

REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:01 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

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

Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the minutes of the Regular/Work Session Meeting held July 6, 2021, was approved, as distributed, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

Abstain: Councilperson Hale.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that the Borough offers reliable and fast Covid testing at the Community Center on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A lot of people have been participating in the testing and it has been going extremely well with people getting their results within 24 hours. With regard to Hurricane Ida, we have all lived through a tremendous amount of anxiety and stress. Many of our streets were flooded and we had some homes flooded. A lot of people were bailing water from their basements. Thankfully, there was no loss of life or any injuries due to the storm. She gave a huge shout out to the Public Safety Departments and the Emergency Management teams for the extraordinary job they did in keeping everyone safe and getting to as many people as they possibly could during the storm. Most everyone has been returned to their homes and the Borough is still working with one family to ensure that they have a place to go because their home is still not habitable. She moved on to talk about something near and dear to her heart, the downtown redevelopment plan. Since 2014, when she became Mayor, the redevelopment of the downtown has been a major priority for the Borough Council. They had four primary goals that they established in 2014 that her administration and the Council all work towards. The first is tax stabilization, downtown redevelopment, infrastructure repairs, quality of life issues, particularly addressing our young people and our seniors, and transparency. They are committed to proper downtown development and have been committed since 2014. Mayor's before her since 2000, have also been committed to downtown development and we are right now at the point of actually making something good happen for all of our residents by bringing ore life to our downtown and making our retail stores busier. The other thing that this downtown development will help them do is it will bring more affordable housing into the community. The Borough has an ordinance that requires that any new development offer 15% of their rental units as affordable units and 20% of their for sale units as affordable units. They are committed to affordable housing in Highland Park. She is making a personal commitment to an even better permanent public space. So many great things happen in the downtown. They are committed to public areas, maybe even more than one, and we are committed through investment. You will hear them later talk about a purchase that they are going to be making on South 3rd Avenue. They are committed to a traffic study so that they can ensure the flow of traffic works well for all the residents. She is committing this administration to put a resolution on a future agenda that expresses their commitment to a public square in Highland Park and what that will mean for all of the residents. They have an amazing team of professionals that have been working with them. They have a nationally renowned professional planner in Jim Constantine, one of New Jersey's best redevelopment attorneys in Joe Baumann. He is a great negotiator and skilled in dealing with developers. They have a CME Associates, a well-recognized engineering firm that will be conducting traffic studies as they move forward. She did not want to forget the Borough Administrator/Redevelopment Director Teri Jover who spent many years with New Jersey Future helping plan for New Jersey's future as a State. They are building on her experience in the State of New Jersey to help bring the right kind of development to Highland Park. As a community, they cannot sit still and do nothing as the rest of the world moves on beyond Highland Park. Change is hard, but change is good as it spurs creativity and new better beginnings.

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

Councilman Hale reported that on September 24th at the Farmer's Market there will be a squash muffin contest. He encouraged all of the Highland Park businesses to take advantage of an upcoming Main Street Highland Park advertising mailer. It is free to Main Street businesses and it is a great opportunity to reach over 5,000 local residents. Information about the mailer can be found on the Main Street Highland Park website. The New Jersey Economic Development Authority will be opening a new support fund called main street recovery fund which targets small and local businesses. Information is developing on that but you can look on njeda.com/mainstreetrecoveryfund. The town-wide garage sale will return to Highland Park on October 2nd and 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Information is available on the Borough website. He wanted to say a little bit about the redevelopment plan and process that they will be discussing tonight. As the Mayor mentioned, this has been a long process. Downtown redevelopment has been a fundamental goal of many previous Mayors and many previous Councils. Highland Park is the greatest town in New Jersey. We do have challenges in the area of redevelopment that many other towns do not face. We have lots of smaller, separately owned lots and properties that make new development difficult. We live on a major artery which serves as our main business district. Those are the cards we have been dealt, and we need to play them, because doing nothing is simply not an option. Like many other towns, our downtown is in trouble and it needs help. That help needs to come in the form of getting more people to live, to shop and to eat on Raritan Avenue. From day one of this redevelopment process, that has been the guiding principle and guiding goal. Get more people on Raritan Avenue 7 days a week, 365 days a year. That is goal number one. He believes that this plan is a great start toward achieving that goal. Achieving that goal

is not done in a vacuum. Throughout this long process, we have done our best to listen to and learn from stakeholders across Highland Park. We have taken that feedback and, yes, the criticism to heart and tried to shape a plan that accommodates the fundamental goal of bringing more residents, shoppers and diners to the businesses on Raritan Avenue, while at the same time making sure we maintain places and spaces for all of the great events and happenings that help bring Highland Park together. At the end of the day, this plan is about yes/and not either/or. Past redevelopment efforts have failed because we took an either/or approach. Either we assembled the perfect properties in the perfect sequence or nothing happened. He believes that the current plan is not an either/or plan. It is a yes/no approach. We are moving ahead with areas and properties that we have the greatest control over. That means that this plan is about new development and this plan is flexible enough to allow us to meet our common goals such as having outstanding public spaces, better transportation options and an even more walkable and desirable community. He also realizes that belief may not be universal so he wanted to point to some specific actions they have taken and will be taking tonight in the hopes that they can have both new development and great public spaces. The plan calls for an open public plaza on Tract C, one that will accommodate many of the current activities that go on there now; things like movie night, and Christmas tree and Menorah lightings. In addition, the current plan was modified from a contiguous structure to allow for multiple structures and increase the amount of publicly accessible space provided from the original plan. They believe this will highlight the walkability and open space aspects throughout Tract C. Additionally, he pointed out a few additional items and ideas that are on the agenda tonight that show their commitment to great public spaces, in particular, at South 3rd Avenue. They have started the process of acquiring the house at 32 South 3rd Avenue. This house sits adjacent to the small municipal owned parking lot on South 3rd Avenue and backs up to the Rite Aid parking lot. This acquisition has the potential to open up South 3rd Avenue in a number of exciting ways and they look forward to working with all stakeholders to decide how best to use this important acquisition and commitment to building a thriving and amazing public space on South 3rd Avenue. They are also approving a resolution to authorize a professional services agreement with CME Associates for engineering services related to a traffic study and NJDOT pre-application meeting for permanent closure of South 3rd Avenue at Raritan Avenue. They are also authorizing a different resolution hiring Level G as a parking and management consultant to help them identify various strategies for combining these new public spaces with the best parking and traffic options. He has talked with all of the Councilmembers and believes that they are united in the desire to support vibrant public spaces, stakeholders across the borough and new and exciting downtown redevelopment. He is hopeful that these actions show that this Mayor and this Council are committed to maintaining and increasing public use options and having significant downtown redevelopment.

