

## REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 3, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:00 PM. Annual Notice of this meeting was provided to The Home News Tribune, the Star Ledger and the Highland Park Planet on January 6, 2021. In addition, notice of this meeting via zoom was faxed to The Home News Tribune and emailed to The Star Ledger and the Highland Park Planet on July 30, 2021 and was posted on the Borough website at [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com) and on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ on July 30, 2021 and has remained continuously posted as required by law.

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

Absent: Borough Administrator Jover.

Councilwoman Canavera noted that domestic violence affects individuals and families in every community regardless of age, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion or nationality. Domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and in severe cases, even death. We as neighbors, friends and family need to be there to offer help and understanding. Yassie was one of those that the system failed. We all need to support her mother Karen in getting tougher laws that stop abusers from plea deals that do nothing to stop the violence. We also need to know about resources to help those being abused. Women Aware is an amazing organization to help us learn.

Mayor Brill Mittler added that the loss of Highland Park native Yasmine Uyar brought the scourge of domestic violence to the forefront of our collective consciousness here in Highland Park. We know that they are not always visible to outsiders. Incidents of domestic violence are a sad and regular fact of life. There were 4,336 domestic violence offenses in Middlesex County in 2019, according to NJ State Police Reports. Middlesex County had the third highest number of reported domestic violence assaults in New Jersey. Women Aware is headquartered in New Brunswick and is dedicated to promoting the safety and self-sufficiency of individuals and families affected by domestic violence in Middlesex County. Tonight, we are privileged to have Miss Susan Dyckman, Development Director for Women Aware Incorporated, the lead domestic violence service agency in Middlesex County. Her role is to establish and cultivate relationships with individuals, organizations and foundations committed to helping survivors move beyond abuse.

Ms. Dyckman thanked the Governing Body for inviting Women Aware to make a presentation. She thanked the partnership that Highland Park offers to Women Aware through the Mayor, through the Police Department and through Borough Officials for supporting our volunteer domestic violence response team, which is made up of members of the community. She thanked them for being open to learning more and working with Women Aware to educate the Highland Park community on the domestic violence services that are available to them. Domestic violence is a pattern of control and domination exerted by one person over another in a relationship. Coercion and control are manifested in a very broad range of intimidating, psychologically abusive and physically abusive behaviors. Domestic violence does not discriminate. Domestic violence touches every part of our society. Mayor Brill Mittler mentioned some of the statistics from Middlesex County as reported by the New Jersey State Police. In New Jersey, there is a domestic violence offense committed every eight minutes and 29 seconds. The 4,336 offenses reported in 2019 represents a 13% increase over domestic violence offenses in Middlesex County in 2018, and that overall, represents 41% of the total number of reported criminal offenses. Middlesex County is the second most populous county in the State of New Jersey, yet our residents report 27% more domestic violence incidents than Bergen County, which is the most populous county. These statistics are important because they bring to the fore what a pervasive public health and safety issue domestic violence is. It is important to know the stories of the victims and the survivors behind these statistics. She shared a story about a woman's journey through Women Aware. A woman named Allegra came to their shelter 15 days after giving birth to her second son. In the week after her child was born, Allegra was sexually assaulted by the abuser; the father or her children. Because of the assault, she was not able to go to her first postpartum checkup with the doctor and she was frightened because she did not know if the pain she was experiencing was a result of giving birth or a result of the abuse. When she came into the shelter, Allegra's caseworker took immediate action to get her to the doctor for her postpartum exam. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the caseworker was not able to accompany her, but she arranged for door-to-door transportation. She also coordinated with the hospital healthcare provider and the security department to have Allegra escorted from the door of the hospital to her appointment and back to the vehicle to ensure her safety. Allegra suffered from a variety of medical and dental needs resulting from the severe, repeated physical abuse that she had endured. Our caseworker assisted Allegra in scheduling gynecologist, internist and dental appointments and coordinated with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency to provide funding for childcare so that Allegra could keep these appointments. Doctors determined that she had lost part of her ability to smell and suffered nerve damage near her eye because of the beatings she endured. Allegra went in for successful same-day surgery to repair the damage knowing that her children were safe and in good hands at the shelter. Allegra's struggles as a single mother worsened when her older son presented with motor skill and language delays. The caseworker connected Allegra with Middlesex County's Early Intervention Program and she was able to get referrals for evaluations and services for her son. Women Aware also advocated with DCP&P to enroll Allegra in the Parents as Teachers Program to help her better understand her role in her children's development and to help her strengthen her parenting skills. The caseworker worked with Allegra to find a local pediatrician to ensure that her sons receive ongoing health care and wellness services. It was a very happy and hopeful day for Allegra this past March when she and her children safely relocated from the shelter into their own apartment and Allegra shared with her caseworker her thanks for being available when she most needed someone to hear her and to help her find this strong person that she did not even know existed. Women Aware was founded 40 years ago and they are still the only shelter for victims of domestic violence in Middlesex County. Their shelter continually operates at 100% capacity. Their mission is to improve the safety and self-sufficiency of individuals and families affected by domestic violence. All of their services are free and are confidential and they are available to all persons. Their 24/7

hotline is the best point of access for those services. Middlesex County is a diverse community. Their client services staff reflects that diversity. 80% of their team is bilingual. Women Aware is very grateful for the Federal, State and County grants that they are awarded, the corporate and foundation grants, as well as the individual donations that come in, and the revenue that comes from special events that they host. The hotline number is 732-249-4504 and they also offer a toll-free number 833-249-4504. They have over eight in-house languages on staff and the caseworkers and therapists work with language line which gives access to 200 more languages. Their emergency shelter is in a confidential location and operates at 100% capacity all the time. It is a safe, welcoming haven for women and children who are fleeing abuse. They have 24 beds and 5 cribs and they have a child advocate on staff at the shelter to provide that unique support that the youngest survivors need. Throughout the pandemic, both the hotline and the emergency shelter remained open and that was because their leadership is committed to cross-training client services staff. Women Aware provides a wide array of legal advocacy services. Their advocates provide information about legal rights and options. They provide support for filing restraining orders; they provide court accompaniment and they provide preparation for a court appearance. The advocates do not provide legal counsel. If a survivor requires that, we work very closely with Central Jersey Legal Services and Partners for Women in Justice to make sure that a survivor can get the legal counsel that they need. They have a PALS Program (Peace, a Learned Solution). Peace is their trauma reduction therapy program for children ages 3-12. It is a six-month program and creative art therapists work with children using all kinds of modalities. Case Managers and Therapists also manage their support groups that meet weekly and Women Aware offers parenting groups. Women Aware was the first agency in the state to operate a permanent supportive housing facility. This facility offers three apartments and usually the residents are families who are coming out of emergency shelter. There is a financial contribution that families make, but it is a safe and affordable option when a mom is working to get back on her feet and to build a safer, healthier life for herself and her family. Last year, Women Aware started a new program called Housing Navigation and our Coordinator works with all victims of crime, not just victims of domestic violence, explore safe and affordable housing options that comes with financial support for rental and relocation assistance, if eligible. Middlesex County has a tremendous depth of services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The challenge and the barrier for survivors is that these services are scattered all over the county. The Middlesex County Family Justice Center will house these resources in one centralized located so that a survivor can come in and tell their story one time and be connected to the different services that they need to begin moving beyond abuse. The Family Justice Center model, which was developed by the Alliance for Hope International out of San Diego, has been proven to increase safety for victims and children to reduce domestic violence homicides and to reduce recidivism among offenders. She noted that the center is open at 100 Bayard Street and she shared a 3-minute video. Because of the tragedy that Highland Park has suffered with the brutal murder of Yasmin, domestic violence is very much on everyone's mind. On behalf of the Women Aware team, she voiced their gratitude to Highland Park for their commitment to make sure that Yasmin's voice and the voices of survivors continue to be heard by getting information about the services that are available out into the community. The more good information we share, the greater likelihood that victim survivors and the people who love them will know how and where to get the help that they need, want and deserve.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the minutes of the Regular/Work Session Meetings held June 1, 2021 and June 15, 2021, was approved, as distributed, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

