

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX  
REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 14, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, and was called to order by Mayor Foster 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 4, 2023, 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 January 4, 2023, and has remained continuously posted as required by law.

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

Absent: Councilperson George.

Mayor Foster read proclamation in recognition of retirement of Lt. Thomas Hammill and presented him with an official copy.

Chief Abrams commented that four years ago there was a change and he became Chief and Lt. Hammill remained as a Lieutenant. He didn't realize how much of an impact he had until he saw the work Tommy had to do from above him and not below him. He took it for granted when he was a Sergeant. He took it for granted when he was a Patrolman. He took it for granted when he was a Lieutenant. When he became Chief, he saw how much Lt. Hammill did for the department, how he poured his heart and soul into it. It changed things for him and he really took a new appreciation to his professionalism. He thanked Tommy for 25 years of excellent work. He thanked him most especially for the last five years. He told his family that he's very jealous that they'll get to spend all this time with him now and he doesn't.

Mayor Foster read proclamation in recognition of the Stop & Shop employees.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that the CDBG Committee met last week to hold their public hearing for applications. There is a resolution on the agenda tonight to vote for the applications that will be moving forward. The Highland Park Community Food Pantry will receive \$3,000; the Summer Camp Program/HP Gives a Hoot will receive \$20,000; the Dept. of Aging/Senior Outreach will receive \$13,000; the Dept. of Recreation/Community Youth Outreach Programs will receive \$13,445; the Dept. of Aging/Senior Transportation will receive \$15,000; the Dept. of Community Services/Teen Center Keyless Entry will receive \$5,000; and the Dept. of Recreation/Molimock-Graff Park Improvements will receive \$7,000. This a new application for this year. There's been many discussions around improvements in that park and in that area. Those are the applications that will be submitted to the County for CDBG funding for this year. In light of recent events surrounding the financial services sector, she wanted to provide a level of comfort to the residents regarding the Borough's funds. The recent bank failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank are concerning, but residents should understand that our municipal bank deposits are protected. The Federal Government provides insurance on deposits through the FDIC up to \$250,000 per account. New Jersey has taken this a step further. The governmental unit deposit protections act, also known as GUPTA, is a supplemental insurance program created by the New Jersey Legislature to protect the deposits of local governments. The program covers school districts as well as municipalities and public funds in excess of the FDIC insured amount that's federally protected by GUPTA. Municipalities are required by law to deposit their funds into banks that participate in the GUPTA program. Each bank that participates in the GUPTA must pledge additional collateral. If the collateral is not enough, other institutions holding public funds would be assessed. While the protections are not a 100% guarantee of the safety of the municipal funds, it is important to note that no governmental unit has ever lost protected deposits under GUPTA. In addition to GUPTA, we have adopted a strict cash management plan that adheres to State statute and that is Resolution #1-23-10 from our 2023 Reorganization meeting. Today is equal pay day. An annual observance that symbolized the ongoing issue of pay disparity and the wealth gap between men and women. The date itself symbolized how far into the year women must work to make as much as men during the previous year. Let's continue to raise awareness together.

Councilman Hale reported that he wanted to thank everyone who attend the recent community meeting about Stop & Shop. We had about 100 people in attendance and we had a lot of really great conversations at the meeting. Our intention was to outline and talk about a redevelopment plan proposed for Stop & Shop. If you are interested and were unable to attend the meeting, he encouraged residents to take a look at it on the YouTube channel for HPTV1. The entire program is there. Also, look on the Borough website for a copy of the power point presentation as well as the FAQ sheet about Stop & Shop. He really wanted to spend some time saying thank you to everyone for the conversations that we had about that. He's not going to go over all of the different ideas that were brought forth. The most important point that was raised is get us a supermarket and fast. They wanted us to think creatively about ways of using the lot during the closure and we had suggestions about bringing in different ways of providing food within the lot itself; like more farmers markets, additional food truck, maybe pop-up markets and additional places for pickup and drop off of food. We've been in regular contact with the owners about how those things might work as there is an insurance liability. We'll be working on different plans as those develop. The second big area that we heard at the meeting was about transportation from Highland Park to supermarkets. He is going to let Councilman Postelnik talk about that during his report. We have a great plan that was developed by our Community Services Supervisor Kim McGraw. Our primary focus has continued to go with ongoing discussions with the property owners. Our professional staff has been meeting almost weekly with the property owners to keep the lines of communications rolling towards the supermarket and we're making sure that we're all on the same page and we all want to make that happen. These discussion remain productive and we're hopeful to present some details on the specifics of the redevelopment plan soon. Once that happens, the redevelopment plan will go to the Planning Board and then it will come back to the Governing Body. At all those meetings, there will be opportunities for people to comment on what's in the redevelopment plan for Stop & Shop. As we move towards spring, he reminded everyone that the

VEO scooters are going to be coming out of hibernation. We don't have a specific date yet, but we're meeting with them later this week. He encouraged residents to visit Main Street Highland Park for a listing of their upcoming winter markets and mini markets.

Councilwoman Canavera wished all her fellow social workers, especially our Town social worker Nicole Huff, a very happy social work month. Nicole provides outstanding service to our community. In Middlesex County, New Jersey, COVID-19 level is low. Stay up to date on vaccinations, including recommended booster doses. Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Follow recommendations for isolation if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Follow the recommendations for what to do if you are exposed to someone with COVID-19. If you are at high risk of getting very sick, talk with a healthcare provider about additional prevention actions. The Human Relations Commission is looking for more members. Anyone interested can fill out a volunteer form on the website. Food insecurity is still high and we have two programs to help. The Community Food Pantry is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. following the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month. 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. until 11:00 a.m. Donations can be made by mailing a check to borough hall with a memo that it is for HP gives a hoot. Raising food prices are creating a bigger demand. The Mental health Commission wants to remind you if you need help please reach out for help. Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care HOTLINE: (855) 515-5700; Raritan Bay Medical Center HOTLINE: (732) 442-3794; Or Text HOME to 741741 to reach a Crisis Counselor.

Councilman Postelnik reported that he wanted to highlight some of the assistance that will be available through the Department of Community Services. Transportation to grocery stores will be available on weekdays as well as some weeknights and weekends. The department is going to be providing some online food shopping support to anyone who needs it. For the transportation schedule or answers to any questions about the food shopping assistance, call the department at 732-819-0052. The transportation schedule will also be on the Highland Park Department on Aging's Facebook page, along with other community service highlights. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a community health fair from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Services that will be offered include Covid-19 vaccines and boosters, blood pressure and blood sugar screenings, and family planning resources. For more information, call 732-819-0052 and the folks at the Department of Community Service will be happy to help. Summer camp registration is open for the day camp, sports and theater camps. Summer seasonal job opportunities at these camps are also available. Visit the Highland Park website for the registration and job application. On the community services list of highlights is the leprechaun hunt. Find leprechauns hidden all around town until March 17<sup>th</sup>. Keep an eye on Highland Park Facebook and Instagram pages for clues. There is a paint and sip fundraiser that's going to be held at Pino's on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The fundraiser is to support Project Graduation, which will provide the graduating seniors with a safe celebration to attend. The instruction will be led by the Highland Park Arts Commission's own Sonia Elefante. The Highland Park Arts Commission just recently concluded a short story contest which was held from midnight through noon the next day. We got about 45 entries with the ages of the authors ranging from 5 to the late 80's. Winners will be announced soon and there will be an e-book available to all with all the stories in it. The Commission hopes to also organize a reading soon with the whole town invited. Stay tuned for more details. He encouraged residents to stop by the library to check out some adorable clay beta fish in bowls that were made by the Gorilla 5Art Club. The Gorilla Art Club kids made these to raise awareness about how these beta fish are kept.

Council President Hersh reported that the Borough received a \$10,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G to install a rain garden at the library. We've been working with Rutgers on the rain garden design and the Department of Public Works will do the site prep and they will use volunteers for the plant installation on a community planting day. The site prep will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 5<sup>th</sup> and the community planting day will be Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The whole project will be done in time for Earth Day on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Rutgers will be on site to manage the volunteers and planting along with Library and Borough staff. The library will begin recruiting volunteers in late March. Park Partners voting will take place on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Some of the boards and commission have submitted on their own some really innovative projects. The Environmental Commission is doing a series of cleanups. They host weekly cleanups at different areas around the borough. Cleanups for the remainder of March, April and the first half of May have been scheduled. You can see the most up-to-date schedule at [hpeg.com](http://hpeg.com) and as other cleanups are planned. An upcoming cleaning will take place on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the trail along Raritan River parallel to South Adelaide Avenue at 10:00 a.m. till noon. They'll meet at the trailhead at the intersection of Valley Place and South Adelaide Avenue. On Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, Sustainable Highland Park organized a cleanup that will take place at the wooded area at the bottom of South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue adjacent to the Meadows from 10:00 a.m. to noon. They'll meet at the intersection of South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Donaldson Street. He echoed the sentiments of Councilman Hale on the Stop & Shop forum. He thought it was a really powerful in-person community engagement event to hear feedback and to hear folk's concerns and trepidations about this important institution leaving town. He is extremely nervous about Stop & Shop leaving town. We have to be resolute and we have to create a clear-eyed plan moving forward on how to address this, but that doesn't mean we're not concerned and worried and are sentimentally attached. A filmmaker in town, John Hume, is making a documentary on Stop & Shop and put a call out for some photos.

Borough Administrator Jover reported that she wanted to acknowledge Lieutenant Hamill's service. She appreciated the proclamation and the Chief's remarks. She wished him well in his future endeavors and it was fun to get to see his family and put the puzzle pieces together having heard all their stories from all their vacations. She looks forward to his send-off in style. On the agenda is an item for a shared service agreement with the Middlesex County's Fire Marshal. It is a continuation of what has been a good partnership for 10 years. The agreement establishes them as the Fire Official for the Borough doing fire inspections and fire protection activities, as well as many other things. We benefit from the marshal's support beyond the specifics of the fire officials duties. The budget is on track for introduction on April 4<sup>th</sup>

and we're having a budget work session next Tuesday and she will do her traditional presentation at the introduction on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No Report.

Mayor Foster reported that she attended a luncheon at the senior center where they had a St. Patrick's Day luncheon with Gaelic music. One of the things she spoke to them about is that we're fast approaching the end of the free Covid test kits. She expressed to them that they should try to get as many of these test kits as possible because they are entitled to 8 per month. Now we're back to Stop & Shop and that has been her mantra ever since she took over the Mayor's seat. She is constantly working on a daily basis to bring a supermarket to town. She does not get tired of asking anybody she meets about whether they know of someone who would want to open up a supermarket in Highland Park. The Borough recognized Stop & Shop and they are going to have a sendoff for the staff at the closing on March 16<sup>th</sup>. We are asking residents to come out and help create an applause line as the workers leave Stop & Shop for the last time. This will take place on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. We want to give them a heartfelt thank you for their service and a heartfelt thank you for everything they have done for the town. Anyone interested in joining can RSVP to Harry Glazer, Public Information Officer, at [hglazer@hpboro.com](mailto:hglazer@hpboro.com). She noted that she has received many inquiries about the Borough having hybrid meetings. In response to the many requests, the Borough will hold Council meetings in person and will offer a courtesy option, the ability to watch and participate in meetings remotely. They will launch the new option once they resolve their procedural issues as well as address some technological needs that are unique to our meeting space. She thanked residents for reaching out to her with their inquiries and she encouraged them to continue to utilize their civic engagement and get involved in Highland Park. The Park Partners Grant 2023 will be here soon and the proposals are in. Voting will take place on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Community Center. There will be five winners chosen and the winners will receive up to \$2,000 for their project. On Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> she met with Dr. Cliff Lacy, Chair of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. The Federal Government plans to lift the public health emergency for Covid 19 on May 11<sup>th</sup> and that will result in costs to residents for Covid tests and vaccines unless your insurance company agrees to cover them.

Mayor Foster 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.

Jacob Moffett, 42 Lincoln Avenue, commented about the lack of turnout at the meeting and that they should publicize the location of the meetings on Facebook and Instagram. He also asked about when the schedule for the shuttle will be coming out. He asked whether the Borough could provide incentives to other businesses in town to provide produce or other necessities that are difficult to get with no grocery store in town. He also asked about a rough timeline for redevelopment plans or ideas.

Angela Perrone, 242 South Sixth Avenue, commented about the presentation a couple of months ago. She asked whether they looked into bringing in a trailer with fresh produce, milk and things like that that would help in the interim.

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

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK," CHAPTER 380 TAXICABS, "FARES" was duly advertised for consideration of passage on final reading by title and affidavits of publication are on file. The ordinance was also posted and made available for public inspection as required by law.

Mayor Foster 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 Councilman Hale, Ordinance No. 23-2067 entitled as above, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson George.

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), has been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the ordinance entitled as above was approved on introduction, authorized publication as required by law and set public hearing for April 4, 2023, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson George.

Abstained: None.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, CHAPTER 7 TRAFFIC, "SCHEDULE X, STOP INTERSECTIONS", has 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 Hale, the ordinance entitled as above was approved on introduction, authorized publication as required by law and set public hearing for April 4, 2023, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik.  
 Opposed: None.  
 Absent: Councilperson George.  
 Abstained: None.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik.  
 Opposed: None.  
 Absent: Councilperson George.  
 Abstained: None.

**Resolution No. 3-23-82**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 allows for a municipality to adopt a temporary budget within the first 30 days of its budget year when contracts, commitments or payments need to be made prior to the adoption of the regular budget, and

WHEREAS, THE Borough of Highland Park requires additional appropriations to maintain operations until such time that the Borough Budget is adopted,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, that the following additional temporary emergency budget appropriations be authorized:

DEPARTMENT	TYPE	AMOUNT
Environmental Commission	O/E	\$275.00
Office of Emergency Management	O/E	\$1,500.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough.

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 the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik.  
 Opposed: None.  
 Absent: Councilperson George.  
 Abstained: None.

**Resolution No. 3-23-83**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Standing Committees of said Council for the year 2023 shall be and are hereby established as follows:

RECREATION AND ARTS	Councilpersons	POSTELNIK, Canavera, Kim-Chohan
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING	Councilpersons	HALE, Kim-Chohan, Hersh
FINANCE	Councilpersons	KIM-CHOHAN, Postelnik, Hale
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	Councilpersons	CANAVERA, Hersh, George
PUBLIC SAFETY	Councilpersons	GEORGE, Hale, Canavera
PUBLIC WORKS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	Councilpersons	HERSH, George, Postelnik

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the first Councilpersons listed above for each Committee shall serve as Chair of that Committee.

Resolution No. 3-23-93 was tabled from consideration on motion made by Councilwoman Canavera, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik.  
 Opposed: None.  
 Absent: Councilperson George.  
 Abstain: Councilperson Canavera (Resolution #3-23-91).

Resolution Nos. 3-23-84 through 3-23-96 (except Resolution #3-23-91) were duly adopted on a motion made by Councilman Hersh, seconded by Councilman Postelnik, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik.  
 Opposed: None.  
 Absent: Councilperson George.  
 Abstain: Councilperson Canavera (Resolution #3-23-91).

**Resolution No. 3-23-84**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 5-22-126, the Council of the Borough of Highland Park authorized the solicitation of proposals through the competitive contracting provisions of the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 *et seq.*, for purposes of selecting a qualified firm to provide Police Off-Duty Detail Management Services for the Borough of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2023, and consistent with the Request for Proposals Documentation issued by the Borough, the Borough received two proposals to render the services from: Visual Computer Solutions, Inc. (commonly known as “Jobs4Blue”) and Off Duty Management, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney’s Office reviewed the proposals and has determined that both comply with the minimum requirements for submission of a proposal under the RFP Documentation; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department and Administrator have reviewed the proposals and based on their review, have submitted a written report to Council recommending that the contract be awarded to Visual Computer Solutions, Inc. because its proposal is most advantageous to the Borough, price and other factors considered; and

WHEREAS, all fees paid to Visual Computer Solutions, Inc. for the Police Off-Duty Detail Management Services shall be paid directly by vendors using police officer services, with no cost to the Borough.

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

1. The above preamble is incorporated herein as if set forth at length.
2. The Council hereby awards an agreement for Police Off-Duty Detail Management Services to Visual Computer Solutions, Inc. for an initial term of 2 years with the option to renew for up to 3 successive 1-year terms (for a total term of up to 5 years). Vendors using the services shall pay to Visual Computer Solutions, Inc. an 8% service fee and 4% credit card fee. No fees shall be paid by the Borough.
3. The Mayor and Clerk shall be authorized and directed to execute an Agreement with Visual Computer Solutions, Inc. consistent therewith.
4. A copy of this Resolution, and the executed Agreement, shall be placed on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**Resolution No. 3-23-85**

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Fire Department has seen an uptick in emergency calls and desires to increase the amount of frontline firefighters available to respond to these calls; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) has funds available for this purpose through their Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency (SAFER) grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Fire Department desires to apply for this grant funding which does not require a cash match; and

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

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute and submit, on behalf of the Highland Park Fire Department, the grant application to FEMA.
2. 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.

**Resolution No. 3-23-86**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of an engineer to provide engineering services in connection with the Roadway Improvements to Riverview Avenue, Washington Avenue, & Exeter Street, in accordance with letter proposal from Bruce Koch, CME Associates, dated February 16, 2023, attached to the original of this resolution; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the 2023 Temporary Budget, Capital Fund Account No. C-04-55-832-001 in an amount not to exceed \$137,639.00, and will be provided for in the 2023 Municipal Budget as adopted, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-26.

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

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for professional services with CME Associates, 3141 Bordentown Avenue, Parlin, NJ 08859, a copy of which is attached to the original of this original,
2. 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.
3. The Clerk shall publish a notice in the official newspaper of the Borough summarizing the award of the Agreement and a statement that the Resolution and Agreement are on file and available for public inspection of the Office of the Borough Clerk.

**Resolution No. 3-23-87**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of Bond Counsel for bonding and related matters the calendar year of 2023; and

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

WHEREAS, Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, Esqs., is a firm of attorneys at law of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in bonding and related matters and has heretofore been appointed as Borough Bond Counsel for 2023; and

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

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

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the 2023 Temporary Budget, in Finance and various General Capital Accounts, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00, and will be provided for in the 2023 Municipal Budget as adopted, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-27.

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

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough, an Agreement for professional services with Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, Esqs., a proposed copy of which is attached hereto.

2. 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.

**Resolution No. 3-23-88**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:8-1 et seq. authorizes municipal local units to enter into contracts with one another for the purpose of providing shared services; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has a need for a local enforcing agency pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Fire Safety Act and Regulations for Fire Code Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, a shared services agreement would be beneficial to the taxpayers in both the municipality and the county; and

WHEREAS, an agreement entitled “Shared Services Agreement between Middlesex County Fire Marshal’s Office and Borough of Highland Park as the Local Enforcing Agency for the Borough of Highland Park pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Fire Safety Act and Regulations for Fire Code Enforcement, for the purpose of enforcing the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code and the regulations has been proposed and found acceptable and is attached to this Resolution.

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

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the aforementioned Agreement.
2. Pursuant to NJSA 40A:65-1, a certified copy of the within Resolution shall be forwarded to New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services.
3. A certified copy of the Resolution and a fully executed copy of the Agreement be forwarded to the Highland Park Borough Administrator and Highland Park Chief Financial Officer as well as the Middlesex County Fire Marshal’s Office.

**Resolution No. 3-23-89**

WHEREAS the Borough of Highland Park’s Fire Department is in need of ten sets of new turnout gear and personal protective equipment (PPE) for fire response; and

WHEREAS, public bids are not required when the purchase is under a State Contract in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12 of the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to purchase said turnout gear under State Contract No. 17-FLEET-00808, from Emergency Equipment Sales, LLC, 119 Winterwood Avenue, Ewing, NJ 08638, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Grant Fund Account No. G-02-41-767-200, in an amount not to exceed \$28,000.00, and will be provided for in the 2023 Municipal Budget as adopted, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-28.

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 Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to execute said agreement to purchase turnout gear under State Contract No. 17-FLEET-00808, from Emergency Equipment Sales, LLC, 119 Winterwood Avenue, Ewing, NJ 08638, for a total amount not to exceed \$28,000.00, in accordance with the attached quote.
2. Certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough Administrator, Superintendent of Public Works, and the Chief Financial Officer.

**Resolution No. 3-23-90**

WHEREAS, distracted driving is a serious, life-threatening practice that is preventable and can result in injuries and deaths to all road users (motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists); and

WHEREAS, distracted driving occurs when drivers divert their attention away from the task of driving to focus on another activity instead; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 alone distracted driving-related crashes resulted in 2,841 deaths and 400,000 injuries on our nation’s roads; and

WHEREAS, in New Jersey distracted driving was listed as a contributing circumstance in 50 percent of all motor vehicle crashes in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey will participate in the nationwide UDrive. UText. UPay. Distracted Driving 2023 Crackdown from April 1 – 30, 2023 in an effort to raise awareness and decrease driver distraction through a combination of enforcement and education; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety will reimburse the Borough up to \$7,000 for police enforcement of the distracted driving campaign.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the Mayor and Borough Council declares its support for the Distracted Driving 2023 Crackdown both locally and nationally from April 1 - 30, 2023 and pledges to increase awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

**Resolution No. 3-23-91**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following schedule of proposed use of CDBG funds allocated to the Borough of Highland Park for the funding period 2023 – 2024 be and the same is hereby approved and a certified copy hereof be submitted to the Middlesex County Housing and Community Development Committee for their approval. If there is a reduction in the CDBG allocation, the reduction should be divided evenly to each project.

Dept. of Aging: Senior Outreach	\$13,000
Dept. of Aging: Senior Transportation	\$15,000
Dept. of Community Services: Teen Center Keyless Entry	\$5,000
Dept. of Recreation: Molimock-Graff Park Improvements	\$7,000
Dept. of Recreation: Summer Camp Program/HP Gives A Hoot	\$20,000
Dept. of Recreation: Community Youth Outreach Programs	\$13,445
Highland Park Community Food Pantry	\$3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$76,445</b>

**Resolution No. 3-23-92**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park desires to participate in a joint fireworks display with the City of New Brunswick on Sunday, July 2, 2023 with a rain date of Monday, July 3, 2023; and

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

D&M Fireworks LLC, \$17,000, available on all dates  
Garden State Fireworks, \$15,000, available on all dates  
Celebration Fireworks, \$25,000, available on all dates

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

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. R-19-56-850-001 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00, with a reimbursement amount from the City of New Brunswick in the amount of \$7,500.00, and will be provided for in the 2023 Municipal Budget as adopted, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-29.

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

1. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to sign the contract agreement with Garden State Fireworks, PO Box 403, Millington, NJ 07946-0403, for the Independence Day Celebration Fireworks Display to be held on Sunday, July 2, 2023 with a rain date of Monday, July 3, 2023.

**Resolution No. 3-23-94**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the annual Salary Resolution No. 01-23-20, which was adopted on January 21, 2023, showing the names, titles and salaries of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park, is amended as follows:

Nathaniel Smith, Laborer, \$41,620.80 annually, effective 3/01/2023.  
Diane Federico, Violations Clerk \$43,832 annually, Effective 3/16/2023.  
Cyrus Shahidi, Part-Time Recreation Seasonal Staff, \$14.13 hourly, Effective 03/19/2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer 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.

**Resolution No. 3-23-95**

WHEREAS, pursuant to duly advertised Notice to Bidders solicited pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, on February 23, 2023, nine (9) bids were received for the 2023 Spring Planting Project as follows:

1. SJC Lawncare, Inc.;
2. NJ Tree Foundation;
3. Sunset Creations, Inc.;
4. Harmony Tree Cove LLC;
5. Frank Galbraith & Son, Excavation & Demolition;
6. On Site Landscape Management;
7. TC Landscape Construction Group, Inc.;
8. Aspen Landscaping Contracting, Inc.;
9. Scenic View Landscaping; and

WHEREAS, bids were solicited based on the unit prices of the sought-after trees/plants, for a base contract (for the trees/plants) with an optional item (for on-going watering services); and

WHEREAS, at this time, the Borough seeks to award the contract for the base contract alone, and not the optional item; and

WHEREAS, the Borough intends to revise the portion of the specifications for the optional item (on-going watering services) and to re-advertise the solicitation of said optional item; and

WHEREAS, the lowest bid for the base contract amount was submitted by SJC Lawncare, Inc., with a unit price bid of \$11,836.00; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney's office has reviewed the bid documents submitted by SJC Lawncare, Inc. and advises that its submission is in compliance with the minimum bidding requirements; and

WHEREAS, based on the anticipated quantities, the not to exceed contract amount shall be \$42,000.00; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Grant Fund Account No. G-02-41-766-200, in an amount not to exceed \$42,000.00, and will be provided for in the 2023 Municipal Budget as adopted, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-30.

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

1. The Council hereby awards a contract to SJC Lawncare, Inc., 305 Elizabeth Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016, for the 2023 Spring Planting Project for the base contract/unit price of \$11,836.00 and total not to exceed contract amount of \$42,000.00 (based on anticipated quantities).
2. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an Agreement consistent herewith.

**Resolution No. 3-23-96**

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 3/14/2023 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 43.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik.  
 Opposed: None.  
 Absent: Councilperson George.  
 Abstained: None.

**Resolution No. 3-23-97**

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 #6		
Description	From	To
Clerk S&W	40,000.00	
Tax Collector S&W	7,000.00	
Group Insurance OE	47,000.00	
Fire S&W	26,000.00	
Other Insurance OE		20,000.00
Capital Improvement Fund		100,000.00
		120,000.00
	120,000.00	

Mayor Foster appointed Tracy Cangiano to the Board of Health; William Winfrey to the Community Food Pantry; Chris Woodward to the Commission for Universal Access; Jason Culver and Guy Palumbo to the Community Emergency Response Team; and Ramona Rosas, Leila Guzman, Ah Lok and Dee Donnelly to the Council on Aging.

Mayor Foster appointed Jeremy Gross, Donald Beetham, Grazina Strolia, Tom Glynn, Michele Racioppi, Andrea “Drea” Han, and Neil Fein to the Historical Commission; Sarah Ferreira to the Human Relations Commission; Lucinda Holt and Diane Reh to the Rent Leveling Board; Eli Levine Goldberg to the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee and Edward Mejia Jr. to the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik.  
 Opposed: None.  
 Absent: Councilperson George.  
 Abstained: None.

Mayor Foster appointed Laurel Kornfeld, Steve Barnes and Michael Rosenberg to the Environmental Commission; and Stephen Eisdorfer to the Planning Board.

Mayor Foster 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.

Charlie Kratovil, Editor of New Brunswick Today, congratulated the new member of Council. He wanted to revisit comments made by the Borough Attorney at the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting about avoiding a special election. He commented about the special election that was necessary in 2021 because of errors that were made. He also commented about the cancellation of the 2021 elections and the Mayor should own up to her role in it, apologize for it and resign.

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

Work Session:

No items for discussion.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilwoman Canavera, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago  
 Borough Clerk