

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX  
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 2, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, May 2, 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 George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik; Borough Administrator Jover, Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Clerk Santiago.

Absent: Councilwoman Canavera

Flag salute led by Norma Bowe.

**Honors, Awards and Presentations:**

Councilman George introduced the new Library Director Michael Bobish. Mr. Bobish spoke a about his background and plans to continue to move the Highland Park Library forward.

**Approval of Minutes:**

On motion made by Council President Hersh, seconded by Councilman George the minutes of the Regular meeting held August 2, 2022, Regular and Executive Session held on September 6, 2022, Regular Session held on September 20, 2022, Regular Session held on October 19, 2022 and Regular and Executive Session held on November 1, 2022, were approved, as distributed, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Canavera.

Abstain: None.

**Council Reports:**

Councilman George reported there was a long, steady, heavy rain over the weekend and unfortunately there were a few new leaks in the Library roof. Public Works and the roofing contractor will be on the roof tomorrow to see what problems have occurred and design a fix. The Library Board of Trustees is pleased to have presented Michael Bobish, currently the assistant director of the library in East Brunswick. The Library construction project will be gearing up soon, the agreement with Molba Carpentry was approved at the April 18th meeting by Council and Staff is already planning expansion of remote services. Chief Abrams reports that there were no reports of danger or risk to persons or property in town from the drenching all weekend rainstorm. The Chief of Police formally swore in Officer Jonathan Laraj as a Highland Park Police Officer yesterday and we welcome him to our community. The Police Department will have its second Open Gym with Police Officers for grades 5 through 8 at the Bartle School Gym this week on Thursday, May 4th from 6:30 to 8:30. He reminded everyone about the change of the flow of traffic at Irving School is in the works. Hopefully the change will go in to place for a few weeks before the end of this school year so that residents and parents can get used to the change this year and start the 2023-2024 school year with the plan in place. Another reminder, enforcement of the "click it or ticket" program is this month. Seat belts do save lives and this annual program helps to reinforce safety and mindfulness when driving. Operation Take-Back took in 81 pounds of unwanted or expired prescription medications over the weekend of April 22nd and 23rd. Last month the Borough Council approved the agreement to implement the ARRIVE program with the communities of New Brunswick, Woodbridge, and Edison in partnership with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care. The program is scheduled to kick off on this Monday, May 8th. As we said last meeting, this program will finally allow the Police Department to provide a health care responder on emergency calls which involve a person with emotional or behavioral challenges. The program also provides more training for all responders to be able to better respond to the needs of persons when intervention and understanding can defuse situations with trained personnel. Highland Park Officer Brian O'Mara is the primary officer on this detail and he heads our Community Policing Department, he has extensive experience and is a certified CIT instructor. Our first shift providing an ARRIVE officer is May 17<sup>th</sup>. The Borough has been the recipient of a grant from the Estate of Ida Kushner for upgrades and updating to police and fire. We're still working out the details on the pending final resolution, the Borough is a grateful recipient of a number of grants to certain qualified non-profit agencies which operate under the Borough's umbrella. The Volunteer Fire Department is working with administration to finalize details for replacement of a

Fire Department pumper engine. Volunteer Fire Department Chief Gershwin reports that we have three new volunteer applications which are being processed and hopefully we will be adding additional strength to the Department roster shortly.