Councilwoman Canavera reported that September is National Suicide Prevention Month, also known as Suicide Awareness Month. The month shines a spotlight on a topic not often talked about. On average, one person commits suicide every 16.2 minutes. One important way to prevent suicide is getting help. Beginning on September 15th and continuing through to October 15th, we recognize National Hispanic Heritage Month. During the four weeks, celebrations honor the heritage and contributions made by members of the Hispanic community. She encouraged residents to try some of the amazing Hispanic restaurants in town. The Human Relations Commission is working on some informative programming. The Board of Health wanted to remind everyone that Covid-19 is still an issue and to please follow social distancing and get vaccinated. Food insecurity is still high and we have two programs to help. The Community Food Pantry is open the second and fourth Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the Saturday following the Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Donations can be made using their Amazon wish list. The HP Gives a Hoot Food Pantry is open every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Donations can be made by mailing a check to Borough Hall with a memo that it is for HP Gives a Hoot. These two programs serve over 300 families. The Mental Health Commission wants everyone to remember anyone with a mental health crisis to please reach out for help Middlesex county crisis hotlines: Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care HOTLINE: (855) 515-5700 and Raritan Bay Medical Center HOTLINE: (732) 442-3794. Please reach out for help.

Councilman Hersh reported that he would never support any redevelopment effort that would threaten the farmer's market. He volunteers there and at the Outdoor Movie Theater. He knows how important these institutions are and particularly during and after Covid. We need more spaces that are public in our downtown to do the fantastic programming that occurs because of the hard work of Borough staff and volunteers. The essence of the farmers market, in my opinion, is the people. We are at a crossroads in our town and it is exciting. When his family moved here in 2008, they understood the downtown's potential. The downtown has gotten so much better over the years. There is more life, more activities, we are surviving the pandemic, and our retail vacancy rate is low. We have some amazing new shops and restaurants that draw local and regional clientele. We have two new industries coming to town in the form of e-scooters and cannabis retail and, as we very slowly emerge from the pandemic, there is a renewed interest in downtown Highland Park. It has been because of the amazing people that make this magic. Not necessarily because of surface parking lots. We have a chance to strengthen our downtown, create more jobs for in-town workers, create more homes for new neighbors, ease the traffic burden on our streets, create better bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and improve our economic health, which will have positive effects elsewhere, including in improving municipal services. These are not simply empty campaign promises. Highland Park is a destination. Each event we have, thanks to the hardworking staff at Main Street Highland Park, whether it's Arts in the Park, the Street Fair and Craft Show, the annual 5K, the Farmers' Market, the Outdoor Movie Theater, the American Repertory Ballet's "The Nutcracker," the Windows of Understanding, the holiday festivities, the town tables, vigils, protests, gatherings, and celebrations, we rely on very limited, damaged, and, yes, beloved public space to host them. This amendment to the redevelopment element of the Community Master Plan identifies four properties in town, three of which are owned by the Borough, as the leading properties in downtown redevelopment. They are, roughly, the old Bergen Auto, the public lot that houses the Farmer's Market and much, much more, the old Gun Shop, and the Blue Horse/adjacent parking lot property. This is an ambitious plan that carefully pieces together several properties as part of a comprehensive first step toward creating a downtown that is more pedestrian friendly, more bicycle friendly, more retail friendly, and one that could provide new homes

