

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
REGULAR MEETING – JULY 11, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, July 11, 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 Canavera. George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik; Borough Administrator Jover, Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Clerk Santiago.

Absent: None

Flag salute led by Michael Klaser.

Council Reports:

Councilman George Councilman George reported that the Administration and Public Safety representatives will be meeting with representatives of NJDOT and Senator Diegnan to discuss the Route 27 Road diet plans to increase traffic safety, Mayor Foster has a lot more to tell us about this important meeting. We will be celebrating National Night Out on Tuesday August 1st at the Stop and Shop parking lot, it's a chance to enjoy our community and our neighbors while we have a chance to meet our police, fire and first aid. Public Safety workers Chief Abrams said that he has more vendors in food trucks and organizations who want to participate this year and hopefully the larger site will allow us to accommodate even more. The Fire Chief stated that the Fire Department will also have displays and the First Aid Squad always presents valuable information in this place as well more details are actually being added to the Highland Park Police Department Facebook page almost every day as the Chief gets more and more participation and the information will be on our website. The Police Department Junior Police Academy got a presentation today by the Highland Park Fire Department I spoke with Chief Gershen and he said that there was great participation good questions and a lot of interest from everyone. The Highland Park Public Library construction work which is long overdue under some State grant funding which was applied for a number of years ago however the remote site of 901 Raritan Avenue Route 27 which is across from the Dairy Deluxe ice cream shop at 10th Avenue will be open but projected for Monday July 17th of only a few days from now as the staff transitions remote operations there. This site will be an active Library featuring new and favorite offerings of what is popular at the moment and plans are for pop-ups and programming throughout town for the duration of the construction which is anticipated to be somewhere between six and eight months. The library's online services will continue as usual with extensive ebooks videos and recordings, the library is actually connected with over 30 other libraries and we hope we won't see any significant reduction in those services. As a note, and discussed with Councilman Hale for Economic Development he attended the boat launching ceremony at the Lower American Watershed Partnership for an important site. This project building several boats in old-fashioned wood crafting involved hundreds of volunteers in training for women in diverse populations to learn complex carpentry, skill exposure and hopefully interest them in these trades it was a large turnout for the launching of the two votes a classic Indian canoe and a classic single seat rowing show. The drenching rain held out just long enough to get the dedication done at Bergan Auto and then there were several hours of drenching rain down in park at the boat ramp however even so we still had probably 30 to 40 people there who wanted to try the boats out and who endured some of the rain and then finally just jumped into the water. I look forward to seeing everyone at National Night Out and wished everyone a good summer.

Councilman Postelnik reminded everyone of the grocery store transportation and online food shopping assistance available through the Department of Community Services. For more details or if you have any question, please contact them at the community center at 732-819-0052. The 4th of July Fireworks in the Park is Sunday July 2nd at Donaldson Park, festivities begin at 5:00pm, fireworks begin at approximately 9:15pm. There will be music, face painting, bounce house and obstacle course, and multiple food vendors. Rain date: Monday July 3rd. The Parkstock Outdoor Concert Series is Thursdays starting July 20 through August 10 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm in Grove 1 at Donaldson Park, select food vendors will be available. The 2023 camp season is about to kickoff and we are excited for another year. Additional information and for last minute registrations please visit our website. Keep an eye out for a special presentation by our Historical Commission on Thursday July 13th at Pino's on the history of Highland Park and the findings from the recently concluded historical survey of our downtown.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported at the last council meeting she mentioned about the tax bills reflecting the new values that we did beginning of the year and tonight we have Resolution on the agenda extending the a grace period because of the reevaluation so that the deadline for third quarter is August 14th.

Councilman Hale thanked Councilman George for attending the boat launch of the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership. He thanked Pinos and the Highland Park Shop Small initiative, it's a new program that they just uh put up where if you bring a receipt from another local Highland Park business into Pinos they will give you 5% your in-store purchase. As you know we are working with businesses and residents on and around Woodbridge Avenue with the NPP program among the projects that we're working with this initiative is to bring in a company called Storefront Mastery and they're experts on creating new and exciting external storefronts for small businesses, so this week we're meeting with a consultant and a few test businesses on

Woodridge Avenue the Asian Garden and the Highland Park Laundromat to see what might be accomplished with their storefronts. If you're a business owner in the NPP district and interested in taking part in this project please reach out to Assistant to the Administrator Emma Von Thun at evonthun@hpboro.com. He congratulated Main Street Highland Park for receiving a grant the MSNJ District Transformation Grant of \$24,000, this grant is providing funds for outdoor public amenities lighting community game tables, outdoor Wi-Fi, some speakers perhaps out in the parklets and around at the public areas in town. The Farmers Market is every Friday, the swing dancing on the 12th that's also happening on August 2nd so as well as July is it happening tomorrow. I mentioned at the last council meeting we're gonna be conducting a series of walking tours of the downtown Redevelopment areas at the end of this month and the goal is to do a walk and talk, for anyone who's interested in what's going to be happening at the Redevelopment areas to sort of physically go around downtown to say this is tract a, this is tract B, etc. just to give people a sense, it's easy to see it on paper we've been in hearings and a wide variety of things but having the walking tour is a great way for people to sort of visualize where things are gonna go in our Redevelopment plans. It's an opportunity to just get out to walk bring water, the plan is that we're going to meet at Penn stock coffee on South Third and then we're going to walk over towards the grocery store lot we'll come back down Raritan we'll look at the tracts and have conversations about the various things that are brewing in those particular areas. I've set up a first round of dates for these we'll put these out widely. The first one is Friday July 21st at 8 A.M the second one is Wednesday July 26th at 12 30 p.m at noon and then Monday July 31st at 7 pm so there's one in the morning one in the midday and one in the evening, to try and accommodate a variety of different schedules those are just the first ones that were going to do if there's demand or interest in more of those would certainly schedule more of those as we go but we'll see how many people are interested and want to come out RSVPs are not required but they are appreciated just to get a sense if you are interested in coming and do that by emailing Teri Jover at tjover@hoboro.com.

Councilwoman Canavera reported that the Board of Health wanted to remind you that July is considered a prime month for ticks please check yourself, pets and children for ticks after being outside even for a short period of time. The Community Food Pantry is open the second and fourth Thursday 9 A.M to 10 45. a.m and 6 p.m to 7 p.m and the Saturday and the following Thursday from 9 30 a.m to 10 30 a.m Donations can be made using their Amazon wish list. Highland Park Gives A Hoot food pantry is also open every Tuesday from 10 a.m until 11 a.m donations be made by mailing a check to the Borough Hall with a memo that it's for Highland Park Gives A Hoot. Unfortunately due to rising food prices and the extra help people were getting during the pandemic being gone we have more clients than ever so anybody who can help it would be greatly appreciated.

Council President Hersh reported last week, we finalized a lease agreement between the Borough and Raices Cultural Center. This agreement represents a formal community partnership that provides Raices with a way to use and steward the Eugene Young Environmental Center as a community arts and eco-cultural program space that includes: Public programming designed for residents of Highland Park, as well as to attract visitors from surrounding towns; Partnerships with existing borough currently and will continue to use the site for meetings and events, including the Sustainable Highland Park Committee, Environmental Commission and the Native Plant Preserve, to ensure the arrangement of continued access for meeting space if needed; Management of the program space and creation of a process for access by other entities and program collaborators; Collaborations with other borough entities to co-sponsor programming that meets the mission of the organization and serves the community, including the Highland Park Library; Services for the residents of the Borough of Highland Park in the organization's program areas of cultural arts, eco-culture and community history. Raices Cultural Center has a history of collaborative partnership with Highland Park Borough entities, including over 8 years of program collaborations at the Environmental Center and other sites throughout the borough: 2022 Community Cultural Arts class series co-sponsored by the Highland Park Arts Commission; October 2022 - Established program partnership with the Highland Park Public Library, providing a seed saving workshop and co-sponsoring the library's new Seed Library; 2017 Water is Life International Eco-Art Exhibit Series - co-sponsors included the Highland Park Arts Commission and Sustainable Highland Park; 2015-2019 Ecological and environmental education program collaborations co-sponsored Sustainable Highland Park, including monthly herbal circle and seed saving meetings and a Sustainable Living Workshop Series, funded in part by the Highland Park Park Partners Grant Program. He thanked Nicole Wines, Francisco Gomez, and the whole team at Raices. We are very, very excited! If we're going to be remembered for anything, let it be that we were great environmental stewards and that we used these lands to celebrate and commemorate our deep multicultural roots. We are also working to improve our so-called "pocket parks," which provide necessary passive recreation in our communities. These small parks were typically unplanned and treated as infill for years, but thanks to the efforts of this council, our engineer is putting together schematics that reflect the parks needs assessment conducted last year by the DPW and Recreation Departments. During the pandemic, our pocket parks became essential outdoor meeting spaces for parents with small children and children and adults of all ages. To have these woven into our neighborhoods is nothing short of magical and we need to very intentionally design and create public spaces that contribute to what we stand for: recreation, wellness, and open space, no matter the size. Tonight we are approving a capital ordinance that allows us to move forward on design engineering, financing, and construction. If we're going to be remembered for anything, let it be that we strengthened and beautified our existing public spaces and created new ones. Sustainable Highland Park, Highland Park Ecology and Environmental Group - Sunday July 16, 2023 – Sustainable Highland Park, Highland Park Ecology and Environmental Group – Irving School and Neighborhood (Before the fall semester starts cleanups of the HP schools part 1) – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Meet by the entrance to the playground on South 11th Av., Highland Park, NJ 08904; Saturday August 5, 2023 – Sustainable Highland Park, Highland Park Ecology and Environmental Group – Bartle School and Neighborhood (Before the fall semester starts cleanups of the HP schools part 2) – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Meet at the lawn next to the school on Mansfield Street, Highland Park, NJ 08904; Sunday August 20, 2023 – Sustainable Highland Park, Highland Park Ecology and Environmental Group – Middle School, High

School, and Neighborhood (Before the fall semester starts cleanups of the HP schools part 3) – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Meet in the parking lot off North 5th Ave, Highland Park, NJ 08904. If we're going to be remembered for anything, let it be that we took care of our lands for our kids and future generations. Crews are in town today to finish improvements on several Borough roads, including: Milling/paving on So 10th from Raritan Ave to Woodbridge Ave AND No. 10th from Raritan to Abbott St; Milling/paving on Lexington Ave (HP border to Raritan Ave), AND Alcazar Ave from Central Ave to Cherry St. CME dropped off notices at each property in the project area and no parking signs are posted with the appropriate work dates. Please take care when driving in these areas. Because if we're going to be remembered for anything, it's being heads-up drivers.

Borough Administrator Jover mentioned while we are having National Night Out on August 1st to accommodate that we moved our Council meeting to August 8th so the notices went out the nixle will go out as usual.

Borough Attorney – no report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Foster stated on a very sad note there was a horrific accident that we had last month, she met with the family and you know let them know of our heart felt condolences, there are no words to say when someone had lost their loved ones and but I did have an opportunity to meet with the family and let them know that we're we will continue to work on improving Route 27 and with that I scheduled a meeting with Senator Diegman, the Department of Transportation, the Borough Engineering and our Public Safety team to talk about way traffic calming ideas maybe we need additional lights on the Avenue, maybe rumble strips but look at additional things that we can do to keep that road safe for all of us so I'm really excited to have this meeting this is has been long overdue. She really wants to see this meeting take place because something has to be done to calm the traffic on route 27. She met with Dr. Holloway President of Rutgers and spoke about some transportation opportunities and believed Highland Park can collaborate with Rutgers University. We have a lot of our students and faculty that work within the Rutgers system it could be the hospital the cancer center and different areas so I believe that there's a strong opportunity for us to do some collaborative work as it pertains to transportation. She sent him a letter and he followed up so that's a good sign so I'm going to continue to work with him and hopefully we'll get to a good place with some transportation opportunities and workers universities and the Rutgers system because it's not just the universities the hospitals and everything all the other technical that they have there follow up with that uh just want to give a quick update as it pertains to where we are with our development in our downtown. She spoke with the new owners of Highland Pizza they advised me that mid-Septembers Highland Park pizza will be reopened and we're doing some creative things in that space so I'm looking forward to that and I did have a quick meeting with one of the owners of the Stop and Shop lots and they are continuing to working on with the attorney which she believes they have settled it down to one supermarket. They are working through some details so she's keeping her fingers crossed saying prayers that they'll come to some kind of a negotiation soon and then I can report to you where we are who's coming and that kind of thing. They are in negotiations so there is very little I can say but I do want to let you know that I am working diligently on that project. She indicated that she works for Department of Consumer Affairs and there has been a huge update in scams, for example yesterday while I was at work I got a call from a Highland Park resident said Mayor why are you stopping this money that's coming to me. This is a scam that's been going on they said we want to get the money to you but Mayor Foster says no and if you send us an additional \$300 we can bypass her and get you this money. It is a scam and no matter how much I try to tell the senior resident that was on the line that this is a scam they did not believe me because unfortunately they already sent \$2,000 to the scammer today they call them back and say hey we're ready to deliver the money to you within an hour \$500 and you can have this this money and I said please do not continue to communicate with this person it's a scam they will use any name they could offer any website to try to con you out of your money. We do a scam awareness in the consumer awareness and consumer protection site so if you know of anyone that would want a group to come in to speak about how to protect yourself from scammers and the various kind of scams that they have please do reach out you can reach out to the borrower or can you reach out to Middlesex County Department of Consumer Affairs we want to keep everyone safe I'm fortunate with this one individual they don't want their names to be said or heard because now they're embarrassed that they've got taken for almost \$2,500s so please be aware there's a lot of scammers. I'm advising each and every one of you to be aware and if you need this service please do reach out.

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.

Jusleine Daniel, 31 South 1st Avenue stated she was a licensed social worker, and licensed in mental health specialist but also an artist and was present regarding the event at the Highland Park National Night Out event. She said she did not have the opportunity to submit a proposal but would like to introduce art that is called the Forgiveness project so the project invites people to consider forgiveness as a potential response to interaction with one another and I believe that is to create installation artwork for that particular event and asked if she could participate in the National Night Out event.

ORDINANCES REQUIRING A SECOND READING:

Ordinance No. 23-2074

The Clerk reported that Ordinance No 23-2074 entitled, Capital Ordinance Providing for Improvements to the Felton Avenue Tot Lot in the Amount of \$100,000 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 Council President Hersh, seconded by Councilman George, Ordinance No. 23-2074 entitled as above, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:
Ayes: Councilpersons Canavera, George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik
Opposed: None.
Absent: None.
Abstain: None.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – RESOLUTIONS.

Resolution Nos. 7-23-164 through 7-23-173 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 Canavera, George, Hale, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik
Opposed: None.
Absent: None.
Abstain: None.

Resolution No. 7-23-164

WHEREAS, application for renewal license issued in the Borough of Highland Park under the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) has been made by the hereinafter applicant, and

WHEREAS, said application has been examined and the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park have made the following findings of fact with respect to the applicant:

1. Said application is complete in all respects.
2. The applicant has obtained a Special Ruling to permit the filing of renewal application of an Inactive License for the 2023-2024, 2024-2025 license term.
3. The applicant is qualified to be licensed in accordance with Title 33, all regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control and local ordinances as amended and supplemented pertinent to and consistent with Title 33.
4. The applicant has disclosed, and the issuing authority has ascertained and reviewed, the source of any additional financing obtained in the previous license term for use in the licensed business.
5. The Mayor and Council are of the opinion that said application should be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following renewal application of an inactive license issued under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) under the terms and conditions prescribed in the Act aforesaid, the amendments and supplements thereof, and the ordinances, rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, State of New Jersey, shall be and is hereby approved with the specific condition that no further renewals of this license shall be granted unless the license is being actively used at an approved site on or before June 30, 2025 to wit:

PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE W/ BROAD PACKAGE PRIVELEGE

Four W. Properties, 149 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 – 1207-32-008-014

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to maintain the aforesaid license certificate in the municipal file, which license shall be effective July 1, 2023, and shall expire June 30, 2024.

Resolution No. 7-23-165

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

Ruby Hope

December 31, 2023

Resolution No. 7-23-166

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the 2023 budget in the sum of \$76,445.00, which is now available from the Middlesex County Community Development Block Grant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$76,445.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of Community Development Block Grant.

Resolution No. 7-23-167

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the By-Laws of the Highland Park Municipal Alliance, and on file in the office of the Borough Clerk shall be and are hereby adopted as the By-Laws of the Municipal Alliance for the year 2023.

Resolution No. 7-23-168

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:

Joseph V. Clifford, Part-time Driver, \$20.28 Hourly, Effective 06/01/2023

Adalberto Pacheco, Sergeant, \$140,527.00 Salary, Effective 07/01/2023

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. 7-23-169

WHEREAS, pursuant to a duly advertised Notice to Bidders, on June 22, 2023 the Borough of Highland Park received three (3) bids for a Contract for “Emergency Repairs to the Water & Collection System,” as follows:

Vendor’s Name & Address	J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc., 101 East Broadway, Hackensack NJ 07601	B&W Construction Co of NJ Inc., PO BOX 574, South River, NJ 08882	Waters & Bugbee, Inc., 75 South Gold Drive, Hamilton NJ 08691
Emergency Repairs to Collection System	\$167,697.00	\$169,911.00	\$705,067.00
Emergency Repairs to Distribution System	\$11,799.00	\$12,510.22	\$12,256.00
Total	\$179,496.00	\$182,421.22	\$717,323.00

WHEREAS, J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc. has submitted the bid that is lowest in price for all work under the combined proposals; and

WHEREAS, the Administrator, Borough’s consultants and Attorney’s office have reviewed the bid submission from J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc. and recommend that the award be made to J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc. as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Water & Sewer Fund Account No. 3-05-55-500-423, in an amount not to exceed \$179,496.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-45.

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

1. The foregoing preamble is hereby incorporated herein as if fully restated.
2. The Council hereby awards a contract to J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc., 101 East Broadway, Hackensack NJ 07601, Labor & Equipment for Emergency Repairs to the Water & Collection System, in an amount not to exceed \$179,496.00.
3. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an Agreement consistent herewith.

Resolution No. 7-23-170

WHEREAS, pursuant to P.L. 1997, Chapter 99, a municipality may hold a tax lien sale within the last month of a calendar year for any unpaid taxes or other municipal liens or charges that are delinquent as of the 11th day of the eleventh month of the calendar year; and,

WHEREAS, an electronic tax sale provides a greater pool of potential lien buyers, thus creating a more complete tax sale process.

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has solicited a quote for online tax lien services from ROK Industries, Inc. Agent/Realauction.com; and

WHEREAS, ROK Industries Inc./Realauction.com has the capability to conduct the sale according to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Division of Local Government Services.

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Current Fund Account No. 3-01-20-145-235 in the amount of \$7,500.00 and Current Fund Account No. 3-05-55-500-233 in the amount of \$7,500.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$15,000.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer No. 2023-46.

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 contract ROK Industries/Realauction.com as the vendor for the online tax sale and the amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.
2. A certified copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and Tax Collector forthwith.

Resolution No. 7-23-171

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park adopted its 2023 Municipal Budget on May 2, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the state has still not certified the budget to the County Tax Administrator so that the 2023 tax rate can be established; and

WHEREAS, the tax collector cannot bill 3rd quarter until an official rate is set by the County Tax Administrator; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 54:4-67 authorizes Council to provide a ten day grace period following the required payment date or twenty-five calendar day period after mailing of the tax bills during which interest will not be charges.

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 grace period for the 2023 third quarter taxes be extended twenty-five (25) days from the actual date of mailing.
2. Pursuant to N.J.S.A 54:4-66.5 no interest shall be charged on unpaid third quarter 2023 taxes provided the same are paid on or before twenty-five (25) days from date of mailing, and provided further that interest thereafter shall be payable at the rate of 8% per annum on the first \$1,500 of the delinquency and 18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00 to be calculated from August 1, 2023 until the date of actual payment.
3. A certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Director and Tax Collector forthwith.

Resolution No. 7-23-172

WHEREAS, advertisement was made for receipt of bids on June 22, 2023, Annual Maintenance Contract for Tree Pruning, Tree Removal, Stump Removal and/or Root Grinding; and

WHEREAS, two (2) bids were received as follows:

	1	2
Vendor’s Name & Address	A and H Tree Service, 413 Semino Road, Northwale, NJ 07647	Rich Tree Service, Inc., 325 Bergen Street, South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Year One Maintenance Contract	\$168,500.00	\$134,375.00
Year Two Maintenance Contract	\$168,500.00	\$134,375.00
Total Years One and Two	<u>\$337,000.00</u>	<u>\$268,750.00</u>

WHEREAS, following the receipt of the above-referenced bids, said bids were reviewed by the Borough Attorney’s office to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Notice to Bidders and other bid documents; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the review, it has been recommended by the Department of Public Works that the bid be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, Rich Tree Service, Inc. in the amount of \$268,750.00 for a two year maintenance contract; and

WHEREAS, funds for said contract shall be made available in Account No. 3-01-26-290-237 in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00 for the remainder of 2023 or more, as funds become available, and funds will be made available in the 2024 Municipal Budget in an amount not to exceed \$134,375.000, and funds will be made available in the 2025 Municipal Budget in an amount not to exceed \$49,375.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$268,750.00, as reflected by the Chief Financial Officer certification No. 2023-47.

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 a contract on behalf of the Borough with Rich Tree Service, Inc. 325 Bergen Street, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, for a two (2) year Maintenance Contract in an amount not to exceed \$268,750.00 without further resolution of Council.
2. Contract to cover period beginning July 12, 2023 and ending July 11, 2025. Said contract shall be in accordance with the specifications and bid documents and in a form approved by the Borough Attorney.

Resolution No. 7-23-173

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 7/11/2023 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 42.

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). - None

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Borough Clerk