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

Councilwoman Canavera reported that August is National Family Fun Month. It is the perfect reminder to take a break and have some carefree playtime with the kids before they return to school schedules. The Commission for Universal Access is working on mapping the accessibility of Highland Park. The Human Relations Commission is hard at work planning events for the rest of the year. The Board of Health wants to remind you that while May, June and July are considered the prime months for ticks, they are still very much an issue. Please check yourself, pets and children for ticks after being outside. The Housing Authority would like residents to be aware of the Middlesex County emergency rental assistance program. You can learn more about this program by visiting [middlesexcountynj.gov/rentalassistance](http://middlesexcountynj.gov/rentalassistance). Food insecurity is still high we have two programs to help. The Community Food Pantry is open the second and 4th Thursday 9 am to 10:45 and 6pm-7and the Saturday following Thursday of every month from 9:30am - 10:30 pm. Donations can be made using their Amazon wish list. HP Gives a Hoot hosts a food pantry every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Donations can be made by mailing a check to Borough hall with a memo that it is for HP Gives a Hoot. Between these two programs they are serving over 300 families. The Mental Health Commission wants everyone to remember anyone with a mental health crisis please reach out for help: Middlesex county crisis hotlines: Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care HOTLINE: (855) 515-5700; Raritan Bay Medical Center HOTLINE: (732) 442-3794.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that tonight there will be a first reading on the Lease and Loan Ordinance for the Capital Equipment and Improvement and Financing Program. Projects include a street sweeper, police vehicles, pickup truck and hybrid vehicle. August is National Black Business Month. Black business owners account for about 10% of US businesses and about 30% of all minority-owned businesses. According to the US Census Bureau, that amounts to approximately two million companies owned by African Americans. She asked everyone to support and encourage African American-owned businesses in the community. One of her new favorite black businesses in town is What the Cluck. Stop by and check them out. The cornbread is to die for.

Councilman Hersh thanked Susan Dyckman and Women Aware for providing Highland Park with essential information on domestic violence and abuse. This is going to be critically important as our community heals. In July, we resumed limited senior programming in an outdoor setting. (Programs took place outside in the patio area with newly retractable awnings installed earlier this year or in the Community Center Parking lot). Some programs include: Senior Exercise and Tai Chi Classes (Mondays and Thursdays); "Talking Journeys" Walking Group (Tuesday's weather permitting); Current Events Discussion Groups; Fun with Yiddish Classes; Crafts Projects; Painting Class; Haircuts (Mike the Barber); Ice Cream Social; Summer Outdoor Concerts - to take place end of July- August. (Community Center parking lot-weather permitting); Resume Bingo, cards and Mahjong. Programs have been well received, and well attended. Exercises classes are limited to 25 members per class and have waiting lists. Members are happy to be able to participate and look forward to when we can resume indoor programming. New Programs Starting this fall: Zumba Gold; Art Classes; Transportation - Currently running Monday - Friday between the hours of 8:00 am - 1:00 p.m. We still provide in town limited service daily as well as medical appointments to New Brunswick. As always, this service is well utilized every day. Update - 2021 Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. The Recreation Department registered 100 residents to receive free vouchers to be used at the farmers market for fresh produce. The HP Food Pantry is currently providing vouchers to clients that use the HPCFP as well. Summer Camp has completed its musical theater camp and (4) weeks of Day and Sports Camp. Camp Attendees: Week 1: 105 campers; Week 2: 123 campers; Week 3: 96 campers; and Week 4: 104 campers. Sports Camp - Next week will run baseball camp followed by tennis camp for the last week. We passed inspection for the Summer Food Service Program, which gives us lunches for all campers, and we were marked compliant. We have a second inspection scheduled for Tuesday 8/3. We completed our pre-operational camp inspection and will have another inspection before the end of camp. We are finalizing our fall programming schedule looking to start most activities on the second or third weekend of September. We plan to attend school events to increase our community outreach and are starting to plan our events for the year including Veterans Day and our Halloween Event. Municipal Alliance: School Prevention Programs supported by the grant were completed in May & June. Some of these programs include: Class Action, WNBI, Wellness Day, Every 15 Minutes, Social Host Parent Night and Project Graduation. Police Prevention - Youth Academy took place July 12th - 16th. (18 participants graduated from this program). FY2022 Grant funding began (July 1st - June 30th, 2022). Community Center Updates: In August - Covid testing will be done Monday, Wednesday & Friday between 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. The Highland Park Arts Commission, led by its chair John Marron, will take part in the New Brunswick HEART Festival on Aug. 15, The festival, which celebrates all of the vibrant arts and history that New Brunswick and the County of Middlesex has to offer, will feature live music, craft making activities, and more. He remembered Regis Methven and Marlene Perlmutter, who recently passed away. Lastly, he offered congratulations to Councilmember Matt Hale for making the list of the top 100 InsiderNJ policymakers!

