

REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 18, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:00 PM. Annual Notice of this meeting was provided to The Home News Tribune, the Star Ledger and the Highland Park Planet on January 5, 2022. In addition, notice of this meeting via zoom was faxed to The Home News Tribune and emailed to The Star Ledger and the Highland Park Planet on January 14, 2022 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 January 14, 2022 and has remained continuously posted as required by law.

Mayor Brill Mittler administered the Oath of Office and Allegiance to Councilperson-elect Canavera who was unable to attend the reorganization meeting.

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

Absent: Councilman George, Councilwoman Kim-Chohan.

Confirmation on the election of Volunteer Fire Chief-Michael “Mordy” Gershan, was approved on motion made by Councilwoman Foster, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, Hale, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilman George, Councilwoman Kim-Chohan

Mayor Brill Mittler administered the Oath of Office and Allegiance to new Volunteer Fire Chief Michael “Mordy” Gershen.

Mayor Brill Mittler read a proclamation for Retiring Library Board Members, Bruce Tucker and Lisa Goldberg.

Mayor Brill Mittler asked Borough Administrator Jover to present her report.

Borough Administrator Jover reported since we have had a stretch of cold weather, we are offering our code blue emergency sheltering services. Similar to last year, we partnered with the reformed church to revive this overnight shelter. There are space constraints, this is not a walk-in shelter. If you or someone you know is in need of shelter, it's done by appointment and you need to call the police non-emergency line at (732) 572-3800 and they will make arrangements. This has been up and running since the first code blue was called in mid-November. Many of you will remember Councilwoman Welkovits was a big advocate for our safe routes to school program. We received two grants in 2016 and 2018 which are federal funds administered through the NJDOT. This is something our Safe Walking and Cycling Committee have worked very closely on, and we are now through the preliminary engineering of phase one. We are having a virtual public information session on Thursday, February 3, from 6 to 8pm. The consultant engineer will be running the program, but it will be an opportunity where everybody will see what is being proposed for 13 different intersections. Bartle & Irving are included for Phase 1 and there are additional intersections in Phase 2 that go over by the high school & middle school. For phase 1 anyone who is within 250 feet of the project will be getting a written notice in the mail, and we will also be broadcasting the public information session on our website and on nixel. This is finally at the point where we have some preliminary designs to show the neighbors and hopefully if that goes relatively smoothly, we will be getting necessary approvals so we can go into final engineering and bidding.

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

Councilwoman Canavera reported that the Board of Health and Human Relations Commission wants to remind everyone that January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. According to the International Labor Organization, approximately 40 million human trafficking victims exist worldwide. Human trafficking impacts all races, every class, religion and gender. It even spans every ability. As a result, the issue belongs in every community in the country. If you are a victim in need of help, please call 1-888-373-7888, and if you suspect human trafficking, please report it by calling 1-866-374-2423. The Human Relations Commission recently held its Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards on Sunday. This year's winner was Dr. Norma Bowe in recognition of her extraordinary efforts to provide weekly food assistant to underprivileged populations and to coordinate vaccination clinics for all ages during the pandemic. Norma is a very active community member who works behind the scenes on many board and commissions. She works tirelessly to make Highland Park safe and equitable for all residents. Congratulations Dr. Bowe. The community food pantry is open the second and fourth Thursday from 9am to 10:45 am and 6pm to 7, and on the Saturday of those weeks from 9:30am - 10:30am. Donations can be made using their amazon wish list. Highland Park Gives a Hoot food pantry is open Tuesdays from 10am to 11am. Donations can be made by mailing a check to Borough Hall with a memo that it is for Highland Park Gives a Hoot. Between the two programs, they have been serving over 300 families. Highland Park Gives a Hoot was also honored at the Zone 6 Martin Luther King Jr. event that I am sure Councilwoman Foster will be speaking about. The Mental Health Commission wants to remind everyone that if you have a mental health crisis please reach out for help. The Middlesex County Crisis hotline at Rutgers Behavioral Health Center is 855-515-5700, the Raritan Bay Medical Center Hotline is 732-442-3794, and you can also text home to 741741 for help.

