70 in Account Nos. C-04-55-821-001 and C-04-55-824-001, as reflected by the certification of funds, shown below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The contract for the Project is hereby awarded to JADS Construction, PO Box 513, South River, NJ 08882 in the amount of \$773,337.70, subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.
2. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with JADS Construction, consistent herewith.

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

No. 7-21-180

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as “MA-2022-Improvements to North 4th Avenue, Johnson Street, & Montgomery Street-00462” to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Highland Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor and the Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Borough of Highland Park and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement.

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

No. 7-21-181

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Advisory Committee seeks to fulfill resident requests for street trees; and

WHEREAS, three (3) quotes were solicited and were received as follows:	
DCR Landscaping	NO RESPONSE
New Jersey Tree Foundation	\$8,160.00
Sunset Creations	\$12,650.00

and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator has recommended that said services be purchased from New Jersey Tree Foundation, Jackson, NJ based on their quote for same and based on their professionalism and 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 tree planting from the New Jersey Tree Foundation, 576 Leesville Road, Jackson, NJ, at a cost not to exceed of \$8,160.00; and

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

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

No. 7-21-183

WHEREAS, Antoinette Marie Stallings has filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for a License to operate taxicabs under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such License for the year 2021; and

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

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

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

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

No. 7-21-184

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works desires to replace its aging diesel street sweeper and would like to do so with an electric street sweeper; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has funds available for this initiatives in their Transportation Electrification Grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works wishes to apply for grant funds in the amount of \$375,000.00 which will cover a portion of the electric street sweeper and the installation of charging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the remaining cost of the project will be paid using funds from the 2021 Middlesex County Improvement Authority Capital Improvement Program in the amount of \$215,000.00; 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 and submit, on behalf of the Department of Public Works, the grant application to the NJDEP, a copy of which is attached to the original of this resolution.

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

No. 7-21-185

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park finally adopted its 2021 Municipal Budget on May 4, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the state has still not certified the budget to the County Tax Administrator so that the 2021 tax rate can established, and

WHEREAS, the tax collector cannot bill 3rd quarter taxes until an official tax rate is set by the County Tax Administrator, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 54:4-67 authorizes Council to provide a ten day grace period following the required payment date or a twenty-five calendar day period after mailing of the tax bills during which interest will not be charged;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the grace period for the 2021 third quarter taxes be extended twenty-five (25) days from the actual date of mailing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.5 no interest shall be charged on unpaid third quarter 2021 taxes provided the same are paid on or before twenty-five (25) days from date of mailing, and provided further that interest thereafter shall be payable at the rate of 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00 to be calculated from August 1, 2021 until the date of actual payment.

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

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

No. 7-21-186

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 7/6/2021 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 Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilperson Hale.

No. 7-21-187

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 \$61,140.00, which is now available from the State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Body-Worn Camera Grant Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$61,140.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Body-Worn Camera Grant Program.

Council President George 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.

Joyce Gregus, 293 Crowells Road, commented that she has lived in Highland Park for 50 years and she thinks that by putting these dispensaries/pot stores in town will change the whole dynamic of the area and she wants them to keep it the way that it is. She is not against it, but she would like them to go

to another town to purchase their items. She thanked them for everything they do for the town and noted that the fireworks were great last night.

Dr. Mark Stein, 328 Magnolia Street, commented that listening to the meeting he heard people speaking about universal health care, scooters, day camps, mental health and library use and it is hard for him to reconcile these positive aspects of the town with cannabis. There is not a single study out there suggesting that cannabis is beneficial for mental health. He encouraged more communal activities in town. He recognized the economic benefit but thinks there is another way to make Highland Park a family-friendly destination where people would want to live.

Mary Forsberg, Denison Street, asked what the Borough is bonding for and who is responsible if someone is hit and killed by an electric scooter. She wanted to hear comments from all of them about what they think about redevelopment. This is a one-party town and there is no dissent; they always vote affirmative or abstain. Borough Administrator Jover explained that they are consolidating various general capital and water and sewer debt that has already been authorized to go out to the bond market to permanently finance. The resolution that was included in the posted agenda packet clearly states the ordinance numbers, the descriptions and the amounts. There is a Redevelopment Entity Meeting on Tuesday, July 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Angelo Botteon, 709 Madison Avenue, commented about the cannabis resolution and noted that he is speaking on behalf of the student body in town. By legalizing cannabis, you are enabling it. The Police Department already has enough of an issue with drugs in town. If this is approved, there should be safety precautions and awareness for students.