Councilwoman Foster reported that tonight would have been the National Night Out event, but due to the pandemic, they did not have enough time to prepare. In July, the Youth Academy was held by the Highland Park Police Department. The Youth Academy attendees got to see a State Police helicopter, the New Brunswick Police K9 Unit, they did a CSI crime scene investigation; saw drones in action; learned about hate and bias crimes and so much more. They concluded each day with a rigorous physical training session and several of the cadets received individual awards at graduation. There were 18 participants and after graduation, they were treated to a visit from an ice cream truck. She thanked Officer O'Mara and the Police Department for making this happen. They are hope to run a more robust program next year and they will also be looking at hosting an adult academy in the future. She encourage scooter riders and bicyclists to wear their helmets. She also encourage residents to wear their facemasks when going into businesses as the variant is on an uptick. The Fire Department, under the leadership of Mordy Gershen, has been doing some fantastic stuff. They have three new volunteers that cannot wait to join the ranks and they will be confirmed later in the meeting. The Fire Department is looking for part-time and full-time firefighters. Interested individuals can find information on the Borough's website. Highland Park's annual hydrant flushing and inspection program begins July 19<sup>th</sup>. This program keeps fire hydrants in proper working order and helps ensure water quality. The Zone 6 Teen Center has been busy and they have collaborated with Edison Job Corps to start a planting project to grow fruits, vegetables and various other crops. They are also learning about when to plant and the nutritional components of the fruits and vegetables they plant. She thanked the Department of Public Works who assisted with the delivery of the planting materials. Future programs at the Zone 6 Teen Center will be a lending library and a mind/body/wellness garden. The youth are currently work on an animation comic project that was made possible by a grant from the County Arts Program. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, Alfa Aviation will be coming and registration will be open to anyone who is interested in learning more about aviation. Zone 6 is also working on getting supplies for back to school, a project that they have been doing for the last couple of years. Lastly, the Zone 6 Teen Center provides food distribution to 37 families weekly. She thanked them for all of their great work.

Councilman Hale commented that he hoped everyone is enjoying the summer and taking part in lots of summer activities. Like for example, the recent Gazpacho making contest held by Main Street Highland Park at the farmer's market. I know the competition was rough, as my entry and my son's entry were not chosen as winners by the illustrious panel of judges. Thanks Hersh. But congrats to Gold Medalist Alanna Cohen and her Bloody Mary Gazpacho; Silver medalist Nilesch Bhatt and his Green Goddess Gazpacho; and Bronze Medalist Gabby Aron and his Young Nonna's Summer Splendor Gazpacho. As always, I want to encourage everyone to shop Highland Park as often as you can. August can be a tough month for our businesses as many people are away. We are also seeing, as I am sure the mayor will mention, some troubling signs with Covid and the variant in Middlesex County. Please, please shop Highland Park businesses while you can. Please, please follow the guidelines and recommendation for mask wearing as they change and develop, and please, please support our businesses as often as you

can and as much as you can. Tonight on the consent agenda, we are going to authorizing the borough to apply for a Neighborhood Preservation Program grant, which is an exciting program that will hopefully bring State money to Highland Park to help with some economic development activities on Woodbridge Avenue. This is an area that we believe has some significant economic potential and if we are successful in getting this grant, we will be looking to the community for input on ways to make the area more attractive to both businesses and residents so please stay tuned for that. We are also going to be entering into a contract with VEO scooters to provide electric scooters in Highland Park. This follows our passing the public safety requirements for riding scooters at, I believe, our last meeting. VEO scooters is the company that works with Rutgers and this will provide residents with a great way to get back and forth to New Brunswick, the train station and to scoot around town. I want to thank Stephany Kim-Chohan for pushing us to make this happen and I hope she will teach me how to ride one of these things shortly. We are also agreeing to hire THA Consulting to working on a borough wide parking management plan. This is a great addition to our economic and redevelopment team, who will help us identify and plan for a wide variety of parking and traffic possibilities and within the framework of the redevelopment plan find the best options for Highland Park. Lastly, of course we are introducing the long-awaited redevelopment plan tonight. It has been a long process and we have received a huge amount of public feedback and guidance from the Planning Board. I recognize that there has been strong feelings on both sides of this issue and I genuinely believe that the changes we have made to this redevelopment vision as a result of public comment, Main Street Highland Park's input and Planning Board guidance, we have come out with a fantastic 1<sup>st</sup> step toward revitalizing our downtown and our community. There is a long way to go yet, before any shovel hits the ground. But, the redevelopment plan we are introducing tonight provides a great frame that we are going to use to paint a new and exciting picture of Highland Park. He thanked everyone who worked on this effort, Teri, Jim and Joe our professional staff especially. He really appreciates all of their hard work to get us to this point and he looks forward to all of the work we will do together in the future.

Councilman George reported that starting in September, Public Works would be back to bulk trash removal by appointment. On the agenda tonight, an amendment to the renewable government energy aggregation ordinance will be introduced. The Borough enacted an ordinance a number of years ago allowing us to participate in the sustainable energy market. The ordinance amendment was recommended by Sustainable Highland Park. Also on the agenda is an amendment to the water meter ordinance to change water meters to one-inch meters. This is part of the water meter replacement program, which is part of the revamping of the infrastructure. The new meters would be borough owned and installed and would be read electronically to give results that are more consistent. Another agenda item is a resolution to approve the yard waste agreement with the MCIA. Yard waste is the bagged leaves and grass clippings that the Borough picks up. There is a resolution to reject the current bids for the water meter replacement program. We found in the submissions from the two bidders that the proposals they came up with and the alternatives they were presenting gives us a much broader range if we revise our bid specs and go back out to bid. As part of our infrastructure program, one of the major projects is the water main connection on Woodbridge Avenue. The Borough will be joining with the County of Middlesex to make improvements prior to repaving and there is a resolution to retain the Borough Engineer to do the planning for that project.

Borough Administrator Jover – No report.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that the total number of Highland Park Covid-19 positive reported cases to date is 1,131. That is about 8% of our population. While 81% of our total population aged 18+ has been vaccinated with at least one dose, there are demographic pockets of our community with much lower vaccination rates ranging from only 5% to 18%. To address this issue, she will appointing members to a new Mayor's Wellness Vaccination Action Campaign that will be chaired by Dr. Cliff Lacey. He is a distinguished Professor of Professional Practice at the Rutgers School of Communication and Information, a Clinical Professor of Medicine at the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. His former administrative responsibilities besides having served as Chair of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign are Commissioner, Department of Health and Senior Services for the State of New Jersey, Chief, Division of Cardiovascular Diseases and Hypertension at the RWJ Medical School and President and CEO of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. She will appoint the following medical professionals to this group: Dr. Elliott Frank, Core Professor of Medicine at Hackensack Meridian Health School of Medicine; Dr. Bruce Fisher, Clinical Professor of Medicine at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; Dr. Patricia Whitley-Williams, Professor of Pediatrics and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics; Chief, Division of Pediatric Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Diseases; and Dr. Karen Ebel Avery, Pediatrician in private practice with the Somerset Pediatric Group. She will also appoint community members Ashton Burrell (NAACP), Pastor Greg McClendon, Chris Woodward (Board of Education), Hayden Hsuing (HP Chinese Association), Norma Bowe (Board of Health), and Josh Pruzansky (the Rock of NJ). The Council Liaison to this new group is Tara Canavera. We are taking this situation very seriously and she emphasized how important it is for all of the residents to get vaccinated to keep all of our friends, neighbors and relatives safe from this virus, especially with schools starting in September.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves. The total time for this session is 21 minutes; three minutes maximum per speaker. Comments are limited to items on the agenda. If you want to speak on an item that is not listed, there will be an opportunity to do so later in the meeting.