Councilman Hersh reported that works of art from New Jersey artists are on display in store fronts and public spaces in New Brunswick, Highland Park, and other municipalities through February 28. The New Brunswick Community Arts Council, Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, the

Highland Park Arts Commission, the Metuchen Arts Council and the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission partnered on this initiative that unites New Jersey artists, organizations and businesses to promote awareness and engagement around social justice issues impacting local communities. As Windows of Understanding embarks on its fifth year, its focus revolves around social issues such as climate change, economic justice, protest to policy, and public health. Please take some time if you can to view this important exhibit. For more information, go to www.windowsofunderstanding.org. The Department of Recreation has been working hard to develop covid safe programming for adults and youth. A number of new programs are starting this week and are available at highlandparkrec.com where you can read more and register. If you are behind on your rent or worried about eviction, New Jersey has protections for you and your family. Please visit covid19.nj.gov/pages/renter or call 609-490-4550 to apply for rental assistance and to self-certify your income for eviction protection. You can also click the rental assistance button on the Borough's home page at www.hpboro.com. Later tonight during our work session, we will hear from the folks at Street Smart NJ, a public awareness and behavioral change pedestrian safety campaign. Since its creation in 2013, 190 communities have participated in this program. Street Smart emphasizes educating drivers and pedestrians through mass media, as well as targeted enforcement. Police officers focus on engaging and educating, rather than simply issuing citations. Street Smart NJ complements, but does not replace, other state and local efforts to build safer streets and sidewalks, enforce laws and train better roadway users. The campaign is coordinated by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and is supported by federal and state funds, with additional funding/in-kind contributions from local partners including the state's eight Transportation Management Associations. Thank you to Trish Sanchez and the team at the Safe Walking & Cycling Committee, Lieutenant John Sachau, and Sergeant David Soden for working on this effort. The Safe Walking & Cycling Committee heard this presentation in November and agreed that the Borough should consider moving forward with this effort as one facet in our effort to make the Borough safe for pedestrians and cyclists.

Councilwoman Foster reported yesterday Zone 6 had their Dr. Martin Luther King celebration and it was just spectacular. She thanked all the people that came out in person, the keynote speaker, the zoom family, and the social medial family, it was a wonderful turnout. There are a lot of people that we have to thank in Highland Park that came and have always supported Zone 6. Highland Park Gives a Hoot was presented with a certificate of award. We really appreciate all the work that they do and the partnership that has been formed with them and the teen center, and how they support the local community. Other honorees include the NAACP New Brunswick Chapter, Highland Park High School teacher Janele Powell, who has been a great resource working with Ashton Burrell, the youth, and the school system. We also honored Kyla Rohan, she is a high school student, who has been accepted into eight colleges and has a 4.0 GPA. John Wenz has always been a huge supporter, not only of the Human Relations Commission, but all of the programming for young people. He has been a true advocate for justice and he is truly deserving of this Dr. Martin Luther King Award. Dance Mogul Magazine attended our celebration yesterday; they come in every Saturday morning teaching dance and volunteer to work with our young people. Alpha Phi Alpha and Theta Psi Lambda were honored, they contribute to Highland Park on a weekly basis by providing tutoring to our young people. Councilwoman Foster thanked again all the honorees for all that they do to make the Zone 6 program such a success and for giving so much to our community. She congratulated and thanked Volunteer Fire Chief Mordy Gershen for keeping everyone safe. There will be an Ordinance tonight for Lincoln Avenue, and as our Administrator Teri Jover reported, please call our police department for anyone who's in need when cold blue takes effect.

Councilman Hale thanked Main Street Highland Park and particularly four members of the Board, Marcia Shiffman, Rebecca Strobe, Jim Nichols, and Rebecca Hersh who went out door-to-door handing out flyers about the mask mandate. Their efforts are appreciated in getting the word out, and also the efforts of the businesses are appreciated for their willingness to put up signs, this was a team effort. Century 21, Merrey, and Patron Cutz have applied and taken advantage of the façade and awning improvement program. Tonight we are going to be securing the funds to bring façade and awning improvements to Century 21, Merrey, and Patron Cutz. January is notoriously a difficult month for all our retail since you have a downturn after the holiday season, anything we can do to get out and support our businesses as much as possible, would be very much appreciated. We were all sick and saddened about the hostage situation in Colleyville Texas. It is another reminder that anti-Semitism does not go away, it only seems to get worse. Thank you to the police department for quickly responding with notices about increased patrols to the local synagogues. It puts people at ease to know that there were additional resources being put on that, thank you for their quick action.