for new neighbors. There are some major concerns here that Main Street has made clear their preference is to stay on site, but they have said they will make it work no matter where. He thinks there needs to be buildings there (he did not run on a pro-asphalt platform) and he honestly does not know if staying on that site is possible if there are buildings there, even though there is room for smaller public spaces there that allow for additional existing programming. He has had extensive discussions with Main Street HP to solicit their stance on the planning parameters presented here outside of specifics regarding number of tables, square-footage, candle feet, etc. (that's not for this process) and they met with Jim Constantine and Joe Baumann since that planning board meeting and mapped out their position. There is room there for a plaza/square that could host performances, the movie theater, etc., but he agrees that we are going to have to go all in on South Third. Any new farmers market/public square space will have to be complete before shovels enter the ground at the farmers market lot -- fortunately, that's a few years away and the Borough will pass a resolution next month committing to updating the master plan for South Third. This could require additional property acquisition and we will discuss bonding for capital projects, etc. He made clear that point -- that we cannot move forward with any physical planning/development without clearly identifying and mapping out a new public plaza and there are several people on the council who are going to hold to that stance. He agrees that the programming that takes place there did feel like an afterthought, with casual references to open space throughout the report. He does not think programming is central to a master plan process. The flaw here was that there was no public space identified and I think that's been rectified -- the initial investment here is the property acquisition next to the municipal parking lot on South 3rd and this is why he is comfortable moving forward. He is also comfortable moving forward because while his preference is for the Farmers Market space to stay where it is, he thinks it is shortsighted and irresponsible to preemptively box out any building from happening there. The church wants to build housing. We need more public and subsidized housing for seniors, youth aging out of foster care, low- and moderate-income families, and more. There could be opportunities that very much serve the public good and he does not want to remove those options before we know what is on the table. He really believes this is our shot. He disagrees that our legacy is privatization of an asphalt lot. Nor is this a blank check to the developers. This site and others could already be developed into buildings with the zoning in place. What this plan does, however, is unhinge us (slightly) from being hamstrung by parking requirements and puts into place better design standards than were there previously. This master plan process does not make these properties any more or less developable; it makes the properties more contextually sound and allows for flexibility, and being nimble is something we should always strive for in government, while sticking to our principles and what the community feels is best for the downtown.

Councilwoman Foster reported that the Fire Department will be hiring a new full-time firefighter for daytime hours and they will be hiring two part-time firefighters. The Police Department is looking for dispatchers and crossing guards. Information on those positions can be found on the Highland Park Police Department website. She thanked the Office of Emergency Management for the tireless work that they did during the storm and the rescues that they made and the housing that they tried to find for folks. She specifically thanked Jim Polos and the CERT team as well as the Police Department, Fire Department and First Aid Squad for all of their efforts. She thanked everyone who attended the September 11th remembrance at the community center to commemorate the 20th anniversary. The Zone 6 girls program, Flawless Performance, was acknowledged in a program they participated in called 24 hours of peace. She thanked all the families that came out to be coaches and help to support the Zone 6 programs. She thanked Ashton Burrell for his leadership.

Councilman George reported that the Department of Public Works is working on the removal of storm-damaged items. The dumpster at Public Works was filled right away, and they began pickups on Monday Morning. They have been on the North Side yesterday and today and will be back and expect to finish the North side tomorrow and then start the South side on Thursday. Recycling is cancelled this week in order to allow the Public Works crews and trucks to work on the post-IDA cleanup. There are many towns also doing the same storm cleanup and the resulting delays and long lines at solid waste landfills and recycling are causing hours-long delays. We have 3 trucks working, but while we can do the pickups quickly, turnaround is very slow because of waiting on long lines to turn the trucks around. He asked residents to be patient. You have probably seen the tree trimming along Raritan Avenue by NJ Tree Society. They are completing the work under the contract with the Borough and Public Works is satisfied with the progress so far. Both the Environmental Commission and Sustainable Highland Park have been interested in EV's and accommodating EV charging and parking. The State in July enacted a statute requiring the Department of Community Affairs to adopt a model ordinance, which requires municipalities provide charging stations and EV Parking at charging stations, which has just become law. The model ordinance governs EV charging, called "EVSE" or "Electric Vehicle Supply/Service Equipment" and makes charging facilities a permitted accessory use, and requires future development to provide EV parking and charging. We will have more information on this important ordinance in the near future. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee has recommended that the Borough study the street tree-planting program for 2022 for possible changes or adjustments, and the Public Works Committee will be taking this up at its next meeting. One of the points is whether the Borough's tree planting should allow people to opt in or opt out of street tree planting, and Public Works will be looking at the size of the project for planting in the spring.

Borough Administrator Jover reported that the roads that were dug up during the PSE&G gas line replacement program would start being milled so that they can be repaved. The Borough will finally be kicking off the implementation of both the 2016 and 2018 safe routes to school grant programs. These are ADA accessible curb ramps around neighborhoods near schools in town. This was a project that Councilwoman Welkovits was working on with the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee. She referenced the FEMA website – [disasterassistance.gov](https://www.fema.gov) and the 800 number – 1-800-621-3362. There is a disaster recovery center with FEMA at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. They are open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No report.

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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.

Mary Forsberg, Denison Street, commented about the master plan and noted that the redevelopment is inconsistent with the master plan because it would allow more massive buildings, a parking garage and enclose South 3rd Avenue to accommodate the Farmer's Market. None of those things were included in the master plan adopted a year ago. She also commented about the flooding from Hurricane Ida. Highland Park's infrastructure is insufficient for what already exists and cannot handle additional development. She also commented about them purchasing house on South 3rd and hiring a firm to figure out how to close South 3rd Avenue permanently.

Peter Spool, 146 Graham Street, asked about the purchase of a police utility interceptor, why it is being leased and why the cost is so high. Borough Administrator Jover explained that the Borough utilizes a program through the Middlesex County Improvement Authority to obtain vehicles. They are getting multiple vehicles and the cost includes the lighting, sirens, etc. to outfit the vehicles.

Anna Haley, 135 North 5th Avenue, expressed appreciation for the continued zoom meetings. She also expressed appreciation for the Borough's Covid testing. It is incredibly efficient, well run and miraculously fast. Lastly, she noted the tremendous responsiveness of the Borough government to the storm and their response to the bulk trash issue.

Rob Roselewicz, 123 Magnolia Street, asked why the town is considering the purchase of 23 South 3rd Avenue and wondered if those funds could be used in different ways. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that this goes back two decades when the town was first trying to make Highland Park more pedestrian safe for walk walking/cycling on Raritan Avenue. Back then, the Council wanted to connect the parking lots behind the buildings on Raritan Avenue so that cars would not be going in and out of lots along Raritan Avenue. The house they plan to purchase is right next to the municipal parking lot and is a critical piece to making that happen. They have the opportunity make our streets safe by connecting our parking lots and using that piece of property to better the public space that we currently have.