Dan Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, echoed the Mayor's comments about vaccinations and urged residents to get vaccinated. There will be a wave of vaccinations once children 12 and under can get vaccinated. He thanked the Governing Body for their work with the redevelopment plan and noted that he likes the plan. They may hear comments that this plan was rushed or did not have enough public input. He remembered a public meeting at the community center before the pandemic where there were maps and residents were putting sticky notes on the maps. He is excited to see this finally up for a vote.

Peter Spool, Graham Street, thanked the professionals for making the updates to the latest version of the redevelopment plan. He noted that one of the goals was to enhance open spaces and create a downtown square. This plan does the opposite, takes away a large existing public space, and substitutes several smaller spaces that will be inadequate for large events that have taken place in the past. He also commented about the projected number of housing units and the proposed parking deck. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the Borough is retaining a parking consultant to conduct a parking study.

Mary Forsberg, 317 Denison Street, commented about the resolution combining bonds and the parking management plan. She wanted to know how they plan to spend the \$5.8 million dollars. The parking consultant the borough plans to hire designs and builds parking garages. She plans to send her detailed questions to the Governing Body via email so that she can receive a detailed response.

Jason Postelnik, 606 Abbott Street, commented that he applauds the efforts to increase the vaccination rate in town. He voiced his support for the redevelopment plan. He thinks it would add a great deal of vibrancy to the downtown and he looks forward to it.

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

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

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

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

David Copperman, 140 Hill Street, commented about the ordinance not having a regulation about wearing helmets if you are over the age of 17. Councilwoman Foster noted that although the ordinance does not state that you have to wear a helmet, it is strongly advised. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that the ordinance tracks Title 39 that requires helmets be worn by those under 17.

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

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Foster, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 21-2025, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 8-21-188

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE LICENSING ELECTRIC SCOOTERS AND AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK BY ADDING ARTICLE V TO CHAPTER 247 OF SAID CODE, passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his/her approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of Neptune, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

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

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

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

Carl Pray, 317 Denison Street, asked where this property is and who the property owner is. Councilman George noted that this is for the development of property at the end of South Adelaide owned by Mr. Polos. Borough Attorney Schmierer added that it is vacating an easement that will be replaced by another easement.

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

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hersh, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 21-2026, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 8-21-189

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the 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, 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, **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LEASE AND AGREEMENT WITH THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF COUNTY-GUARANTEED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2021 OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY**, had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 8-21-190

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LEASE AND AGREEMENT WITH THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF COUNTY-GUARANTEED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2021 OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY**, 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, September 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage.

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

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

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, **LOAN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LOAN AND SECURITY AGREEMENT WITH THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF VARIOUS 2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION, AS APPLICABLE, OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT WITH AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$215,000, THE COST OF SUCH IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT TO BE FINANCED THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF COUNTY-GUARANTEED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2021 OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY**, had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 8-21-191

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, **LOAN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ENTERING INTO, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LOAN AND SECURITY AGREEMENT WITH THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF VARIOUS 2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION, AS APPLICABLE, OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT WITH AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$215,000, THE COST OF SUCH IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT TO BE FINANCED THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF COUNTY-GUARANTEED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2021 OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY**, 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, September 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage.

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

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

Planner Jim Constantine noted that this redevelopment plan has been in process for almost one year. The Council authorized him to move forward on September 1<sup>st</sup> last year and the initial study began in the fall and continued into stakeholder meetings. There were three of those meetings for the different areas within the plan. There are four tracts that are involved, A, B, C and D. They were at the Redevelopment Entity with the first presentation in November and spent the next four months on revisions and refinements from December through March. A draft plan was issued in April, presented again at the Redevelopment Entity and referred to the Planning Board, who reviewed it in May, June and July. There has a lot of process and a lot of public steps along the way. He showed slides of the redevelopment plan. The first slide showed a view looking up Raritan Avenue. The Master Plan in 2019 talked about custom tailoring infill and redevelopment because of all the different sized sites in Highland Park and creating a resident base to expand our downtown customer base for business purposes and to establish a public gathering space, another overarching goal. The Planning Board looked at this with regard to Tracts A and B and they had no recommendations. They felt that those were consistent with the Master Plan. With regard to Tract D at the far end of the site, they basically had recommendations to remove the North 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue plaza and for the street to remain open. It was revised in the final plan to remain open. They recommended maintaining housing as proposed on Denison Street along the side of the parking structure as a buffer and that the new parking facility, the centralized shared common parking facility, would be for residences and other needs as determined by the Borough. One of the things the Planning Board discussed was exploring further South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue for programming and the possible relocated of the Farmer's Market. However, South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue is not in the plan, it was not part of Tract D. He showed a slide of Tract C and noted that the yellow line shown is 1,000 feet and is less than a five-minute walk from the multi-level parking structure. The centralized parking facility as recommended in the plan allows the potential for redevelopment on a series of sites located within a five-minute walk, which includes Tracts A, B and C, as well as the remainder of Tract D, which is much closer. The parking structure at this centralized location is intended to attract younger and empty-nester households that are less water oriented and desire to live, walk, work, learn, shop lifestyle. We look at the recommendations for Tract C, which is the site where the farmer's market is today, and these come from the Planning Board. One was to provide a multi-use public plaza along Raritan Avenue unless or until another location is devoted. If the farmer's market is relocated, find a viable location for that. Allowing more than one new building on the site. Have a parking analysis for the existing/proposed uses on/surrounding Tract C. The plan enhances the uses for these particular tracts downtown. It expands the permitted uses from the existing zoning and redevelopment, and that is a recommendation from the 2019 master plan. It also adds clarification on the parking structure as a use in this final plan. It is a use that is currently permitted in the existing CBD and PO zones and there are design standards for parking structures in our existing zoning. The redevelopment plan envisions it and has design standards for it. We have added a little refinement and carried all those design standards into this plan. It increases in terms of bulk standards some of the front and side yard setbacks from existing zoning and the redevelopment plan. It also reduces the building coverage requirements in some locations from existing zoning and the redevelopment plan. The plan allows for the custom tailor standards, a recommendation from the 2019 master plan. Lastly, it adds new green building and sustainable design standards as well as accessibility and universal design standards. There are opportunities to live here in a different way that is greener, more sustainable and has accessibility and universal adaptability that is wonderful for aging in place and populations that need that support in the places they live. The Planning Board recommended back in May that we look at incorporating recommendations of the bicycle and pedestrian plan. Most of these were in the plan already, but we have highlighted that we are ensuring that new development includes appropriate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, including some recommendations that we added for traffic calming in this final plan. It leverages private development as a way to advance streetscape improvements, filling in sidewalk gaps, particularly along Raritan Avenue that has been called for in our planning efforts for 20 years; repairing existing sidewalks, modifying and eliminating driveway access along