Borough Attorney Schmierer- No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler gave an update on the Park Partners Grant, the big give back grant program that has had a lot of strong community support over the years and attracts many applicants as well as many residents who vote on the winners. Normally we run this program in February, but in the interest of scheduling at a time that we hoped will allow for in person participation, as we have had since the beginning of the event, we have decided to postpone the Park Partners application window and the voting session until June. This change should allow the Park Partners applicant to interact and respond to questions from residents, as we do every year, which will result in a more informed and engaging voting process. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about the Park Partners Program for 2022, please feel free to send an email to Harry Glazer at hglazer@hpboro.com. Secondly, even before the shocking death of George Floyd and the national protests it inspired, our community and all of us here tonight had been holding regular in-depth discussions on the role of our police in our town. The Mayor's Equity Advisory Council has become one of the primary forums for discussions and are now looking into other possibilities such as establishing a civilian complaint review board. We have been working to make sure this group is broadly represented, and to fill some of the vacated positions, the advisory council and I are seeking volunteer applications for new members of the Mayor's Equity Advisory Council. The Advisory Council meets monthly on zoom for now and considers a range of issues related to equity in Highland Park. If you are interested in volunteering for this group, please contact the Borough Public

Information Officer, Harry Glazer at hglazer@hpboro.com, and he will advise you on how to get an application. Lastly, the Highland Park High School made the front page of the Sports Section of the Home News Tribune on Monday, January 17th. The article was about the revival of the Highland Park High School Owls Wrestling Team. It was great coverage that brings good positive attention to all of Highland Park. The Highland Park High School Students are inspiring examples of working together to rebuild a team, featured students in the article include Ernie Botteon, Ben Weiner-Goldsmith, Harry Roesener, Oscar Wolfe, Brian Mahoney, Calvin Clark, Ben Beyer, and Christian Gomez. We are all very proud of our students and our wrestling team. If anyone wants to see the article, you can google, www.mycentraljersey.com. Thank you to our wrestling team members.

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.

Leora Wenger, 133 North 7th Avenue, thanked Councilwoman Canavera for mentioning human trafficking and she is glad that efforts are being worked on, Ms. Wenger spoke about the mask mandate.

Lois Lebbing, North Second Avenue, asked for more information about consent agenda items, 14m clean up at the old gun shop, 14n intersection improvements and ADA compliance project, and 14v three businesses receiving awning and façade improvement funds. Administrator Jover stated regarding the gun shop, we received funding through the state's hazardous discharge remediation grant fund to do preliminary site investigations on the property, which were completed. There were some additional closure items including the official closure of the testing monitoring well, as well as some paperwork that will ultimately lead to a no further action letter from the state. Basically we are finishing up the remaining outstanding environmental paperwork associated with this site in anticipation of future redevelopment. The ADA compliance project pertains to the Safe Routes to School Project that I mentioned earlier. We are following federal guidelines about ADA accessibility at intersections in neighborhoods near our schools. Councilman Hale commented on the three businesses receiving grant money. Those façade grants are pro forma grants for businesses that apply, they get a certain amount of money for awnings or façade improvements, and it is a lump sum, one time grant, they are able to apply for. Ms. Lebbing commented it is a federal requirement that you cannot give grant money to a business if the building is not accessible. Once the building is accessible, like Century 21, go ahead and replace the awning or widen the doorway. They cannot just put up a sign, like Dr. Blum as an example, and not have every person be able to enter because of the steps. Mayor Brill Mittler stated she is not aware of the three businesses, Century 21, Patron Cutz, and Merey having steps. Administrator Jover and Councilman Hale will look into this matter further with Main Street Highland Park.

Diane Feldman, 409 North Fourth Avenue, commented she can speak to Ms. Lebbing raising the issue that Dr. Blum's office is not accessible. There is a side entrance that is accessible which she has used for many years. Patron Cutz has been wheelchair accessible for a long time, and Merey is not accessible as they offer seating outside, but the front door is up a few steps, and as far as I know there is not a ramp at the location. Century 21 is on the first level and have been accessible for a long time. Mayor Brill Mittler stated given that we have heard from our former Chair of the Universal Access Commission that Merey is not accessible, she asked Borough Attorney Schmierer if the funds can only go to an accessible business. Attorney Schmierer will look into the matter before any money is disbursed. Mayor Brill Mittler suggested when voting on the consent agenda, item 14v the resolution approving the façade and awning improvements, be pulled out and voted on at the next council meeting.