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

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

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

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

On motion made by Councilwoman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 21-2028, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

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. 9-21-211

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the 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, passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his 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 East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

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

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

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

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

On motion made by Councilwoman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 21-2029, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

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. 9-21-212

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the 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, passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his 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 East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported advertising 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, 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 Councilman Hersh, 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.

Dan Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented that this redevelopment plan incorporates the best practices for towns like Highland Park. It is well thought out, has tons of input and feedback from the community throughout the process, and it is exactly the kind of framework that would be a positive development for Highland Park. We should welcome with open arms anybody who wants to move here and Highland Park should be affordable. This plan will help address the housing shortage and affordability crisis.

Alexis Thomason, 455 Exeter Street, commented that she is the author of the petition to "Save the Highland Park Farmer's Market" that was sent to the Mayor and Council. She read the petition into the record.

Jennifer Chapman, 123 Magnolia Street, commented about the market lots on the plan that are referred to as tract C. She has spoken to a lot of people in town and they said that the stuff that goes on at the farmer's market lot is a downtown amenity. Highland Park has one of the best farmer's markets in the State. The Council should beautify the space that works now and has improved in its functionality. There are a lot of activities that go on there that would be displaced. The newly dedicated Welkovits pavilion is used extensively. She does not think the proposed courtyard is inclusive and that any Councilperson who votes to privatize the downtown public space will have this as their legacy.

Alvin Chin, 31 South 3rd Avenue, commented that he lives two doors away from the municipal parking lot. He is irritated that people have claimed online and in public meetings that residents of South 3rd Avenue near the proposed project are opposed to making the town tables permanent. He chose his home based on its location and because Highland Park is a walkable community. He is in favor of this to improve pedestrian safety in the area. There needs to be a commitment to improving any future site for the farmer's market and the rest of Main Street.

Anna Haley, 135 North 5th Avenue, commented that she is excited about the plan and feels that there is a deep commitment to maintaining public and community spaces. She does not share the sense that the current location is a viable town square. She does not find it particularly accessible, particularly by car. Due to the extensive pushback, it should be taken as a signal that even more communication, engagement and input is needed. She thinks they have the potential to make that lighted giant parking area something that looks very attractive for the residents on Denison Street that centralizes parking.

Randall Solomon, 331 Felton Avenue, commented that he is in support of redevelopment in Highland Park. Other towns in New Jersey are seeing a boon and a renaissance and Highland Park has been behind the curve in getting on the redevelopment train. We have been talking about it for twenty years. Redevelopment does many things including lowering taxes, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, creating better quality of life and a safer pedestrian space and raises property values. He agreed with comments of others about the town square and noted that they need something that we will be proud of in 100 years.

Grazina Strolia, 24 Redcliffe Avenue, commented that she is a member of the Historic Commission. The Council should be careful in redevelopment so that they incorporate those structures that are historically interesting so that we are not a cookie cutter community. She is also a member of the Highland Park Community Chorus and tract C is not just an open space, it is used for many community events and its location near the Reformed Church is beneficial. The Community Chorus members rely on the parking lot there, as many of the members are elderly. Losing that space will affect where and how they can have concerts. You need a space that is not only as large as the farmer's market but has access to public restrooms.

Dmitri Chizik, 421 Cedar Avenue, commented that he is surprised that the traffic study for 3rd Avenue will be done after the decision was made to close it. Blocking a street will cause cars to race along other blocks. He asked if the traffic study showed that traffic would be worse with the closure, if they would alter their decision. Borough Administrator Jover clarified that the traffic study being done was requested by the NJ Department of Transportation as part of their permanent application to close South 3rd.

Jim Nichols, Main Street Highland Park President, commented that Main Street has been working hard with the Borough on this since December. They have reduced their position to five bullet points. (1) They are strongly pro-development and they want development done right and have worked to provide input on all aspects of the initial Redevelopment Plan. (2) They have real concerns about the proposed full buildout of Tract C, the site of the highly successful Farmers Market, live downtown events including arts and craft markets, holiday celebrations, outdoor movies, live theater and music performances and many other activities. The site also houses the Welkovits Pavilion and is a heavily used seating area. (3) They have worked hard to collaborate with the Borough to show possibilities for public space in a number of alternative downtown locations for the Farmers Market and the rest of the "Borough Square" downtown activities now housed at the Welkovits Pavilion. (4) None of the alternative options is ideal. They will all present challenges to the current downtown activities and their potential for growth, and consequently present challenges to the vitality of Raritan Avenue and the existing and future businesses. (5) For all of the above reasons, they believe that Tract C should only be redeveloped when a comprehensive scheme for sustaining and growing all of the downtown public space activities and programming is securely in place.

Rob Scott, 25 South 2nd Avenue, commented that he would like to see them put a pause on Tract C in the redevelopment plan. He emphasized the importance of public space in the town and noted that his children recently visited the farmers market and the library stand where they picked up a few books and they met some of their neighbors.

Judy Eng, 14 North 2nd Avenue, commented about the gun and boat shop location. She referenced the International Food Market location and the lack of adequate parking. Developer of that location was supposed to purchase parking and that has never happened and there is no enforcement of that. She also commented about the intersection of North 2nd and Denison and the issue with cars getting stuck heading to Raritan Avenue when it snows. The International Market already blocks the sun on one side of her property and she is concerned that another building would totally block her property from sunlight.