Michelle McFadden DiNicola, 118 South 2nd Avenue, commented on cannabis and wanted the community going forward to keep front and center in any decision or discussion the racial disparities that have been historically a problem concerning cannabis and profiting from it. Some of the comments made about cannabis sound like the same arguments made against alcohol during prohibition.

Harold Sackowitz, 617 South 5th Avenue, commented that two things came up at the last Planning Board meeting regarding redevelopment that surprised him and that he never heard before. The festival street was the centerpiece of the presentation that would bring residents to the downtown and now it is no longer part of the plan. The second thing is the financing of the parking deck. He thought the developers would be paying for it, but it seems the Borough would be paying for a significant portion of it.

Shelee Saal, 366 North 4th Avenue, commented about cannabis licenses and asked if there would be a retailer that could set aside an adjacent enclosed area for on-site consumption. She asked if there is anything in the ordinance about the potency that is being sold. Council President George advised that the Governing Body would be holding a Special Meeting on August 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for the public hearing on the cannabis ordinance. Some of those questions about potency and regulations might be more appropriate then. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that the ordinance that was introduced follows the language in the State statute that was adopted in February to permit retail cannabis operations. You are permitted under the regulation in our ordinance to have a designate cannabis consumption area either immediately in the retail premise or immediately adjacent. There is no outside smoking and no outside ingesting of cannabis permitted. If you have one of these facilities, the ordinance goes into great detail about how the air has to be filtered, etc.

Mary Botteon, 709 Madison Avenue, commented that the cannabis ordinance leaves open the idea of bringing in any other type of cannabis businesses. She mentioned that the Mayor's office referred a weed testing laboratory to a vacancy about a pediatrician's office that is in close proximity to the upcoming girl's private school. These are types of things that the public needs to be aware of and these are serious issues. She asked the Governing Body to not impose the population of all these businesses on the town. She requested that they pass an ordinance to opt out of this and to table this ordinance.

Tatiana Gelfand, 118 North 5th Avenue, commented about cannabis and the fact that her daughter learned through the DARE program that marijuana was not a good thing and it was not good for your health. She is not against the legalization but does not want it promoted in Highland Park. She understands that the town wants to make money, but they can find some other ways to make money without sacrificing the safety, health and learning of our children.

Councilman Hersh asked to address some of the comments made. He noted that when the referendum appeared on the ballot, Highland Park's voted 70 to 30 in favor of legalizing adult use recreational marijuana. This is a new industry in the State and some towns are opting out, but mostly towns are not opting out because it is a new industry in the State. This is cannabis use for adults 21 and over. We have to change the mindset that cannabis is somehow going to degrade our community when there are liquor stores literally within a thousand feet of our K-1 primary school.

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

The Council took a brief recess at 8:33 p.m. and reconvened at 8:42 p.m. with all members previously in attendance still present.

Work Session:

Revisions to Renewable Government Energy Aggregation Ordinance – Council President George explained that there would be revisions to the ordinance already in place. This is the program where we have a consultant who can go out to bid on energy that would be obtained from sustainable sources such as wind, solar and water. Gabel Associates was the chosen consultant in this matter to advise us and to put the bids out. One of the things that came up is that they found that we were not able to get bids for reasonably proportionate sustainable energy that would beat PSE&G's rates, which is required in the

ordinance. Sustainable Highland Park and the Environmental Commission have been considering this for a while. Sustainable Highland Park has taken the lead and advocated in favor of amending the ordinance to allow us a greater flexibility in being able to obtain energy from sustainable sources. Members of the public could opt out if they wanted to stay with PSE&G. The amendment changes the formula to say it has to beat PSE&G or equal PSE&G, which they think, would make a substantial difference. Borough Administrator Jover noted that she would circulate the word version of the ordinance with the track changes so that they can see where the updates were made. The ordinance changes would give the Council more flexibility to award if they are confident that it is a comparable rate to that of PSE&G. Sustainable Highland Park and Food and Water Watch pushed to include some stronger language with regard to goals for achieving renewable energy. They included a goal of achieving 100% renewable by 2030, but they did not include specific benchmarks by year. Lastly, the language was updated to reflect what they did in the last bid which was following Sustainable Jersey's minimum standard guidance with regard to the energy portfolio. Ordinance to be placed on the next agenda for introduction.