Mary Forsberg, 317 Dennison Street, commented she has a question about appointments. She sent a question to Administrator Jover and is waiting for a response, she asked if other planners and attorneys have been considered for advising the Borough on the redevelopment plan. Ms. Forsberg feels a much better redevelopment plan could be done than what we currently have, and is curious if there were any other bids for people to be appointed to those positions. Attorney Schmierer explained the appointment of person who is licensed under the law, a planner, attorney or engineer are exempt from public bidding. You can award professional service contracts to those individuals without public bidding of the position. The practice of the Borough has been to solicit or request for proposals and then award the contracts. Administrator Jover confirmed that is the process for professional service contracts, and that Ms. Forsberg's request she referred to was part of an OPRA request which the Clerk is working on. Ms. Forsberg also commented on the cement blocks on North Fourth and South Third. Those blocks are still on North Fourth and South Third, and she would like to know how much the Borough paid for the blocks and what is the alternative use for them. Administrator Jover stated the concrete barriers that we purchased when we closed South Third, as well as North Fourth, run between 50 and 55 dollars each, we are not talking about a huge sum of money. The blocks have been used to carve out parking on North Fourth for outdoor seating, and they are still being used for outdoor dining purposes. A couple have been moved down to DPW yard and are used to line up materials, organize staging areas, etc. The plan was when they were no longer needed outdoors, they would have a home, and will be used downtown for a long as we can. Councilman Hale responded one alternative use we have talked about the concrete blocks is that someday we are very hopeful that Arts in the Park and our street fair are going to return once we move past Covid. Those barriers would be quite useful for setting up in the future when those events come back.

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

The Clerk reported that an introduction of the Amendment to Chapter 7 Traffic, removing certain No Parking areas and adding No Parking When Snow Covered Areas is for consideration of passage on first reading of title.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 7 CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE PARKING

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, Hale, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson George, Councilwoman Kim-Chohan.

Resolution Nos. 1-22-18 through 1-22-38 and 1-22-40 through 1-22-43 were duly adopted, Resolution No. 1-22-39 will be carried to the next meeting, on a motion made by Councilwoman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, Hale, Hersh.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilman George, Councilwoman Kim-Chohan.

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

No. 1-22-18

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park desires to use Balken Risk Management Consulting Services, LLC for risk management consulting services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the agreement for aforesaid services, attached to the original of this resolution, is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough Administrator, the Garden State Municipal Joint Insurance Fund and Balken Risk Management Services, LLC forthwith.

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

No. 1-22-19

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Municipal Attorney for the calendar year of 2022; 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, Edwin Schmierer, Esq., is an Attorney at Law of the State of New Jersey with experience in municipal law and has heretofore been appointed as Borough Attorney for 2022;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide a written agreement providing for the compensation of the Borough Attorney; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$200,000.00, without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$200,000.00 in Account No. 2-01-20-155-233, upon adoption of the 2022 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, an Agreement for professional services with Edwin Schmierer, Esq., a copy of which is attached hereto, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-22-20

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Tax Appeal Counsel for the calendar year 2022; 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, Martin Allen of the Law firm of DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum is an Attorney at Law of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in tax appeal matters and has heretofore been appointed as Tax Appeal Counsel for 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide compensation for the Tax Appeal Counsel; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$25,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose will be available in the amount of \$25,000.00 in Account No. No. 2-01-20-155-245, upon adoption of the 2022 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, an Agreement for professional services with Martin Allen, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of hereof, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-22-21

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Labor Consultant for the calendar year of 2022; 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, Arthur Thibault, Esq., is an Attorney at Law of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in labor relations matters and has heretofore been appointed as Labor Consultant for 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of said Labor Consultant; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$35,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$35,000.00 in Account No. 2-01-20-155-234, upon adoption of the 2022 municipal budget, 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 Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for professional services with Arthur Thibault, Esq., Apruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy, 25 Independence Boulevard, Liberty Corner, NJ 07938, a proposed copy of which is attached hereto, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-22-22

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of Bond Counsel for bonding and related matters the calendar year of 2022; 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, Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, Esqs., is a firm of attorneys at law of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in bonding and related matters and has heretofore been appointed as Borough Bond Counsel for 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of Bond Counsel; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$40,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$40,000.00 in Finance and various General Capital Accounts, upon adoption of the 2022 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, an Agreement for professional services with Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, Esqs., a proposed copy of which is attached hereto, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-22-23

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Municipal Engineer for the calendar year of 2022; 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, David J. Samuel, of CME Associates, is a licensed engineer of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in municipal engineering and has heretofore been appointed Borough Engineer for 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation for the Borough Engineer; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed \$350,000.00 or the amount specified in agreements for specific projects; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$350,000.00 in Account No. 2-01-20-165-233 and in various general capital and trust accounts, upon adoption of the 2022 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, an Agreement for professional services with David J. Samuel, CME Associates, a copy of which is attached hereto, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-21-24