Elizabeth McCandlish, 262 Lincoln Avenue, asked if there was an updated version of the plan that does not include a parking garage on North 3rd Avenue. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the plan does include a parking garage on North 3rd Avenue. Ms. McCandlish asked about connecting the parking lots behind Rite Aid. She thinks it is a good idea to try and deal with those parking lots as it has been needed for a long time. She asked when they develop lot C how they plan to ensure that the developer makes it affordable, as a path and has a public square that is useful. Redevelopment Attorney Baumann noted that the benefits of a redevelopment plan in the redevelopment area is that they will have a redevelopment agreement, which is a contract between the Borough and the developer were they will be able to contractually bind the redeveloper to conditions of approval.

Lois Lebbing, North 2nd Avenue, commented that Hurricane Ida has shown that the redevelopment infrastructure is insufficient. She asked how many buildings would be built this time. She does not see enlargement of the sanitary or storm water system. She asked when the current system would be brought into the 21st century. She also commented about the parking at the International Food Market and the lack of parking in her neighborhood.

Alan Silver, South 3rd Avenue, commented that he is opposed to the redevelopment plan, as it exists. He was not aware that the town was planning to permanently close South 3rd Avenue and spoke to others in his neighborhood and they were not aware of what the town was planning to do and were upset to hear about the permanent closure. He does not think it is fair to the residents on South 3rd Avenue to permanently close the street and he does not think it is appropriate to vote on this plan tonight, as they did not receive proper notice about this matter. He is concerned about safety, traffic, and access for emergency vehicles. Mayor Brill Mittler asked Mr. Silver to contact her office and set up an appointment with her and the Borough Administrator to discuss this matter.

Christine Lutz commented that she wanted to back up the points made by Jenny, Jim, Rob and some others. She is pro redevelopment, but she is disappointed that the Borough is looking to sell off such an incredible public space. There is a chance to beautify this space and she thinks it is an incredible space and is more accessible than the potential South 3rd Avenue space for the farmer's market. She commented about the amazing events that are held at that space such as the outdoor movie theater and concerts.

Frank Bridges commented that Jim Nichols summed up what he wanted to say. He is not anti-development but has put his personal social capital over the past 10 years into the farmer's market and helped to make it a real jewel. He thinks they have something fun, funky and weird and it is great for the community and sets the Borough apart from other places and he wants to make sure that we keep that. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she agrees with him about the funkiness of the Borough and for making sure that we wind up having a town square that will be something that we will be really proud of.

Andrew Zappo, 131 Johnson Street, asked about Tract A and the Ubry's property. He mentioned a sign in the window that refers to eminent domain. He spoke to the owner today about tonight's meeting and was surprised the he did not know the meeting was happening. Property owners that would be affected by this development plan should be ensured to be invited to this type of discussion so that they can speak. Redevelopment Attorney Baumann noted that Mr. Ubry and his attorney are aware that his property is not under the threat of condemnation. They have written him letters and explained it to them over the phone. Mr. Zappo noted that Mr. Ubry indicated he wanted something in writing to ensure that he was protected.

Redevelopment Attorney Baumann noted that he already has something in writing. Mr. Zappo commented about the intrusion of public events for the neighbor that live on South 3rd Avenue.

Rob Roslewicz, 123 Magnolia Street, commented that if they are going to pass a resolution about South 3rd Avenue at the next meeting, they need to table this ordinance, pass the resolution and put it into the plan. You have members of the public upset about the plan and the current closure and now are proposing to take public land and parcel it off and exchange it for land that the town does not own. There is still room to develop Tract C, preserve the farmer's market, and improve it.

Laurel Kornfeld, 106 North 6th Avenue, commented that they should make the current farmer's market site funkier. She signed the petition to keep it at its current location. It functions as a great town square and it can be made better. There is also a memorial pavilion there for Susie Welkovits that means a lot to people in town. She asked if the farmer's market participants have been told about this plan and asked for their input. The word about this plan does not seem to have gotten out publicly as there are many business owners on Raritan Avenue that do not know anything about it or just found out about it. She is opposed to the parking deck and asking residents to park there and walk to New Brunswick during extreme weather conditions is not feasible.

Pam Dorman, 423 South 5th Avenue, commented that what is being voted on today is the possibility of selling part of the tract where the farmer's market is. She believes that when developers purchase under the redevelopment plan there is some incentive for them and the Borough would not be getting the same amount of property taxes. She is concerned about the infrastructure for additional housing in terms of the sewer system.

Zev Strupinsky, 512 South 3rd Avenue, commented that he wanted to echo what Alan Silver said and noted that he is deeply opposed to the closing of South 3rd Avenue. The closure of the road increases the amount of time it takes to drive his children back and forth to school. Many residents have no idea about the details of the plan and he thinks the Borough has an obligation to email every resident with a detailed description of the plan. He also believes that there should be public voting on this plan before the Council votes.

David Hughes, 330 South 3rd Avenue, commented that he lives on the street, which seems to be in dispute and disagreed with the comments of Mr. Silver and Mr. Strupinsky. He is happy with the temporary public space and thinks it is more open than it was before and you can safely walk through it. He trusts the Council to make the right decision with respect to South 3rd Avenue, but is disappointed that they have not made the decision yet. There is nothing in hand to replace the current farmer's market space and we could wind up with nothing. The Council has been putting the cart before the horse and they should acquire the land, do the traffic study, get the permission of the DOT, and get the replacement public space in hand before they do anything to the farmer's market. Redevelopment Attorney Baumann noted that they are setting the zoning for these parcels. They do not have any developers in mind and they intend to identify, vet and have an open space before they remove the existing open space.

