

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK

REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2023 – 7:00 PM

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, August 8, 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 July 6, 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 August 3, 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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Flag salute led by Maureen Hayden.

Roll Call.

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

Absent: Councilman Hale

Agenda Questions by Council Members.

Councilman George asked that Resolution 8-23-177 be removed from consent for a separate vote. All in favor.

Mayor Foster asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver.

Honors and Awards.

Mayor Foster indicated that the proclamation for Main Street Highland Park Volunteers - Meredith Carman and Ira Grassgreen would be presented at the next meeting.

Approval of Minutes.

It was MOVED by Councilman George and seconded by Councilwoman Canavera the minutes of the following minutes, January 3, 2023 Reorganization, January 17, 2023 Regular and Executive Session Mtg., January 24, 2023 Special Mtg., February 7, 2023 Regular and Executive Session Mtg., February 14, 2023 Redevelopment Regular Mtg., February 14, 2023 Redevelopment Executive Session, February 21, 2023 Regular and Executive Session Mtg., March 14, 2023 Regular Mtg., March 21, 2023 Regular Mtg., April 4, 2023 Regular and Executive Session Mtg., April 18, 2023 Regular Mtg., May 2, 2023 Regular and Executive Session Mtg., May 16, 2023 Regular and Executive Session Mtg., June 13, 2023 Redevelopment Regular Mtg., June 13, 2023 Redevelopment Executive Session Mtg., June 20, 2023 Regular and Executive Session Mtg., July 11, 2023 Regular Mtg. were approved, as distributed, by the following roll call vote:

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Hale.

Abstain: None.

Council Reports.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that the Rent Control or the Rent Leveling Board are coordinating dates for this month or by latest beginning of next month.

Council Canavera said that she wanted to point out how amazing Sgt. Haas on our Police Department is. On Sunday, July 16, 2023 her car just died while she was turning onto Woodbridge Avenue from Charles Road. She said she had two choices since her car was not in a safe place to call a tow truck company what would have cost her one hundred dollars, or to allow her to try to push the car to safety. It was during a downpour. The easiest thing for Sgt. Haas to do was to call a tow truck, instead he allowed another gentleman who had stopped push her car to safety. She had her one year old grandson with her so she know AAA would not have taken them home. Sgt. Haas told her to call the non emergency phone number. Once AAA got there so he safely got her grandson and herself home, since he didn't want them to walk in the rain. So she just wanted to thank him for his dedication in the past 15 years. She had seen many time the Sgt. interact with people and he was always very thoughtful and caring to residents. Highland Park is lucky to have such a kind Sgt. on our department and again she wanted to publically thank him and the man who pushed her and left before she could get his name. She was thankful for them. She went on to mention that if anyone was in need of food, we have two programs to help them. They can visit the Pantry located at the Community Center on South 6th Avenue. They're open on the 2nd and 4th Thursday every month from 9am to 10:45am and then from 6pm to 7pm, and the Saturday of those weeks 9:30am to 10:30am. Highland Park Gives a Hoot offers food to Highland Park families in need of support. There's no sign up and no questions asked and that's from every Tuesday from 10am to 11am.

Councilman George thanked his fellow members of the Council, the Mayor and Administration for their condolences and best wishes on the passing of his brother late last week. He appreciated their support and patience over the last month. He and his family have been dealing with the situation. He thanked the Police Department and all of the public safety providers for an excellent National Night Out last week. That was one of the better ones he's seen in a long time. It seemed that everyone was enjoying themselves. It was a good party atmosphere. All the