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Planning Consultant for the calendar year of 2022 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, James Constantine, PP of LRK, Inc. is a licensed professional planner of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in municipal land use and planning matters and has heretofore been appointed as Borough Planner for 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide compensation for the Planning Consultant; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account Nos. 2-01-21-180-233, 2-01-20-170-233, and in various general capital and trust accounts, in an amount not to exceed \$175,000.00, upon adoption of the 2022 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below, and in various escrow accounts now or hereafter established pursuant to Chapter 17-10.12 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Highland Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and 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 James Constantine, a copy of which is attached hereto, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-22-25

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Special Counsel for Affordable Housing for 2022; 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, Surenian, Edwards & Nolan, LLC, is an Attorney at Law Firm of the State of New Jersey with experience in municipal law and has heretofore been appointed as Special Counsel for the above mentioned period; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide compensation for the Special Counsel; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$15,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$15,000.00 in Account No. 2-01-20-155-250, upon adoption of the 2022 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, an Agreement for professional services with Surenian, Edwards & Nolan, LLC, a copy of which is attached hereto, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-22-26

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Municipal Auditor for the calendar year of 2022; 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, Gerard Stankiewicz of Samuel Klein and Company, is a certified Public Accountant and Registered Municipal Accountant of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in municipal auditing and has heretofore been appointed Borough Auditor for 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation for the Borough Auditor; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$55,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$55,000.00 in Account No. 2-01-20-135-249 and Account No. 2-05-55-500-275, upon adoption of the 2022 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, an Agreement for professional services with Gerard Stankiewicz of Samuel Klein and Company, a copy of which is attached hereto, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-22-27

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Special Counsel for Redevelopment for 2022; 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, McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, is an Attorney at Law Firm of the State of New Jersey with experience in municipal law and has heretofore been appointed as Special Counsel for Redevelopment for the above mentioned period; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of the Special Counsel; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$150,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$150,000.00 in Account No. 2-01-20-170-233 and various general capital accounts, upon adoption of the 2022 municipal budget, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, an Agreement for professional services with McManimon, Scotland, Baumann, LLC, a copy of which is attached hereto, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-22-28

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Municipal Prosecutor for the calendar year of 2022 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2B:12-27; 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, Robert Janzekovich, Esq., is an Attorney at Law of the State of New Jersey with experience as a Municipal Prosecutor and has heretofore been appointed as the Municipal Prosecutor for 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of said Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose and are not to exceed the amount of \$40,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$40,000.00 in Account No. 2-01-25-275-235 upon adoption of the 2022 municipal budget, 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 Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for professional services with Robert J. Janzekovich, LLC, 6 Julia Drive, Monroe Township, NJ 08831, a proposed copy of which is attached hereto, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-22-29

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Public Defender for the calendar year of 2022 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2B:12-28; 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, Roselli & Roselli, are Attorneys at Law in the State of New Jersey with experience as Public Defenders and have heretofore been appointed as the Public Defender for 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of said Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose and are not to exceed the amount of \$10,000.00 without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$10,000.00 in Account No. 2-01-43-495-235 and T-12-56-500-006 upon adoption of the 2022 municipal budget, 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 Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for professional services with Roselli & Roselli, 11 Stephen Street, South River, NJ 08882, a proposed copy of which is attached hereto, 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 Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-22-30

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park utilized funding from the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF) for a Preliminary Assessment (PA) and Site Investigation (SI) at the property known as Rutgers Gun & Boat, Block 1704, Lots 41 and 42; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park purchased said property on June 21, 2021 as part of its plan to advance redevelopment in the downtown; and

WHEREAS, there remains additional environmental consulting services needed in order to close out the case with NJDEP, including submission of a UST Closure/Remedial Action (RA) Report, abandonment of an active monitoring well on the site, and preparation and issuance of a Response Action Outcome (RAO); and

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

WHEREAS, Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. is qualified and licensed as an environmental consulting firm in the State of New Jersey to conduct this work and has already conducted the PA and SI for this particularly property; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-814-001 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00, upon adoption of the 2022 municipal budget, 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 Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, a Professional Services Agreement with Excel Environmental Resources, Inc. for the above described parcels for an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. The scope of work shall be consistent with the Extension of Services and Detailed Cost Estimate provided by Excel Environmental Resources and attached to this resolution.