Nathalie Levine, 1625 Parker Road, commented that she grew up in Princeton and works in the Library next to the plaza that people have mentioned. She has shopped at the farmer's market and that space is an amazing public space. The difference between the Princeton redevelopment plan and this redevelopment plan is that they created public space, which this plan does not. The farmer's market lot functions as the community town square and she does not think it can be moved to another space. She echoed the other comments about wanting to have the Borough Council's commitment to the relocation before this redevelopment plan is adopted. The reason she moved to Highland Park was because she saw this as a community that values public space and community space and she has heard those values reflected in the comments of a lot of neighbors here tonight and she hopes that this redevelopment plan goes forward and that they will continue to act according to the values of this community.

Harold Sackowitz, 617 South 5th Avenue, asked if there would be an analysis of the potential financial burden that the parking deck would have. It sounds like the borough will be paying for part of it. He was surprised to hear that parking decks cost approximately \$20,000-\$25,000 per space and that is a sizable investment. The parking deck is not intended to serve the current residents, out of town visitors or shoppers; it is intended to subsidize parking for the new residents. Redevelopment Attorney Baumann noted that at the appropriate time, there will be a fully study before they make any final decisions on the parking deck and they will use whatever tools to identify sources of income to manage the cost of the parking deck.

Mary Forsberg, 317 Denison Street, commented that she is concerned about Tract C and the farmer's market. She is also concerned about finances as she is someone who lives on Denison Street and pays higher than average property taxes. She is concerned about the effect of this redevelopment on property taxes and referenced 31 River Road as an example of what the town might expect. Parking garages do not pay for themselves and developers are not going to subsidize the costs. The town will put in meters and residents will be paying fines just like Princeton. Every time the town buys property it comes off the tax rolls and the town is losing thousands of dollars in property taxes. The six million dollars they are using for redevelopment could go a long way in making Tract C more attractive and the sewer system could be fixed so that residents would not get flooded basements.

Alvin Chin, South 3rd Avenue, commented about the parking consultant and noted that Gerard Giosa is good. He noted that he does not like when people that everyone on South 3rd Avenue does not like the road being closed. He is close to the town tables and he is fine with it.

Judy Eng, North 2nd Avenue, commented that she feels that the streets are for vehicles and the sidewalks are for walking.

Borough Attorney Schmierer read email from Marc Liebeskind that was sent to the Municipal Clerk's office on September 14, 2021.

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 Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 21-2030, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

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

No. 9-21-213

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the 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, 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 Council took a recess at 10:02 PM and reconvened at 10:14 PM will all members previously in attendance still present.

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

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

Borough Administrator Jover explained that ordinance needed to be amended. She noted that the last whereas clause models after the Sustainable Jersey action that we are going to try to achieve a minimum of 10 above the prevailing New Jersey renewable energy portfolio standard. They would like to add that language in section 84, 3C.

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.

Charlie Kratovil, Food and Water Watch, commented that they are disappointed with the language in this ordinance and asked them to not adopt this ordinance

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 Hale, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 21-2031, was duly adopted, as amended, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

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

No. 9-21-214

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 84, ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM, 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 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”, for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

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

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

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

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 21-2032, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

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

No. 9-21-215

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 328 CONCERNING MUNICIPAL WATER METER OF THE “CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK”, 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 following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh.
 Opposed: None.
 Abstain: None.
 Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

No. 9-21-216

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey desires to amend the 2021 Capital Budget of said municipality by inserting thereon the items therein as shown in such budget, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. The 2021 Capital Budget of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey is hereby amended by adding thereto a Schedule to read as follows:

AMEND THE				
CAPITAL BUDGET OF THE				
BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY				
Projects Schedules for 2021				
Method of Financing				
<u>Project</u>	<u>Est.</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Grants</u>
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Approp.</u>	<u>Imp. Fund</u>	<u>In Aid</u>
Public Safety Equipment	\$250,000.00		\$250,000.00	

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ON-STREET PARKING REGULATIONS FOR RESIDENCES OCCUPIED BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, had been introduced in writing by the Public Safety Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh.
 Opposed: None.
 Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

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

No. 9-21-217

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ON-STREET PARKING REGULATIONS FOR RESIDENCES OCCUPIED BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND AMENDING 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, October 5, 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, **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH DAVID R. TAWIL AND YEHUDITH TAWIL TO ACQUIRE BLOCK 3001, LOT 7 ON THE TAX MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK**, 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.
 Opposed: None.
 Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

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. 9-21-218

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, **ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH DAVID R. TAWIL AND YEHUDITH TAWIL TO**

ACQUIRE BLOCK 3001, LOT 7 ON THE TAX MAP 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, October 5, 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, **CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY RADIO CONSOLES AND PORTABLE RADIOS, APPROPRIATING \$250,000.00 THEREFOR, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**, had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

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

No. 9-21-219

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, **CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY RADIO CONSOLES AND PORTABLE RADIOS, APPROPRIATING \$250,000.00 THEREFOR, AUTHORIZED IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**; 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 October 5, 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.

On motion made by Councilman Hersh, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, Resolution No. 9-21-228 was tabled from consideration.

Resolution Nos. 9-21-221 through 9-21-239, except Resolution No. 9-21-228, were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hersh, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

Abstained: None.