vendors were providing important safety information, from Trauma Victim Assistance to all of our volunteer groups. He said coming up in October, the Police Department will be sponsoring the Trump Retreat event. There will be more details on that coming up. In regard to the library, item 12j on our list. The consent agenda is to authorize the architect to begin the planning for the replacement of the flat sections of the roof. He thanked Mayor Foster for allowing us to form the Ad Hoc Roofing and Construction Committee. They met on July 27th. At that time it was decided that the construction work has begun with the Demolition in the library, so they were actually able to see the roof for a change from the underside. It was decided to move forward with the replacement of the problem, which is the flat roof sections. That is on the Resolution to get that plan going. It's the best progress we've had in the last 10 years toward moving the library back to a fully functioning area. Also on tonight's agenda he asked to remove the Shared Service Agreement with Rutgers. It's been in negotiation, it involves personnel. We've been approached by Rutgers for a landlord dispatch function to be performed at Rutgers station just across the river in New Brunswick. This would involve them taking over our dispatch on a 24 hour, seven day a week, 365 day schedule where at the present time we often have coverage blackouts and issues. When we first met with Rutgers representatives, the first thing we asked about was our personnel. The current dispatchers would be asked to apply for the positions because Rutgers cannot automatically accept them. All of our dispatchers possess the certifications as required and they are familiar with the system. Since Rutgers performs our backup when the dispatchers are not available as it is now, they would be covering our area and Middlesex County College, as well on their campuses. The proposal would also replace the gaps in service that we have right now. We only have one dispatcher at the desk and under State rules and regulations they are required to be there. So when someone needs a break or someone is ready to take their meal, or vacations we have to have police officers actually fill in the dispatcher positions. When we are short on officers due to illness or vacations, we have to have several officers in to cover and they get overtime; that would end. We would have full staffing with our officers on the street. I think the finances would be a more detailed discussion, but in assessing it when we weigh the costs of our current operations plus overtime coverage by regular police officers versus capital contributions and the annual fees; it looks like we would be substantially ahead and not facing continued overtime or additional issues with emergency coverage at some estimates. It's probably the end of the second year in this five year contract. If there are any further questions, we have the Chief and Lt. Sachau, who has been a great assistant to the administration in the discussions. He added that he looks forward to the passing of this resolution.

Councilman Postelnik offered his deepest condolences to Councilman George and his family. He mentioned that the Borough has grocery store transportation and online food shopping assistance available through the Department of Community Services. For more information, please reach out to the staff at the community center at 732-819-0052. Parkstock Outdoor Concert Series is back this Thursday, August 10, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm, at Grove 1 at Donaldson Park featuring Jazz by the John Bianculli Quartet. There will be several food vendors available, including Harry's Lil Kitchen, Bella Ciao Brickoven Pizza, Davey B's Shave Ice, and an ice cream truck. Fireworks in the Park - Labor Day Weekend Kickoff is Thursday August 31st at Donaldson Park, festivities start at 5:00pm, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm there'll be live music by Hair Magic and Cold Weather Company, and fireworks will begin about 9:15pm. There will be activities, including bounce houses, obstacle courses, games, face painting, and balloons and there will be over 20 vendors with food, refreshments, and novelties. Open Registrations is open for HP Youth Theatre Company - Matilda Jr. and mentioned there is already waitlisted; Dance Classes with Fresh Theatre Arts; Musical Theatre Master Class with Thayne Jaspersen; Youth Soccer League; Youth Flag Football. Opening for Registration Soon is Fall Basketball Academy; Fall Wrestling; Pre-K Soccer Clinic; Adult Volleyball; Adult Men's Basketball; Adult Women's Basketball; Adult Soccer. You can find more information on these programs and sign up for them at the MyRec website or the Community Center. Pickleball is Coming to Highland Park, there will be 6 new pickleball courts in Donaldson Park are set to be complete and ready by late September/ early October. Highland Park Rec will be adding pickleball leagues to our programming, 1-2 courts will be open to the public at all times, and the other courts may be reserved for our program.

Council President Hersh acknowledged National Night Out and the feedback from the Sustainable Highland Park Committee was great. He thanked Sustainable for tabling our National Night Out, there was beautiful weather and the parking lot was a great location. He said by all accounts this was the best National Night Out. It was also a decidedly different group of Highland Parkers that we you know typically see maybe not because we don't live in the center of town and it was an opportunity for Sustainable Highland Park to get the word out of some of these programs particularly around Energy Efficiency, the drain program which has attracted a lot of attention and we've had many good conversations and interests by children and adults. Since this was a family event we also talked up about Sustainable Highland Park and doing some children's and family programming in the Fall so please keep a look at it for that it's been very exciting and I'm just going to quote Tina Weishaus, the Chair of Sustainable Highland Park it turned out to be more successful than expected and lots of fun and I was saying we are more part of our community than ever before and thought that that was just such an optimistic encouraging piece of feedback. It shows that all these little things that we do help our connections with the community in a better more effective way and build lasting relationships so that was great, He hopes Sustainable Highland Park will also be tabling at Arts In The Park on Sunday, September 10th from 11 30 to 4 30PM so we will see you there, cleanups Sustainable Highland Park and the Highland Park Ecology and Environmental Group organize a series of regularly scheduled cleanups and the next couple weeks we're going to be focusing on the buildings and grounds around our schools they will meet on August 20th at 10A.M in the parking lot off of North 5th Avenue to address the middle school and high school areas and then on Saturday September 2nd Sustainable Highland Park and the Highland Park environmental group will contact the Irving School and neighborhood cleanup at 10 A.M Saturday September 2nd and they will meet by the entrance of the Irving playground on Saturday. The Environmental Center Raices Cultural Center is now stewarding the Environmental Center and has launched Little Roots family cultural arts classes join them in their new program space at the Eugene Young Environmental Center in Highland Park for these interactive classes and a variety of music, dance, instruments, songs, stories and cultural traditions from the Caribbean. Learn more and register at www.riseesculturalcenter.org. DPW has been in an integral part of the transition to stewardship over the Environmental Center which is obviously still a very much a public