Councilman Hale reported this Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> is the Annual 5K run at the Spring Street Fair. It begins at 9 am and the Street Fair will start around 11:30 am. He also mentioned that you can find out more information at [mainstreethp.org](http://mainstreethp.org). He gave a reminder that the Farmers Market is up and running every Friday afternoon. He noted a reminder to check with Main Street and also the Garden State Good Food Bucks Program at [goodfoodbux.com](http://goodfoodbux.com) on how you can maximize SNAP benefits and EBT benefits through the Farmers Market, patrons can double their SNAP benefits through this program. He stated that tonight we're going to be talking about the Main Street Budget. These types of programs along with the Economic Development are what our business improvement district and what Main Street does. He mentioned that The Elecon Greek Market will be a new tenant on Raritan Avenue, near 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue where the old International Food Store was. They are going to offer Greek and non-Greek items, along with an option of outdoor seating. We are welcoming another new shop on Raritan just before 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue called Blendz. It's a smoothie and charcuterie establishment. He made a plea for everyone to visit the shops and restaurants in Highland Park, especially during the week. Although business is up on weekends it's down Monday through Thursday. He mentioned that at the next meeting we're going to be introducing and having a public hearing on the Redevelopment plan for the supermarket lot. With this plan in place the landlord and the supermarkets are going to have a framework that they can work with the town on how to make sure and lock in that a supermarket is the first and best use for that property. He said he feels confident that we will get a Supermarket.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that [nj.com](http://nj.com) published an article entitled, "These Towns Have the Highest Property Taxes" in each of New Jersey's 21 counties. She noted the numbers are from 2022 and highly doubts for 2023 Highland Park will be on the list due to the town-wide re-evaluation. She mentioned that they will be adopting the 2023 Budget from April 20<sup>th</sup> tonight. She noted a Rent Control update, she stated that they filled 3 positions but will need 3 more filled, a tenant alternate, an owner occupied and an owner occupied alternate. She said that she is the Council Liaison to the Rent Control, however, the first point of contact for tenants or landlords should be our Business Administrator, Teri Jover. May is Asian American and Pacific Islanders AAPI Heritage month. It highlights the diversity and achievements of the AAPI community. May was chosen to commemorate the first group of Japanese people who immigrated to the U.S. in May of 1843, as well as to mark the anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental railroad in May of 1869. The Federal Asian Pacific American Council announced this year's theme is advancing leaders through collaboration across organization and embracing diversity. She said that she looks forward to seeing you at the Street Fair.

Councilman Postelnik reported Grocery Store Help, and reiterated the ongoing food shopping assistance available through the Department of Community Services: regularly scheduled weekday trips to a variety of grocery stores, trips may also be requested at other times, including some nights and weekends, online food shopping support is available to anyone who needs it. For further information please call (732) 819-0052 or stop by the community center. The transportation schedule is also available on the HP website. There will be a presentation on Fraud and Scam Prevention by the Highland Park Police Department Detectives, Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, and US Postal Service Inspectors this Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. At the Community Center, there will be a Mother's Day Luncheon, Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm at the Community Center. Lunch will be provided by local favorite Pithari and musical entertainment by Jerry Castaldo. Middlesex County is hosting a number of celebrations. The celebration for Highland Park residents is on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 11 am-1pm at the Piscataway Senior Center and is open to all Highland Park residents who are 90 years of age and up, all seniors can bring one guest and lunch will be provided. This event is free and you can contact the Middlesex County Office of Aging or our Community Services Department for more info. The Memorial Day Parade is Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, beginning in New Brunswick at 10:30am, crossing the bridge at around 11:30am, and proceeds up Raritan Ave. to the Doughboy Monument. A ceremony will take place at the conclusion of the parade at the Doughboy Monument. There is a Community Health Fair Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am - 2:00pm at the Community Center, screenings that will be offered include: Blood Pressure, Pulse, BMI, Bone Density, Blood Sugar, and Skin Cancer. Fasting is not required. The Yarn Heart Art Installation on Albany Street Bridge is Saturday, May 6. The HPAC, in collaboration with art students from New Brunswick High School, will be making yarn hearts and installing them on the fence along the Albany Street Bridge. Highland Park Community Chorus Spring Concert is on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm at the Reformed Church of Highland Park on 19 So. Second Ave. The concert features Mozart's requiem and Mykola Lysenko's Prayer for Ukraine, tickets can be purchased on the Community Chorus's website and at the concert

Council President Hersh reported that he had the NJSA Statue books with him if anyone needs them. He is really looking forward to seeing everyone at the Street Fair. The Earth Day Fair will also be

located at the Street Fair, on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> between 11am and 3pm. There will be a wide variety of information booths and programs. It is sponsored by the Sustainable Highland Park. The Earth Day Fair will be held on North 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue between Raritan and Denison. It will include performances by the Sheamus Trio, The Amandala and the Magnolia Street String Band, for more information you can email [highlandparksustainable@gmail.com](mailto:highlandparksustainable@gmail.com) or reach out to any of the Council members. He reminded everyone that the 5K run is that day as well. He stated that he chairs the Public Works Committee and the Tree Planting Program is underway. This is funded by the DEP's Community Forestry Program. More than 50 trees are being planted in a concentrated zone on the south side. Nearly 30 trees are being planted in front of homes that have requested them. The second phase of planting will be on Woodbridge Avenue, in partnership the NPP Program. The trees will be watered regularly, which was a concern of the Shade Tree Advisory Committee. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Queer Candy LGBTQ block part and the Pride Music Festival will take place on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> in front of Pinos.