Water Ordinance Amendment Re: 1" Meters – Borough Administrator Jover noted that this has been discussed by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee. The current ordinance reads that the Borough is responsible for the periodic replacement of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch meters. The proposal is that we also include 1 inch meters in the ordinance. We are about to go out and replace all the Borough owned meters so this would mean that the 1 inch meters would become the Borough's responsibility moving forward. They would like to include them in the forthcoming meter replacement program, but in order to do that, we need to update the ordinance. It would include 200 to 250 meters and most of them are single-family homes. There is funding through the ordinance that would cover the additional cost and they are evaluating the meters bids that were received for the meter replacement program. Council President George noted that this is one of the recommendations that Middlesex Water Company made prior to becoming our water infrastructure administrators. Discussion of the difference between the meters in homeowners basements versus the meters on the outside of homes that are for meter reads of water usage.

Neighborhood Preservation Program – Woodbridge Avenue – Borough Administrator Jover noted that the Borough was excited to learn that that have qualified to apply to the Neighborhood Preservation Program that is run out of the Department of Community Affairs. The Borough Clerk had made mention that the Borough had received these funds in the past. They looked at different criteria such as census tract demographic data, and commercial challenges due to Covid and the Woodbridge Avenue area would qualify under the program. The Borough will have to define the plan area, which has not yet been done. It is a five-year grant, in the first year, you can have \$125,000, and there is a municipal match, as well as a \$100,000 for subsequent years, if awarded. The DCA ran an orientation session and she will share the link with the Governing Body. They are inclined to focus on the commercial areas, but may expand the map so that they can layer in other Borough programs for the surrounding neighborhoods. Emma will be assisting with the grant writing and they will reach out to New Brunswick as they have a successful program that has already been awarded. The application is due in mid-August. One of the areas of engagement is a steering committee of businesses and residents and other stakeholders from this neighborhood.

Deer Management Plan – Borough Administrator Jover did a summary presentation of the draft deer management plan. Mayor and Council passed a resolution in October authorizing the creation of a draft plan. Deer are found on edges of habitats where forested areas meet a variety of public and private lands. They have an unending appetite for greenery and will pretty much eat anything. High deer densities can lead to significant damage to native ecosystems. Surveys in NJ have shown deer numbers to be 5-10x greater than recommended levels in the State. The Borough commissioned Raritan Valley Community College to survey areas of Donaldson and Johnson Parks, the Rutgers Ecological Preserve and Highland Park to give us an assessment of where we were population wise. They cited deer density ranges from five to twenty as being ecologically more balance and the study counted 374 deer in the four mile area which included portions of the ecological preserved in Piscataway as well as portions in Donaldson and Johnson Parks. In the overall survey, there were about 93 deer per square mile. They tried to come up with goals and recommendations based on the comments they heard at the various meetings that were held. The number one goal is to minimize damage to native plants in the Meadows and the Native Plant Sanctuary. Second is to decrease safety concerns related to deer-vehicle accidents and third, reduce unwanted deer-human interactions such as landscape and garden damage. The recommendation is to conduct a controlled, deer-focused management program utilizing bow hunting on the Meadows property. Also, conduct an educational outreach program to inform residents of additional deer management options around the home. The four main components in the plan are: (1) controlled archery (bow & arrow) hunt; (2) deer resistant plantings and deer deterrents; (3) no feeding ordinance (9/20/20); and (4) road signage. She would need the advice of the Borough Attorney as to whether or not they would need to amend the ordinance done last year to allow for the hunting in the meadows property because some baiting would need to be done prior to the hunt. The controlled archery hunt would take place on the 14-acre Meadows property only. It would be closed to the public during this time. Both the County and Piscataway are discussing the possibility of a controlled hunt. It will occur Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from dawn to half-hour after sunset. They will have up to two hours after sunset for retrieval (arrows and deer). We would limit the hunt to approved expert management hunters, by invitation only. We have identified at least four that are interested and willing to participate in the program. They received recommendations on these hunters from Joe Paulin, a Highland Park resident and someone who works for the Rutgers Ecological Extension as a Wildlife Management Expert and Tony DiNicola from White Buffalo, which is a group that does a variety of deer management work throughout the country. Councilman Hersh raised concerns about the fact that hunters were solicited already when there is not a deer management plan in place yet. The Council has had only three days to weigh in on this. Borough Administrator Jover clarified that they reached out to potential hunters, but nothing has been finalized. They received information from experts that they learned of along the way to get advice. They are not dictating this process in any way. The hunting rules and regulations that would be proposed was circulated to the Public Safety Committee before it went to the full Council. The hunter rules and regulations would be: (1) over 18 with consistent track record of harvesting antlerless deer; (2) required attendance at a mandatory hunter orientation; (3) have a current certificate of insurance confirming general liability with combined single limits coverage for bodily injury and property damage of at least \$1 million dollars; (4) register their vehicles with the Police Department so that

