

## REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 5, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, April 5, 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 April 1, 2022 and was posted on the Borough website at [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com) and on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ on April, 1, 2022 and has remained continuously posted as required by law.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler; Councilpersons Canavera, Foster, George, Hale, Hersh, Kim Chohan (7:13 pm); Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Jover; Borough Clerk Santiago.

Absent: None

Mayor Brill Mittler asked if there were any Council questions regarding tonight's Agenda. There were no questions.

Mayor Brill Mittler added that Council will be going into an Executive Session at the end of the meeting tonight to discuss possible litigation.

Mayor Brill Mittler announced that it was National Arab Heritage Month – April 2022. The Mayor is working on a Proclamation for this.

Tina Weishaus reported the following:

- A sustainability update ban on using plastic bags effective May 4, 2022.
- In person Earth Day event on Sunday, May 1, 2022 from 11 am – 3 pm.
- Requesting stories of people who have had a hurricane experience.
- Maintenance of storm drains.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by, Council Member Hale the minutes of the Regular/Work Session Meetings held December 21, 2021, were approved, as distributed, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

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

Councilwoman Foster noted that she has a few things to mention with regard to public safety. We have been getting a lot of reports that the Walter Avenue and River Road cross light is not working. We have a contractor working on it. We're just waiting for the equipment that we need to make the light work to come in and then once that goes in, then we should be okay. The Police Department has a new initiative called conversation with a cop, and it's going to be held at the Highland Park Community Center. Officer O'Mara will be leading the charge and he is looking forward to having these one-on-one conversations about community safety or any general questions. The first date is Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. The Junior Cadet Academy will be held July 5<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Space is still available and you can register by calling 732-572-3800, extension 4289. April is Distracted Driver Month and we all need to be careful as we are driving. The Police Department is participating in the Click it or Ticket Initiative and the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign. From January to March, the Police Department answered 7,113 calls for service and of those calls there were only 2 use of force reports. The report will be published on the Police Department's Facebook page tomorrow. The Police Department held their community forum last month and they had quite a few questions submitted. The forum can be viewed on the Police Department Facebook page an on YouTube.

Councilman Hersh reported that the Highland Park/New Brunswick Independence Day fireworks will take place on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> with a rain date of Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at a fully refurbished and restored Donaldson Park. There have been some improvements/reconstruction of the playground equipment at Donaldson Park. That is because Mayor Brill Mittler and I and the Council have worked closely with the County on making sure that the park is restored and repaired after the significant damage from Hurricane Ida. The project is underway and is anticipated to be completed by June. Tonight you will see several items that illustrate the Council's continued commitment to invest and reinvest in Highland Park. One of these items includes an ordinance that appropriates two and a half million dollars to restore/repair the Jay Dackelman field and the track, along with upgrades to lighting. This is as a result of advocacy with State Representatives and these costs include a NJ Department of Community Affairs grant in the amount of \$750,000. He thanked Mayor Brill Mittler, Senator Diegnan, Assembly Members Staley and Karabinchak, the Highland Park Public Schools, the DCA Commissioner and Lieutenant Governor Oliver for collaborating on this essential investment. Our recreation complex is one of the many jewels in Highland Park that serves the entire community. He looks forward to a sustained and targeted campaign to improve all of the borough's passive and active recreational assets for families, children, seniors and all individuals who love being outside. He was honored to represent Highland Park last Friday for the closing reception of Windows of Understanding. This is the annual public art campaign that displays works of art from area artists in storefronts and public spaces in spaces in New Brunswick, Highland Park, Metuchen and South Plainfield. The New Brunswick Community Arts Council, the 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 artist's organizations and businesses to promote awareness and engagement around social justice issues impacting local communities. He

thanked Mayor Brill Mittler, Mayor Cahill and Mayor Bush for facilitating these efforts. He also thanked Jon Marron of the Highland Park Arts Commission for bringing the drive, the artistic vision, and the networking skills to make this happen. This was Windows of Understanding's fifth year and its focus revolved around social issues such as climate change, economic justice, protest to policy and public health. The closing event was held at the Hungarian Cultural Center. You can still view items from this important exhibit at [www.windowsofunderstanding.org](http://www.windowsofunderstanding.org). The Gorilla Art Club is a collaboration between the Commission and the Recreation Department that kicked off today. It is an art club for Highland Park kids to do some surprise art projects around town as a way of bringing our community together in a fun, colorful way for seasons or holidays. We will select a project that all members will be invited to create that have an educational awareness component to them. We will be asking local artists to share their talent and lead projects and then on a selected day, we will display art all over town. He thanked the Arts Commission, specifically Nikki Gonzalez, and Kimberly McGraw at the Recreation Department for ushering in this innovative project. There is a whole host of other programming that the Recreation Department is spearheading right now for adults, for families and children. Go to [www.highlandparkrecrec.com](http://www.highlandparkrecrec.com).

Councilwoman Canavera reported that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month which strives to be the voice of victims of sexual abuse and violence. The mission is to create awareness about sexual violence worldwide and educate communities on how to prevent it. If you or anyone you know is experiencing any form of sexual abuse, please report it to the Police. Sexual assault is a crime and no one should take it lightly. Do not be afraid to speak out if it is happening to you. The rape abuse and incest national network hotline is 1-800-656-hope. The Commission for Universal Access would also like to remind everyone that April is National Autism Awareness Month. The Autism Society founded the event to increase awareness and spark change in schools, communities, medical facilities and businesses. The Community Food Pantry is open the second and fourth Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the Saturday following the Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Every month, donations can be made using their amazon wish list. The HP Gives a Hoot Food Pantry is every Tuesday at the Zone 6 center from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Donations can be made by making a check payable to the borough hall with a memo that it's for HP Gives a Hoot. Between these two programs, we're serving over 300 families. HP Gives a Hoot is also delivering fresh fruit and produce to our senior housing center every week. The Mental Health Commission wants to remind anybody with a mental health crisis to please reach out for help. You can call the Rutgers University Behavioral Helpline at 855-515-5700; the Raritan Bay Medical Center Hotline at 732-274-1741.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that the Middlesex County Board of Taxation is requiring Highland Park this year to complete the revaluation for the 2023 tax year. What happens during the revaluation? There is a visit to your home from the revaluation firm to gather information. They must present a photo ID. They will physically inspect the interior and exterior of each property, take photos and measurements of the outside of the property, the square footage of living space is calculated, including basements and attics, they will evaluate the condition of the structure, cooling and heating systems, the number and condition of kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms, and additional amenities such as porches, decks, garages, fireplaces, pools, saunas, and outbuildings. April 18<sup>th</sup> is the tax deadline for this year. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she asked the Communications Department to work closely with her in forwarding information on a regular basis about what the tax assessment is. Harry Glazer will be working with you on a plan that he's putting together.

Councilman Hale reminded everyone that the Farmer's Market is up and running as of last Friday. It is the earliest opening ever and they are looking to have a great year. He encouraged residents to come out on Friday afternoons and support the Farmer's Market. Earth Day is coinciding with the re-emergence of the Street Fair on May 1<sup>st</sup>, along with the 5K run. You can find information about all of those events at [www.mainstreethp.org](http://www.mainstreethp.org). There are some sponsorship opportunities if you are interested in sponsoring the 5k race please go to [mainstreet.org](http://mainstreet.org) and jump on those opportunities to sponsor some of the prizes. The borough's town tables were not reinstalled on South 3<sup>rd</sup> and North 4<sup>th</sup> as we had previously announced in the weeks leading up to the announcement. We believe that we had a pathway to temporarily close these streets from April 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>. We worked with the NJDOT on our major access permit, which would allow us to permanently close those streets on Friday of last week. We learned that the NJDOT would not approve the interim or temporary closures that we had expected. Instead, we're going to continue to move ahead with a renewed sense of urgency on securing our major access permit for closing these streets from the NJDOT. Among the next steps in that process is the introduction of a town ordinance on the street closures which will include a public hearing on that process. In addition, and on a parallel track, we will continue with the needed engineering work already underway in support of that application. While this news is disappointing, the Borough is going to continue to do their best to make what we have the best that we can make it. The Berlin will be partnering with Main Street Highland Park and local businesses to expand and bring much needed improvements to the existing outdoor seating areas on South 3<sup>rd</sup> and North 4<sup>th</sup> as well as the Welkovits pavilion on Raritan Avenue. These upgrades and additions will be rolled out over the next coming weeks so please stay tuned for future announcements. In addition, we do have the authority to periodically close the streets for 48-hour periods and we'll be working with Main Street to identify a number of those 48-hour periods where closing the streets can help support existing and ongoing Main Street activities. He apologized for the false start and he realizes how important the town tables are to the health, the well-being and the economic vitality of downtown. We're working to make them a reality in a legal and safe way as soon as possible. He wanted to note his heartfelt sadness at the loss of Bernie Sloane. He never spoke to him and never met him but he does know that anybody who participates in our various town Facebook groups through his photography, Mr. Sloane brought little reminders of the beauty of life and the beauty of Highland Park to us every single day and that's going to be missed.

Council President George reported that April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and the Borough would not be able to do what they do without our volunteers across the board from Public Works, to the Arts Commission, to Sustainable Highland Park. We had one of our leading volunteers Tina Weishaus speak tonight. He thanked all the volunteers for their service. May 4<sup>th</sup> is the start of the plastic bag ban in New Jersey. Information will be posted on the website and the Borough's Facebook page about the plastic bag ban and ban on paper bags. Highland Park started the plastic bag ban six months before the pandemic

started and was a lead town, attending meetings with people in the Senate and Assembly when the bill was being put together. He has been working with the Superintendent of Public Works, the Borough Administrator, the Mayor, PSE&G and Middlesex Water to identify a list of streets to be repaved due to the major repairs done to the gas lines and water lines. The list of streets can be found on the Borough's website. The Public Works and Public Utilities Committee have been addressing the overall trash problem. Some of the issues have been resolved. The new street sweeper is in use and actually picks stuff up off the streets. The Library is making an optional mask program from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Fridays and on Saturdays, masks are mandatory. This is to suit the particular populations with children's activities and also senior activities. Inside repairs are just about done and they should be getting back to being fully open, but not the whole facility, because of the ongoing repairs. Tonight we have the second reading of the ordinance allocating our 50% to the state grant will give us \$950,000 for improvements to the library. It is managed under state programming and takes a lot longer, but the Library Board is working with their architect to implement that. The CPAC Organization, an organization that lends support to the parent or Care giver of autistic children, is holding a fundraiser at Pino's. It is their annual fundraiser to raise money for the support groups without which many things can't happen. On a final note, Councilman Hersh and I attended the soft opening of Mr. Pi's Sushi House on Friday night.

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

Borough Administrator Jover reported that she wanted to share a photo of the road street maps that will show you the extent of all the work that is coming this year as well as next year. Yellow shows our road projects that we did last year; red are borough driven road projects that will happen this year; blue will be projects for next year and then in orange and green are the PSE&G roads. Orange being full width and green being half width. We also have our Woodbridge Avenue project that the County and the Borough are partnering on on the upper portions of Woodbridge Avenue. It's exciting to see these projects come together and hopefully, in addition to having safer gas line infrastructure we will also have smoother and safer roadways as well. She also mentioned the overlay for the safe routes to school projects. Those are intersection improvements that we will be making most likely either late this year or early next year. The Borough will be making their annual application come July for the Borough's next allocation of state aid money. They are going to be looking at complementing or bookending areas that need attention, especially near some of these other improvements.

Borough Attorney Schmierer- No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that she wanted to remember three unique men, Highland Park residents that we lost since our last Council meeting.

1. Eric Weinberg was known and loved by so many of us in Highland Park. Eric and his family own the Loft and stores along Raritan Avenue. But, so many of the young men who grew up in Highland Park will most likely remember him for his days encouraging young basketball players in town. Eric was a big man with a full, loving heart and deep care about our downtown community.
2. Even those who never met Bernie Sloan in person felt like they knew him. He enriched all our lives with incredible photos of nature in and around Highland Park. And, he shared these photos with all of us on Facebook. Bernie will be remembered for his smile and his keen eye for nature, whether from his back porch or in and around Donaldson or Johnson Park.
3. Keith Bull loved his community of Highland Park. Keith was a gifted artist and curator at our neighboring Zimmerli Art Museum. He was an avid bicyclist. His memory should be a siren call to encourage us all to support safe pedestrian and cycling in and around Highland Park.

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

Mary Forsberg, 317 Dennison Street, questioned if parking garages are actually sustainable in Highland Park and asked what the status of the parking study by Level G is.

Lois Lebbing, North 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, requested that the Borough have signage when and where construction will be. Ms. Lebbing stated she would like 15C of the consent agenda explained when they are presenting it. She suggested that the bulk furniture put out be recycled.

Mary Botteon, 709 Madison Avenue asked a question regarding the terms of the agreement in Ordinance 22-2047.

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

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS RECREATION COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$2,050,000 THEREFOR (INCLUSIVE OF A NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000 AND A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE HIGHLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$650,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$650,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF", for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

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

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

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

On motion made by Councilman Hersh, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 22-2045, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Hersh, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 4-22-92

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS RECREATION COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$2,050,000 THEREFOR (INCLUSIVE OF A NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$750,000 AND A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE HIGHLAND PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$650,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$650,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF", passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his/her approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of Neptune, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$944,929.00", for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

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

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

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

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 22-2046, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

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

No. 4-22-93

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, "CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$944,929.00", passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his/her approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of Neptune, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THE NEW JERSEY LOCAL LANDS AND BUILDING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14(C) AUTHORIZING LEASES FOR 212 RARITAN AVENUE AND 101 RARITAN AVENUE BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK", for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

On motion made by Councilwoman Canavera, seconded by Councilwoman Foster, 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.

Mary Forsberg, 317 Denison Street, commented that the Borough needs to be more transparent about properties they are purchasing and the purpose for the purchase as those properties come off the tax rolls.

Lois Lebbing, North 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, commented about the old gun shop and whether the lease includes the vacant lot. She also wondered what the watershed will be doing with the Bergen Auto property. Lastly, she mentioned teenagers doing damage at the vacant property.

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

On motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 22-2047, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: Councilperson George.

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 unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 4-22-94

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THE NEW JERSEY LOCAL LANDS AND BUILDING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14(C) AUTHORIZING LEASES FOR 212 RARITAN AVENUE AND 101 RARITAN AVENUE BY THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK", passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his/her approval, and if approved by him, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of Neptune, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, "CALENDAR YEAR ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)", had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 4-22-95

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, "CALENDAR YEAR ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)", has been introduced and duly passed on first reading;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that this Council meet at the Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage after public hearing thereon.

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

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

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY CONCERNING REGULATIONS FOR WRECKER OPERATORS AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK", had been introduced in writing by the Public Safety Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

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

No. 4-22-96

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY CONCERNING REGULATIONS FOR WRECKER OPERATORS AND AMENDING THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK", has been introduced and duly passed on first reading;

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The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY AMENDING CHAPTER 9 OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK" BY ADDING THERETO ARTICLE XXIV RECONSTITUTING THE SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.", had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.



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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hersh, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:  
No. 4-22-97

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY AMENDING CHAPTER 9 OF THE “CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK” BY ADDING THERETO ARTICLE XXIV RECONSTITUTING THE SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE” has been introduced and duly passed on first reading;

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

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

Borough Administrator Jover explained a power point presentation depicting a pie chart of all the taxes the Borough is responsible for collecting. She explained that the total tax levy, the amount to be raised by taxes, includes 61% for the schools, 27% for municipal purposes, 10% for the County, 1% for Middlesex County open space and 1% for the Library. The Borough is required to give the Library \$446,440.00, but funded the Library \$1,081,479.00. The average residential assessment is \$12,437.70 and \$7,643.00 of that tax bill goes to the schools. The 2022 numbers are estimates because the county's budget and the school budget have not been certified. The municipal budget is \$18,927,715.22 and encompasses 27% for public safety, 16% for general services and administration, 16% for public works, 10% statutory, 10% insurance, 6% capital improvements and debt and 6% library. Appropriations for the municipal budget increased by \$1.1 million dollars, but \$500,000.00 was in grants. The overall impact on your tax bill for the municipal budget is \$19.63 per year, but the increase is only \$10.00 because there were some decreases in county numbers. The water and sewer utility budget being proposed is \$5.67 million dollars. Key projects for 2022 is the borough owned meter replacement program, the lead service line replacement program, the Woodbridge Avenue water main replacement and the GIS-based asset management plan. The public hearing will be May 3<sup>rd</sup> and she will post the slides and the budget documents on the Borough website.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, the 2022 Municipal Budget and Tax Resolution were duly adopted on first reading by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:  
No. 4-22-98

Municipal Budget of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex for the Year 2022

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2022;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Budget be published in the Home News Tribune, Neptune, N.J. in the issue of April 8, 2022.

The governing Body of the Borough of Highland Park does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the year 2022:

General Appropriations

Appropriations Within “CAPS”

Municipal Purposes \$14,574,206.07

Appropriations Excluded from “CAPS”

Municipal Purposes 4,161,173.15

Reserve for Uncollected Taxes – Based on

Estimated 99.60 Percent of Tax Collections 200,000.00

Total General Appropriations 18,935,379.22

Less: Anticipated Revenues Other Than Current

Property Tax 4,881,460.16

Difference: Amount to be Raised by Taxes

For Support of Municipal Budget:

Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Including

Reserve for Uncollected Taxes 13,587,478.06

Minimum Library Tax 466,441.00

Water & Sewer Utility Operating Fund:

Total Water & Sewer Utility Revenues \$5,670,000.00

Total Water & Sewer Utility Appropriations \$5,670,000.00

Notice is hereby given that the Budget and Tax Resolution was approved by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, on April 5, 2022.

A hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 7:00 o'clock P.M. at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2022 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), this meeting will be held by means of the use of electronic communications equipment. The public may participate by phone by dialing 1 (929) 205-6099 and entering in Webinar ID 917 5801 8409 or by computer/smart device via the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91758018409>.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

No. 4-22-99

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Main Street Highland Park Budget for the year 2022;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Budget be published in the Home News Tribune, Asbury Park, NJ, in the issue of April 8, 2022.

The Governing Body of the Borough of Highland Park does hereby approve the following as the Main Street Highland Park Budget for the year 2022:

Income	
Government Grants	35,000.00
Special Assessment (BID)	166,474.00
Fees/Sponsorships	22,070.00
Reserves	<u>56,000.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 279,544.00
Expense	
Administration and General	\$ 190,979.65
Program Expense	<u>88,550.00</u>
Total Expense	\$ 279,529.65

Budget Surplus/(Deficit) \$ 14.35

Notice is hereby given that the Main Street Highland Park Budget and Resolution was approved by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, on April 5, 2022.

A hearing on the Main Street Highland Park/Business Improvement District Budget will be held at the next Council Meeting, which, due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be taking place virtually on May 3, 2022 at 7:00 o'clock PM at which time and place objections to said Budget and Resolution for the year 2020 may be presented.

Resolution Nos. 4-22-100 through 4-22-108 were duly adopted on a motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Foster, 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 Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 4-22-100

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is in need of information technology consulting services; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 11-4.1, et seq., provides that competitive contracting may be used to procure specialized goods and services, the price of which exceeds the bid threshold; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 11-4.1(b)(3) states that competitive contracting may be used by local units for the operation, management or administration of data processing services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to advertise a notice for a Request for Proposals (RFP) for information technology support services Borough of Highland Park. The proposals will be received and evaluated in accordance with the instructions and methodology provided in the forthcoming RFP documentation.

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

No. 4-22-101

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq. (the "Redevelopment Law"), on April 21, 2020 by Resolution 4-20-147 adopted by the Borough of Highland Park (the "Borough"), the Borough, as "redevelopment entity," determined the properties located at Block 1704, Lots 44 and 45 in the Borough (the "Properties") to be in an area in need of redevelopment with the power of eminent domain; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Redevelopment Law, by Ordinance 21-2030, on September 14, 2021, the Borough adopted the Downtown Redevelopment Plan for Tracts A-D; and

WHEREAS, the Redevelopment Plan, at pages 23 thru 34 therein, sets forth the proposed redevelopment of the site and depicts, on page 25 thereof, a multi-story, mixed-use project to be developed as a part of Phase 1 of the Tract A parcels; and

WHEREAS, the Properties complete the assemblage required to develop Phase 1; and

WHEREAS, such Properties are lack access to Raritan Avenue, are undersized with respect to lot area and constrained by a change in grade and steep slopes along Denison Street, essentially precluding any as-of-right development and are unlikely to be developed on their own; and

WHEREAS, Integra Realty Resources – Northern Jersey was retained by the Borough to appraise the Properties and, thereafter, performed an appraisal of the Properties and determined the Properties to have a combined value of \$40,000 (the “Appraisal”); and

WHEREAS, the Borough hereby certifies that there are funds available to acquire the Properties, NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park as follows:

- 1) The recitals hereto are incorporated herein as if set forth at length.
- 2) The Borough Council accepts the value of the Properties set forth in the Appraisal and is satisfied the Appraisal has been performed in a competent manner and in accordance with applicable law.
- 3) The Borough Council authorizes the Borough to purchase the Properties for the sum of \$40,000, and the Borough is hereby authorized to enter into a contract and to sign all other documents necessary to consummate the acquisition of the Properties and effectuate this Resolution, subject to the review and approval of the Borough’s Counsel.
- 4) In the event that the Borough cannot, for any reason, acquire the Properties as a result of amicable negotiations, the Borough is hereby authorized to institute condemnation proceedings to acquire the Properties, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 20:3-1 et seq., and N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-8(c).
- 5) This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

No. 4-22-102

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park complies with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) Lead and Copper Rule; and

WHEREAS, the USEPA has proposed the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) that includes updated requirements related to the lead service line (LSL) inventory, compliance and system sampling and public education; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) passed legislation that requires water utilities to inventory and replace all lead service lines by July 2031 and requires the lead service line replacement program (LSLRP) plan be submitted by July 22, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to take a proactive approach to managing its compliance with LCRR and LSLRP and is in need of professional engineering services to assist with LSL program planning, including inventory development and service line verification and LSLRP Plan and funding strategy; and

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

WHEREAS, CDM Smith is a qualified and licensed engineering consulting firm in the State of New Jersey with extensive experience working on water systems and lead service line issues and has submitted a technical proposal for Phase 1 – Inventory and Planning - dated March 9, 2022 for a cost not to exceed \$70,500; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has funding for this purpose available through the American Rescue Plan Act – Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARPA-LFRF).

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 CDM Smith, 110 Fieldcrest Ave, #8, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Edison, NJ 08837, for Phase 1 – Inventory and Planning – in an amount not to exceed \$70,500.00. The scope of work shall be consistent with the Technical Proposal for Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) Program Management Services – Phase 1 – Inventory and Planning provided by CDM Smith and attached to this resolution.

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

No. 4-22-103

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Special Planning Consultant for the calendar year of 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, Brian M. Slaugh, PP, AICP 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 Special Planner for 2021; and

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

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose 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. 2-01-20-155-233, 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 Brian M. Slaugh, PP, AICP, Clarke Caton Hintz, 100 Barrack Street, Trenton, NJ 08608, 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 Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 4-22-104

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council desire to install public direct current fast charging (DCFC) electric vehicle chargers in Highland Park to accommodate a growing fleet of electric vehicles in town and around the state; and



WHEREAS, the Borough's desired location for the chargers on So. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue has a suitability score of 95 out of a possible 100 due to its proximity to multi-family housing, low-income census tracts, Route 27, and local amenities; and

WHEREAS, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEPT) has funds available for this purpose through their competitive "It Pays to Plug In" grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council desire to apply for a grant from NJDEP in an amount up to \$200,000; 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 the Borough Council, the grant application to the NJDEP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement upon acceptance on behalf of the Borough of Highland Park and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

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

No. 4-22-105

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs established the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) to provide financial assistance to low-income households to assist with outstanding balances on residential water and sewer bills; and

WHEREAS, in order to participate in the LIHWAP, municipal water and sewer utilities must enter into a vendor agreement in order to accept payments as well as a data sharing agreement with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park would like to participate in the LIHWAP in order to assist residents experiencing difficulty in paying their water and sewer bills.

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 the Vendor and Data Sharing Agreements attached to this resolution.

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

No. 4-22-106

WHEREAS, there is a need to adjust the utility account for a property in the Borough of Highland Park due to a malfunction in a customer-owned meter; and

WHEREAS, the Borough estimated the billings starting in the first quarter 2020 through the second quarter of 2021 due to a lack of accurate readings from the customer-owned meter; and

WHEREAS, the customer replaced the broken meter in March 2021 and there are now three quarters of accurate usage data in the system from the new meter; and

WHEREAS, that property is identified as Block 3701 Lot 20, 65 Woodbridge Ave (Account #30230540-0).

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

1. The calculated quarterly average using readings from the past three quarters (Q3 2021, Q4 2021 and Q1 2022) is 18,167 cubic feet.
2. The Tax Collector shall apply this average quarterly usage to the period starting first quarter 2020 through the second quarter of 2021 (six quarters total), which comes to 109,002 cubic feet of usage or \$13,624.16 in water and sewer billings.
3. The Tax Collector shall adjust the account balance by \$11,531.97 to reflect the difference between \$13,624.16 and the amount billed to the customer during this same period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department and Tax Collector forthwith.

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

No. 4-22-107

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 and hourly basis, there have been the following changes, to wit:

Luke Cheslock, Seasonal Recreation Employee, at an hourly rate of \$15.00, effective 03/15/2022.

Alex Pellicane, Seasonal Recreation Employee, at an hourly rate of \$13.00, effective 03/15/2022.

Ian Pellican, Seasonal Recreation Employee, at an hourly rate of \$13.00, effective 03/15/2022.

Ciara Marsh, Seasonal Recreation Employee, at an hourly rate of \$13.00, effective 03/15/2022.

Dov Fine, Seasonal Recreation Employee, at an hourly rate of \$13.00, effective 03/18/2022.

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. 4-22-108

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 4/5/2022 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 42.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed H. James Polos as the Emergency Management Coordinator; and Haim Cohen, Laurel Kornfeld, Mason Resnick, and Valeri Drach Weidman to the Public Information Committee.

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

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

Mary Forsberg, 317 Denison Street, commented that Borough Administrator Jover did a good job explaining the budget. She asked about pilot program money from 31 River Road and how the money is allocated to the schools.

Dan Stern Cardinale, 221 Harper Street, commented that he is favor of bringing back the town tables in a permanent way. It was great to have them last year and they were always busy. There is a petition going around with approximately 300 signatures in support of the town tables.

Marcos Castro, 432 Montgomery Street, commented that he is against closing any streets in town either temporarily or permanently. He wants to have tables and wants to have a public space, but does not want them to use the streets, use a different property.

Michael Nass, 123 South Adelaide Avenue, expressed is support for the town tables and thanked the Borough Administrator for her budget presentation.

Lisa Kaplan, 123 South Adelaide Avenue, expressed her support for the town tables, it brought a sense of community. She asked that they make the town square where the farmer's market is more appealing to sit at during the rest of the week.

John Bucu, 401 Byron Place, Somerset, commented about Highland Park loading up the town with pot shops to make money. He also commented about the taxpayers paying for Mayor Brill Mittler's and Councilwoman Foster's health insurance.

Ethan Schoolman, 423 Harrison Avenue, expressed his support for the town tables. It was such a great place to gather for kids, teenagers and adults. He suggested that when the space is reinstalled that it be dedicated to the first responders, the teachers, and the essential workers who sadly lost their lives or lost loved ones.

Lois Lebbing, North 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, commented that closing the roads causes extra idling time and that the Borough needs more through streets. She asked why a Councilperson abstained from voting on the lease for 212 and 101 Raritan Avenue. She also asked about adjustment for 65 Woodbridge Avenue.

Mary Botteon, 709 Madison Avenue, commented that the budget presentation by the Borough Administrator was very clear. She commented about the lease agreements that were voted on as part of an ordinance. Those agreements should have been included as part of the agenda packet. She expressed her unhappiness at the Council for voting for an ordinance that brings in pot shops and marijuana dispatch offices.

Milagros Aguayo, 102 South 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that she does not want to see any commercial marijuana businesses in Highland Park. She asked why the Mayor and Council want to proceed with their marijuana business plan when marijuana remains against federal law.

Eric Lipton, 123 South Adelaide Avenue, expressed his support for returning the town tables to South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and North 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It is a wonderful area for pedestrians. He agreed with the suggestion made by Ethan Schoolman. He commented that he is proud of the marijuana ordinance and is glad that it is legal. One of the reasons he can walk is because of medical marijuana.

Alexandra Palmer, 337 Harper Place, commented that she is in support of the town tables. They chose Highland Park as their home because they consider it a walking town. They were able to spend time with friends outside last year and they really enjoy the community.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented that she is strongly in favor of bringing back the town tables. She commented about the health crisis and noted that those who have been vaccinated might feel relief, but parents of young children do not have that relief yet.

Mary Forsberg, 317 Denison Street, commented on OPRA request submitted on February 1, 2022 for listing of names and addresses of people who were sent copies of the redevelopment RFP or who requested copies of the RFP. She was told the information was not available to her because if disclosed it would give an advantage to competitors. Their names should be published on the borough's website. Lastly, she commented about property acquisition behind the gun shop and the fact that they are willing to use eminent domain.

Borough Attorney Schmierer read letter submitted by Alexis Thomason, 115 Exeter Street. She authored petition that asks Council to keep property located in tract C designated for the Farmer's Market. She is also in support of the town tables. The concrete barriers are a hazard for pedestrians and cars.

Borough Attorney Schmierer read comment submitted by Nikki Taussig. She expressed her dismay with closing streets that connect with Cleveland Avenue. The concrete barriers are a hazard to pedestrians and cars.

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

Work Session:

No items for discussion.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

No. 4-22-109

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)
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 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago  
Borough Clerk