Borough Administrator Jover – No Report.

Borough Attorney Schmierer- No Report.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Foster reported that our next Council meeting, Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> will be hybrid, the Council members will be here. There are microphones now installed in the ceiling, so those of you at home should be able to hear the Council meeting clearer. Mayor Foster thanked Business Administrator Jover, Emma Von Thun and Monica Jackson who worked hard to make this happen. She noted it will also be on Zoom and continue to be on YouTube, posted on Nixel and on our Borough website. She said as Councilwoman Kim-Chohan mentioned May is Asian Pacific Heritage month. Great contributions were made to our Country, a Taiwanese American co-founded Yoo-hoo and YouTube. They have influenced our fashion and our food. We posted the celebration yesterday on the website. Highland Park celebrates and embraces each other with our diversity. We will have more celebrations including flag raisings. We just celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> year of history of Israel as a State. We had many speakers at the event. Joining other Mayors, an Assemblyman and Senator I had the privilege of speaking to a Kindergarten class about what the law means, what freedom is about, how we protect freedom and how these laws were created.

**Public Participation**

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.

Peter Spool, 146 Graham Street wanted to know why the Borough is licensing NASA Wood Industries to use the former Stop and Shop parking lot instead of the owners and what was it going to be used for. He asked why Resolution 5-23-125 regarding hybrid meetings was worded as it was, he felt it wasn't clear to understand. He wanted to know what Rita Polos's qualifications and experience are to be on the Housing Authority.

A Karen was against Resolution 5-23-125. No.15A due to response time for Hybrid and people go to the meeting to voice their comments. The time allowed is not enough. Suggested we raise the time for comments.

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

**ORDINANCES REQUIRING A FIRST READING:**

**Ordinance No. 23-2073**

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Highland Park, Chapter VIII, and "Traffic" has been introduced in writing by the Public Safety Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On a motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Council President Hersh, the ordinance entitled as above was tabled, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

**Resolutions requiring a Separate Reading**

Resolution No. 5-23-121 was duly adopted on a motion made by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

**Resolution No. 5-23-121**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8, as amended by Chapter 259, P.L. 1995 provides that the Budget may be read by title only at the time of the Public Hearing if a Resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full Governing Body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing a complete copy of the Budget had been made available for public inspection.

**WHEREAS**, these conditions have been met.

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

1. That the Township Council, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby determines that the Budget shall be read by title only.

**Municipal Budget:**

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the public hearing on the 2023 Municipal Budget was opened.

On a motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Postelnik, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the public hearing on the 2023 Municipal Budget was closed.

Resolution No. 5-23-122 was duly adopted on a motion made by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

**Resolution No. 5-23-122**

SECTION 2 - UPON ADOPTION FOR YEAR 2023

**RESOLUTION**

Be it Resolved by the COUNCIL MEMBERS of the BOROUGH of HIGHLAND PARK,

County of MIDDLESEX that the budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:

\_\_\_\_\_ (a) \$ 14,121,335.22 (Item 2  
\_\_\_\_\_ below) for municipal purposes, and  
\_\_\_\_\_ (b) \$ (Item 3 below) for school purposes

in Type I School Districts only (N.J.S.A. 18A:9-2) to be raised by taxation and, (c) \$ (Item 4 below) to be added to the certificate of amount to be raised by taxation for local school purposes in Type II School Districts only (N.J.S.A. 18A:9-3) and certification to the County Board of Taxation of the following summary of general revenues and appropriations.

\_\_\_\_\_ (d) \$ (Sheet 43) Open Space, Recreation,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund  
\_\_\_\_\_ Levy

\_\_\_\_\_ (e) \$ (Sheet 44) Arts and Culture Trust Fund  
Levy

(f) \$528,201.50 (Item 5 Below) Minimum  
Library Tax

**RECORDED VOTE:** AYES: George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik  
 NAYS: None  
 ABSTAIN: None  
 ABSENT: Canavera

1. General Revenues <b>SUMMARY OF REVENUES</b>		
Surplus Anticipated	<b>08-100</b>	\$ 2,000,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	<b>13-099</b>	\$ 2,767,832.59
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	<b>15-499</b>	\$ -
2. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSED (Item 6(a), Sheet 11)	<b>07-190</b>	\$ 14,121,335.22
3. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR <u>SCHOOLS IN TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY:</u>		
Item 6, Sheet 42	<b>07-195</b>	\$ -
Item 6(b), Sheet 11 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-14)	<b>07-191</b>	\$ -
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS IN TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY		\$ -
4. To Be Added TO THE CERTIFICATE FOR THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR <u>SCHOOLS IN TYPE II SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY:</u>		
Item 6(b), Sheet 11 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-14)	<b>07-191</b>	
5. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION MINIMUM LIBRARY TAX <b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>07-192</b>	\$ 528,201.50
	<b>13-299</b>	\$ 19,417,369.31

**SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS**

<b>5. GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS:</b>	<b>XXXXXX</b>	<b>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</b>
<b>Within "CAPS"</b>	<b>XXXXXX</b>	<b>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</b>
(a & b) Operations Including Contingent	34-201	\$ 13,493,298.00
(e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures - Municipal	34-209	\$ 2,022,038.00
(g) Cash Deficit	46-885	\$ -
<b>Excluded from "CAPS"</b>	<b>XXXXXX</b>	<b>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</b>
(a) Operations - Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	34-305	\$ 1,729,414.31
(c) Capital Improvements	44-999	\$ 100,000.00
(d) Municipal Debt Service	45-999	\$ 1,778,619.00
(e) Deferred Charges - Municipal	46-999	\$ 94,000.00
(f) Judgments	37-480	\$ -
(n) Transferred to Board of Education for Use of Local Schools (N.J.S.A. 40:48-17.1 & 17.3)	29-405	\$ -
(g) Cash Deficit	46-885	\$ -
(k) For Local District School Purposes	29-410	\$ -
(m) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	50-899	\$ 200,000.00

<b>6. SCHOOL APPROPRIATIONS - TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICT ONLY (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-13)</b>	07-195	
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	34-499	\$ 19,417,369.31

**It is hereby certified that the within budget is a true copy of the budget finally adopted by resolution of the Governing Body on the day 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2023. It is further certified that each item of revenue and appropriation is set forth in the same amount and by the same title as appeared in the 2023 approved budget and all amendments thereto, if any, which have been previously approved by the Director of Local Government Services.**

Resolution No. 5-23-123 was duly adopted on a motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:  
 ROLL CALL Ayes: Councilpersons George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik  
 Opposed: None.  
 Absent: Canavera.  
 Abstain: None.

**Resolution No. 5-23-123**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8, as amended by Chapter 259, P.L. 1995 provides that the Budget may be read by title only at the time of the Public Hearing if a Resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full Governing Body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing a complete copy of the Budget had been made available for public inspection.

**WHEREAS**, these conditions have been met.

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

1. That the Township Council, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby determines that the Main Street Highland Park Budget shall be read by title only.

**Main Street Highland Park Budget:**

On motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the public hearing on the 2023 Main Street Highland Park Budget was opened.

A Karen replied that he was against the municipal budget and the Main Street Highland Park budget. He stated he did not trust this budget. He believes that money is being taken and funneled out over the Committee members and the Democratic Party in Highland Park, therefore, stealing the money.

No one further appearing to be heard, on motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the public hearing on the 2023 Main Street Highland Park Budget was closed..

Resolution No. 5-23-124 was duly adopted on a motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:  
 ROLL CALL Ayes: Councilpersons George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik  
 Opposed: None.  
 Absent: Canavera.  
 Abstain: None.

**Resolution No. 5-23-124**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution No. 4-23-99 adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park on April 4, 2023, that approved the Main Street Highland Park Budget for the year 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, said Budget was advertised in the Home News Tribune issue of April 11, 2023 together with a notice of the public hearing on the Budget scheduled for May 2, 2023 at 7:00 PM in Borough Hall, 221 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Highland Park, NJ; and

**WHEREAS**, said Budget and Notice of Hearing had been posted in the Borough Hall where public notices are customarily posted and was made available to each person requesting the same prior to and during the public hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, notice had been served on all property owners within the Special Improvement District as certified by the Tax Assessor and as shown by the affidavit of the Borough Clerk attached hereto and a public hearing on the Budget was held on May 2, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8, the said Main Street Highland Park Budget was introduced and adopted by title since, at least one week prior to the date of the hearing and at the hearing, a complete copy of the approved budget was made available for public inspection and was further made available to each person who requested a copy of said budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the 2023 Main Street Highland Park Budget hereinbefore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of

Income	
Government Grants	53,700.00
Special Assessment (BID)	171,470.00
Fees/Sponsorships	65,000.00
Reserves	41,330.00
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$ 331,500.00</u>
Expense	
Administration and General	\$ 204,000.00
Program Expense	127,500.00
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$ 331,500.00</u>
<u>Budget Surplus/(Deficit)</u>	<u>\$ 00.00</u>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Main Street Highland Park, the Tax Assessor, the Tax Collector and the Finance Director forthwith.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – RESOLUTIONS.**

Resolution Nos. 5-23-125 through 5-23-134 were duly adopted on a motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Postelnik, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

ROLL CALL Ayes: Councilpersons George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilwoman Canavera.

Abstain: None.

**Resolution No. 5-23-125**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 10:4-18 requires the adoption, posting and distribution of a schedule of regular meetings of the public body that will be held during the year (the “Annual Meeting Schedule”); and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 10:4-18 requires that the Annual Meeting Schedule also be delivered to two newspapers that have been designated by the public body to receive such notices; and

**WHEREAS**, the initial Schedule of Meetings for 2023 was adopted by the Mayor and Council at its Reorganization Meeting held on January 3, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 10:4-18 provides that the Annual Meeting Schedule once adopted can thereafter be revised, provided it is posted, mailed and submitted in the same manner as the original meeting schedule; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park have resumed in-person regular meetings pursuant to the original a Schedule of Meetings for the Calendar Year 2023 for which Council regular meetings would generally take place on the first and third Tuesday of the month; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Borough Council wish to expand public access to their meetings by allowing for remote connection via Zoom or a similar web-based platform; and

**WHEREAS**, if and when technically feasible and as a convenience only, the Mayor and Borough Council will endeavor to enable the public to attend Council meetings remotely via Zoom or a similar web-based platform.

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

1. Beginning with the May 16, 2023 Council meeting, all regular and special Council meetings will continue to be held in person in Council Chambers of the Borough of Highland Park located at 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey 08904. If and when technically feasible and as a convenience only, the public may be also offered the option to attend the meetings via Zoom or a similar web-based platform.
2. The Council meeting dates previously published shall remain as advertised for the remainder of the year as follows:
 

May 9	Redevelopment Entity Meeting
May 16	Regular Meeting/Work Session
June 13	Redevelopment Entity Meeting
June 20	Regular Meeting/Work Session
July 11	Regular Meeting/Work Session
July 18	Redevelopment Entity Meeting
August 1	Regular Meeting/Work Session
August 15	Redevelopment Entity Meeting
September 5	Regular Meeting/Work Session
September 12	Redevelopment Entity Meeting
September 19	Regular Meeting/Work Session
October 10	Regular Meeting/Work Session

October 17	Redevelopment Entity Meeting
October 24	Regular Meeting/Work Session
November 21	Regular Meeting/Work Session
November 28	Redevelopment Entity Meeting
December 5	Regular Meeting/Work Session
December 12	Redevelopment Entity Meeting
December 19	Regular Meeting/Work Session

**Resolution No. 5-23-126**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 the Borough of Highland Park may award a contract by a purchasing agent or other employee so designated by the governing body when so authorized by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate to the contracting unit, without public advertising for bids under certain circumstances as set forth in the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A 40A:11-1 et seq.(the “LPCL”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has determined the need for the services of a parking consultant for a Woodbridge Avenue parking study and has determined that the value of the services will not exceed the bid threshold under the LPCL requiring competitive bid; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough received one proposal from Level G Associates with respect thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough desires to award a contract to Level G Associates located at 34 Lark Avenue, Old Bethpage, NY, in the amount not to exceed \$12,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4, adequate funds are available for the provision of these services by Level G Associates in Account No. G-02-41-768-200 in an amount not to exceed \$12,500.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-37.

**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 is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Level G Associates located at 34 Lark Avenue, Old Bethpage, NY for parking consultant services for a total amount not to exceed \$12,500.00.
  
2. A certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the NPP Coordinator and the Chief Financial Officer.

**Resolution No. 5-23-127**

**WHEREAS** there were 585 motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 60% of adult motor vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes were not wearing a seat belt; and

**WHEREAS**, use of a seat belt remains the most effective way to avoid death or serious injury in a motor vehicle crash; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that tens of thousands of lives are saved annually in the United States by the use of seat belts; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey will participate in the nationwide Click It or Ticket seat belt mobilization from May 23 - June 5, 2023 in an effort to raise awareness and increase seat belt usage through a combination of high visibility enforcement and public education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Division of Highway Traffic Safety has set a goal of increasing the seat belt usage rate in the state from the current level of 93.92% to 96%; and

**WHEREAS**, a further increase in seat belt usage in New Jersey will save lives on our roadways.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Borough of Highland Park, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey declares it's support for the Click It or Ticket seat belt mobilization, both locally and nationally, from May 23 - June 5, 2023 and pledges to increase awareness of the mobilization and the benefits of seat belt use.

**Resolution No. 5-23-128**

**WHEREAS**, the Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) Coordinator seeks to compile a set of strategic recommendations to improve the look and feel of the Woodbridge Avenue corridor as a part of the NPP Program; and

**WHEREAS**, quotes were solicited and received as follows:

Storefront Mastery	\$17,500.00
Looney Ricks Kiss	Not Interested

**WHEREAS**, the NPP Coordinator has recommended that said services be purchased from Storefront Mastery, Montclair, NJ based on their quote for same and based on their professionalism and quality of work; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.4, adequate funds are available for the provision of these services by Storefront Mastery in Account No. G-02-41-768-200 in an amount not



to exceed \$17,500.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-38.

**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. that the NPP Coordinator is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for awning design and installation services from Storefront Mastery, Montclair, NJ, at a cost not to exceed of \$17,500.00; and
2. A certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the NPP Coordinator and the Chief Financial Officer.

**Resolution No. 5-23-129**

**WHEREAS** the Department of Public Works requires additional trucks to fulfill their responsibilities; 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 a Ford F-250 with Snow Plow Prep Package under State Contract No. 23-FLEET-34922, from Nielsen Fleet, 31 Williams Parkway, East Hanover, NJ 07936, at State contract prices; and

**WHEREAS**, funds for this purpose are available through the Middlesex County Improvement Authority’s 2021 Pooled Capital Equipment and Improvement Financing Program.

**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 Works Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to purchase said vehicle under State Contract No. 23-FLEET-34922 from Nielsen Fleet, 31 Williams Parkway, East Hanover, NJ 07936, for a total of \$61,990.00, 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. 5-23-130**

**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:

- Claudia Hawse, Summer Camp Director, \$6,500.00 Annually, Effective 4/11/2023
- Roland Sams, Police Officer \$69,625.00 Annually, Effective 3/16/2023
- Jonathan Laraj, Police Officer \$44,449.00 Annually, Effective 05/01/2023
- Roshan Lath, Head Camp Counselor, \$17.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023
- Paola Grolli Cole, Asst. Camp Director, \$21.00 Hourly, Effective 05/03/2023
- Michael Cedarbaum, Head Counselor, \$17.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023
- Jeffrey Cheng, Head Counselor, \$17.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023
- Michael Bobish, Library Director, \$115,000.00 Annually, Effective 05/08/2023

**Resolution No. 5-23-131**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following shall be and are hereby appointed to serve as members of the Highland Park Housing Authority for a term to expire as indicated:

Rita Polos unexpired term December 31, 2026

**Resolution No. 5-23-132**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution No. 7-22-172 adopted by the Borough Council on July 5, 2022, J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, was awarded a contract extension for emergency water/sewer repairs for 2022-2023; and

**WHEREAS**, a Blanket Purchase Order was generated for 2022, Purchase Order No. 22-01169, in the amount of \$192,311.91; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to increase the Blanket Purchase Order by \$30,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, funds for this purpose are available in Water & Sewer Fund Account No. 2-05-55-500-423, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-39.

**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. Purchase Order No. 22-01169 be increased from \$192,311.91 to \$242,311.91.
2. A certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and the Superintendent of Public Works and Public Utilities.

