

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
REGULAR MEETING – MAY 16, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, May 16, 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 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. In addition, notice of this meeting via Zoom was emailed to the Home News Tribune, The Star Ledger and the Highland Park Planet on May 12, 2023 and was posted on the Borough website at www.hpboro.com and on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 So. Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ on May 12, 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 Andrew Dalton.

Honors, Awards and Presentations:

Mayor Foster presented a proclamation in recognition of National EMS week to Fire Chief Mordechai Gershen.

Mayor Foster presented a proclamation in recognition of the Mayor's Teen Advisory Committee's Spring 2023 fundraiser to Andrew Dalton.

Approval of Minutes:

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Postelnik the minutes of November 22, 2022 Regular and Executive Sessions and December 6, 2022 Regular Session, 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 thanked the Mayor for the Proclamation regarding EMS week next week. These professionals and volunteers who are also trained professionals are a key link to our residence here with safety and confidence. They are ready to assist, often in dangerous or threatening situations, and a commemorating week is a great thing. This is also Police Officer week. I invite everyone to just greet an officer on the street, introduce yourself and say thank you.

Library Report - New Executive Director Michael Bobich, spent his first week in the Library going over construction plans with the Library architect, administration and Molba Carpentry. Staff is already planning expansion of remote services. We are still looking at several alternatives in mind for space to store and possibly have access to the holdings of the library. The construction work is projected for the next six months and the start date was discussed at the Trustees meeting last night.

The Library Board adopted a revised lending policy for its electronic devices including laptops, mobile hot spots and chargers to make the devices much more available to our residents who may require electronic access with limited resources. Finally, the Library rain garden was installed during the past week along the easterly wall closest to Raritan Avenue. Highland Park volunteers contributed to the project and to the planting, and the Board of Trustees took a moment last night to tour the installation and acknowledged all the volunteers who contributed to the project. Thank you. Police Department Report – he reminded everyone that the changing of the flow of traffic at Irving School is in the works. It will change the westerly flow of traffic on Central Avenue from south 11th avenue to South 10th Avenue. We are hoping that 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. However, the NJ DOT recently decided that they have to review and approve all designations of one-way streets anywhere, so the Chief and Traffic Department are working overtime to push through the approval.

The Borough was denied a grant for the "click it or ticket" program which takes place this month. The state changed its criteria to account for limited funds so they only awarded the top 125 towns who had the highest incidence of violations. However, we were awarded the grant for distracted driving, addressing cell phone and electronic distractions, so please use your blue tooth device or just wait until you get where you are going.

Highland Park's first ARRIVE program officer Highland Park Officer Brian O'Mara participation with the communities of New Brunswick, Woodbridge, and Edison in partnership with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care starts this Monday. On the next agenda will be a resolution which Councilman Hale and I drafted which supports bipartisan legislation to invest in police which will fund grants targeted to small police departments to provide similar community based services to make contacts between police response and alternate care avenues. Fire Department - Volunteer Fire Department Chief Gerswin reports that we have of our new volunteers, one is pending final approval and the other two are moving forward with

approval process. Applications which are being processed and hopefully we will be adding additional strength to the Department roster shortly.

Councilman Postelnik reported on the ongoing food shopping assistance available through the Department of Community Services. Some questions have popped up about those services, so I consulted with Kim McGraw, our Community Services Director and our Borough Administrator Teri Jover, and provided more details than usual to help provide more clarity. The community center fee - the grocery store rides are offered as one of the many, many services provided to residents who pay the \$20 annual membership fee to the community center. But please know that if someone wants to participate in the grocery trips and cannot pay the fee, they will never be turned away and they will be accommodated. In addition to the regularly scheduled weekday trips to local grocery stores, night and weekend trips can be made depending on level of interest. So far, we haven't received any requests for it, but for anyone who may be interested, please reach out to the community center with your request. Also, please know that the ride service does pick-ups and drops off at residents' homes - it does not just depart from and return to the community center. And lastly, while we schedule an hour for food shopping, rest assured if anyone needs a bit more time, the bus does not leave until everyone is done shopping and back on board. Borough staff are here to help. If you need assistance with grocery store transportation please contact them at the community center at 732-819-0052.

90+ Birthday Celebrations Middlesex County is hosting a number of free birthday celebrations for county residents who are turning 90 years of age and up this year. The celebration for Highland Park residents is on Wednesday, May 24th from 11am-1pm at the Piscataway Senior Center. All seniors can bring one guest and lunch will be provided. Contact the Middlesex County Office of Aging or our Community Services Department for more info. Memorial Day Parade is Monday May 29th, beginning in New Brunswick at 10:30am, crossing the bridge at around 11:30am, and proceeding up Raritan Ave. to the Doughboy Monument, where a concluding ceremony will take place. Community Health Fair is Tuesday May 30th 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.

Senior Prom (17th Annual) is Tuesday June 13th from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at the Community Center. There will be dinner, dancing, and entertainment. Arts - Yarn Heart Art Installation on Albany Street Bridge. Happy to report the Yarn Heart Installation is now up on the Albany St. Bridge and people are loving it. A picture of it is Middlesex County's Photo of the Week on the county's Instagram site, and we're very proud of the work the Arts Commission has done on this project. Porchfest is Sunday May 21 from 12:00pm to 6:00pm at locations throughout town, check out the Highland Park NJ Porchfest 2023 Facebook page for the locations and more details. Quear Candy Pride Music Festival on Sunday June 11th on North 4th Ave. right by Pino's, there will be music all day, dance party and contest, bouncy house and children's activities, and food trucks and vendors.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that the Borough was still looking for applications for the Rent Control Board, the following positions are needed tenant alternate, owner occupied regular member, and an owner occupied alternate. It is a fairly small group so alternates are play important role. If anyone is interested please complete the volunteer form on the Borough's website.

Councilman Hale thanked EMS workers, his son is an EMT and so I know how hard they work even the volunteers really do some amazing work so thank you very much. He thanked Councilman George we are exploring this potential Federal legislation which would bring much needed money to local departments like ours in a variety of different ways and so Congressman Gottheimer and Congressman Menendez have been very involved in this we'll continue to work with them. Highland Park conservative Temple is having a diaper drive and baby wipe Drive on May 16th to May 24th all proceeds are going to go to the Central Jersey Diaper Bank and they're particularly focusing on baby wipes and formula cans so if you have extra baby wipes your formula cans you can drop them off at the Highland Park Temple, 201 South Third between May 16th and May 24th and they'll bring them over to the to the diaper drive. He thanked everyone who helped manage and organize the annual Street Fair, he felt like this was a pre pandemic event, like it was one of the first times that everything felt a little bit on the normal side but it was certainly one of our biggest events in a long time that takes an enormous amount of work and effort certainly by the Main Street staff but also the Main Street volunteers for making it a huge success. He encouraged everyone to come to the Farmers Markets on Friday afternoons it's already running almost full steam and it's going to continue to grow over the summer so please make sure to visit the Farmers Market on Fridays and then in addition after that make sure to visit one of the permanent stores on the Avenue. There is a volunteer opportunity next week is planting day so you can come out and help Highland Park look even more beautiful than it already does planting day is Thursday May 25th from 3pm to 7 pm and Friday May 26th from 11 am to 6 pm all you have to do is go over to the Main Street offices near the welcome Woods Pavilion during those times and they'll have planting materials and they'll send you on your way to go plant those big planter bolliards up and down on Raritan Avenue. This year as we've done in the past with the holiday lights , the planters are going to be moving up to Woodbridge Avenue as well and that's done through the help of the NPP grant which is also going really well into year two as a reminder that Borough receives money against the NPP grant and has been doing a lot of things not just planting but also helping businesses with facade improvements and new tree planting permanent tree planting this year we're concentrating on improving Karsey Park, we've added electricity, new fencing, trash cans and in the coming months we're going to be meeting with neighbors to develop ideas and thoughts about the park so please stay tuned for that of how we can make Karsey Park much improved place. On the agenda there are two important Economic Development issues the first one is an extension of our conditional redevelopment agreement with a Tantum Group this is exciting because it means that they're making progress and the additional time under the conditional agreement is a reflection of that. The second one of course is the Redevelopment plan for the supermarket lot as we've discussed many times, the goal of this plan is quite

simply to ensure that a supermarket is part of any Redevelopment activity at the supermarket site in essence this locks in the supermarket as part of the project and we believe that this Redevelopment plan in place there'll be a number of potential operators willing to move forward on this I wish you we could promise a time and date that we will have a supermarket but I feel very comfortable with this that we're moving in the right direction. He thanked Professionals Joe Baumann, Esq., Nick Strasser, Esq., Bruce Koch, Borough Engineer, Chris Cosenza and Jim Constantine, Borough Planners and of Teri Jover, Administrator for their work on all of these projects. One last thing about the supermarket that is required in the Redevelopment plan, it is also possible that other things in addition to a supermarket could be there included, additional housing on the site this is a possibility not a requirement but if new housing comes I want to make it very clear that all housing in Highland Park now must meet the affordable housing ordinance which dictates fifteen percent of all rental and 20 percent of all market units are in the affordable range that is a commitment this Mayor and Council made and one that we're sticking with for all projects moving forward in Highland Park.

Council President Hersh the Environmental Commission has been awarded a grant by ANJEC that's the association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions and the is LSRPA Foundation that's the licensed self-remediation professional association for one thousand fifty dollars to upgrade a boardwalk in The Meadows and to build another observation deck in the Meadows. The Environmental Commission is filled and maintained a loop trail on the Meadows which is located at the southern end of South Fifth Avenue next to the DPW building so it's beautiful down there it's going to get more beautiful. The meter replacement project just an update as of April 30th, 1025 meter exchanges have been completed with an additional 15 that were scheduled at that time and assuming those are concluded there are 2042 meters remaining on the list to be changed it has been approved and 700 LCD off meters have been approved and in place of regular meters. The company that is installing the meters is asking customers if they prefer an alternate model at the time of making the meter appointment and national leader and notice the address and we'll inform they can inform these customers when the meters arrive in stock. He echoed the comments made by Councilman Hale about the Street Fair and Sustainable Highland Park's annual Earth Day fair was a huge success our Earth Zone on North Third had lots of information on electric vehicles e-bikes native seedlings giveaways, rain gardens, electric lawn equipment and tax credits and rebates from the inflation reduction Act and residents are able to meet with a Highland Park beekeeper and learn about Verma composting aka worms. He thanked all who spent a few hours downtown to learn more sustainable ways to live on this planet and to be good stewards of the environment. On May 13th and 14th thank you to Sustainable Highland Park for their free giveaway of native and pollinator plants over Mother's Day weekend happy Mother's Day. Awesome to celebrate Community distribution so this is a free community distribution for free native and pollinator plants to Highland Park residents through the Boroughs Park Partners so how's that for everything coming together that was really cool to really watch everything come into fruition and Andrew who is no longer here but thank you to the National Honors decided that the mayor and I attended the National Honor societies chapter at the Highland Park High School for their family food competition and they mentioned their part it was a really amazing. Mark your calendar the fireworks July 2nd.

Borough Administrator Jover – No Report.

Borough Attorney Schmierer- No Report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Foster reported for a few years now, the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council has held an annual fundraiser for a different Highland Park area cause. This school year, the teen leaders decided to fundraise for the Highland Park First Aid Squad and set an ambitious goal, of over \$1,400, so the squad could purchase a new stair chair, a piece of equipment that helps them transport a patient safely up and down stairs. In late April, the teen leaders closed their fundraising efforts and celebrated the fact that they had actually raised over \$2,800 for the First Aid Squad. Bravo!! Thank you to teen leaders Ann-ya Eneya Khalil and Andrew Dalton, who are here tonight. They led this effort and rallied their fellow teen leaders to reach this remarkable result. Please join me in giving them a round of applause. Let me single out Andrew for his take no prisoners approach to this fundraising effort. As one of his many activities in this campaign, he reached out to HP resident Elliot Ostrove, partner in the area law firm of Epstein Ostrove LLP, and brought in the largest single contribution of the campaign, a \$1,300 donation from the law firm. That's big Andrew! Thank you Highland Park resident and professional fundraiser Jeffrey Korbman, who offered the teen leaders tips on successful fundraising at the start of their campaign, and to Ari Lewitter, president of the Highland Park First Aid Squad, who attended the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council meeting last month & thanked the teens for their remarkable efforts. Thank you as well to all the members of the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council - Ana, Andrew, Emma, Ann-ya Eneya, Anin Ennyn, Finn, Kai, Hailey, Miriam, Palak, Shawn, and Zina for their exceptional efforts to make this campaign such a success. The Street Fair on Sunday May 7th a rousing success Rebecca Hersh at Main Street Highland Park advised me that the street fair featured 150 vendors or exhibitors, which included 50 Highland Park businesses or community groups. There were 600 adult and child runners in the HP 5K race and 80 community members who volunteered at the race, which raised a few thousand dollars for the HP Public Schools. Rebecca also noted that the company that managed all the logistics of the street fair estimated that we had roughly 15,000 people visit the street fair, over the course of the whole afternoon. Happy to share news of the two Ribbon Cuttings this month The Park Med Spa, Sun May 7th Council President Matthew Hersh very capably represented the Borough at this event; thank you Matt! Blendz Cafe, Sun May 28th and she looks forward to cutting the ribbon at this event. By the way, Blendz Cafe joins other new businesses in town, including Global Grace Market Place and Pink Diamond Beauty on Raritan Ave. and Soma Vayu Garden on Woodbridge Ave. We're looking forward to Juneteenth, Pride Month, and Caribbean American Heritage Month flag raisings, coordinated by Human Relations Council. There will be an Open House at the HP First Aid Squad, Sun June 11th, 4:00 -7:30 pm, coordinated by members of the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council

Finally, let me join others in welcoming our new HP library director, Mike Bobish, who started there on Monday May 8th.

I'm planning to visit with him @ the HP Public Library, tomorrow afternoon, and discuss his immediate plans for the library. Middlesex County Consumer Affairs, Postmaster General, HP Police Dept. provide a seminar for senior on the various types of scams (Lottery Scam, Grandparents Scam, Timing devices, Verify Gas/Fuel Prices, Phone Calls, Accuracy of Scales, Door-to-Door, Accuracy of Commodity Pricing, and how to avoid them. Middlesex County Consumer Affairs, the Postmaster General, and the HP Police Department held a seminar on May 16, 2023 for seniors to educate them about different types of scams. The seminar will cover topics such as lottery scams, grandparents scams, timing devices, verifying gas/fuel prices, phone call scams, accuracy of scales, door-to-door scams, accuracy of commodity pricing, and effective ways to avoid falling victim to these scams.

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.

Nicole Wines, 318 South 3rd Avenue spoke on behalf of the Raices Cultural Center and thanked the Borough for their consideration, as a resident of the Borough who has been doing programming and arts program here for over 20 years, they appreciate the opportunity to be above to expand to a public building to expand programming for the residents of Highland Park f and bring people in to increase diversity, arts, culture and the eco-cultural programs.

ORDINANCES REQUIRING A SECOND READING:

Ordinance No. 23-2071

The Clerk reported that Ordinance No 23-2071 entitled, An Ordinance of the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, Authorizing the Adoption of the “420-424 Raritan Avenue Redevelopment Plan” Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12a-1, et seq. 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 Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, Ordinance No. 23-2071 entitled as above, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Canavera.

Abstain: None.

Ordinance No. 23-2073

The Clerk reported that Ordinance No 23-2073 entitled, An Ordinance to Amend and Supplement the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Highland Park, Chapter VII, "Traffic" 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 George, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, Ordinance No. 23-2073 entitled as above, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Canavera.

Abstain: None.

ORDINANCES REQUIRING A FIRST READING:

Ordinance No. 23-2071

The Clerk reported on Ordinance 23-2072 entitled An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease with Raices Cultural Center Pertaining to 20 River Road, Block 502, Lot 6, also Known as the Eugene Young Environmental Education Center has been introduced in writing by the Economic Development & Planning Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title

On a motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, the ordinance entitled as above was approved on introduction, authorized publication as required by law and set public hearing for June 20, 2023, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – RESOLUTIONS.

Resolution Nos. 5-23-136 through 5-23-143 were 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. 5-23-136

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park, a public body corporate and politic of the State of New Jersey (the “**Borough**”), is authorized pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, *et seq.* (as same may be amended from time to time) (the “**Redevelopment Law**”) to act as a redevelopment entity and to implement redevelopment plans and carry out redevelopment projects in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Redevelopment Law, the Borough Council caused a redevelopment plan to be prepared for certain property located within the Borough, entitled the “Downtown Redevelopment Plan for Tracts A-D” (the “**Redevelopment Plan**”); and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2021, the Borough Council approved Ordinance No. 21-2030 adopting the Redevelopment Plan; and

WHEREAS, as described in the Redevelopment Plan, the properties identified as Tract A: Block 1704 [173], Lots 41-49 & Portion of Lot 20 (“**Tract A**”); Tract B: Block 2201 [13], Lots 6 & 9 (“**Tract B**”); Tract C: Block 2202 [22], Lots 4, 32.02 & 33.01 (“**Tract C**”); and Tract D: Block 1604 [158], Lots 20-26, 42, 50-51 & Portion of Lot 47, and Block 1603 [162], Lots 36-38 (“**Tract D**”) on the Official Tax Map of the Borough (collectively, the “**Properties**”) have been designated as an “area in need of rehabilitation”, “area in need of redevelopment” and/or a “condemnation area in need of redevelopment”; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2021, the Borough Council approved Resolution 12-21-299, authorizing the issuance of a Request for Proposals (the “**RFP**”) related to the redevelopment of Tracts A, C, and D; and

WHEREAS, the Borough received a proposal from Tantum Fidelco HP LLC (the “**Conditional Redeveloper**”), for Tract A and the Borough and the Conditional Redeveloper intend to pursue pre-development activities, including but not limited to review of the Conditional Redeveloper’s proposal, negotiation in good faith and preparation of a redevelopment agreement and other related actions (the “**Pre-Development Activities**”); and

WHEREAS, the Conditional Redeveloper recognizes that the Borough will incur costs and expenses in connection with the Pre-Development Activities, and the Borough is willing to defray those costs and expenses, with no assurance of a particular result for the Conditional Redeveloper from the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough authorized and entered into an interim cost and conditional redeveloper’s agreement with the Conditional Redeveloper (the “**Conditional Redeveloper’s Agreement**”) to effectuate the funding of an escrow account and procedures for the payment therefrom of moneys to pay the Borough’s costs and expenses incurred in undertaking the Pre-Development Activities; and

WHEREAS, the Borough wishes to extend such conditional designation and such Conditional Redeveloper’s Agreement for a term ending on December 31, 2023,

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 Agreement. The Borough Council hereby authorizes the Borough Administrator to execute an amendment to the Conditional Redeveloper’s Agreement to extend such agreement for a term ending on December 31, 2023.

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. 5-23-137

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of a Municipal Attorney for 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, Edwin Schmierer, Esq., is an Attorney at Law of the State of New Jersey with experience in municipal law and has heretofore been appointed as Borough Attorney for 2023; and

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

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are not to exceed the amount of \$200,000.00, without further resolution of Council; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$200,000.00 in Current Account No. 3-01-20-155-233, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer No. 2023-40.

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 Edwin Schmierer, Esq., Mason, Griffin & Pierson, 101 Poor Farm Road, Princeton, NJ 08542, a 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. 5-23-138

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park desires to apply for the Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJCA) for up to \$400,000 to carry out a project to revitalize Molimock-Graff Park in the NPP District; and

WHEREAS, Highland Park is eligible to apply for this grant as an NPP-designated community; and

WHEREAS, NJCA requires a 10% match from applicants which will be made available in the Borough's operating budget should the Borough be selected for this grant; 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 Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to submit the grant application to NJCA with a focus on improvements to Molimock-Graff Park.

Resolution No. 5-23-139

WHEREAS, pursuant to duly advertised Notice to Bidders solicited under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, on April 26, 2023, two (2) bids were received for the 2023 Tree Watering Project as follows:

1. The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. \$53,550
2. SJC Lawncare, Inc. \$63,000; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney's office has reviewed the bid documents submitted by The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. and advises that its submission is in compliance with the minimum bidding requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Borough seeks to award the contract for a not to exceed amount of \$53,550 to The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co. as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder; and

WHEREAS, funds will be available for this purpose in the amount of \$53,550.00 in Grant Fund Account No. G-02-41-766-200, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer No. 2023-41.

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 The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co., 2 Lakeview Ave., Suite 206, Piscataway NJ 08854 for the 2023 Tree Watering Project for the total not to exceed contract amount of \$53,550.
2. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an Agreement consistent herewith.

Resolution No. 5-23-140

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 17, 2023, showing the names, titles and salaries of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park, is amended as follows:

Claudia Hawse, Head Counselor, \$17.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023

Dov Fine, Head Counselor, \$17.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023

Lily Solomon, Activity Leader, \$18.50 Hourly, Effective 06/1/2023

Matthew Brzozowski, Sports Counselor, \$16.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023

Michael Brzozowski, Sports Counselor, \$15.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023

Nora Atwater, Summer Camp Counselor, \$15.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023

Benjamin Mickulas, Activity Leader, \$18.50 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023

Miriam Klee, Junior Counselor, \$14.13 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023

Eleanor LaParo, Leadership Counselor, \$19.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023

David Cenci, Sport Counselor, \$15.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/023

Delsey Capil, Activity Leader, \$18.50 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023

Denise Bucu, Head Counselor, \$17.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023

Julia Gomes, Activity Leader, \$18.50 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023

Natalie Stiener, Junior Counselor, \$14.13 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023
Victoria Furye, Junior Counselor, \$14.13 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023
Samantha Conroy, Camp Counselor \$15.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023
Ruby Miller, Camp Counselor, \$15.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023
Mason Springer-Lipton, Head Counselor, \$17.00 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023
Erik Schneider, Part-time Firefighter, \$22.23 Hourly, Effective 05/21/2023
Robert Petrusky, Part-time Firefighter, \$22.23 Hourly, Effective 05/21/2023

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. 5-23-141

WHEREAS, the Arts Commission desires to apply to Bloomberg Philanthropies for a grant of up to \$25,000 to create public art on roadways and pedestrian spaces in Highland Park through their Asphalt Art Initiative.

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 Arts Commission is hereby authorized and directed to submit the grant application to Bloomberg Philanthropies for their Asphalt Art Initiative.

Resolution No. 5-23-142

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park formally approve the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as “LTPF-2023- Improvements to Highland Avenue, Graham Street & S. Eighth Avenue -00162” to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Highland Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Borough of Highland Park and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement.

Resolution No. 5-23-143

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 5/16/2023 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 43.

APPOINTMENTS:

On motion made by Councilman George and seconded by Councilman Postelnik, Rukiya Raghunath was appointed to the Highland Park Arts Commission as Alternate No. 2, 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.

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.

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

Work Session: - None

Executive Session: (if necessary).

Resolution No. 5-23-144 was duly adopted on a motion made by Council President Hersh, seconded by Councilman George, 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. 5-23-144

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: Discussion Regarding (1) Health Benefits Negotiations and
(2) Middlesex County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund Contract Negotiations
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 Hale, seconded by Councilman Postelnik, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Borough Clerk