building but Raices has entered into an agreement with the Borough to help oversee and coordinate maintenance there. DPW has been incredibly responsive and so helpful in helping to address all the little things that have come up, the building obviously hadn't been used on a regular basis for a little more than three years so there's a lot of little things that have to be done. Sustainable Highland Park adopted drain programs and is also looking to conduct more outreach to different neighborhoods about Energy Efficiency programs so please look for more of that starting in the Fall. We talked about the young children's activities this Fall please go to www.sustainablehighlandpark.org to check out volunteer opportunities for adopt a drain and cleanup programs and please follow them on Facebook at Sustainable Highland Park and tell your friends. If you would like to attend any activities with your children please send us an email at Highlandparksustainable@gmail.com and we'll put you on a list to notify you and if you have any other ideas or teaching skills let us know please it's not a one-way street, we really look for good ideas in the community I look for folks to partner with. He mentioned the late Governor Sheila Oliver who he has known personally for a long time and worked closely with. In addition to Lieutenant Governor she is also the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs who really oversaw a lot of the essential housing programs that the State does. Senior programs and so many other efforts that improve the quality of life in our communities, she's a real champion but it's really hard battles and you know arrived where she was because of her hard work and determination and obviously overcame so much to arrive where it is and this is such a huge loss. We were so happy in the housing world when Lieutenant Governor Oliver was named DCA Commissioner because we knew that you have a real Community Development champion and somebody who really understood the needs of our communities and understood what it took and the state level to provide resources to the towns to help the communities that needed the most, it was a strong partnership and we look forward to continuing to work with the administration but her loss will certainly be felt. He also acknowledged the passing of the former Board of Education president Darcie Samarusi, she served from 2013 to 2022 and provided in many ways some heroic guidance particularly when it came to fighting off charter schools and the threat that that resources from our local school district and so much more. He developed a close relationship with her over the years and our condolences, our love and eternal peace to the family, her daughters Sabina and Fiona and David please accept our sincere condolences.

Borough Administrator – no report.

Borough Attorney's Report – no report.

Mayor's Report.

Mayor Foster stated she started off tonight's meeting with a moment of silence for Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver and I would be remiss if I did not say the times that she visited Highland Park I happened to have two events for women and she attended both of those events, she came to Highland Park she visited and she was in no rush to leave, she loved our town and whenever we call for support she was always there as a constant supporter. She runs into people here in town that show her pictures from the event and they post it on Facebook and they ask where is your picture with the Lieutenant Governor but I was running the event I have no pictures of her for that particular event. You're so caught up in making sure that everything goes right you have no pictures of your own but I do have a bunch of other pictures she was a good friend, a good advisor, a good mentor and she surely will be missed by me and many others. She was one of those people that built by consensus and she prided herself in uniting people and finding resources to make things happen especially in small towns such as ours. She will be missed. She noted that she will be attending on Thursday the memorial services and again she will be missed. She said Darcie was the constant advocate for the Highland Park school system, she was always the champion for the Board of Education to make sure that the services that we provide stay in Highland Park. Another champion that will be missed and last but not least again our condolences to a Council Member George and family and we will definitely be keeping you and your family in our prayers. She indicated that she met Mayor Joshi in Edison last month and one of the things that they are bursting at the seams with is the pets. They have lots of dogs and cats that need loving homes so if anyone who's interested please reach out to Edison animal control. The Borough Administrator and I visited the shelter and they gifted us with puppies they were so cute and cuddly made you really want to take one home. Mayor Joshi had reached out and said if there's any way that we can advertise that they have cats, dogs, puppies and kittens at the animal shelter that need loving and caring homes to please stop by. Anyone who's interested just reach out to Edison animal control. She noted that she would be exploring some opportunities for Highland Park to do a pet adoption day in collaboration with Edison because we are a town of pet lovers. We also spoke about road improvements and how we could improve the road share between such as roads like Duclos Lane, they own half the road we own the other half so we're going to be working on some of those and how we can get together with Highland Park and Edison and do a lot more collaborative work, a lot more shared services so we're definitely looking at that especially as pertains to Route 27 which we know has been a problem for all of us because traffic goes too fast there's a lot of speeding so we have to look into traffic calming devices. She said she did that right on the heels of meeting with Senator Diegnan who is the person that's in control of Transportation in our state we have been in communication as it pertains to traffic and traffic issues and to see how we could work with the NJDOT to fast track some of our projects. She said she will continue to work hard in making sure that we stay safe and thanked Senator Diegnan for his support. This month started off with two weddings I'm going to continue to be performing weddings and that's one of the happy parts of the job is to make people happy. Last week we had a pet as a part of a wedding ceremony and that was very nice. She mentioned that there has been a huge shift in our weather patterns and we're seeing more and more storms so in your travels as you go around if you notice trees that limbs are coming down and trees that needs some care please let us know because it's better for us to address the problem sooner rather than later. As seen on the news on a daily basis the high winds are causing damage to properties and homes so let's try to be proactive and keep everyone safe.