Raritan Avenue which has the ability to increase bicycle and pedestrian safety; and all sorts of pedestrian/bicycle roadway improvements at intersections and along some of side streets, where appropriate. It also establishes parking design standards for covered bicycle parking and incorporates that into the plan, which does not exist. We have had a whole series of changes throughout this process based on community feedback. There is phased development flexibility so that individual discreet projects can move forward on some of the tracts ahead of others. We do not need it all to happen at once. There is a commitment to exploring a more permanent public space on South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. There is limited on-site parking and/or reserved on-street short-term parking/loading proposed in the plan as we have revised it through this process to accommodate somebody who is parking off-site at the centralized parking facility, but needs to drop off groceries or pick up a resident from the site that may need to have direct access to a vehicle. If the centralized parking is not built on Tract D, the plan does acknowledge that we could adjust density in the development program, explore alternate locations for a centralized parking facility or not build a multi-level parking structure at all. There has been a reduction in some of the height and controlling some of the views in the rear of Tract C. The plan will supersede existing zoning. The plan will become what is permitted and has the result of Borough control allowing us to put a redevelopment toolbox in place and that we would not have under existing zoning. This is a redevelopment plan that is allowing redevelopment projects to be explored and to move forward on the individual tracts A, B, C and D. The Borough Council will be acting as the Redevelopment Entity and there are things that they can do that cannot be done under existing zoning. The Borough has the ability to select redevelopers for each of the sites. We cannot do that under existing zoning. You can put in place a redevelopment agreement that Mr. Baumann can go into, but it has all sorts of controls and provisions that the Borough would not have otherwise. We do believe that this is a living, evolving document and we believe that we will see amendments to this approved redevelopment plan as we learn more and as we place sites out for the development community and as we get feedback. There is concept plan review before anything is submitted. If somebody were to proceed prior to the adoption of this plan under existing zoning, they would go right to filing an application and going to the Planning Board for review. Those steps are still there, but all of the preceding steps that he outlined come only with the designation of the redevelopment plan superseding existing zoning. This really supports the goal of supporting a thriving downtown by leveraging reinvestment, revitalization, infill and redevelopment to expand opportunities for mixed-use redevelopment. This is something that has been a goal for more than 20 years

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE “DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR TRACTS A-D” PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq, had been introduced in writing by the Economic Development and Planning Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman Hersh, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 8-21-192

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE “DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR TRACTS A-D” PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq, 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, September 14, 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 OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 84, ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM, 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 George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.



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

No. 8-21-193

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 84, ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM, 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, September 14, 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 OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 328 CONCERNING MUNICIPAL WATER METER OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK", 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 George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 8-21-194

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 328 CONCERNING MUNICIPAL WATER METER OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK", 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, September 14, 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. 8-21-195 through 8-21-208, were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None

Abstained: None.

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

No. 8-21-195

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Department of Public Works has a need to purchase leaf bags; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to purchase leaf bags; and

WHEREAS, quotes for said purchase were received from the following, to wit:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Pabco Industries, LLC (25,200 bags)	\$ 12,720.96
Uline (19,800 bags)	\$ 17,409.85
Grainger (19,800 bags)	\$ 29,185.20

WHEREAS, the Recycling Coordinator has recommended the purchase of said leaf bags from Pabco Industries, LLC at an amount not to exceed \$12,720.96; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. G-02-41-732-001 in the amount of \$12,093.30 and Account No. G-02-41-736-001 in the amount of \$627.66 for a total amount of \$12,720.96, 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 Superintendent of Public Works and Public Utilities is hereby authorized and directed to purchase of leaf bags from Pabco Industries, LLC, for a total price of \$12,720.96 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Superintendent of Public Works and Public Utilities and the Finance Department forthwith.

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

No. 8-21-196

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 to execute and attest Agreement for the Provision of Yard Waste Recycling and Marketing Services with the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, a copy of which is attached to the original of this ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Middlesex County Improvement Authority and the Recycling Coordinator forthwith.

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

No. 8-21-197

WHEREAS, after proper notice and advertisement pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., on June 24, 2021 two (2) bids were received for the “Purchasing of Water Meters and Advance Metering Infrastructure and Replacement and Testing of the Existing Meters” project; and

WHEREAS, one bidder only submitted a bid for the replacement and testing portion of the project, and one bidder submitted a bid for both portions of the project; and

WHEREAS, based on the bids received, the Borough’s Consultants and Administrator recommend that the bids be rejected and the specifications for the project be amended to expand the types of products that may be available for this project, as well as make other changes to effectuate this significant amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, and specifically N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.2.d., authorizes the Borough to reject all bids for certain enumerated reasons, including but not limited to when the Borough wants to substantially revise the specifications for the solicited goods or services.

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 two (2) bids received on June 24, 2021 for the “Purchasing of Water Meters and Advance Metering Infrastructure and Replacement and Testing of the Existing Meters” are hereby rejected on the basis that the Borough wants to make substantial revisions to the specifications for the goods and services, and as further set forth in the “Whereas” clauses above.

2. Borough staff, the Borough Attorney and the Borough’s Consultants are hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary action to make the necessary revisions to the specifications for the project and to readvertise same.

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

No. 8-21-198

WHEREAS, THE Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages’ and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials by upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Middlesex; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park does hereby authorize acceptance of a strategic plan for the Highland Park Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2022 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ 7,664.00
Cash Match	\$ 1,916.00
In-Kind	<u>\$ 5,748.00</u>
Total Alliance Budget	\$15,328.00

2. The Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

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

No. 8-21-199

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has a need for the services of an Environmental Consultant who is a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (“LSRP”) in order to address the findings of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection inspection report (PI: 262007); and

WHEREAS, such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. is qualified and licensed as an environmental consulting firm in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. has served as the Borough’s Environmental Consultant in connection with several matters in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$20,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$20,000.00 in account No. 1-01-26-310-238, as reflected by the Certification of Funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Administrator and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, a Professional Services Agreement with Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. for the above described parcels for an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00. The scope of work shall be consistent with the Technical and Cost Proposal for Environmental Engineering and Consulting Services, a copy of which is attached hereto.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 8-21-200

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:

JANET MARCIK, Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator, at an annual salary of \$57,967.00, effective August 2, 2021.

CYDNEI SINGLETON, Water & Sewer Utility Accounts Manager, at an annual salary of \$53,000.00, effective August 2, 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:

JACOB PESSIRILO, Summer Camp Counselor, at an hourly rate of \$14.00, effective July 21, 2021.