we know when they are there and when they leave; (5) tree stands should be marked and not damage tree they are against; (6) report harvest to the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Borough; and (7) mandatory donations to Hunters Helping the Hungry at a cost to the Borough. The Borough would pick up the charges of the butchering and the distribution to the various food groups that participate with Hunters Helping the Hungry. As it relates to deer resistant plantings and deer deterrents, the plan is to utilize list compiled by the Shade Tree Advisory Committee regarding native shrubs and vines that are deer resistant in low densities. They also plan to educate the public about the benefits of fencing and what is required permit-wise to fully fence in a property to protect them from deer. They also plan to educate the public about area and contact repellents and the differences between the two. In areas where there has been higher conflicts with cars they want to promote some signage for “deer crossing” areas such as River Road and Raritan Avenue. Approval from the County and DOT would be required. Council President George asked for clarification of when hunting season is. Borough Administrator Jover noted that the season runs from September through February, but Highland Park could set their own calendar within those months. Council President George noted that one of his concerns is with the high usage of the Meadows Trails and the communication and signage to alert people. He also wondered if there were too many closures whether they are taking away the opportunity for people to enjoy the Meadows Trail. It was rediscovered during the pandemic as a place people went to just get away. Another concern is that the Borough can put signage up at the entrances, but there is another entrance that is utilized informally on the Edison side by the apartments down by the river. There is a lot of entry and exit during the day and that needs to be taken into account. He doesn't want to restrict it so much for the public to be able to utilize the trail. Borough Administrator Jover noted that the dates for hunting were chosen in consultation with the Meadows trail group and they did discuss that entrance. In the ecological preserve, they do allow use of the trails while hunting is going on. She heard loud and clear that there was no comfort with that and that is not how this plan reads. Councilwoman Canavera noted that she has spoken to many hunters who participate in these hunts and they have told her that there will more than likely be deer running around town injured or with arrows in them. She has a concern about that because there are many children living in that area and there are a lot of apartment buildings in that area. Councilman Hersh asked if any of the experts that were consulted had experience in towns of our size with hunting areas that small that abut a dense residential area. Borough Administrator Jover noted that she would have to check, but she believes yes. Councilwoman Kim-Chohan asked about Middlesex County and Piscataway being in discussions about a controlled hunt. Borough Administrator Jover noted that she is not 100% sure about Piscataway, but the County Parks Department has been looking at Johnson Park in particular and areas along River Road that they own. She could get more information from the County to see where they stand in the process. She will also need to get clarification on whether it is Piscataway Township, Rutgers or the County within Piscataway that is looking into a controlled deer hunt. Councilwoman Kim-Chohan noted that she had sent around an article about Edison who was considering sterilization. Edison is not going to vote on a hunt. Highland Park and hunt does not even go together. Borough Administrator Jover mentioned that she was instructed to put this plan together at the request of this Council and she feels like she is getting heat for it. Councilwoman Foster noted that she was specifically asked to do this by the Public Safety Committee. Everyone wants the deer to be eliminated, but nobody wants the hunt to happen. We are trying to come up with some kind of solution for the people who are saying that something needs to be done, including her. They are no longer afraid of people and do not run away anymore and it is a nuisance and they are a hazard. Borough Administrator Jover noted that the deer are throughout the community and this is a relatively small site for a deer hunt. It might relieve some of the deer population pressures on the south side of town, but it not very clear that it would address the concerns on the north side. That is why the discussions about Middlesex County, Johnson Park and the ecological preserve would be extremely helpful to alleviate some of those pressures. Councilwoman Foster noted that when conversations were had with Edison and Piscataway, they were both interested in doing something with controlling the population but they did not want to lose their votes. No matter what is done, people are not going to be happy. She believes that something needs to be done because it is a nuisance to us and a hazard to them. Anything that can be done to thin the herd and make it better is a good thing. Rutgers ecological preserve does do a deer hunt every year and that helps in Piscataway. Highland Park does get deer that come from Piscataway. Councilman Hersh noted that when they first met in 2017 or 2018 with the former Police Chief, the idea of a deer hunt was randomly dismissed. I understand that we have different leadership and things change and maybe the problem has gotten worse. He is coming into this with the idea that he does not want a deer hunt. He would like more parochial and less anecdotal data. He would like to see real data on deer related traffic accidents and get a full feel on what the public safety hazard is. He has some significant environmental concerns when it come to the deer population and eating native plants and preventing trees form growing. When it comes to actually executing a bow hunt, he would like to have a better idea of what the real public safety and public health concern is. Borough Administrator Jover noted that the impetus was not from the motor vehicle side. When she had reached out to Fish and Wildlife, they were surprised that Highland Park called because most often the outreach to them is for car accidents. They can certainly layer in the data, because they have it. They even did a map for the purpose of Fish and Wildlife that showed where the complaints were and it matched up with the Raritan Valley College study. They can layer in more Highland Park specifics to show what our numbers look like. Councilwoman Kim-Chohan noted that she has the report that was sent around a while ago from April 2016 to April 2018 that showed that there were four motor vehicle/deer accidents. Council President George asked the Governing Body what the consensus is. Since this issue was first discussed, there have been some changes on the Council. Councilman Hersh indicated that he is not in support of a deer hunt. Councilwoman Canavera indicated that she thinks we need a plan, but she cannot vote for a plan that includes hunting when surrounding towns are not going to do it. Councilman Hersh further commented that the Borough could look at this through three lenses. We can look at it from a public health standpoint (ticks); we can look at it through public safety if there are accidents and people's safety is at risk; or we can look at it through an environmental lens. His main concern is environmental, but he is not sold on a bow hunt. Council President George noted that his main concern is environmental. He has seen the damage that they do on the Meadows Trail and the Native Plant Sanctuary. He senses a consensus that there are concerns that have surfaced with the bow hunt. We have heard the comments about the injured deer running through the neighborhoods. He remains very concerned about the Edison side as the bigger entry problem is from that side. There are too many hunting accident stories and he would want to see that shored up. Borough Administrator Jover wanted to clarify whether the Council wanted more environmental