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

No. 1-22-31

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park was included in the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)'s Design Assistance Program, whereby the costs related to engineering and design for the 2018 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project are fully reimbursable up to \$400,000; and

WHEREAS, the Design Assistance Program includes preliminary engineering activities and the NJDOT has provided the Borough of Highland Park with a Federal Aid Agreement relating to the cost reimbursement for preliminary engineering in the amount of \$178,320.76; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined it to be in the best interest of the Borough of Highland Park to authorize the entry into and execution of the Federal Aid Agreement as required by the NJDOT for the preliminary engineering; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Highland Park that it hereby authorize the entry into and execution of the Federal Aid Agreement between the Borough and the NJDOT for preliminary engineering; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and the Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Federal Aid Agreement between the Borough and the NJDOT, a copy of which is attached to the original of this resolution.

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

No. 1-22-32

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of an engineer to provide engineering services in connection with the Implementation of the 2022 Roadway Improvements, in accordance with letter proposal from Bruce Koch, CME Associates, dated December 27, 2021; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in various capital accounts, including Account No. C-04-55-821-001 in an amount not to exceed \$105,000.00, 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 Health & Human Service Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 1-22-33

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is desirous of contracting with the County of Middlesex for the provision of various public health services for the period beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:8-1 et seq., a municipality may enter into a contract with the County for the provision of such services without public bidding; and

WHEREAS, the County of Middlesex has agreed to contract with the Borough of Highland Park for said public health services in the amount of \$48,101.52 for the year 2022 and in the amount of \$49,063.55 for 2023; and

WHEREAS, funds for said contract shall be made available upon adoption of the 2022 Municipal Budget in an amount not to exceed \$48,101.52, and upon adoption of the 2023 Municipal Budget in an amount not to exceed \$49,063.55, without further resolution of Council, 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 shall be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough a contract with the County of Middlesex for the provision of public health services, in the amount of \$48,101.52, for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, and \$49,063.55, said contract to be in a form approved by the Borough Attorney, for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Finance Department, the Highland Park Board of Health, and the County of Middlesex forthwith.

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

No. 1-22-34

WHEREAS the Highland Park Finance Department is in need of a maintenance contract for the financial software and hardware for 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Borough may purchase said maintenance contract from Edmunds & Associates, 301A Tilton Road, Northfield, NJ 08225 for an amount not to exceed \$12,154.00; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 1-01-20-130-235 in the amount of \$12,154.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Finance Director.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to execute said maintenance contract for the financial software and hardware from Edmunds & Associates, 301A Tilton Road, Northfield, NJ 08225, for a total amount not to exceed \$12,154.00; and

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

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

No. 1-22-35

WHEREAS, under the terms and conditions of the Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey, a municipality may purchase items without competitive bidding from a firm or corporation currently under contract with the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS the Highland Park Police Department is in need of a maintenance contract for their portable radios, as described in the attached quote; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 83932, the Borough may purchase said maintenance contract from Tactical Public Safety, 1036 Industrial Way, West Berlin, NJ 08091, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 2-01-25-240-235 in an amount not to exceed \$13,215.00 upon the adoption of 2022 Municipal Budget, 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 Chief of Police is hereby authorized and directed to execute said maintenance contract with Tactical Public Safety, 1036 Industrial Way, West Berlin, NJ 08091, at a total cost not to exceed \$13,215.00; and

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

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

No. 1-22-36

WHEREAS, under the terms and conditions of the Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey, a municipality may purchase items without competitive bidding from a firm or corporation currently under contract with the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS the Highland Park Police Department is in need of a maintenance contract for their E-Ticketing System; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 83904, the Borough may purchase said maintenance contract from Gold Type Business Machines, 351 Paterson Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 2-01-25-240-235 in an amount not to exceed \$12,000.00 upon the adoption of 2022 Municipal Budget, 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 Chief of Police is hereby authorized and directed to execute said maintenance contract with Gold Type Business Machines, 351 Paterson Avenue, East Rutherford, NJ 07073, at a total cost not to exceed \$12,000.00; and

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-22-37

WHEREAS, the Police Department of the Borough of Highland Park is in need of the services of Axon Enterprise, Inc. for their body camera footage storage, as more fully described on the attached; and

WHEREAS, Axon Enterprise Inc. is able to provide said evidence storage from January 2022 through December 2022 – Year Two of Five; and

WHEREAS, under State Contract No. 17-FLEET-00738, the Borough may purchase said evidence storage from Axon Enterprise, Inc. PO Box 29661, Department 2018, Phoenix, AZ, 85038-9661, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. G-02-41-747-001 in the amount of \$21,432.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue payment in the amount of \$21,432.00 to Axon Enterprise, Inc., PO Box 29661, Department 2018, Phoenix, AZ, 85038-9661; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Police Chief and Finance Director forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-22-38

WHEREAS, the Borough has contracted with Integrated Systems and Services, Eatontown, NJ, for warranty/service for the Police Department video camera/swipe card system; and

WHEREAS, said contract has expired; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to renew said agreement for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, funds shall be available for this purpose in Account No. 2-01-25-240-235 in the 2022 Municipal Budget upon adoption in an amount not to exceed \$9,000.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Finance Director, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Police Chief is hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for warranty/service with Integrated Systems and Services, 541 Industrial Way, Suite B, Eatontown, NJ 07724 for a total amount not to exceed \$9,000.00 for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Said agreement to be in a form approved by the Borough Attorney 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 Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-22-40

WHEREAS, Gill Car 3, LLC 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 Licenses for the year 2022; and

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

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 Licenses.