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

No. 9-21-221

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Police Department compressor needs to be replaced; and WHEREAS, quotes were solicited for said replacement and two (2) quotes were received as follows:

East Coast Mechanical Contractors Inc.	\$10,380.00
Lightning Mechanical, LLC	No response
All County Mechanical	No response

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

WHEREAS, funds shall be made available for this purpose in Account No. 1-01-26-310-232 in the amount of \$10,380.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Superintendent of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for the replacement of the HVAC compressor from East Coast Mechanical Contractors Inc., Farmingdale, NJ, at a total cost of \$10,380.00.

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

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

No. 9-21-222

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2020 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk as per the requirements of N.J.S. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body, and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey is authorized to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs, as per R.S. 52:27BB-34, and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled:

- General Comments
- Recommendations

and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled:

- General Comments
- Recommendations

as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body, and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, as per the regulations of the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the promulgations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52 - to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52 - "A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Borough of Highland Park, hereby states that it has complied with the promulgation of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey dated July 30, 1968 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution, and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

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

No. 9-21-223

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a Place-to-Place Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 1207-32-008-013, currently inactive, issued to Four W Properties, LLC for premises located at 425-427 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park, NJ; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has disclosed and the issuing authority reviewed the source of all funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the licensed business;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park does hereby approve, effective September 14, 2021, the Place-to-Place transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Retail Consumption License to Four W Properties, LLC, for premises located at 425-427 Avenue, Highland Park, NJ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said Borough Council does hereby direct the Borough Clerk to endorse the License Certificate as follows: "This license, subject to all of its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to "Four W Properties, LLC for premises located at 425-427 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park, NJ effective September 14, 2021."

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

No. 9-21-224

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of an engineer to provide engineering services in connection with Traffic Study and NJDOT Pre-Application Meeting for Permanent Closure of South 3rd Avenue at Raritan Avenue (NJ Route 27), 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

REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

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. 1-01-20-170-233 in an amount not to exceed \$9,979.00, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer, shown below; and

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

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

No. 9-21-225

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is the owner of certain surplus property which is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council is desirous of selling said surplus property in an “as is” condition without express or implied warranties.

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

- (1) The sale of the surplus property shall be conducted through GovDeals pursuant to State Contract A-70967/T2581 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Contract. The terms and conditions of the agreement entered into with GovDeals are available online at www.govdeals.com and also available from the Borough Clerk’s Office in the Borough of Highland Park.
- (2) The sale will be conducted online and the address of the auction site is www.govdeals.com.
- (3) The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-9.
- (4) A list of the surplus property to be sold is attached to the original of this resolution.
- (5) The surplus property as identified shall be sold in an “as-is” condition without express or implied warranties with the successful bidder required to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement concerning use of said surplus property.
- (6) The Borough of Highland Park reserves the right to accept or reject any bid submitted.

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

No. 9-21-226

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park was awarded \$250,000 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for the 2018 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park was included in the NJDOT’s design assistance program, whereby the costs related to engineering and design for the 2018 SRTS project are fully reimbursable up to \$400,000; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park selected NV5 as its preferred consultant for the 2018 SRTS project from a pool of engineering design consultants established by NJDOT through a quality-based selection process; 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, NV5 is a full service professional and technical engineering firm in the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in providing these services; and

WHEREAS, NV5 provided a proposal for design services for the 2018 SRTS project dated December 20, 2020 that was approved by NJDOT; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account Numbers C-04-55-826-001 and C-04-55-821-001 in an amount of \$321,585.70, as reflected by the Certification of Funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for professional services with NV5, 7 Campus Drive, Suite 300, Parsippany, NJ 07054, a proposed copy of which is attached to the original of this resolution, and that notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

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

No. 9-21-227

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 6-21-144 adopted by the Borough Council on June 1, 2021, Bartlett Tree Experts, Piscataway, NJ was awarded the 2021 street tree watering contract; and

WHEREAS, a Blanket Purchase Order was generated, Purchase Order No. 21-00883 in the amount of \$15,000.00; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to increase the Blanket Purchase Order by \$5,000.00 to accurately reflect the total project costs; and

WHEREAS, funds for this additional increase are available the amount of \$5,000.00 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. 21-00883 be increased from \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00.

REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

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 Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 9-21-229

WHEREAS, "The Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act," P.L. 1999, c. 23 ("EDECA") authorizes the New Jersey School Boards' Association ("NJSBA" or "Lead Agency") to obtain electricity and other energy-related services for local boards of education and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, NJSBA has formed the Alliance for a Competitive Energy Services, hereinafter referred to as "ACES," a Cooperative Pricing System (E88-01-ACESCPS) to effectively obtain electricity and other energy-related services for its members; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40a:11-10(b) authorizes municipalities to enter into cooperative pricing agreements; and

WHEREAS, ACES, has offered voluntary participation in a cooperative pricing system for the energy-related services to municipalities and counties; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park ("Participant") is a current participant in the ACES Cooperative Pricing System;

WHEREAS, NJSBA and the New Jersey Association of School Administrators ("NJASA") has created, and is also offering, the ACESplus Program, which is designed to assist participating government entities with the evaluation and implementation of certain energy related programs;

WHEREAS, as a member of ACES, Highland Park desires to participate in the ACESplus Program for the purpose of designing a TCDER Microgrid as a part of the NJBPU's Microgrid Design Incentive Program; and,

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

1. This resolution shall be known and may be cited as the "ACES Cooperative Pricing and ACESplus Program Resolution for TCDER Microgrid Design Services."
2. Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-10(b), the Mayor and Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park are hereby authorized and directed to use the ACES Cooperative Pricing System Agreement and accept and execute a proposal from Gabel Associates which will be kept on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.
3. Teri Jover, Administrator, or her designee is hereby authorized and directed to work with the Lead Agency, via its professional energy consultant Gabel Associates for the Participant under the ACESplus Program, as authorized by, and in accordance with the requirements of, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.6 and 4.1), EDECA and the Proposal.
4. The New Jersey School Boards Association, through ACES and its professional energy consultant, shall be responsible for complying with the "Local Public Contracts Law," N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1.1 *et seq.* and all other applicable laws in connection with the preparation, bidding, negotiation and execution of contracts in connection with the ACES Cooperative Pricing System and the ACESplus Program.

