

REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 1, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:01 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 28, 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 28, 2022 and has remained continuously posted as required by law.

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

Absent: None.

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

Councilman Hale reported we have a contract to bring scooters to Highland Park, and we had hoped that they would be up and running by now. It is a partnership that we are trying to work with both New Brunswick and Rutgers. The delay is they are still working out some details in New Brunswick and Rutgers that will affect how the e-scooters are implemented in Highland Park. We are still planning on e-scooters and are looking forward to it, but it makes a lot more sense to try and do it after the company works out some details with New Brunswick and Rutgers. Regarding the Neighborhood Preservation Plan, the planning is coming along and going quite well. We have had several meetings with business owners and residents about how to spend the first year's grant and how to plan the money in the future. There were over 500 responses to the online survey for what to do with Woodbridge Avenue, which is pretty amazing. The first year we are looking at basics like crosswalks, sidewalks, trash cans, and lighting. Councilman Hale thanked all the stakeholders, the residents, and all the business owners who contributed. It has been great process up to this point and Emma Von Thun, who is the assistant to the Borough Administrator, has been running point on this from a staff perspective. She really has done a fantastic job along with the DCA putting this together. There is more to come on this, but we are on the right track.

Councilman Hersh reported the Highland Park/New Brunswick Independence Day Fireworks will take place on Sunday, July 3rd, with a rain date of Thursday, July 7th at Donaldson Park. On Thursday, February 3rd, this coming Thursday at 6pm, please join the Borough for a virtual public information session that provides neighbors and businesses with information on the intersection safety improvements being designed for Phase One of Highland Park's 2016 Safe Routes to School Project. The purpose of this meeting is to learn about and provide an opportunity for input on the project and neighbors are encouraged to actively participate by providing comments at the meeting. The link to register is at www.hpboro.com, in the calendar items if you click on the safe routes to school project in the calendar at bottom of the left hand of the page under February 3rd, you will find the registration link. We need your feedback for this pedestrian safety improvement in our neighborhoods, and it would be great to have as many people to participate as possible and spread the word. There are many programs on the recreation website you can check out and register for, the website is highlandparknj.myrec.com. The Highland Park Youth Theater Company spring program is coming up, rehearsals will be from 4 to 6 pm on April 28th, May 5th, May 12th, May 19th, May 31st, and then dates throughout June with the final performance on June 9th at 6pm. Rehearsals and performances are outdoors at the Highland Park Community Center. The registration deadline is March 7th for youth baseball for grades K through 7 and softball for grades 5 through 7. Register by March 7th to avoid a \$15 late fee. Registration will be accepted based on space so register now if you want to sign up for youth baseball and softball. There is equipment needed so check the link that is provided to see what equipment the players will need. Parent coaches are needed for all the teams so if you are interested in coaching and you have a child who is participating, you can sign up to coach when you register. There is a coaching credit of \$75 that will be given to the head coach of each team at the end of the program. This credit will be added to your account for future programming and coaches can split the \$75 credit; you must contact recreation to use that option. Outdoor basketball clinics for second through eighth grade are being held at Donaldson Park March 21st through March 30th. Winter Track Club will meet from 3 to 4pm on Sundays, we have two more sessions on February 6th and February 13th. There are make-up dates slated for February 20th and February 27th at the municipal recreation complex. Rover's winter soccer clinic, which is an outdoor program being held at the municipal recreation complex is underway, with one more session on February 6th, and make up sessions on February 13th and February 20th. Highland Park neighbor Colin Marks an outdoor enthusiast, who has worked with our summer camp as an outdoor nature expert, will be back for an exciting exploration program for grades three through five. These sessions start off at the Meadows Trail or a predetermined location in Donaldson Park. For times and locations visit highlandparknj.myrec.com.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported the Community Development Block Grant Committee will be holding their public hearing on applications on February 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will be noticed with the details and zoom link. She wished the community a joyful lunar new year, hopefully the year of the tiger is happier and healthier for you and your family. February is Black History Month, a reminder that black history is American history, and it is the beginning of a larger conversation about how to incorporate black history and black voices into the spaces we all occupy.

Councilwoman Foster reported Black History Month is an exciting time and wanted to give a little education as we are all going through this pandemic. She talked about the two Americans that have contributed greatly. The first one was a slave by the name Onesimus. He was captured from Africa, and was taken to Boston. While in Boston, they had an outbreak of smallpox similar to what we are having now. It was a global disease that affected everyone, and he told his master that he had a cure that could fix the disease. They did not believe him so he tried it out on his fellow slaves who got better, and eventually the word spread not only here in the Americas, but globally. In 1980, the World Health

Organization declared that smallpox was virtually eliminated, thanks to Onesimus who provided us that service. Councilwoman Foster spoke about a woman named Henrietta Lacks. Ms. Lacks was sick and had cancer, and was taken to John Hopkins University Hospital. The doctors gave her a lot of attention, but did not give an explanation of why they kept checking her. They were taking cells from her, and the cells were unusual in that they reproduced a high rate and could be kept alive long enough for a more in-depth examination. Ms. Lacks passed, and her cells were given the code name HeLa. The HeLa cells have provided a cure for cancer, aids, polio and a host of other diseases. There is litigation by her family now because she was never recognized or given compensation by the pharmaceutical companies that have made millions, and doctors using those cells have found a lot of cures for many diseases. Ms. Lacks has been dead for many years now, but the genes that were taken from her body continue to provide more and more advancement in medicine. Thank you to two great Americans that have contributed not only to the US, but to the entire globe. Our teen center is hosting a Black History Month Celebration, stay tuned we will provide more information. Last month we came on and said we have enough crossing guards. We are now down crossing guards so if you know anyone who interested in serving and helping us out, it is a paid position. Please reach out to our Highland Park Police Department or to Borough Hall there are applications available, we are in desperate need. There was a major snowstorm this weekend, please remember to remove the snow from sidewalks and walkways. Do not dump the snow into the street for obvious reasons as it will get piled back onto your property. Please do not park your cars in the areas where parking is not allowed when the road is snow covered. Avoid us coming out and having to give warnings or summonses.

Councilman George wished everyone a safe comfortable and rewarding February when we celebrate Black History Month. This month is for all of us to remember and share experiences, and this year it is more important than ever as certain parts of our society are making inroads in the freedoms that all of us have enjoyed. Hopefully we can carry this spirit forward as we celebrate in turn all our cultural, racial, and ethnic and love backgrounds as the year moves through the months. The big item for Public works this evening is the snow we had this weekend, since we had the first chance to try out our snow removal policy and manual which will be my focus. We received about 6 inches of snow and there may have been a few areas with about 8 inches. DPW was ready for the storm under the new snow removal policy, the superintendent on Thursday had the plans already in place under the program. Starting on Friday afternoon, DPW had three brine trucks out brining the street in anticipation of the storm. At 8pm, 3 salt spreaders began salting the streets, and at midnight, 8 plow trucks began clearing the roads and continued through 6pm on Saturday evening. The Kubota ATV plow was also in use at the Borough's parking areas, police and fire departments. The DPW was also sanding and salting our steep streets on Saturday evening to get ahead of the freezing temperatures. I drove around in the storm with DPW Superintendent Mike Wieczorkiewicz for several hours after the storm picked up after 2am through dawn, taking some videos. Mike believes the new program was really working well because there is a lot of cooperation and communication between the various departments, especially with the police. They were able to point out trouble spots and coordinate areas where people were moving their cars from the no parking when snow covered side. They were also calling out and coordinating their streets and routes so that more roads got plowed instead of repeating some while missing others. There were obvious challenges that the DPW faces, with cars on the sides on the sides of streets where they aren't supposed to park, a number of summonses were given out, and it creates a challenge trying to navigate the large plow trucks which are not very nimble. The new policy incorporates best practices from the State Department of Transportation and Community Affairs. For instance, brining starts a day or two before a storm, but they also have a hierarchy of plowing. Usually the key is to start plowing the primary roads when there is two inches on the ground, and then add in the residential roads when the depth hits four inches. The Police Department advised during the policy drafting process that they are required to clear the primary roads, Woodbridge Avenue, Raritan Avenue, Route 27 and then larger avenues to allow access for police, fire and ambulances. The second priority is the residential roads, and third priority is sidewalks. Part of the policy includes DPW may also respond to emergencies during a storm which will delay cleaning streets. There may be immediate need for police, fire or emergency medical assistance and the Borough personnel would have to respond to plow out a driveway or to give access for emergency response vehicles. Ice is another problem. Ice control is done through an application of brining which prevents the snow and ice from freezing to the pavement. Salt and sand were used on the steeper roads which were beginning to ice up at the sun went down. The first snowstorm with the new policy and procedures did suggest a few improvements, one of which is to insure we have available or put into our capital plan several small vehicles to accommodate some areas, especially in the Triangle where the streets are very narrow and had cars parked on both sides, and the trucks were not able to get through at all. Another improvement, which we have already moved forward with is more snow blowers and several powered one man riding plows which will significantly free up man hours and reach onto narrow areas on sidewalks.

Councilwoman Canavera wished everyone celebrating, a Happy New year, and pointed out as everybody else did it is Black History Month.

Borough Administrator Jover - No report.

Borough Attorney Schmierer - No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler thanked the many business owners, community leaders, and residents who responded constructively to the executive order issued on December 31st mandating the wearing of face masks in public places in town to discourage the spread of Covid 19. The executive order was endorsed unanimously by the Borough Council at its meeting on January 4th. This executive order was informed by the unanimous recommendation of the infectious disease specialists who are on my Mayor's Wellness Campaign and it was based on that time when there was high rate of local Covid 19 infections and hospitalization rates. Our area has decreased significantly and this descent has been sustained for over two weeks. Additionally vaccination rates in Highland Park are strong, 94% of our total population had at least one dose of vaccine, and 99% of Highland Park residents age 65 plus have completed all vaccinations required. Accordingly I have allowed my executive order to expire effective Monday,

January 31st at 11:59pm. The mask mandate remains in place for all borough owned buildings and I urge residents to continue wearing face masks at group setting especially at any indoor location. It remains a low-cost measure that can help guard your health and the safety of your neighbors and family members. It is recommended that everyone adopts this measure in town and we will continue to monitor closely new cases in Highland Park. Mayor Brill Mittler took a moment to thank the Department of Public Works for its work over the weekend. We all appreciate the efforts of our Public Works Department. As several people noted, today it is the first day of February, marking it the start of Black History Month. It has been a habit of mine at council meetings in February since I have been mayor to salute hometown heroes during the month, and I want to continue that practice now by recognizing an exemplary African American resident who has served our town with dignity, dedication and diplomacy. Sheila Highsmith was the chair of the Borough's Human Relations Commission for over 10 years, probably closer to 20 years. We can attribute much of the thoughtful attention that the group devotes to intergroup relations and celebrations of diversity to her time in that leadership role. Sheila made a definite impact on the tone of our town despite the demands of a very busy career as a social worker in the New Jersey State Division of Human Services. She is still very active in our Community Affairs and serves on the CDBG Advisory Council, and was a founding member of the Highland Park Gives a Hoot Team. On the occasion of Black History Month, gratitude is extended from the governing body and all of Highland Park for her service to this town and her work as a role model in bringing people together to foster a sense of community. Thank you Sheila Highsmith.

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.

Abby Stern Cardinale, 221 Harper Street, commented she is disheartened by the fact that the mask mandate expired. She said that it was indicated 94 percent of our population has had one dose of the vaccine, but if you look at the population of under-five, zero percent have had the vaccine so that is an important number. You are forgetting about that number, and it is hurtful to families who have kids. For the first time in two years, I brought my daughter to the local Stop and Shop because of the mask mandate. It was somewhat okay for me to be comfortable that people would not infect her if they were wearing masks. Ms. Stern Cardinale stated she is devastated and she understands that the numbers are better, but if you look at any measure of the pandemic in New Jersey and in our town, we are still in the red. She is thrilled the numbers are going down, but we are not there yet, and this was premature and the mask mandate should have been extended. Mayor Brill Mittler commented she appreciates the comments, and will be looking at the numbers on a weekly basis, and if we do start heading in the wrong direction again, we may readdress this. There is nothing that keeps you and your children from wearing a mask when you continue going into stores, it is just that there is not a legal mandate right now.

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

The Clerk reported advertising an Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 7 Traffic, removing certain No Parking areas and adding certain No Parking When Snow Covered areas, for consideration of passage on final reading by 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", was duly advertised for consideration of passage on final reading by title and 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 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 else 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 was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The Clerk reported introduction of Capital Ordinance providing for Improvements to South 4th Avenue, Johnson Street and Montgomery Street Project for consideration of passage on first reading by title. "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO SOUTH 4TH AVENUE, JOHNSON STREET AND MONTGOMERY STREET PROJECT, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$503,505.00 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MUNICIPAL AID PROGRAM THEREFORE TO PAY THE COST THEREOF": has been introduced in writing by the Public Safety Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Resolution Nos. 1-22-39, 2-22-48 through 2-22-57 were 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, Kim-Chohan.
Opposed: None.
Absent: None.

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

No. 1-22-39

WHEREAS, the following business/property owners have submitted a completed application to the Borough of Highland Park for matching grant under the Highland Park Façade Improvement Program and/or the Highland Park Awning Promotion Program, both funded through the Community Block Development Grant and further described on the Purchase Requisition attached to the original of this resolution for the location designated, to wit:

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>BUSINESS LOCATIONS</u>
Century 21	309 Raritan Avenue
Merey	128 Raritan Avenue
Patron Cutz	74 Raritan Avenue

WHEREAS, the Main Street Design Committee has reviewed the applications and has recommended that the above applications be approved by the Mayor and Council; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose will be available in Account No. G-02-41-707-001 in the amount of \$3,272.67 and Account No. G-02-41-715-002 in the amount of \$2,380.33, for a total amount not to exceed \$5,653.00, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the application from the above named business/property owner be approved for funding under the Highland Park Façade Improvement and Awning Promotion Program in the amount set opposite, to wit:

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Century 21	\$2,353.00
Merey	\$1,500.00
Patron Cutz	\$1,800.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the applicant, Finance Department and the Main Street Executive Director forthwith.

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

No. 2-22-48

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

WHEREAS, three (3) quotes were solicited and were received as follows:

Amato's Landscaping	\$32,625.00
DCR Landscaping	\$42,370.00
New Jersey Tree Foundation	\$25,523.00

and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator has recommended that said services be purchased from New Jersey Tree Foundation, Jackson, NJ based on their quote for same and based on their professionalism and quality of work; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. T-12-56-500-001, as reflected by the certification of funds available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for tree planting from the New Jersey Tree Foundation, 576 Leesville Road, Jackson, NJ, at a cost not to exceed of \$30,000.00; and

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

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

No. 2-22-49

WHEREAS, Sustainable Highland Park would like to apply for a \$10,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey & PSEG to fund an initiative to plant a rain garden alongside the Highland Park Library to mitigate stormwater issues; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute and submit, on behalf of Sustainable Highland Park, the grant application to Sustainable Jersey.

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

No. 2-22-50

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park desires to participate in a joint fireworks display with the City of New Brunswick on Sunday, July 3, 2022 with a rain date of Thursday, July 7, 2022 at Donaldson Park; and

WHEREAS, proposals from fireworks companies were solicited by the Department of Community Services and the results were as follows:

D&M Fireworks LLC, \$14-15,000, not available on all dates
Garden State Fireworks, \$13,200, available on all dates
International Fireworks Mfg. Co., no quote, not available on all dates

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park and the City of New Brunswick will equally share in the costs of this event and the City of New Brunswick will reimburse the Borough for its portion of the costs; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. R-19-56-850-001 in an amount not to exceed \$13,200.00, with a reimbursement amount from the City of New Brunswick in the amount of \$6,600.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Highland Park of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to sign the contract agreement with Garden State Fireworks for the Independence Day Celebration Fireworks Display to be held on Sunday, July 3, 2022 with a rain date of Thursday, July 7, 2022.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-22-51

WHEREAS, AA Checker Taxi –Ely Kotin 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.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-22-52

WHEREAS, Ely Kotin 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. 2-22-53

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:

Mark Reefer, Police Officer, at an annual salary of \$44,449.00, effective 02/01/2022
Aretha Williams, Crossing Guard, at an hourly rate of \$19.75 per hour, effective 01/10/2022
Janet Marcik, Administrative Assistant, at an annual salary of \$62,367.00, effective 02/01/2022
Sebastian Gonzalez, Public Safety Tele communicator, at an annual salary of \$46,132.00, effective 02/01/2022.

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

No. 2-22-54

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 County of Middlesex Cooperative Purchasing Program Common Cents; and

WHEREAS the Highland Park Department of Public Works is in need of rock salt as more fully described on the attached Quote; and

WHEREAS, under Middlesex County Bid No. B-21-560, the Borough may purchase said rock salt from Morton Salt Inc., 444 West Lake Street, Suite 300, Chicago IL 60606, at County prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 2-01-26-290-207 in the amount of \$6,355.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by Finance Director, shown below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to purchase said rock salt from Morton Sale Inc., 444 West Lake Street, Suite 300, Chicago IL 60606, for a total amount not to exceed \$6,355.00.

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 2-22-55

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Department of Public Works has a need to make repairs to the Highland Park Police Department heating system #10 as it is no longer operational; and

WHEREAS, the expenses related to the repair of the heating system affects the health, safety and welfare of the Borough that requires the immediate response, the need for which was not reasonably foreseen; and

WHEREAS, due to the emergent nature of the repair, it was necessary to have the heating system repaired to address the situation; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 provides that public bidding and quotes is not necessary in an emergency situation; and

WHEREAS, East Coast Mechanical Contractors Inc., 5133 West Hurley Pond Road, Farmingdale NJ 07727 was contracted to provide the repair service in the amount of \$9,400.00; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 2-01-26-310-232 for a total amount not to exceed \$9,400.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer No. 2022-01.

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 East Coast Mechanical Contractors Inc., 5133 West Hurley Pond Road, Farmingdale NJ 07727, at a total amount not to exceed \$9,400.00; 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 the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 2-22-56

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, pursuant to said resolution a contract was duly executed; and

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 4, filed by CME Associates, that certain work under said contract has been completed and approved, and there is due to JADS Construction in an amount not to exceed \$118,145.79 in accordance with said Pay Estimate for work performed from October 11, 2021 to December 29, 2021; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-824-001 as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has prepared Change Order No. 1 to the said contract quantities including reductions and increases in same due to actual field conditions resulting in an overall decrease of \$19,567.05 in the contract amount; and

WHEREAS, Council has reviewed the proposed Change Order No. 2 for this contract and has approved the same subject to satisfaction of N.J.A.C. 5:30-11.9 relating to change orders;

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 in a total amount not to exceed \$118,145.79, as certified by the Engineer in Pay Estimate No. 4, subject to the Clerk's receipt of the Certified Payroll and Project Manning Reports and additional documents as necessary;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute Change Order No. 1 dated January 19, 2022, to the contract of JADS Construction upon satisfaction of N.J.A.C. 5:30-11.9 relating to the submission of a certification relating to the change orders to date, to the satisfaction of the Borough Attorney and Engineer; and

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

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

No. 2-22-57

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 2/1/2022 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 42.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Edward Batista & Harrison Hague to the Volunteer Fire Department.

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

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

Abstain: None.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Maria Shiffman to the Shade Tree Advisory Committee; Beth Stevens & Abby Stern Cardinale to the Board of Health; Kai Stevens to the Mayor's Equity Advisory Council.

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

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

Abstain: None.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

Leora Wenger, 133 North 7th Avenue, commented that she appreciated the snow being cleared, from her street, and asked for clarification of the wording public accommodation in executive order for the mask mandate.

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

Work Session:

Lead Service Line Inventory and Next Steps – Borough Administrator Jover updated everyone on the new federal guidelines and New Jersey law governing the treatment of lead service lines. This comes out of some of the larger sensational headlines and some very serious situations throughout the country. Essentially the service line is the connection of the water pipe to your home or property. It goes from the water main through a gooseneck connection, to the curb stop, and to the home. In Highland Park, the homeowner is responsible from the main into to the property itself. Administrator Jover said she wanted to put this out there because this is going to be something you are going to hear more about. The law puts the obligation on the water system to address any lead service lines, and that puts a timestamp, basically a 10 year period in which water systems have to address any lead service lines, meaning remove or replace within that 10 year period, which is something we are having to comply with. One of the first steps that we have to do was put an initial inventory together, the current version of that inventory is on the website, you can go to hpboro.com and go to the water department resources section, and on the right you will see the inventory. We will continue to maintain that inventory as we learn more information, and an updated version of the inventory will be made available. Some of the awareness around the issue of lead came about in the 1980s as water systems were not necessarily tracking the materials used on the service lines, especially is the case in Highland Park. The law requires a notification to go out to anybody who is in our inventory that we believe may have a lead service line. The legislation requires a notification to go out to the property owner of record and occupant letting them know there may be an issue. According to our records, there are 55 properties that have a lead service line. A letter that the DEP drafted for us, will be going out in the next couple weeks, and will be sent certified mail by February 21st.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Borough Clerk