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 1-22-41

WHEREAS, Richard Bernard Buck, Jr., Chimaeze Oliver Nwaro, Manzoor Batth, and Sukhchain Singh Gill 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 2022; 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. 1-22-42

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 4, 2022 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:

- Jose Gonzalez, Master Laborer, \$35.07/hour, effective 01/01/2022
- Alaina Giles, Police Officer, \$126,052.00, effective 01/01/2022
- Gaetano Palumbo, Police Officer, \$126,052.00, effective 01/01/2022
- Kevin Shiffner, Sergeant of Police, \$135,874.00, effective 01/01/2022

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. 1-22-43

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 1/18/2022 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 42.

Resolution No. 1-22-44 was duly adopted on a motion made by Councilwoman Foster, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

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

No. 1-22-44

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that transfers of 2020 budget appropriation balances shall be made as follows:

Budget Transfer #4

Description	From	To
Buildings & Grounds S&W	4,000.00	
Motorpool S & W	7,200.00	
Borough Clerk S&W		4,000.00
Motorpool OE		6,700.00
Engineering & Planning OE		500.00
	<u>11,200.00</u>	<u>11,200.00</u>

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Sanonsky Louis-Charles to the Volunteer Fire Department.

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

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

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

Leora Wenger, 133 North 7th Avenue, commented she was happy to hear Mary Fosberg has not given up fighting for Highland Park and against the high impact redevelopment plan, and she likes Mary's ideas.

Joseph Schmidt, East Brunswick, commented on the mask mandate. He used to live in Highland Park many years ago, and volunteered on the First Aid Squad. There is a lot of science actually against using a mask and there is negative aspects, psychological issues for people who cannot deal with masks, as well as other medical issues including the possibility of when you are breathing out, the mask gets moist and bacteria can grow. Mr. Schmidt thinks the Borough should reconsider the mask mandate and actually look at the science.

Diane Feldman, 409 North Fourth Avenue, commented on the issue of grants that are given for façade or awning work. While the Merey restaurant itself is not accessible, they do have a patio out front that is accessible. When you are looking at the restaurants, you should look at all of the services they

provide in terms of them being able to provide restaurant service to people sitting outdoors. Ms. Feldman asked if Patron Cutz is going to be providing services that are accessible. She also commented on the discussion she had with Administrator that the Borough is committed about removing the wording handicap from all ordinances. Mayor Brill Mittler stated Patron Cutz did have two chairs in the front of the shop, and she asked if Councilman Hale could follow up to make sure those chairs remain there. There was a discussion about removing handicap in our terminology when putting our ordinances together, the term accessibility is what we have been talking about using.

Lois Lebbing, North Second Avenue, commented she found under federal accessibility, 4.1.6 , letter h, if a particular entrance is not made accessible, appropriate accessible signage indicating the location of the nearest accessible entrance(s) shall be installed at or near the inaccessible entrance, such that a person with disabilities will not be required to retrace the approach route from the inaccessible entrance. Borough Hall is accessible with a ramp, but there should be a sign there. Ms. Lebbing commented the fourth quarter water bills have not been received.

Dan Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented the mask mandate is a really important and an effective public health measure. The numbers in New Jersey these last couple days have been better compared to the last few weeks. We are coming out of weekend and holiday, and the numbers will go up so this is not the time to ease up or get lax with the mask mandate, and he reminded everyone to get fully vaccinated if eligible and follow best practices.

Mary Forsberg, 317 Dennison Street, commented it was mentioned the borough is looking into a tax revaluation which is long overdue because the last one was over 30 years ago. She asked what is the status of that, how do you select the company that will be doing the revaluation, and what kind of instructions would you be giving to the company doing it. The last tax evaluation was done in the early 1990s, and there were a lot of problems. Borough Administrator Jover stated we are moving forward, the tax assessor Tom Mancusco has been charged with drafting a scope of services for my review and the governing body. We will check with the Borough Attorney to find out if this situation would be a professional service contract so we may not be obligated to do a bid, but we are going to take a look at our options under advisement from the attorney. Our first priority is getting the scope of work that we want. The assessor is very interested in specifying some distinctions for commercial properties and we are working through that as well. The first step would be to get a scope we all agree with, and then we will solicit proposals, but I would need to defer to the attorney's office as to what is the most advisable because we want to get a qualified company that we feel confident in.

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

Work Session:

NJTPA Pedestrian/Driver Safety Awareness Campaign – Councilman Hersh noted that the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee at its November meeting heard from William Yazab who's with us today from Street Smart New Jersey. Mr. Yazab stated he works for the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, which is a metropolitan planning organization for the 13 counties of New Jersey. He is a retired lieutenant from the Randolph Township Police Department in Morris County. Street Smart New Jersey is a program for pedestrian safety and is federally funded. In 2013, the Federal Highway Administration came to us because of the high pedestrian crash numbers we have in New Jersey, and this program was put together to confront that issue. In 2019, pedestrians comprised 31% of all people killed in fatal crashes in New Jersey, while the national average is only 17%. This program is one way to change those numbers. There is messaging for both the driver and pedestrian, and you can purchase the messaging materials inexpensively. Some items have already been provided in a print format to the Highland Park Police Department. The focus of a full campaign once we have the support from the community, includes doing observations of an intersection to see what the drivers are doing and what the pedestrians are doing, and use that as a baseline. Another option is an electronic survey can be sent out to see how people feel about pedestrian safety. The survey asks them to self-report what they do and what they see others doing. At the end of a four week period, the same intersection is observed, the same survey is sent out again, all to see if there is a change in behavior. On two separate occasions we studied Street Smart over the lifetime of the program, most recently in 2018-2019, and found that it did make a difference in the short term. Sixty percent more drivers stop for people crossing before turning right at a red light or a stop sign. Forty percent more drivers stop for people crossing before turning at a green light, and there is a forty five percent reduction in drivers running red lights or failing to stop at stop signs, and 21 percent more people were crossing either using a crosswalk or they were waiting for the walk signal. In the short term it does make a difference, and we want to make sure everyone knows how to drive, walk and share the road. As the spring approaches it would be a great time to do the program for a relatively small amount of materials, the cost is minimal, and if you do all electronic messaging, the cost is nothing. Councilman Hersh commented the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee was impressed by the presentation and supportive of the program, and the price is right with minimal costs. This awareness is important when looking at some of the pedestrian hazards downtown. It is important to get drivers more oriented with their surroundings and pay attention to people in crosswalks. Lieutenant Sachau commented he sees the benefits of the program. He and Sergeant Soden saw the presentation pre- covid. They have stayed in touch with Street Smart, and continue to work with the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee. We thought it would be good idea if Street Smart made their presentation to the Council, which is why they are here tonight. Councilwoman Foster commented Middlesex Movement had a program a while back, where they printed materials for us and provided signs by the schools and other different things for the heads up cell phone program. Mayor Brill Mittler stated it sounds like there is interest from the Council and suggested that Councilwoman Foster from the Public Safety Committee, and Councilman Hersh from the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee get together and work through the aspects of the program they would be most interested in so we can make it happen. Sergeant Soden did a brief presentation. All of our fatal collisions have revolved around either pedestrians or cyclists so it makes sense to focus on bicyclists and pedestrians. As a matter of fact, Chief Abrams actually rebranded the traffic bureau, the bureau of pedestrian and bicycle safety, as a result of Highland Park

having a great emphasis on being a walking and cycling community. Things we are looking for short term include an increase in the general awareness of the major contributing factors to pedestrian and bicycle collisions within Highland Park. Long term we are looking for a positive change in beliefs towards impaired driving, distract driving, speeding, and sharing the road with pedestrians. The police department would do a targeted traffic enforcement, and as we have already said enforcement doesn't necessarily mean giving tickets, it means an officer observes a violation and the officer would stop the violator and explain to them what they did wrong as opposed to issuing a tickets. We are not out there to place blame on motorists, bicyclists, or pedestrians, we want everyone to be safe and that's ultimately the impact we want.

Budget Timeline – Administrator Jover addressed the presentation of the budget. An introduction of the budget would be April 5th and then we would have a public hearing and a vote either at the second meeting in April or the first meeting in May.

Executive Session (if necessary).

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

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

No. 1-22-45

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

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

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

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

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Foster, seconded by Councilman Hersh, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m. to go into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Borough Clerk