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.

Jessica Hunsdon, Montgomery Street, asked about Resolution 8-23-177, over five years is the 1.4 million dollar investment and asked in the first year its \$376,000 because each year is about \$200,000 and then there is a maintenance fee of up to \$80,000 and she wanted a better understanding of the financials and comparison between the two. She asked how many employees will be impacted and will they have a guaranteed spot if they choose to apply. Councilman George said there is a onetime capital contribution of \$106,000 for the expansion of the electronics, the hardware, and the installation of the additional equipment. He noted that the Borough has five dispatchers. Lieutenant Sachau and the Chief and I went over the calculations with Rutgers several times, the overtime cost for officers to fill in for dispatchers was about \$80,000 a year for the past few years and that cost would be eliminated. The five-year contract was approximately 1.4 million, broken down into annual installments and annual contribution which is based upon the estimate that Rutgers would operate. At the end of the second year we would actually be more than breaking even, and he satisfied to just to break even because of the additional service that you get. Applicants are not guaranteed a job, Rutgers has to follow State law, our applicants are all qualified to apply, they will get the notice once the agreement is signed and they can submit. He noted that when we don't have dispatchers Rutgers is dispatching so both are familiar with each other and familiar with the layout of streets. The employees have the benefit of working on a team, right now we have to call people off the street to relieve them, if they cannot be relieved, they cannot leave their post to even go to the bathroom. They will receive training and additional certifications, they will work in an atmosphere with other dispatchers, they have the other benefits of Rutgers, such as family tuition, and will be members of the PERS system.

Chief Abrams said in addition to the personnel issue, we spoke to Rutgers and we cannot guarantee, they will interview any of our dispatchers who apply, they are familiar with them, they know them, they will welcome them and they are encouraging them to apply and they are eager to talk with them especially since they are going to be hiring dispatchers to dispatch. There are other things that this takes care of from equipment costs, this year we have to install a new 9-1-1 system at a cost of almost a quarter million dollars if we do not go somewhere else. So update our system or do something else. All the equipment we won't need anymore, service contracts to warranties for our 9-1-1 system, new computer system. Part of the setup fee also is to transition to a new CAD system, a computer system that tracks all of our calls and we have to switch to a new one we don't want to lose all the data that's in there from everything we've already done so there's a transition cost, it's a dump of all that information out into a database and plug it into the new system and then train all of our cops and all of our admin and records. Rutgers now will also take over part of the discovery in OPRA requests, they'll handle that themselves for anything that has to do with radios, telephone calls things like that so it really lifts a lot of ancillary duties off of our agency that we're just running out of time. The call volume is through the roof, our dispatchers are sometimes overwhelmed and there's nobody that can come and help. A couple weeks ago he came down from upstairs because everybody was out and helped the dispatcher handle calls for three hours, she needed help I was there to help her thank goodness, if I wasn't you know she would have been by herself. One dispatcher by themselves in a room, in a small town just can't cut it anymore. This option gives the dispatcher support from colleagues if something big is going on, the ability to decompress after a call if they need to just get up and walk away because it's a bad call it's tough they can now have somebody take their desk. Rutgers has dispatch supervisors if you don't know what to do or you have a question you have somebody now with a superior knowledge base and rank that can come over and assist you. Conversely that means that there's a chance if our dispatchers do go over there they now have the ability to move up the ladder, with structure and better themselves as well. On a personal level having worked with a dispatchers for a long time it hurts having to let them go, he stated he knows it's the right move for the department and Borough and even if they decide to go to Rutgers or somewhere else, he knows they'll succeed no matter where they go. They are good dispatchers, and good employees and any agency that picks them up will be lucky. When we broke the news to them it was tough we told them they have our complete support, this has nothing to do with the caliber of the work that they do, they're good employees and this is the most efficient way and the safest way.