CAMILA YANEZ, Summer Camp Health Director, at an hourly rate of \$16.00, 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 Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 8-21-201

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of an engineer to provide engineering services in connection with the Design Phase for the Woodbridge Avenue Water Main Replacement, in accordance with letter proposal from Bruce Koch, CME Associates, dated July 13, 2021, attached to the original of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, CME Associates, Parlin, N.J., is a firm of licensed engineers of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in providing these services; and

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

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. U-06-55-603-001 in an amount not to exceed \$57,336.00, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer, shown below; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for professional services with CME Associates, 3141 Bordentown Avenue, Parlin, NJ 08859, a copy of which is attached to the original of this original, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 8-21-202

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 the Borough of Highland Park may award a contract by a purchasing agent or other employee so designated by the governing body when so authorized by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate to the contracting unit, without public advertising for bids under certain circumstances as set forth in the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.(the “LPCL”); and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined the need for the services of a parking consultant and has determined that the value of the services will exceed \$17,500.00 but will not exceed the bid threshold under the LPCL requiring competitive bid; and

WHEREAS, the Borough received proposals from Desman Design Management, THA Consulting, Inc., (“THA”) and Level G Associates with respect thereto; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the proposals the Borough determined that THA’s proposal is more detailed on methodology and approach; THA’s experience includes more comparable communities and THA offered additional services within their proposal as a value-add to our initial scope of work including evaluation and recommendations for better communications related to parking and Traffic Demand Management (TDM) review, which includes a look at non-automotive forms of transportation that might help reduce parking demand and provide mobility alternatives; and

WHEREAS, THA’s project lead, Jim Zullo, resides in the County, knows the area and the Borough first-hand and received excellent references; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to award a contract to THA Consulting, Inc. located at 144 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey, in the amount not to exceed \$35,000.00; and

WHEREAS, THA Consulting, Inc. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that THA Consulting, Inc. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit THA Consulting, Inc. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4, adequate funds are available for the provision of these services by THA Consulting, Inc. in Account No. C-04-55-814-001 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer, show below;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement with THA Consulting, Inc approved by redevelopment counsel.
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification shall be placed on file with this Resolution.
3. This Resolution shall take effect according to law.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 8-21-203

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE COMBINATION OF CERTAIN BOND ISSUES AS SET FORTH HEREIN, AND DETERMINING THE FORM AND OTHER DETAILS OF THE OFFERING OF (A) \$8,302,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2021 (TAX-EXEMPT), CONSISTING OF \$4,433,000 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2021 (TAX-EXEMPT) AND \$3,869,000 WATER/SEWER UTILITY BONDS, SERIES 2021 (TAX-EXEMPT), AND (B) \$5,800,000 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2021 (FEDERALLY TAXABLE) OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, 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 (Tax-Exempt) in the aggregate principal amount of \$4,433,000 (the “Tax-Exempt 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 Tax-Exempt 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:

<b><u>Ordinance Number</u></b>	<b><u>Description and Date of Final Adoption</u></b>	<b><u>Amount of Issue</u></b>	<b><u>Useful Life</u></b>
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

<b>Ordinance Number</b>	<b>Description and Date of Final Adoption</b>	<b>Amount of Issue</b>	<b>Useful Life</b>
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)	\$502,000	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
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$4,433,000</b>	

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

(a) The average period of usefulness, computed on the basis of the respective amounts of Tax-Exempt 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 13.14 years.

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

(c) The Tax-Exempt 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 Tax-Exempt General Improvement Bonds are being issued to (i) refund, on a current basis, a \$2,785,000 principal 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 Tax-Exempt 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, may be deductible from gross debt in any annual or supplemental debt statement of the Borough.

(c) Any Tax-Exempt 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 Tax-Exempt 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 \$4,433,000 aggregate principal amount of Tax-Exempt 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 August 3, 2021, shall mature in the principal amounts on September 15 in each of the years as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount*</u>
2022	\$203,000	2029	\$400,000
2023	230,000	2030	400,000
2024	240,000	2031	400,000
2025	325,000	2032	400,000
2026	335,000	2033	400,000
2027	345,000	2034	400,000
2028	355,000		

The Tax-Exempt General Improvement Bonds shall be subject to redemption prior to maturity in accordance with the terms provided in the Notice of Sale for Tax-Exempt Bonds authorized herein and attached hereto as Exhibit D. The Tax-Exempt General Improvement Bonds shall be thirteen

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary, subject to change as described herein.

(13) in number, with one certificate being issued for each year of maturity and shall be designated and numbered GI-1 to GI-13, 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 (Tax-Exempt) in the aggregate principal amount of \$3,869,000 (the “Tax-Exempt 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 Tax-Exempt 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
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$3,869,000</b>	

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

(a) The average period of usefulness, computed on the basis of the respective amounts of Tax-Exempt 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 Tax-Exempt Water/Sewer Utility Bonds of the combined issue shall be designated “Water/Sewer Utility Bonds, Series 2021 (Tax-Exempt)” and shall mature within the average period of usefulness determined in Section 8(a) above.

(c) The Tax-Exempt 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 Tax-Exempt Water/Sewer Utility Bonds are being issued to (i) refund, on a current basis, a \$2,004,000 principal 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 Tax-Exempt 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, and provided the water utility of the Borough is self-liquidating, are deductible from gross debt in any annual or supplemental debt statement of the Borough.

(c) Any Tax-Exempt 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 Tax-Exempt 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 Tax-Exempt 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 August 3, 2021, shall mature in the principal amounts on September 15 in each of the years as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount*</u>
2022	\$269,000	2029	\$300,000
2023	270,000	2030	305,000
2024	280,000	2031	310,000
2025	285,000	2032	320,000
2026	285,000	2033	325,000
2027	290,000	2034	335,000
2028	295,000		

The Tax-Exempt Water/Sewer Utility Bonds shall be subject to redemption prior to maturity in accordance with the terms provided in the Notice of Sale for Tax-Exempt Bonds authorized herein and attached hereto as Exhibit D. The Tax-Exempt 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.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary, subject to change as described herein.

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

**SECTION 12.** The \$5,800,000 aggregate principal amount of General Improvement Bonds, Series 2021 (Federally Taxable), referred to and described in Bond Ordinance Number 15-1881 duly adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough pursuant to the Local Bond Law on February 17, 2015, entitled “Bond Ordinance Providing For The Acquisition Of An Approximate 4.176 Acre Tract Of Land Designated As Block 47, Lots 27-75 On The Official Highland Park Tax Map, By And In The Borough Of Highland Park, In The County Of Middlesex, State Of New Jersey (The “Borough”); Appropriating \$1,860,000 Therefor And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,767,000 Bonds Or Notes Of The Borough To Finance Part Of The Cost Thereof”, as amended by Bond Ordinance Number 15-1894 duly adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough on October 1, 2015, Bond Ordinance Number 15-1897 duly adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough on December 1, 2015, Bond Ordinance Number 17-1928 duly adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough on February 21, 2017, and Bond Ordinance Number 18-1965 duly adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough on September 4, 2018 (collectively, the “Taxable Bond Ordinance”) shall be issued and designated as “General Improvement Bonds, Series 2021 (Federally Taxable)” (the “Taxable General Improvement Bonds”).