information included in the plan. The plan was more about overwhelmed neighborhoods and residents not knowing what to do and outlining what the Borough could possibly do to help with the population. Councilman Hersh noted that the report that she gave leads with the public safety element and the cost involved. Borough Administrator Jover addressed comment by Council President George with regard to safety in the meadows. She asked if he was worried about people being injured by bow and arrows if they wandered in during a hunt. She can provide data on that from Fish and Wildlife. The incident of injury is next to nothing statewide for a very long period of time. Council President George again noted that his big concern is people entering from the Edison side that is not secure. He is very aware of the environmental concerns and he has talked about the health of the herd as well. We have seen at times that they are scrawny and do not look well. Right now, they are all looking good, there was a good crop year because of the nature of the weather, and the pandemic kept many people home, so the herds did well. The Borough Administrator has put a lot of work into this plan. He asked the Council if she should put more time into this or is it time for the Council to put the time in to read the plan and make a decision. Councilwoman Foster asked the Council how many of them would be in favor of the hunt. Council President George indicated that he would reluctantly be in favor of but he would like to read it some more. Councilwoman Canavera commented that she comes from a family of hunters and she does not have anything against hunting, but talking to the hunters, she cannot take the risk of little children seeing wounded deer walking around town. She cannot in good conscience vote in favor of a hunt ever. She has done a lot of research since being appointed to Council. Councilwoman Foster commented that from what she is hearing, a hunt is not something that the Council is willing to consider. There is no need for Teri to continue to do more research on this. Some people are saying that they are looking for birth control or some other way of controlling the population and from what we have heard and from all the research that was done, the birth control method does not work. If the hunt is not an option, we need to take it off the table and stop putting resources, time and energy into it. The consensus of the Council is to table this matter and not move forward with the deer management plan at this time.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk