

ADJOURNED MEETING – JANUARY 4, 2022

An Adjourned Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 6:35 PM. Notice of this meeting via zoom was faxed to The Home News Tribune and emailed to The Star Ledger and the Highland Park Planet on December 31, 2021 and was posted on the Borough website at www.hpboro.com and on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ on December 31, 2021 and has remained continuously posted as required by law.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler; Councilpersons, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan; Deputy Borough Clerk Santiago; Borough Administrator Jover; Borough Attorney Schmierer.
Absent: Councilperson Canavera.

Consent Agenda Resolution Nos. 1-22-318-1-22-321 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:
Ayes: Councilpersons Foster, George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan.
Opposed: None.
Absent: Councilperson Canavera.
Abstained: None.

The following resolution, introduced by Public Works & Public Works Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-22-318

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Department of Public Works has a need to make repairs to DPW Vehicle #18 as more fully described on the attached Purchase Order; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 1-01-26-315-232 in the amount of \$8,309.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Superintendent of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for said repairs from Cambria Companies, PO Box 51061, Newark, NJ 07101-5161, at a total price of \$8,309.00; and

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

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

No. 1-22-319

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133, the Borough of Highland Park is required to appoint a municipal clerk to carry out the duties set forth in the aforementioned statute within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's former municipal clerk retired as of December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133.a provides for the municipal clerk to be appointed by the governing body for a three-year term and to hold a registered municipal clerk certificate issued pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133.4; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Santiago has served the Borough as Deputy Municipal Clerk and now holds a registered municipal clerk certificate; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park desire to appoint Jennifer Santiago as Municipal Clerk for a three-year term commencing on January 1, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Jennifer Santiago be and is hereby appointed as Municipal Clerk for the Borough of Highland Park for a three-year term commencing on January 1, 2022 and expiring on December 31, 2024.

The following resolution, Mask Mandate, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-22-320

WHEREAS, the Omicron variant of COVID-19 has a very high rate of spreading through the population, and

WHEREAS, cases of confirmed Omicron infection are rising nationwide through New Jersey and Middlesex County; and

WHEREAS, local hospitals are at capacity, putting residents with non-COVID related medical emergencies at risk; and

WHEREAS, the Borough seeks to take action to mitigate and combat the spread of COVID-19 and its variants; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to accomplish said mitigation without negatively impacting businesses and residents in their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, there are known effective ways of combating the spread of COVID-19 and its variants;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAYLE BRILL MITTLER, Mayor of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, by the virtue of the authority provided in Executive Order No. 242, do hereby mandate the following requirements:

1. Effective December 31, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., all persons within the Borough of Highland Park shall wear a mask at all times while indoors at any public accommodation, including, but not limited to, while attending religious services, while in a public commercial establishments of any kind, or while in public retail establishment of any kind.
2. This Mandate shall be in effect until January 31, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.

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

No. 1-22-321

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

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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 1/4/2022 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 41.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes and the discussion will end at 6:50 PM.

Mary Botteon, 709 Madison Avenue, commented she wanted to follow up on some emails that were sent before the holiday which she has not received an answer on. She also commented about a year ago we received some info on a maker's alley for Highland Park, and was wondering what follow up has been done on that and other non-marijuana related industries. Councilman Hale responded he believes Mary is talking about the Neighborhood Preservation Program on Woodbridge Avenue; initially there was a discussion of that being a maker's alley. There has been a number meetings with businesses owners and residents of Woodbridge Avenue and a pretty extensive survey of all residents was conducted. We received over 450 responses about what the vision/goal of Woodbridge Avenue should be, and received fantastic feedback about what people want to see. We will be putting a draft plan together; revitalizing Woodbridge Avenue will be an exciting project that we have working on for a several months and we are in the process of moving that forward.

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

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Borough Clerk