**SECTION 13.** The following matters are hereby determined with respect to the issue of Taxable General Improvement Bonds:

(a) The period of usefulness, computed on the basis of the amount of Taxable General Improvement Bonds presently authorized to be issued pursuant to the Taxable Bond Ordinance and the respective period of usefulness therein determined, is not more than 39.33 years.

(b) The Taxable General Improvement Bonds of the issue shall be designated “General Improvement Bonds, Series 2021 (Taxable)” and shall mature within the average period of usefulness determined in Section 13(a) above.

(c) The Taxable General Improvement Bonds of the 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 Taxable General Improvement Bonds are being issued to refund, on a current basis, a \$5,800,000 principal portion of the Prior Notes.

**SECTION 14.** The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) None of the Taxable General Improvement Bonds described in Section 12 hereof have been sold or issued heretofore, and the Taxable Bond Ordinance described in Section 12 has not been rescinded heretofore and now remains in full force and effect as authorization for the amount of Taxable General Improvement Bonds to be issued.

(b) The purposes or improvements authorized by the Taxable Bond Ordinance described in Section 12 hereof are purposes for which bonds may be issued lawfully pursuant to the Local Bond Law.

(c) Any Taxable General Improvement Bonds issued pursuant to this Resolution and said Taxable Bond Ordinance described in Section 12 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 Taxable 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 15.** The \$5,800,000 aggregate principal amount of Taxable General Improvement Bonds referred to and described in the Taxable Bond Ordinance described in Section 12 of this Resolution duly adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough pursuant to the Local Bond Law on August 3, 2021, shall mature in the principal amounts on September 15 in each of the years as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount*</u>
2022	\$160,000	2032	\$320,000
2023	165,000	2033	320,000
2024	190,000	2034	320,000
2025	250,000	2035	320,000
2026	275,000	2036	320,000
2027	290,000	2037	320,000
2028	310,000	2038	320,000
2029	320,000	2039	320,000
2030	320,000	2040	320,000
2031	320,000	2041	320,000

The Taxable General Improvement Bonds shall be subject to redemption prior to maturity in accordance with the terms provided in the Notice of Sale for Taxable General Improvement Bonds authorized herein and attached hereto as Exhibit E. The Taxable 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 TGI-1 to TGI-20, inclusive.

**SECTION 16.** The Tax-Exempt Bonds (comprised of the Tax-Exempt General Improvement Bonds and the Tax-Exempt Water/Sewer Utility Bonds) and the Taxable General Improvement Bonds are sometimes collectively referred to herein as the “Bonds”.

**SECTION 17.** 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-

<sup>3</sup> Preliminary, subject to change as described herein.

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 fifteenth day of March and September (each an "Interest Payment Date"), in each year until maturity or earlier redemption, as applicable, commencing March 15, 2022, at a rate or rates per annum as proposed by the Winning Bidder(s) in accordance with the applicable Notices of Sale (as hereinafter defined) 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 first day of March and September 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:

<b>Date of Bonds:</b>	Date of delivery
<b>Principal Payment Dates:</b>	September 15, 2022 and each September 15 thereafter until maturity or earlier redemption, as applicable
<b>Interest Payment Dates:</b>	Semiannually on each March 15 and September 15 of each year until maturity or earlier redemption, as applicable, commencing March 15, 2022
<b>Place of Payment:</b>	Cede & Co., New York, New York.

**SECTION 18.** The Bonds shall be substantially in the forms set forth in Exhibit A, Exhibit B and Exhibit C, 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 19.** The Tax-Exempt Bonds shall be sold upon receipt of electronic proposals on or about Tuesday, August 24, 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 for Tax-Exempt Bonds (the "Tax-Exempt Notice of Sale") authorized herein in Exhibit D which Tax-Exempt 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 Taxable General Improvement Bonds shall be sold upon receipt of electronic proposals on the Bid Date at or about 11:15 a.m. by the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough or the Administrator of the Borough, as applicable, on PARITY, in accordance with the Notice of Sale for Taxable General Improvement Bonds (the "Taxable Notice of Sale" and together with the Tax-Exempt Notice of Sale, the "Notices of Sale") authorized herein in Exhibit E which Taxable 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 Notices of Sale set forth in Exhibit D and Exhibit E hereto, respectively, 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 Notices of Sale set forth in Exhibit D and Exhibit E hereto, respectively, 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 Notices of Sale set forth in Exhibit D and Exhibit E hereto, respectively, 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 Notices of Sale authorized herein and set forth in Exhibit D and Exhibit E hereto, respectively, and such financial officers shall report in writing the results of the sales 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 20.** The Tax-Exempt Notice of Sale for the Tax-Exempt Bonds shall be in the form set forth in Exhibit D attached hereto 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 and sell the Tax-Exempt Bonds, upon the advice of the Municipal Advisor and Bond Counsel to the Borough.

The Taxable Notice of Sale for the Taxable General Improvement Bonds shall be in the form set forth in Exhibit E attached hereto 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 and sell the Taxable General Improvement Bonds, upon the advice of the Municipal Advisor and Bond Counsel to the Borough.



**SECTION 21.** 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.

**SECTION 22.** 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 23.** 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 Tax-Exempt Bonds, including the requirement to rebate all net investment earnings on the gross proceeds above the yield on the Tax-Exempt Bonds, if necessary.

**SECTION 24.** 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 25.** 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 Registered Obligations 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 26.** 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 respective purchasers of the Bonds in accordance with the provisions of the Rule, for their use in the sale, resale and distribution of the Bonds, where and if applicable.

**SECTION 27.** The final Official Statement to be dated on or about August 24, 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 respective purchasers of the Bonds for their 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 28.** 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 respective purchasers 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 29.** 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 Notices of Sale attached hereto as Exhibit D and Exhibit E, 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 Chief Financial Officer of the Borough may adjust the principal amount of the Tax-Exempt Bonds and/or the Taxable General Improvement Bonds authorized to be issued hereunder but in

no event shall the aggregate principal amount of (i) the Tax-Exempt General Improvement Bonds exceed \$4,433,000, (ii) the Tax-Exempt Water/Sewer Utility Bonds exceed \$3,869,000, or (iii) the Taxable General Improvement Bonds exceed \$5,800,000. 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 30.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately. Immediately upon the adoption of this Resolution, Resolution Number 7-21-175, duly adopted by the Borough on July 6, 2021, shall be rescinded and repealed and shall be of no further force or effect.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 8-21-204

WHEREAS, the Borough Council finds it would be desirable to improve the Woodbridge Avenue corridor of town and make it a more vibrant part of the Highland Park community; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA)'s Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) provides direct financial and technical assistance to select municipalities to implement strategic revitalization plans; and

WHEREAS, DCA has determined that Highland Park is eligible to submit an application for the 5-year NPP grant based on certain socioeconomic criteria; and

WHEREAS, DCA requires a 20% cash match from applicants annually which will be made available in the 2022 operating budget and in subsequent years, should the Borough be selected for this grant; and

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 submit the grant application to DCA with a focus on improvements to the Woodbridge Avenue corridor.