**Resolution No. 5-23-133**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Highland Park is a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey (the “**Borough**” or “**Licensee**”); and

**WHEREAS**, Nassau Wood Industries (the “**Licenser**” or “**Owner**”) owns or controls Block 3002, Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 30, and 37 in the Borough of Highland Park (the “**Property**”), which is the site of the former Stop and Shop; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough is seeking temporary use of the parking lot on the Property (the “**Parking Area**”), for parking for Borough residents and visitors and to create community space for residents and visitors and to periodically hold community programs and events; and

**WHEREAS**, the Owner has agreed to grant the Borough access to the Parking Area in order for the Borough to commence these activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Owner represents that this Agreement will not conflict with any other agreements related to the Property,

**WHEREAS**, Borough wishes to enter into a license agreement (the “**License Agreement**”), attached hereto as *Exhibit A*, with the Owner for the use of the Parking Area under the terms and conditions set forth therein,

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

**Section 1.** Generally. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.

**Section 2.** Execution of License Agreement. The Borough Council hereby authorizes the Borough Administrator to execute the License Agreement, attached hereto as *Exhibit A*.

**Section 3.** Severability. If any part of this Resolution shall be deemed invalid, such parts shall be severed and the invalidity thereby shall not affect the remaining parts of this Resolution.

**Section 4.** Availability of the Resolution. A copy of this Resolution shall be available for public inspection at the office of the Borough Clerk.

**Section 5.** Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Resolution No. 5-23-134**

**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 5/2/2023 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 43.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

On motion made by Councilman George and seconded by Councilman Hale, the following to the Mayor’s Teen Advisory Council: Emma Shannon, Anastasiya Chernitska, Andrew Dalton, Eneya Khalil, Shawn Wang, Palak Khasia, Miriam Klee, Hailey Hsiung, Finn Voorhees

Ennyn Chiu and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

ROLL CALL Ayes: Councilpersons, George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilwoman Canavera.

Abstain: None.

Mayor Foster appointed the following: Human Relations Commission-Nellie Yvette Bush, and Latonya Amber Bush, Environmental Commission – Mark Lesko. No Confirmation needed.

**SECOND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

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.

Gus Friedrich, 343 North 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue commented that the Borough did a good job keeping the residents informed about Stop and Shop. He voiced concern over his bank moving out of Highland Park, there has been little discussion on that and he was not in favor of moving five cannabis businesses in Highland Park. He also urged that the Borough do a better job at bringing things to the residents attention on all matters.

Number One Cannabis Smoker in New Jersey that more time should be provided for public comments. He stated he is in favor of the cannabis businesses in Highland Park. He stated that he did not have to state his name and address due to his 4<sup>th</sup> amendment right and does not have to identify unless he has committed a crime. You are not allowed by law in New Jersey to ask for name and information once it gets broadcasted on Highland Park TV you will be violating Daniels Law, and you could be looking at some lawsuits in the future.

Peter Spool asked the Mayor what are the qualifications of Rita Polos in relation to her appointment on the Housing Authority. Mayor Foster reported Rita Polo’s qualifications for the appointment of the Housing Authority, included over 30 years in housing and building administration and 30 years in property management. Mr. Spool indicated that it would be more helpful for residents to know what is behind the appointments.

Peter Spool asked why it took so long to get the minutes done. Mayor Foster indicated that we have had limited resources and only one clerk for a very long time and we have now hired someone. Mr. Spool asked if the problem has been corrected and it won’t happen again in the future. Mayor Foster said I cannot promise that because things happen, there are different needs throughout the day but will do our best to make sure the minutes are up to date.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, indicated that she was happy there will be hybrid meetings.

Marijuana Smoker said a cannabis store was opened down the street from him and he would like the Highland Park Democrats and the Highland Park Police Department to donate into a fund specifically for him so he could buy some. He asked why would we be the last town to get weed. We are in a way violating the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment treating everyone equally. These Deans have a problem with marijuana but have no problem promoting children transitioning drugs and chemical castration drugs that are specifically for child predators but now promoting it to teenagers and everyone else to change their genders, stop brainwashing these kids to change their genders, everyone is beautiful the way God made them, allow children to grow up and decide what they want without putting our agendas down their throats.

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

**Work Session: - None**

**Executive Session: (if necessary).**

Resolution No. 5-23-135 was duly adopted on a motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

ROLL CALL Ayes: Councilpersons George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilwoman Canavera.

Abstain: None.

**Resolution No. 5-23-135**

**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:  
Executive Session: Litigation: JSM v Borough of Highland Park; Litigation:  
Moore v Highland Park
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when these matters are resolved or as soon thereafter as it is deemed to be in the public interest to do so.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago  
Borough Clerk