Mayor Foster said that she is saddened to see our dispatchers go, even though it is for the best, Rutgers will provide them a lot more benefits than we are able to in a smaller town, such as education for them and their families, the pension systems. We are concerned and we want to see them land safely and do well and move up through the ranks. She asked how it was going to work with regards to religious communities, and how that will be handled. Chief Abrams said that there were a few different options, we do not know which one is going to work best. Rutgers has done this already in other counties such as Monmouth and Ocean who have centralized dispatching, so the solutions are there but was unsure yet on what options was best but that was being explored and talking with the community to see what they want to see.

Lois Lebbing, North 2nd Avenue, questioned what towns in Middlesex County have this, why five years why not two years to see if it works only because we have a North and South side with the same numbers second, third, fourth that the post office can't get right. She was glad there's a GPS that might help except for Grant and Grant and Graham are very confusing. She asked about the library, construction 8-23-184 contract for the architect that it talks about replacing the flat and wished we had the money to go for a peak roof in 20 years you're going to be back here doing the same thing and I won't be here so please think about more money for the library before you vote on it. Finish the job get it over with and 9-1-1 I hope it works thank you.

There being no one further, Mayor Foster closed public participation.

Consent Agenda Items - Resolutions.

Resolution Nos. 8-23-174 through 8-23-176 and Resolution Nos. 8-23-178 through 8-23-187 were duly adopted on a motion made by Council President Hersh seconded by Councilwoman Canavera and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Resolution 8-23-174

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a Person-to-Person Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 1207-32-003-007, issued to Highland Park Wine and Liquor LLC; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has disclosed and the issuing authority reviewed the source of all funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the licensed business;

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

1. The Borough Council does hereby approve, effective August 8, 2023, the Person-to-Person transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Consumption License w/Broad Package Privilege located at 97 Woodbridge Avenue, Highland Park, NJ, from Highland Park Wine and Liquor LLC to SAMP Beverages, Inc.
2. The Borough Council does hereby direct the Borough Clerk to endorse the License Certificate as follows: "This license, subject to all of its terms and condition, is hereby transferred to SAMP Beverages, Inc. effective August 8, 2023.

Resolution 8-23-175

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park is in support of the annual Arts in the Park Festival to be held on September 10, 2023; 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. Approval is hereby given to Main Street Highland Park to hold its annual Arts in the Park festival and activities on September 10, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and
2. Permission is hereby granted to the Highland Park Police Department to make application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for a permit to close a portion of Raritan Avenue (Route #27) between 2nd and 5th Avenues on September 10, 2023, between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; and
3. that Main Street Highland Park will work in close cooperation with the Highland Park Police Department to insure minimum inconvenience to Borough community members; and
4. The Borough Council hereby waives the Transient Merchant permit fees and other Borough fees for vendors who register to participate in Arts in the Park; and
5. Certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Main Street Highland Park; Richard Abrams, Chief of Police; Police Bureau of Pedestrian and Traffic Safety; Highland Park First Aid Squad Captain.; H. James Polos, Emergency Management Coordinator; Michael Wieczorkiewicz, Dept. of Public Works Supt

Resolution 8-23-176

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is subject to the provisions of the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law allows local contracting units to increase their bid threshold up to \$44,000 if a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) is appointed; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for qualifying as a Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, Lori Majeski possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent (Certification No. Q-1063), in accordance with N.J.A.C.5:34-5 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Majeski previously served as the Borough's CFO, Director of Finance and QPA until June 30, 2023 and is available to return as the Qualified Purchasing Agent on a part-time basis for an annual salary of \$25,000, effective August 1, 2023.

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

1. The Borough of Highland Park hereby maintains its bid threshold at \$44,000.00.
2. The Borough of Highland Park hereby designates Lori Majeski as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2(30).
3. The appointment will carry through to December 31, 2023.

Resolution 8-23-178

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2022, the Borough Council passed Resolution No. 11-22-257 to appoint Chief Michael Foligno as a hearing officer related to a police department disciplinary hearing; and

WHEREAS, based on a pre-hearing conference with both attorneys on June 15, 2023 it now appears that the matter will require more time from the hearing officer; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined that hiring Chief Michael Foligno to serve as hearing officer remains in the best interests of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 3-01-25-240-233, for an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer, no. 2023-48.

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

1. Chief Michael Foligno is reappointed as hearing officer to preside over the disciplinary hearing, and he shall hear the testimony, review the evidence and make a recommendation in writing at the conclusion of the hearing as to whether the charges are sustained and what penalty, if any, should be imposed by the Borough; and
2. Chief Foligno shall be compensated at the rate of \$125.00 per hour to preside over the hearing and time expended related thereto, inclusive of his review of the testimony and evidence, and writing his recommendation, for an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00.

Resolution 8-23-179

WHEREAS, there is a need for repairs to the Highland Park Borough Hall HVAC system; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Local Public Contracts Law NJSA 40A:11-6 et seq, a contract may be awarded and immediate delivery of goods or the performance of services may be provided when an emergency affects the public health, safety or welfare; and

WHEREAS, East Coast Mechanical Contractors, Inc. is qualified and able to make said emergency repairs and has been authorized to proceed with the work in an amount not to exceed \$9,873.00; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the, Current Fund Account No. 3-01-26-310-232, in an amount not to exceed \$9,873.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-49.

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 Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to issue payment in the amount not to exceed \$9,873.00 to East Coast Mechanical Contractors, Inc., 5133 W. Hurley Pond Road, Suite A, Farmingdale, NJ 07727, for the repairs to Borough Hall HVAC system.
2. Copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer, the Department of Public Works and Borough Administrator.

Resolution 8-23-180

WHEREAS, a dangerous condition has emerged on So. Adelaide Avenue requiring immediate attention by a professional road contractor; and

WHEREAS, three (3) quotes were solicited and were received as follows:

B&W Construction	\$21,585.00
Crest Construction	\$15,905.00
J. Fletcher Creamer	\$14,436.22; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Public Works has recommended that said services be awarded to J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc., Hackensack, NJ based on their quote for same based on their professionalism and quality of work; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the 2023 Municipal Budget, Current Fund Account No. 3-01-26-297-242 as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-52.

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 Superintendent of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for sinkhole repairs from J. Fletcher Creamer & Son, Inc., at a cost not to exceed of \$15,000.00; and
2. A certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Superintendent of Public Works and the Chief Financial Officer forthwith.

Resolution 8-23-181

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:

Sean McGraw, Sergeant, \$140,527.00 Salary, Effective 8/01/2023

Denise Mayo, Crossing Guard, \$20.14 Hourly, Effective 9/08/2023

Lori Majeski, QPA, \$25,000 Salary, Effective 08/01/2023

Grace McKenna, Temporary Interim Circulation Coordinator, \$10,688, Effective 8/01/2023

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 8-23-182

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is categorized as Tier A community by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for the purpose of its permit to operate its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4); and

WHEREAS, the NJDEP has Municipal Stormwater Assistance Grants available to Tier A communities in the amount of \$25,000 to assist permittees with upgrades to their MS4 stormwater programs; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park would like to apply for these funds in order to assist with the update and maintenance of the required MS4 Infrastructure Map.

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 a Grant Application Form to the NJDEP's Municipal Stormwater Assistance Grant Program.

2. The Mayor and the Borough Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement upon acceptance on behalf of the Borough of Highland Park and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Resolution 8-23-183

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Public Library continues to experience persistent leaks from their roof membrane which is a regular interruption to library operations; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park has a need for architectural services to design preliminary plans for the replacement of the 3,000 sf flat roof section, prepare construction documents including technical specifications, and develop front-end bidding documents; 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, Anthony Iovino is a registered architect (License #21AI01172000) and Public Planner in New Jersey qualified to complete this scope of work; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Current Fund Account No. 3-01-29-390-235 in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.00, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer Certification no. 2023-50.

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

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for professional services for architectural design and construction documents to replace the flat roof portion of the library building with Arcari + Iovino Architects PC, One Katherine Street, Little Ferry, NJ 07643, a copy of which is attached to the original of this resolution,
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 8-23-184

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 4-23-116, adopted by the Borough Council on April 18, 2023, a contract was awarded to Molba Carpentry, Inc. t/a Molba Construction of Little Ferry, NJ, for the Highland Park Public Library Interior renovations; and

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 1, certified by Arcari + Iovino Architects PC, that certain work under said contract has been completed and approved and there is due to Molba Carpentry, Inc. t/a Molba Construction. the sum of \$158,933.93 in accordance with said Pay Estimate for work performed through July 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Capital Fund Account No. C-04-55-831-001 in an amount not to exceed \$158,933.93, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer Certification no. 2023-51.

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

1. The Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized and directed to pay Molba Carpentry, Inc. t/a Molba Construction the sum of \$158,933.93, as certified by the Architects certification of Pay Estimate No. 1, subject to the Clerk's receipt of the Certified Payroll and Project Manning Reports; and
2. Certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Chief Financial Officer and the Arcari + Iovino Architects PC.

Resolution 8-23-185

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (GCADA) established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey. In coordination with GCADA, the New Jersey Department of Human Services/Division on Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has awarded a Youth Leadership Grant to the GCADA Municipal Alliance Program.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Township/Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for DMHAS Youth Leadership funding through the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Middlesex;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize acceptance of an application for **DMHAS Grant funding for the Highland Park Municipal Alliance for Grant Term Two: 9/1/23 – 9/30/25** in the amount of:
DMHAS Grant Funding \$5,000.00
2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Resolution 8-23-186

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Township/Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Middlesex;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

3. The Borough Council does hereby authorize acceptance of a strategic plan for the Highland Park Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$7,664.00
Cash Match	\$1,916.00
In-Kind	\$5,748.00

4. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Resolution 8-23-187

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 8/8/2023 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 42.

Resolution 8-23-177

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey is required to provide for emergency communications and radio dispatching services in order to provide for the public safety of residents of said Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park deems it advisable to enter into an interlocal services agreement with Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, in order to provide said emergency communications and radio dispatching services for the 9-1-1 emergency calls; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, *N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq.*, encourages Interlocal Service and Shared Services Agreement local units.

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

1. The Borough of Highland Park Chief of Police Rick Abrams and Borough Administrator Teri Jover of the Borough of Highland Park, Middlesex County, New Jersey, are hereby authorized to enter into an Interlocal Services Agreement for E9-1-1 Emergency Communications with Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey to provide for emergency communications and radio dispatching services for the 9-1-1 system which services the Borough effective January 15, 2024.
2. The Interlocal Services Agreement for E9-1-1 Emergency Communications is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk and has been posted on the Borough Website and may be inspected.
3. As required by *N.J.S.A. 40A:65-4. b.*, upon the execution of said Agreement, an informational said copy of said Agreement shall be furnished to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Services, 101 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0800.

Resolution No. 8-23-177 was duly adopted on a motion made by Councilman George seconded by Councilwoman Canavera and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Appointments.

On motion made by Councilwoman Canavera and seconded by Councilman Postelnik the following were appointed: Human Relations Commission, Dr. Moishe Malek and Mayor's Teen Advisory Council, Hadassah Esther Ritch.

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

Mayor Foster reappointed Rebecca Hand to the Planning Board. – 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, prior to Work Session.

Jessica Hunsdon, Montgomery Street, asked about redevelopment, she attended two of the redevelopment tours led by Councilman Hale. She said the conditional redeveloper, 232 Raritan Avenue LLC/Garden Homes has

purchased seven homes on the south side of Raritan Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Avenues totaling 5.7 million dollars since August 18th. There are only 4 buildings that are not directly on that south side of Raritan Avenue that either the town or the development do not own, and would like to understand why the developer would purchase so many properties unless there is a plan that already includes those properties. She asked if there were any amendments to the redevelopment plan for Tract C or variances granted to the developer and if yes where can she find the information of those updates or amendments. Ms. Jover, Borough Administrator responded that the developer has acquired those properties and there have not been any amendments yet, early in the redevelopment process it was noted that there would likely be amendments in the future. We would like to do one set of amendments including the other properties, and once we have sense of everything that would be presented to the public, it would have to be introduced as an Ordinance then reviewed by the Planning Board, and back to the Council for public hearing and adoption. The 2005 Redevelopment plan includes many of the properties mentioned. The process of setting a few additional properties that were included in the 2005 designation or in our plan to see if they qualify as areas in need of redevelopment to possibly bring them in because there's some opportunities that are being looked into so just to put that all out there. There are no amendments the plan that's up on the website, is the current plan and we're a part of our negotiations and discussions we'll likely yield some amendments to that demand and that would be discussed publicly.

Ms. Hundson said it felt a little cart before horse to have the developer purchase these properties then there was this proposed amendment to the study. Ms. Jover said that all of the properties were not in the plan, in discussions there were some opportunities that we thought might benefit the project by including them but they have to meet the criteria so we have to go through that analysis and the Planner is working on that.

Ms. Hundson asked if there was a timeline on when the 2022 and 2023 minutes would be posted. Ms. Jover said we do not have a date, they are being worked on, we did have staffing issues and they will be posted upon approval.

Lois Lebbing, North 2nd Avenue, questioned the invoice from J. Fletcher Creamer and the location of the sinkhole. Ms. Jover said the sinkhole is in the roadway on South Adelaide, we obtained quotes and they were the lowest. Ms. Lebbing asked if it was closer to Skyview Terrace. Council President Hersh said it was closer to Skyview.

Lois Lebbing, North 2nd Avenue, asked if they were staying with the flat roof for the library. Mayor Foster indicated that has not been decided, they are doing an inspection to see what we are looking at and they will give us our options.

Lois Lebbing, North 2nd Avenue asked if the truckload of minutes each had an agenda, because the 2022 book did not have agendas. Ms. Jover responded there are agendas on file.

Coretta King, Mansfield Street, said on the redevelopment tour with Councilman Hale it was mentioned that there was an abandonment ordinance that was going to go into effect and was wondering if that ordinance 303-15 that's been in effect since 2017 or if there is a new one. Ms. Jover said that they are working on an amendment, we do have a vacant and abandoned property ordinance in place now, it needs some tightening up and improvements and we have been working with the Borough Attorney on that.

Coretta King, Mansfield Street, asked if there was a distinction between abandoned and vacant or are they the same thing. Mr. Schmierer, Esq., indicated that the Ordinance provisions will have definitions and they are different and we are expanding it to cover a State statute that came along talking about abandoned vacant mortgaged properties so when a bank takes it over they have different standards as well. We are integrating all of that into an updated Ordinance.

Coretta King, Mansfield Street, asked if there were any potential pedestrian plaza plan on 3rd and is there a timeline for those. Mayor Foster indicated there were no plans and as soon as we get the NJDOT approval we will have some plans in place. She said it is a work in progress, the last time we received our punch list and we went through everything and sent it back to them. Ms. King asked if the Borough would have approval before the development on Main Street property. Mayor Foster said she is praying we will have an approval from the NJDOT before that happens.

Diane Feldman, North 4th Avenue, said there are grants we have gotten called Safe Routes to Schools and it was her understanding that work was supposed to be done this year. Council President Hersh said there are grants from 2016 and 2018 that we are looking forward to implementing. It is true that that work is not yet begun and what the work will create a comprehensive routes to school by improving and creating ADA crosswalks, improving crosswalks, creating crosswalks where they don't exist. Ms. Jover said unfortunately this is the same answer as the South Third status it is we are languishing in NJDOT. The program is heavily monitored and run through their agency, it's also federal funds so it's an added level of review that goes on with it but we've completed the concept designs for both the 2016 and the 2018, they've all been submitted by our Design Group which was also paid for by NJDOT funding. There are about seven Divisions within the Department that have to review what I believe to be a very straightforward and simple project. It also has to get through the many levels of environmental review and so forth so unfortunately the answer is we're waiting. The good news is the public information sessions we held yielded some really good input some of the new ideas that came out of that I'm really kind of excited about and there will be additional meetings as a requirement of this grant to reveal the final designs before it gets to engineering but unfortunately we're not looking at a 2023 project at this point.

Council President Hersh mentioned there was information on the Borough's web-site if anyone wanted an overview of the program.

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

Recess (5 minutes). - None

Work Session Items: No formal action to be taken. None

Executive Session (if necessary).

Resolution 8-23-188

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. Highland Park;
Negotiations - 420-424 Raritan Ave
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.

On motion made by Councilman George and seconded by Councilwoman Canavera Resolution 8-23-188 was approved.

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

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilman Hale.

Abstain: 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 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Borough Clerk