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

No. 8-21-205

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 7-21-181 adopted by the Borough Council on July 6, 2021, New Jersey Tree Foundation, Jackson, NJ was awarded the fall 2021 tree planting project; and

WHEREAS, a Blanket Purchase Order was generated, Purchase Order No. 21-01087 in the amount of \$8,160; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to increase the Blanket Purchase Order by \$4,065.00 to accurately reflect the total project costs; and

WHEREAS, funds for this additional increase are available the amount of \$4,065.00 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 Purchase Order No. 21-01087 be increased from \$8,160.00 to \$12,225.00.

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. 8-21-206

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has declared certain Fire Department gear, described below, to be out of service as they no longer meet the standards set forth by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for certain Fire Department gear in other localities where the Borough's gear meets the local fire safety standards, specifically in areas of Alabama that were devastated by deadly tornadoes in April 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park finds it to be in the best interests of the community to donate the property to New Jersey Firefighters Helping Alabama Firefighters instead of disposing of it and adding it to the solid waste stream.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following Fire Department gear shall be donated to the organization New Jersey Firefighters Helping Alabama Firefighters:

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 9 Helmets           | 6 Masks              |
| 10 Bunker Jackets   | 4 Hoods              |
| 14 Bunker Pants     | 14 Pairs Fire Gloves |
| 14 Pairs Fire Boots | 6 Pairs Work Gloves  |

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 8-21-207

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park participated in a procurement committee with Rutgers University, City of New Brunswick and County of Middlesex to solicit proposals to provide for new micro-mobility sharing services for bicycles, electric scooters and electric bicycles; and

WHEREAS, after said procurement committee received responses to a Request for Information the Committee recommended that VeoRide, Inc. be selected to operate their fleet of dockless vehicles, which includes electric scooters, electric bicycles and pedal bicycles on the Rutgers University campus in

New Brunswick and Piscataway as well as in the public right-of-way within the City of New Brunswick and the Borough of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park Economic Development Committee has reviewed and recommended the execution of a Veo Service Agreement in order to commence the operation of the VeoRide Program in the Borough of Highland Park.

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

1. The Mayor and Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park are hereby authorized and directed to execute a Veo Service Agreement to with VeoRide, Inc. e-scooters and other dockless within the Borough of Highland Park.
2. Upon the adoption of this Resolution, a copy of said Resolution shall be furnished to: VeoRide, Inc., 400 North Racine Ave., Ste. 109, Chicago, Illinois 60642, Attention Candice Xie, (email: [Candice.xie@veoride.com](mailto:Candice.xie@veoride.com))

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

No. 8-21-208

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 8/3/2021 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 41.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed William Winfrey to serve as the Alternate #3 Member of the Board of Adjustment for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed the following to serve as Regular Members of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign for terms to expire December 31, 2021:

Dr. Patricia Whitley-Williams	Dr. Elliot Frank
Dr. Keren Ebel Avery	Dr. Bruce Fisher
Ashton Burrell	Pastor Greg McClendon
Chris Woodward	Hayden Hsuing
Norma Bowe	Fr. Abraham
Josh Pruzansky	

Mayor Brill Mittler confirmed the appointments of Eli Gang, Carl Stremlo and Delaney McAvoy to the rolls of the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

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

Mary Forsberg, 317 Denison Street, continued her comments on the parking management plan. The plan for this redevelopment began in March of 2020, not September. She commented about the amount of money paid to Mr. Constantine and asked why none of the research has been done or published. She asked why the Council is hiring a company that specializes in building parking decks. She noted that many people oppose the construction of a centralized parking garage and understand that it is expensive to build and maintain.

Marcos Castro, 432 Montgomery Street, commented that he struggles to visualize how the structures will look. He suggested that they get an architectural firm to show more true to life presentations of what the structures will look like. Attorney Baumann noted that this plan defines the bulk standards (height, density, number of units) for a particular project. The actual project does not exist today; we have just created the envelope within which the project could be constructed. The next step will be to find a developer that is willing to building the projects they have in mind for those tracts. There will be appoint in time where we will have actual garage pictures/designs and the public will be able to participate in that, but not until we get an actual project.

Mary Botteon, 709 Madison Avenue, commented that she would be sending the Mayor an article from the National Institute of Health entitled "Marijuana Use is Associated with Intimate Partner Violence". She thought the presentation earlier was extremely timely. She reminded the Governing Body that 50 residents from neighborhoods all over town made it very clear in their memo at the end of June that they do not support attempts to bring pot businesses. There are many towns throughout New Jersey that opted out and intend to stay out; others are staying out for now in order to address resident concerns and wait for full regulations from the State. Metuchen is opting out and Edison is opting in, but pot businesses cannot be located a thousand feet from residential uses, licensed childcare facilities, schools, public parks, and houses of worship. She thinks it goes beyond comprehension that Council Members would consider not having drug free zones in their pot proposal. She urged them to opt out.

Rachel Cittance, commented about drug-free zone if the Council is going to go through with the cannabis ordinance. We have to think about the children.

Eric Silverman, thanked Mary Botteon for her well researched statement and agreed with everything she said. He does not have kids in school, nor does he have kids but has lived in Highland Park since 1986. He has found this town to be a very friendly, family-oriented community without drug shops. He does not think that we should be making a change right now even though the majority of the population voted on it. In a town this size, it would be impossible to go shopping without passing one of these stores.

Tatiana Gelfand, 118 North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, expressed her concerns with pot shops in Highland Park. The legalization of marijuana is not the same as inviting or allowing pot shops in town. She is also concerned about the health of people and is concerned about public safety. She suggested that they opt out for now.

Dan Stern Cardinale, 221 Harper Street, commented that bringing kids into the discussion of cannabis is irrelevant because none of the state level laws or local ordinances involve kids; it is for adult use cannabis. Kids now have access through the black market and it will actually be hard to get access once there is a legal market. He also commented about statistics regarding domestic violence and cannabis usage. Public policy should be data driven and they should not buy into fear mongering.

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

Work Session:

Public Meetings – Mayor Brill Mittler noted that prior to this upturn in Covid-19 cases in Middlesex County and Highland Park, they were talking about reopening building and having in-person meetings starting in September. That is now on hold again and she and the Borough Administrator will be watching the numbers closely with guidance from the Board of Health and her Covid-19 Task Force.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

No. 8-21-209

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council is of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

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

1. The public shall be excluded from the closed session at close of tonight's open session.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:  
(Property Acquisition Negotiations & Personnel)
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when these matters are resolved or as soon thereafter as it is deemed to be in the public interest to do so.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Canavera, seconded by Councilman Hersh, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings  
Borough Clerk