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

No. 9-21-230

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

Jason Postelnik

September 1, 2026

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

No. 9-21-231

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 7-21-179, adopted by the Borough Council on July 6, 2021, a contract was awarded to JADS Construction Company, Inc. of South River, NJ, for the resurfacing and reconstruction of South Sixth Avenue between Magnolia Street and Benner Street, South Ninth Avenue between Eden Avenue and Graham Street, North Ninth Avenue between Raritan Avenue and Abbott Street, Benner Street between South Seventh Avenue and South Ninth Avenue, Cliff Court, Lincoln Avenue between Lawrence Avenue and North Fifth Avenue, and Barnard Street between Central Avenue and Woodbridge Avenue; and

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 1, filed by CME Associates, that certain work under said contract has been completed and approved and there is due to JADS Construction Company, Inc. the sum of \$177,464.70 in accordance with said Pay Estimate for work performed from July 20, 2021 to August 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account Nos. C-04-55-821-001 and C-04-55-824-001 in the amount of \$177,464.70, 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 Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized and directed to pay JADS Construction Company, Inc. the sum of \$177,464.70, as certified by the Engineer in Pay Estimate No. 1, subject to the Clerk's receipt of the Certified Payroll and Project Manning Reports; and

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

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

No. 9-21-232

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:

REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

KIMBERLY MCGRAW, Recreation Coordinator, at an annual salary of \$60,000.00, effective September 15, 2021.

JUSTIN IMMORDINO, Firefighter, at an annual salary of \$42,000.00, effective October 1, 2021.

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

SALVATORE GEORGIANNA, Part-time Firefighter, at an hourly rate of \$21.36, effective October 1, 2021.

WILLIAM BLANCHFIELD, Part-time Firefighter, at an hourly rate of \$21.36, effective October 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Finance Director be and is hereby directed to make the necessary changes in the payroll records of the Finance Department in accordance with the changes established by this resolution.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 9-21-233

WHEREAS, the Transfiguration of the Lord, Inc. has made application to the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park for a license to hold, operate and conduct a 50/50 Off-Premises Raffle in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law (NSJA 5:8-50 to 76), on November 21, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has made or caused to be made an investigation of the qualifications of said applicant and the merits of said application and have determined that said applicant is qualified to hold, operate and conduct Raffles in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law and the findings set forth in the attached Form 5A of the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue a license to the Transfiguration of the Lord, Inc., for the holding, operation and conduct of a raffle on the above date upon payment of a legal fee therefor, subject to the provisions of the Raffles Licensing Law and the rules, regulations and amendments thereto promulgated by said Control Commission.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 9-21-234

WHEREAS, Hector Avila, the owner of 446 Harrison Avenue, Block 202, Lot 3 has applied for 100% permanently and totally disabled veteran status; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has reviewed the documentation and application and has granted this exemption for this property as of August 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector as calculated the amount of taxes to be canceled as of 8/2/2021 for the balance of the 2021 tax year detailed as shown below:

Owner	Property Location	Block	Lot	Quarter	Amount
Avila, Hector	446 Harrison Avenue	202	3	3Q-2021	\$ 4,145.67
Avila, Hector	446 Harrison Avenue	202	3	4Q-2021	\$ 6,464.25
TOTAL					\$10,609.92

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel the amount of \$10,609.92 from the records for the tax year 2021 due to a 100% Permanently and Totally Disabled Veteran status.

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

No. 9-21-235

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 8-21-202, adopted by the Borough Council on August 3, 2021, authorized the award of an Agreement to THA Consulting, Inc. for Parking Consultant Services; and

WHEREAS, the Borough chooses to rescind said agreement that was awarded to THA Consulting, Inc.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Resolution No. 8-21-202 shall be and is hereby rescinded.

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

No. 9-21-236

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, the Borough desires to award a contract to Level G Associates located at 34 Lark Avenue, Old Bethpage, NY, in the amount not to exceed \$35,000.00; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4, adequate funds are available for the provision of these services by Level G Associates 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.

REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

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 Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 9-21-237

WHEREAS, 4K's Cars LLC (Randy Shutz) has filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for an Owners License to operate taxicabs in this Borough under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such licenses for the year 2021; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Council hereby determined that said applicants are qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of such License.

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 9-21-238

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

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

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

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 9-21-239

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 9/14/2021 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 41.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

No. 9-21-240

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the 2021 budget in the sum of \$10,000.00, which is now available from the County of Middlesex Information and Assistance Grant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$10,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Middlesex County Information and Assistance Grant.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Eric Gonzalez to serve as a Regular Member of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

Mayor Brill Mittler confirmed the appointments of Montgomery Drape and Jose Solis to the rolls of the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilwoman Kim-Chohan.

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.

Dan Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, thanked the Governing Body for their work on the redevelopment plan and the cannabis ordinance.

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

REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Work Session:

League of Municipalities Conference – Borough Clerk Hullings updated the Governing Body about the League Conference. She needs to know by the end of the week who will be attending so that she can make amendments to the reservations that were made and to do pre-registration for the conference.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Canavera, seconded by Councilwoman Foster, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk