

REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 1, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held via Zoom, on Tuesday, November 1, 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 October 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 October 28, 2022, and has remained continuously posted as required by law.

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

Absent: Councilpersons Foster, Hale.

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

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that she is happy to be back meeting in person. The Professional Property Appraisers has inspected approximately 1,500 residential properties as of October 28th. This includes taking both front and rear photos of each property. In addition, they have inspected 14 commercial properties and have started taking daytime, evening and Saturday appointments for residents that request it. As of October 26th, BRB, the separate reval company hired to do the unique properties in town, mostly the big apartment complexes, have completed inspecting all the properties and are working on gathering the data and the additional paperwork we will need. The phone number for Professional Property Appraisers is 1-866-957-1388; the Assessor's Office is 732-57-3400, ext. 3211. Today is World Vegan Day. It amazes her to see how far this movement has come. She remembers when veganism started off as a fad diet and then eventually grew into a lifestyle. The joys and benefits of veganism are advocated today, highlighting just how easy it is to go for this cruelty free lifestyle as well as generate awareness on rights for our furry friends. She is not a vegan yet, but she's trying. She will never pass up some delicious vegan ice cream that you can barely taste the difference. She gave a shout out to all the HP vegans out there.

Councilwoman Canavera reported that she is glad to be in person for the first time in a long time. The Board of Health wants to remind everyone that lung cancer awareness month is in November. It strives to share the stories of survivors. Through their stories of hope, organizations hope to increase knowledge about the disease and its causes. Join lung cancer awareness month into spelling myths and improving results. Here are some ways you can help. Get screened; early detection saves a lot of lives. Quit smoking; it's hard, but it's worth it. This includes vaping. Be an advocate; share your story, so other can find hope too. You can learn more by visiting lcam.org. The Human Relations Commission wants everyone to know that November is Native American Heritage Month. It celebrates the diverse and rich culture of history and traditions of native people. The observation is also a time to educate everyone and anyone about the different tribes, raise awareness about the struggles native people have and still face today. American Indian pictures, words, names and stories are a critical part of the American history and help to mold our life today. The schools have started care cards in all the schools. These cards provide basic hygiene and shelf stable meals for all students. They were started with donations from teachers and many commissions in town have also donated. Any resident wanting to donate can do so by reaching out to Brooke Baldizzone at bbaldizzone@hpschools.net. The Community Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the Saturday after that Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Donations can be made using their amazon wish list. The HP Gives a Hoot food pantry is open every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Donations can be made by mailing a check to Borough Hall. They are also taking donations at the Zone 6 Teen Center. The Mental Health Commission wants to remind everyone that if you have a mental health crisis to please reach out for help. You can call the National Suicide Prevention line at 988. The Middlesex County hotline numbers are Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care HOTLINE: (855) 515-5700; Raritan Bay Medical Center HOTLINE: (732) 442-3794 Or Text HOME to 741741.

Councilman Hersh reported that it is good to be back. He and Councilperson Canavera have not been up here since they've joined the Council. A lot of civic activity requires in-person interaction. He thinks we have benefited from learning how to be remote and to be more inclusive and he looks forward to incorporating those practices into our municipal decision making. He is thrilled that we're back here in person and open to the public again which is a tremendous way that community dialogue happens. There will be a flu clinic tomorrow, November 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Attendees must be 18 years and older and should bring their insurance cards. The annual Veteran's Day Parade will take place on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. It will begin with a ceremony at the Doughboy Monument on Raritan Avenue and then proceed down Raritan Avenue into New Brunswick to the monument on George Street and Livingston Avenue. Joseph Anton Guchek, Sr. will serve as the Grand Marshal. Highland Park will be hosting a community blood drive on Wednesday, November 9th from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center. This is a partnership between the Borough and the New Jersey Blood Services. He is grateful that this is finally coming to fruition. He gave special thanks to resident Joe Romano and Kim McGraw, Director of Community Services for doing the heavy lifting and making this all happen. To ensure that our event will be successful, we need at least 50 people to sign up. Donating blood is easy and takes about one hour of your time. Each donation can save up to three lives. Your donation can help cancer patients, accident victims, people undergoing surgery, women during childbirth, people with sickle cell disease and many more. Let's do our part in helping us save lives. To sign up, visit www.nybc.org/drive and search sponsor code 65031. Information is also available on the Borough's Facebook page. The annual Halloween costume parade and festival at the Community Center was a resounding success. Halloween was amazing in Highland Park this year. The weather prevailed, the trick-or-treaters were delightful and he really enjoyed walking around with his own trick-or-treaters and just getting see people again in person and kicking crunchy leaves and eating too much candy. The Highland Park Historical Commission invites community members to participate in a tour of Elmwood Cemetery. This

is on the border of New Brunswick and North Brunswick on Georges Road. This is where many notable Highland Park residents are buried. The event will be held on Sunday, November 13th. The tour route will highlight notable historic residents and families of Highland Park such as Robert Wood Johnson, the Myers-Rice family, Chrissy Bartle, the Carpenters and many more. The tour will also discuss the history of the cemetery itself. The event is free, but you just need to register in advance. The link is on the Highland Park Facebook page or you can email him or the Historical Commission at highlandparkhistory@gmail.com. The Highland Park Arts Commission is creating a library and residents are invited to be a part of it. It's a so sketchy collection and this is an unabashed riff off of the Brooklyn Art Museum's Sketchbook project. We're not shooting to be the largest collection, just the best in Central Jersey. The directions are to request a sketchbook built with anything you'd like and return it back to the Highland Park Arts Commission so that it becomes part of the full library of art and words. The Highland Park Arts Commission will be providing weekly sketchbook prompts on their Instagram account using the handle @hp.arts.commission. You can also request a sketchbook by emailing Commissioner Nikki Gonzalez or himself.

Councilman George reported that it is not only fun, but it is an honor to be back in person. It's good to see everybody, those of us who never sat on the dais in this run as well as those of us who have been here for a long time. It's a pleasure to be back and he hopes they continue to expand and enjoy this. He has been working with the Superintendent of Public Works and the Borough Administrator to come up with a new format for a monthly report from the Department of Public Works that gets into the nuts and bolts of how the department is run, what has been done and how they accomplished tasks in the last month. He has the report from September and shared that they have a 16 member department with 1 woman, excluding 2 members of upper management, and 128 man hours available every day for work. In September there was one holiday which meant they had 2,688 available hours. They collected 329 tons of garbage in 9 collection days. On the South Side it was 182 tons on the North Side and Triangle it was 147 tons. They collected 99.79 tons of recycling all throughout town. The street sweeper was in service 12 days and swept 198 miles around town. Bulk trash picked up was 76 tons with 2 appointment days and the pickup after the town wide yard sale. The other categories created are leaf collection, tree maintenance, sign repair, potholes, and line painting. We submitted 19 work orders for resident requests or complaints and as of October 1st, 17 of those were completed. That's the kind of format we're going to be using for Public Works and it really lets people know what is being done. The Environmental Commission and Sustainable Highland Park have asked us to engage in the climate action plan program with DEP and we have decided to go forward with that at the Public Works Committee meeting. They will be working on assembling the documents. In October, Sustainable Highland Park asked the committee to revisit the leaf blower ordinance. Some years ago, we did discuss having a leaf blower ordinance with regard to time for operation as well as converting from gas to electric. At that time there was not a lot of traction because of the technology in replacing commercial leaf blowers. They've reported that the technology has significantly changed since then so we are going to revisit that with a possible ordinance introduction in 2023. The Borough submitted an application to the Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. There is a grant available for a storm water utility feasibility Phase I study, which is a general study to see whether it is a possibility. The Borough's original position was we are not big enough, nor are we equipped to have a storm water utility of our own. We will get to participate in a regional storm water utility planning group with New Brunswick, Piscataway and Edison. The watershed for the Raritan is not divided by town, but by region and the flooding that we are experiencing, which is increasing, is based upon inland waterways that we have, especially the Mill Brook.

Borough Administrator Jover reported that they are having a public information center in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, November 9th at 6:00 p.m. for the Safe Routes to School Phase II Project. These are for various intersections around our schools for ADA accessibility and sidewalk and crosswalk improvements. It is the continuation of a program started under Councilwoman Welkovits. The consultant, MV5, will be at the meeting and they will have maps up for everybody to look at. It's an open house format and everyone will have an opportunity to look at all the exhibits, ask questions, and give ideas. We had a virtual meeting similar to this during the pandemic for the Phase I project. If you are watching this meeting as a recording after the fact, we are starting the live streaming process tonight so you will be able to watch Council meetings live on either the FIOS or Optimum cable channels or on the HPTV YouTube channel which is called HPTV15 starting at 7:00 p.m. when there are Council meetings.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No Report.

Mayor Brill Mittler welcomed everyone back and commented that it is wonderful to meet in person. We are pleased to return to our traditional format where residents can hear from and address questions to their elected officials in the same shared spaced. This is truly participatory face-to-face democracy. Halloween 2022 was very special in Highland Park this year. There was a remarkable turnout at the Borough's different Halloween events over the past few days. These activities included the Highland Park Police Department's Trunk or Treat at the Community Center, the Halloween costume parade and festival at the Community Center, and haunted houses at the Highland Park High School and the Zone 6 Teen Center. There was a pumpkin carving contest and music on the Avenue and gift bags for trick-or-treaters sponsored by Main Street Highland Park. These are great community building functions and she thanked the Police Department, Administrative staff and volunteers, and Main Street Highland Park who invested a lot of time to make all of this happen. On Monday, October 24th, we were pleased to host leaders of the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus, St. Paul Council 6306 of Highland Park, which gave meritorious service awards to four of Highland Park's first responders. Chief Abrams noted that the Knights of Columbus, St. Paul Council 6306 do this yearly and they gave awards to all three emergency service units in town. For the Fire Department, Delaney McAvoy for dedication to the department; for the First Aid Squad, Capt. Bill Heinz for his leadership over the last year; and for the Police Department, Officer Sean Garley and Detective McGraw for their actions taken in early June while off-duty and witnessing someone in crisis. The Mayor thanked the Knights of Columbus chapter officers who participated in the awards ceremony held at the Highland Park Fire Department. She reiterated what Councilman Hersh said about the blood donation program. We really do need to have blood donated. There is a great need in our community and in Middlesex County. She ended by calling everyone to exercise their rights to vote next week on Tuesday,

November 8th. Our democratic way of life is only as strong as the level of participation of our citizens. We need to hear from you; America needs to hear from you, so please vote.

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.

Ross Baker, 35 Walter Avenue, commented about the new parking spaces created for the Frederick apartment building on the east side. Two of those parking spaces are problematic because both cars parked there obscure the ability of motorists exiting Walter Avenue to see traffic coming down River Road from Raritan Avenue. He reported the matter to the Police Department and the Sergeant in charge of traffic came and temporarily placed traffic cones there. They would like to see those spots designated as non-parking spots. He thinks this is a matter of public safety. The Borough Administrator noted that the proposed ordinance on tonight's agenda will be tabled from consideration to make changes to the ordinance to reflect suggested changes to the parking on Walter Avenue.

Jack Burr, 141 Riverview Avenue, commented that he is here to celebrate that ordinary residents can once again attend meetings of the Governing Body in person to observe and be heard and participate in the decision making-process. He commented about storm water management and the adopt a drain program and the fact there is not a lot of participation in this program due to the fact that many residents may not know about it. He also commented that some residents are objecting to the program since they already pay for the Department of Public Works to clean the drains. Lastly, he commented about electric leaf blowers versus gas leaf blowers.

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

Item 12a, Ordinance concerning motor vehicle parking, was tabled from consideration on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilpersons Foster, Hale.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK" CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE PARKING REGULATION, 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 Canavera, seconded by Councilman George, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilpersons Foster, Hale.

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

No. 11-22-243

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF THE "CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK" CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE PARKING REGULATION, 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, November 22, 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.

Resolution Nos. 11-22-244 through 11-22-252 were duly adopted on a motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hersh, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilpersons Foster, Hale.

Abstain: None.

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

No. 11-22-244

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough and its residents to publicly bid for the services of its Professionals, including but not limited to, the Borough Attorney, Bond Attorney, Labor Attorney, Auditor, Engineer, Planner, Planning Board Attorney, Board of

Adjustment Attorney, Redevelopment Attorney, Planning Board Engineer, Board of Adjustment Engineer, Tax Appeal Attorney, Special COAH Planner, Special COAH Attorney, Risk Manager, Prosecutor, and Public Defender to perform services for the Borough;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough is hereby authorized to publicly bid for the services of its Professionals to perform professional services for the Borough by a Request for Qualifications.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-22-245

WHEREAS, there exists various outstanding checks on the books of the Claim Fund of the Borough of Highland Park, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that these checks are at least one year old and should be canceled,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following outstanding checks in the Claims Fund in the amount of \$1,021.68 be cancelled to Current Fund Surplus:

<u>CHECK #</u>	<u>CHECK DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>CHECK AMOUNT</u>
11399	1/19/21	Hark	\$360.00
11694	3/16/21	Sunpro Graphics	374.68
12010	6/1/21	Kinetics Personal Training	150.00
12806	11/9/21	J Monzo Muncipal Consulting	50.00
12993	12/7/21	Riverside Medical Group	87.00
TOTAL			<u>\$1,021.68</u>

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-22-246

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park in the County of Middlesex previously adopted various capital projects and improvements of the Borough as more fully specified in the bond ordinances, and

WHEREAS, these projects have been completed and there are unexpended balances remaining, and

WHEREAS, the Borough now desires to cancel such unexpended balances,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park in the County of Middlesex that the following unexpended balances of completed capital projects be canceled to the proper accounts as follows:

<u>ORD #</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CANCELED TO FUND BALANCE</u>	<u>CAP IMPROVEMENT FUND</u>
12-1828	Affordable Housing	\$26,807.85	
14-1869	Sidewalk Improvements	69.03	
14-1871	Holland Backhoe	32,122.80	
	325 Gal De-Icing Tanks	9,900.00	
16-1909	Various Equipment	957.94	
17-1942	MCIA Capital Equipment	10,255.94	
18-1969	Police, Fire &PW Equip	136.93	
19-1984	ADA Compliance Entrance		\$2,300.00
20-2005	Electric Vehicle Chg Stations		5,000.00
	TOTALS	<u>\$80,250.49</u>	<u>\$7,300.00</u>

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-22-247

WHEREAS, the Director of Code Enforcement for the Borough of Highland Park has made several attempts to notify the property owner of 308 Raritan Avenue, Block 3001, Lot 3, of property maintenance violations of Chapter 303 of the Highland Park Code; and

WHEREAS, the property owner of record, Golden Eagle Foundation Inc., 45 Blackburne Terrace, West Orange, NJ 07052, failed to respond to the Borough of Highland Park's violation notice or abate the outstanding property maintenance issues; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park, in accordance with Chapter 303, subsequently made arrangements for the property maintenance violations to be abated on the property by BRD Landscaping, a private contractor; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator has confirmed that the cost to perform said work and services for the Borough of Highland Park is \$2,100.00 which sum shall be a first lien against the premises in the nature of taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that pursuant to Section Chapter 303 of the Borough Code, the sum of \$2,100.00 shall become a part of the taxes next assessed and levied upon the premises known as 308 Raritan Avenue, Block 3001, Lot 3, on the Tax Map of the Borough of Highland Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution shall be provided to the property owner of record, the Tax Collector and the Chief Finance Officer.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:
No. 11-22-248

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Edward H. Herman, Esq. is hereby appointed as Judge of the Municipal Court of the Borough of Highland Park for a term of three years expiring October 31, 2025 and until his successor is appointed and qualifies.

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

No. 11-22-249

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for receipt of bids for the following contract items:

- 1. Annual Tree Maintenance Contract for 2023 and 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said bids will be received at a date and time to be determined by the Borough Clerk and the Superintendent of the Public Works Department, said bids to be in accordance with specifications prepared by the Public Works Department.

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

No. 11-22-250

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:

- Annmarie Sabovick, Recreation Coordinator, at an annual salary of \$59,000 effective 11/01/2022
- Nasya McCants, Crossing Guard, \$19.75/hour, effective 11/01/2022
- Irena Radeva, Library Assistant, \$32.11 Effective 9/28/2022
- Julie Dorval, Crossing Guard, \$19.75/hour, effective 11/01/2022

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. 11-22-251

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 8-22-191, adopted August 2, 2022, the Borough Council authorized execution of a contract with Top Line Construction Corp. for Improvements to South 4th Avenue, Johnson Street and Montgomery Street, in an amount not to exceed \$499,500.06, without further resolution of Council; and

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

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 2, filed by CME Associates dated October 27, 2022, that certain work under said contract has been completed and approved, and there is due to Top Line Construction Corp. the sum of \$239,707.39 in accordance with said Pay Estimate for work performed from October 10, 2022 to October 26, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer has prepared the attached Change Order No. 1 to the said contract to allow supplemental work at various intersections an overall increase of \$39,950.00 in the contract amount; and

WHEREAS, Council has reviewed the proposed Change Order No. 1 for this contract and has approved the same subject to satisfaction of N.J.A.C. 5:30-11.9 relating to change orders;

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Capital Account No. C-04-55-821-001 as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer Lori Majeski, certification no. 2022-38; and

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 Top Line Construction Corp. the sum of \$239,950.00, as certified by the Engineer in Pay Estimate No. 2, 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 October 27, 2022, to the contract of Top Line Construction Corp 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 Top Line Construction Corp.

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

No. 11-22-252

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 11/01/2022 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 42.

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

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilpersons Foster, Hale.

No. 11-22-253

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that transfers of 2022 budget appropriation balances shall be made as follows:

Budget Transfer #1

Description	From	To
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Community & Econ Dev OE	64,000.00	
Recreation OE	3,000.00	
Insurance - Other		14,000.00
Legal OE		30,000.00
Gas & Oil		20,000.00
Recreation S&W		3,000.00
	67,000.00	67,000.00
	67,000.00	67,000.00

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.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, asked about the ending time for the public discussion on the safe routes to school open house. She commented about the excitement for meeting again in person, but she wanted to advocate for hybrid meetings. Attendance is quite low tonight and there was an uptick in public participation since meetings were online. The Borough is live streaming this meeting and the technology exists to make the meetings hybrid. Lastly, she wanted to advocate for improvements to the Borough’s public parks as they are unsafe. They are incredible resources for the community that are underutilized because they are unsafe.

Jack Burr, 141 Riverview Avenue, commented about the Borough encouraging and working towards the production and sale of cannabis while discouraging and punishing the production and sale of locally grown sustainable organic food products. Lastly, he commented about opening up the public bids process for a contract to maintain trees in Highland Park for small tree companies.

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

Work Session:

Best Practices Checklist – Borough Administrator Jover referred to materials she distributed to the Governing Body in response to the best practices survey. It is essentially a survey the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services requires of all municipalities to complete to be eligible to receive their full allocation of State aid. It is an effective tool to promulgate best practices in running municipalities. We completed the 2022 survey and got 33 points. You need a minimum of 24 points to get your full allocation of State aid. She encouraged the Governing Body to go over the survey and get in touch with her with any questions.

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 the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

No. 11-22-254

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:
Potential Vacant Property Litigation; Cannabis 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 Canavera, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Borough Clerk