

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 – 7:00 PM

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, and was called to order by Mayor Foster at 7:00 PM. This meeting is called to order in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. 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 So. Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Flag salute led by Valerie Drach Weidmann.

Roll Call.

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

Agenda Questions by Council Members. - None

Honors and Awards.

Mayor Foster proclaimed September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

Mayor Foster and Councilman George presented a proclamation to Valerie Drach Weidmann for her retirement from the Highland Park Library.

Approval of Minutes.

It was MOVED by Council President Hersh and seconded by Councilman George the following minutes, August 5, 2023 Regular and Executive Session and August 15, 2023 Redevelopment Regular and Executive Session were approved, as distributed, by the following roll call vote:

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

Council Reports.

Mayor Foster mentioned that she had received a phone call. She asked some people to come out because this was really important. She wanted to give her own testimony of how she feels about some of our people in blue visiting tonight. She called them angels because they were there during the covid pandemic and throughout our lives as we seek services. She read a statement that she prepared. It said the governing body of the Borough of Highland Park is a big believer in the importance of frontline workers, especially those in healthcare who fill their roles with skills and compassion and improve the outcome of life on a daily basis to the people they serve. The Mayor and Council are aware of the growing nursing shortage in the nation and in our State. As a result of the developing vacuum the nurses remain on their job in face of increased staff to patient ratio and increased stress in their work. The 1,700 nurses that Robert Wood Johnson Hospital has been negotiating with the hospital Administration for months; for better staff to patient ratio and improved health care benefits for over stretched nurses who are handling a heavy overload and case load. On August 4th the nurses went on strike at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital. Robert Wood Johnson Hospital replaced them with 1,000 replacement nurses at a cost of 45 million dollars. The hospital suspended the nurses that were on strike and more recently stopped health benefits. Nurses on the picket line have reported that they had to care for nine patients at a time while the national average for nurses is six patients per nurse. This is not a safe situation for the nurses and for the care that they're providing. These overworked nurses in turn are more likely to face health concerns of their own. In recent weeks Congressman Palone has visited the striking nurses to show his support. State Senators Diegnan and Vitale have also visited the nurses to show their support last week. Last week on Ask the Governors, Governor Phil Murphy was on News 12 and said and I quote, "This should get resolved. Let these heroes get back to work and unburden them from concerns of going on strike and the challenge that we currently are going through that needs to be resolved." I speak tonight to add my voice to the growing chorus, just to support the nurses that are on strike. I urge the Robert Wood Johnson Administration to find a way to resolve the dispute and to do so quickly. Health and safety of our most valuable front line

health care workers, our nurses and our collective health is on the line and they must act with urgency and they must act now.

Councilman Hale said the Art in the Park is Sunday, September 10th from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm. This is the annual Arts Street Fair, juried art show, arts and crafts sale, a music festival, food vendors, in downtown Highland Park. Upcoming in downtown Highland Park is the Farmers Market is every Friday from 11 am to 5:30 pm through December 22nd. October 13 from 3:30-5:30 pm is the apple pie contest and October 27th from 3:30-5:30 pm is the pumpkin painting and spooky Halloween with live music from The Mike Noordzy Tri. The Night Owl markets are back in October, November and December with arts, crafts and artisan markets to help with your holiday shopping. Night Owl Market dates will be Saturday, October 28th, from 4 to 8, Sunday, November 12th from 12 to 4, Saturday the 25th of November from 4 to 8, Sunday November 26th from 12 to 4, Saturday, December 9th from 4 to 8 and Sunday, December 10th from 12 to 4. These Night Owl Markets are local craft shows where we again bring in Artisan craft makers to help. It's a great place to do your holiday shopping, so come on down for those various events. We have Halloween coming up and as he previously stated there is a painting contest as well as a carving contest for Halloween. Lastly the downtown tree lighting is on November 25th at the Night Owl Market is at 7:00 pm and the Menorah lighting on Thursday, December 7th. So come down for those. He also gave a shout out to Rabbi Yaakov Luban, he just retired from the Congregation Oratora after forty years of service to one of our local synagogues. He's a great leader in our community so I wanted to say congratulations to him on his retirement. Also congratulations to Rabbi Sariel Malitzky on his installations, it's very nice to see those changes. He then thanked Valerie Drach Weidmann saying she was fantastic and he appreciated the great things she did.

Councilman George reported that schools were open, traffic and walkers will increase after the last few weeks of summer so please pay attention and be careful and yield to pedestrians. He congratulated Valerie Weideman on her retirement. The Library working group has been meeting every other week, keeping track of the construction work. Demolition is complete and interior structural work is being done. With the interior stripped of the ceiling, the contractor and architect were able to get a better idea of the persistent leaking problem both inside and outside. Capital ordinance 23-2075 is listed on the agenda to fund \$215,000 to make improvements to the library roof in order to address the persistent leaks. We will replace the entire 3,000 SF flat roof section and take further steps to isolate and repair the HVAC systems where many leaks had been located. The Borough has this money available and no bonding is needed. The Library has received confirmation of the Kushner Estate grant of \$375,000 subject to closing documents. It will be used to provide a media room in the current conference room and to update items which were not covered because of inflation and changes to the State Library grant which is funding the current renovation of the Library. There were a number of residential break-ins recently which are being investigated by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office along with our Detectives. The Prosecutor's office is updating the local police regularly and we'll have updates as we get them. Because it is in the early stages of an investigation there is not a lot of information for the public. However, some warnings are that not to post vacation or absentee plans on social media, as this lets unscrupulous people gather information about when no one will likely be home. Keep your doors locked including garages. The agreement with Rutgers to transition our dispatch to the Rutgers dispatch center has been finalized and the Chief and Department are in the planning stages. Another volunteer fire fighter has passed their Firefighter I certification which means another volunteer is available for responding to fires. The Fire Department is working with the Borough Administrator regarding hiring a third full time firefighter which is a necessary step in insuring full fire protection. He congratulated Main Street for the Cornbread contest on Friday, he had the delightful job of judging along with Chef Avi and Jerry from Cream Ridge Winery and everyone had a lot of fun doing the Food Channel thing, tasting, commenting and teasing everyone. Second prize was won by Zander, 11 years old, whose father operates the book truck.

Councilman Postelnik wanted to reiterate that the Borough has grocery store transportation, online food shopping assistance through the Department of Community services while we are temporarily without a grocery store in town. For more information reach out to the Community Center at 732-819-0052 or just stop by. He congratulated Kim and the team of the Department of Community Services for a wonderful Fireworks in the Park Celebration last Thursday. I hope to do something like that every year. There was a great turn out, hopefully we'll be able to add that to a rotation of events in the future years. I have to announce a new Festival is coming to Highland Park mid-autumn, called the Festival Celebration of Unique Disparity and Good Fortune. It will be Saturday, September 30th at 3 pm to 6 pm at the Farmer's Market parking lot. It will feature dancing, and musical performances, food, vendors, art and more. This will become another new thing that we want to do on an annual basis. He said he wanted to note that at the Park Festival this Sunday the Arts Commission and the Historical Commission will be there. The Earth's Commission will have rock and t-shirt painting activities for the kids and the Store Commission will have cool artifacts and information available. Stop by and check it out. The Middlesex County Senior Health and Fitness Market will be Wednesday, September 20th from 10 am to 1pm in Roosevelt Park in Edison. If you're interested in attending please reach out to the Community Center. We will have transportation that can be provided to get you there. On Thursday on September 21st at 7 pm at Pinos the

Historical Commission will put on a special presentation on the findings from the recently concluded historical survey of downtown, that briefly covers a broader history of Highland Park and then focus on how the development of Route 27, the Lincoln Hwy. shaped our town. He mentioned that there were some Community Center programming highlights. We will have a fall luncheon on Tuesday, September 19th at noon. Please join us for lunch and special entertainment by spook handy. There is also the AARP driver safety course. It's a two part course that will be held on Monday, September 11th and Monday September 18th from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. The cost is \$20.00 for AARP members and \$25.00 for non-members. On Tuesday, October 10th we will have our first flu shot clinic of the season that will be from 10am to 11 am. It's free and open to all the residents six months and older. If you can't make that date we will be hosting other clinics throughout the fall and winter months. That was just the first one. He said he had Recreation announcements. There is a robust fall program available for the Youth. There's soccer flag football, wrestling, basketball, dancing and theater. I'll be keeping them busy. He said we're also welcoming the return of Adult Fitness and Pickup Sports. Lastly, keep an eye out for the new edition of Pickle Ball, that will be coming soon so if you go to Donaldson Park you can see the reports have just about done they're looking great. We'll have more details on the official opening date and then the additional Highland Park Recreational programming that we'll have.

Council President Hersh thanked Mayor Foster for her comments on the striking nurses. He thanked the nurses for being here and let them know that the Borough supports them. The garbage recycling collection schedule has changed: Wednesday, September 6th we'll be in the business district north side and triangle; Thursday, September 7th on the south side there's recycling collection; Friday, September 8th in the business district and south side will be garbage collection as usual. We've talked about The Sabbath Observant Water Meters, throughout the spring. National Metering Services has begun contacting residents who requested the Sabbath Observer Water Meters and are scheduling installations. We've received about 200 Sabbath Observer Meters to start, however, more are likely needed to meet all the requests from the residents. The additional meters will be in hand before the conclusion of the meter replacement programs. If you're interested in obtaining a separate observant meter, please contact National Meter Services directly at 1-888-488-0009 to express your interest and to schedule an appointment. If there are no meters available they will add you to the waiting list and contact you directly once the additional meters are in hand. If you have already made a request, National Engineering Services will be calling to schedule an appointment. At the time of installation we strongly recommend that you reconfirm with the technicians that the meters that are about to be installed in your home is a Sabbath Observer meter. We are unable to re-install older meters once they have been removed. It's better to be sure prior to the replacement work that there may not be sufficient inventory to replace in case of an error. To confirm, when the Stafford observant meter is installed, which covers the digital readout and will watch to see if the numbers disappear after 20 seconds, if they do then it's compliant. Sustainable Highland Park is in the Public Works portfolio. Please save the date for Children's Programming in September. On Saturday, September 9th from 10 am to 12 pm at the Environmental Education Center on 28 River Road, there will be drawing nature escapes with local artists Justin Woodsby. Supplies will be provided. All ages are encouraged. Registration is preferred but not required. Please email highlandparksustainable@gmail.com. On September 24th from 10am to 12 pm also at the Environmental Education Center at 20 River Road, make fun and useful items with household cardboard, reimagine and reuse tissue boxes, cereal boxes, toilet paper rolls and paper towel rolls, giving them a second life. Turn them into desk organizers, cell phone holders, and small gift boxes. Supplies will be provided, but bring household cardboard if you can. The following is a drop-in program, no registration is required. Tag and share with anyone you think might be interested. This is on Sustainable Highland Park's Facebook page as well as the Borough's Facebook page. I want to mention with the extreme heat you need to make sure that you and your neighbors or anyone that you care about is aware of the necessary precautions. You can find information at www.nj211.org \summer-heat. You can also go to 211 and see the tab for summer heat. Just a note that Borough Hall, the Community Center and the Reformed Church of Highland Park are all open during normal business hours for cooling centers and if course please call the police in an emergency or call the non-emergency number.

Borough Administrator Jover reminded everyone that water and sewer bills did go out, look for it either in your email or in your mailbox. If you have any questions about your bill you can always call 732-819-3788.

Borough Attorney's Report – no report.

Mayor's Report.

Mayor Foster stated she had a few more things to report on. If you have noticed that the roads in Highland Park have gotten better and you're thinking they look kind of new and it's a pleasure to drive on, yes they have improved. It's my pleasure to let you know we have been busy doing a host of road repairs and re-vamping our roads. We have done over two dozen stretches of road in the past three years, nearly one-third of the town. The Borough was able to accomplish this work by stewardship and funding from three different sources that were matched with Borough funds to make this happen. One of the funding places NJ Department of Transportation, Middlesex County funding for repayment on

Woodbridge Avenue, the county highway. PSE&G funded roads dug up for infrastructure upgrade and no matching funding were required, they completely paid for what they dug up. The Borough is aware that there's still more roads in town that need to be repaved and we haven't achieved all our pavement projects as of yet. We're continuing to work on these road improvements so we'll have less bumps as we drive through our beautiful town. It will be less of an uncomfortable eyesore and you'll have a much more pleasant ride, that's our goal. The past three years have been a record for us for the road re-pavement and we're very proud of that. She indicated that the Supermarket is still on the Borough's forefront and that we are in conversations with the family that owns the property. They have selected someone I'm not at liberty to say at this time but they are working through terms of negotiations. As soon as I'm able to let you know who's coming into town, I will be shouting it from the rafters. We're going to welcome a new business into town and it's going to be right after the Street Fair on Sunday. It's called the Barbie Fit Studio. One of the fun things I do as Mayor is to go to these ribbon cuttings and to support local businesses to tell you all about them and to advertise them as much as we can, so each and every one of you can stop by and support as much as you can. If you want to hang around after the Street Fair at 6 pm on Sunday, we're going to be cutting the ribbon at Barbie Fit Studio, at 300 Raritan Avenue. I have been practicing what I preach. I found flowers that I am giving as gifts to folks in town and I found candy and a host of other gift ideas locally, please continue to support our local businesses and do shop locally. That's how we keep our downtown vibrant and viable.

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.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper St. asked about the police vehicles. How old are the vehicles that are being replaced? There do seem to be hybrid vehicles. If they are needed that is the direction it really should be moving in. She wanted to hear the justification for the replacement.

Borough Administrator Jover responded that the availability of hybrid vehicles especially police rated, which are different, have to be outfitted with the lights. We actually have had the money allocated for a while and have not been able to find vehicles. We finally found these Malibu's; we're replacing probably around 10 year old vehicles, we're not recycling every four years. We really have a pretty frugal vehicle replenishment line. I wholeheartedly share and I know the Mayor and I know Councilman George of Public Safety share the same goal of greening the fleet up. The other challenge we have is the availability on State Contract, there are a lot of procurement challenges if try to shop door to door for these things. Other types of contracts are also confining us. Non police vehicles are a little bit easier to go with. One of the things that we're hoping for and I don't know if it is on tonight but soon if not tonight, is our town vehicle the one Maria uses. We hit a point where we need these.

Abby Stern Cardinale replied she'd just add as a note. Initially electric or hybrid might cost a little more but it will really save the town and everyone. So I think that's really important. I'm happy to hear about that.

Borough Administrator said it's definitely a goal and we've been really struggling in the last two years to try to even find a vehicle that we can use. Police vehicles just have an additional layer of challenge to help them.

Abby Stern Cardinale added thank you for moving forward with the tot lot funds. A lot of people are looking for that. Now that there's a contract it looks like with a specific vendor hopefully that can get started.

Mayor Foster said she also wanted to add regarding the fleet, she had a meeting with Mayor Joshi because in Edison they need a lot more cars than us. I had a meeting with them and asked how can we partnership into a shared service because you order more cars you're more likely to receive cars before we do because our order is much smaller. Let's look at that, they have the same challenge with the supply and supply chain as well. The conversation is ongoing how we could buddy up to get a few cars in Highland Park. We're looking at all avenues and hybrid is one of the things that we're looking at. As Teri pointed out to us, it's a challenge.

Chief Abrams said the cars we're getting are going to the detective Bureau not the patrol cars that drive around 24/7. Our detective bureau has received cars that were in patrol years ago. We're replacing these Dodge Chargers, recycled down for patrol to detectives. They're not going to be driving around 24/7. Most of our fleet is hybrid already, those explorers are all hybrid.

Mr. Prozanski, North Ave. thanked the Borough, Mayor and Council on behalf of the Middlesex County Jewish Community Council, for providing a Sabbath compliance meters for the Sabbath observing

public. He added there's been another accident this past week on North 10th Avenue and Rt. 27. He recognized that there will be changes in a few years but asked if there was anything that we can do to change things. It's difficult and dangerous making turns onto Route 27, you can't see and have to edge out. There's also a problem with large bushes and asked if it was possible to make it a one way street so people can't turn from North 10th onto Route 27? Could we find a short term fix for this problem until the diet is in?

Mayor Foster replied in her follow up conversations from the meeting with the NJDOT and Senator Diegnan, we're looking at what kind of traffic calming devices we could put in that space in the interim while they are working on plans for the road diet. It does take some time, and was told by this fall they're going to put some calming measures up on the Avenue and some more devices. We are also working to see if we could calm the traffic down on our own in that area. The NJDOT are coming out soon to look at those intersections, they are going to look at those bushes and where the set backs are. I know the Borough Administrator and I had a conversation last week and we did a follow up so we're going to continue to follow up constantly.

Mr. Prozanski asked about putting speed bumps there. Mayor Foster explained that we cannot do that on a State highway. We do not have jurisdiction on State or county highways. We have to work with the NJ Department of Transportation.

Nora Krieger, 6th Avenue, stated after reading an article Rite Aid went into Chapter 11 due to lawsuits over fake opioid prescriptions. She wanted to know if the Borough was looking into this and making sure that this branch will not close.

Mayor Foster replied that she had read the same article. We have not been able to reach out to anyone in the corporate office, but I do want to assure you that location here in Highland Park is very lucrative. They do very well and when we had our last conversation with them, they weren't planning on going anywhere. When these cross-action lawsuit goes up, we don't know how it will play out or if it will have any effect on any of the local stores but I know our Rite Aid in Highland Park does extremely well.

Jessica Hanson, Montgomery St., commended Mayor Foster for her statements about the striking nurses. She did have a question regarding the Boroughs agreement with conditional developers, 232 Raritan LLC Garden Homes expired on 8.31.23. Will that agreement be extended and if so when and how long?

Borough Administrator replied with the holidays and traveling, the Mayor wanted to have an opportunity to catch up with the developer before we renewed. We're arranging that and the hope is to see if we extended as to the terms, that's something the Mayor and Council will have to decide how and the duration. I actually discussed this with the attorney and he's like it's very common that they get renewed over a period of time, having a hiccup isn't a problem. We'll pick it back up as soon as the Mayor and Council are to ready schedule.

Sarah Kaley, Riverview, said she was one of the striking nurses. They submitted a Resolution a little late so it didn't make it on the agenda. She expressed the urgency for them. They've been on strike since August 4th. On the first of the month they no longer have health insurance for the 1,700 nurses who are out. The hospital hasn't come to the table to negotiate, the August 16th meeting was unproductive, they met for seven hours and they rejected the union's proposal and that was it. They're not speaking to us, so we're asking the community, elected officials and Governor Murphy to support us and to stand up for us. Since this is the biggest hospital that serves the community, we want more nurses and we want enforceable standards on nurse to patient ratios. We really would like to get back to work as soon as possible. We need the hospital to stop trying to bust our union. They seem to be trying to starve us out, so any support would be appreciated.

Mayor Foster replied thanked Ms. Kaley for the Resolution I asked for a copy to be sent to me electronically but I never received it. As you heard our statement about where we stand, we'll definitely take a look at it and if you could be so kind to email it to me as well, thank you.

Paul Sauer, South 6th Ave. wanted to make a public service announcement; a large March is going to take place September 17th leaving from New Brunswick and train stations all over New Jersey. It's a Sunday morning at 10:30 am. It's regarding the massive climate of the United Nations and business ambition summit. He added they deeply respect the Jewish communities and organizations have different relationships with protests and social actions during the holidays and will be praying at this time and we celebrate their observance if anyone is interested in the March or details please see me.

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

Ordinances Requiring a First Reading.

Ordinance No. 23-2075 An Ordinance Providing for Capital Improvements to the Library Roof

The Clerk reported on Ordinance 23-2075 entitled An Ordinance Providing for Capital Improvements to the Library Roof has been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title, authorize publication as required by law and set public hearing for September 19, 2023.

On a motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, the ordinance entitled as above was approved on introduction, authorized publication as required by law and set public hearing for September 19, 2023, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Consent Agenda Items - Resolutions.

Resolution Nos. 9-23-189 through 9-23-199 were 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, Postelnik
Opposed: None.
Absent: Canavera, Kim-Chohan
Abstain: None.

Resolution 9-23-189

WHEREAS the Highland Park Police Department requires three replacement vehicles for its Detective Bureau and the Captain as more fully described on the attached quote; and

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

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to purchase said vehicles under State Contract No. 19-FLEET-00953, from Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc. 1427 Bay Road, Milford, DE 19963, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Current Fund Account No. 3-01-25-240-243, in the amount of \$46,315.00, the 2015 MCIA Capital Equipment and Improvement Program Financing Program in the amount of \$945.00, and the 2019 MCIA Capital Equipment and Improvement Program Financing Program in the amount of \$24,008.00, for a total not to exceed \$71,268.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-53.

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 Highland Park Police Department is hereby authorized to purchase three (3) Chevy Malibu's from Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc., 1427 Bay Road, Milford, DE 19963, under State Contract No. FLEET-00953 for a total amount not to exceed \$71,268.00.
2. Certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough Administrator, Police Chief, and the Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution 9-23-190

WHEREAS the Department of Community Services requires a new vehicle to use for in-town transportation and medical rides, as more fully described on the attached quote; and

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

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to purchase said vehicle for an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 under State Contract No. 19-FLEET-00956, from Hudson Motors Partnership, 585 Route 440, Jersey City, NJ 07305, at the State contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Current Fund Account No. 3-01-26-315-232, in the amount of \$4,078.00 and through the 2019 MCIA Capital Equipment and Improvement Program Financing Program in the amount of \$25,922.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$30,000.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer no. 2023-54.

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 Department of Community Services is hereby authorized to purchase a 2023 Nissan Leaf from Hudson Motors Partnership, 585 Route 440, Jersey City, NJ 07305, under State Contract No. 19-FLEET-00956, for a total amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.
2. Certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough Administrator, Director of Community Services, and the Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution 9-23-191

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 \$6,000.00, which is now available from the 2023 Lead Grant Assistance Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the like sum of \$6,000.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption of 2023 Lead Grant Assistance Program.

Resolution 9-23-192

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140.10 requires that every municipality shall have a Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, the term of office shall be four years, which shall run from January 1 in the year which the Chief Financial Officer is appointed; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the proper administration of the municipality under the Local Government Supervision Act of 1947, the Local Bond Law, the Local Budget Law, the Local Fiscal Affairs Law and other regulations governing municipal affairs; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140.2 no one may be appointed to the position of Chief Financial Officer who does not possess a certificate issued by the Division of Local Government Services; and

WHEREAS, Nerea Champion possesses the necessary Certification No. N-1854 and is well qualified to hold this office.

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. Nerea Champion is hereby appointed Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Highland Park, effective June 30, 2023, for a four year term commencing January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027.

Resolution 9-23-193

WHEREAS, a dangerous conditions exist at various location in the Borough requiring the fire hydrants to be raised to proper grade; and

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

Kennedy Water Works	\$9,967.50
Brent Material Company	\$10,316.25
Raritan Pipe & Supply Co	\$10,183.20; and

WHEREAS, Middlesex Water Company has recommended that said purchase be awarded to Kennedy Water Works, 395 Roycefield Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844 based on their quote, quality of material and price; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in the Current Fund Account No. 3-05-55-500-235, in an amount not to exceed \$9,967.50, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer No. 2023-55.

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. Middlesex Water Company is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for said purchase of nine (9) Hydrant Extensions and nine (9) safety flg repair kits to raise the existing Fire Hydrant that are too low with Kennedy Water Works, 395 Roycefield Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844, at a cost not to exceed of \$9,967.50; and
2. A certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax and Water/Sewer Department and the Chief Financial Officer forthwith.

Resolution 9-23-194

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park Community Services would like to apply for a \$5,000.00 to support the Borough's 2024 Parkstock Outdoor Summer Concert Series; and

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

1. Highland Park Community Services are hereby authorized and directed to execute and submit, the grant application to County Project Support Grant Application-Arts Institute of Middlesex County.
2. Copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to Community Services Director, Administration, and the Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution 9-23-195

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:

Nerea Champion, Chief Financial Officer, \$90,000.00 salary, effective 7/1/23
Symone Banks, Community Service Assistant, \$44,716.00 Salary, Effective 09/05/2023
Monique Thomas, Crossing Guard, \$20.14 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2023
Deborah Riddick-Smith, Crossing Guard, \$12,256.00 Salary, Effective 09/05/2023
Karen Aarons, Crossing Guard, \$20.14 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2023
Thomas Stephen, Crossing Guard, \$20.14 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2023
Christopher Lopez, Crossing Guard, \$20.14 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2023
Charlene Rayside, Crossing Guard, \$12,256.00 Salary, Effective 09/05/2023
Lucille Morris, Crossing Guard, \$12,256.00 Salary, Effective 09/05/2023
Carol Gordon, Crossing Guard, \$20.14 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2023
Jacqueline Rhein, Crossing Guard, \$12,256.00 Salary, Effective 09/05/2023
Catherine Ciociari, Crossing Guard, \$12,256.00 Salary, Effective 09/05/2023
Angelica Heard, Crossing Guard, \$20.14 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2023
O'Dell Russell, Crossing Guard, \$20.14 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2023
Sean Bibby, Police Officer, \$129,518.00 Salary, Effective 06/10/2023
Jason Culver, Sergeant, \$144,967.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Jose Curbelo, Captain, \$170,611.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Caitlyn Dean, Police Officer \$81,476.00 Salary, Effective 03/19/2023
Christopher DeCosta, Police Officer, \$129,518.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Bryant Fitzgerald, Police Officer, \$110,111.00 Salary, Effective 11/24/2023
Sean Garley, Police Officer, \$129,518.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Kevin Garrity, Police Officer, \$129,518.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Alaina Giles, Police Officer, \$129,518.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Theodore Haas, Sergeant, \$145,287.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Jonathan Laraj, Police Officer, \$52,841.00 Salary, Effective 05/01/2023
Sean McGraw, Sergeant, \$140,527.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Joseph Nickas, Police Officer, \$62,386.00 Salary, Effective 07/01/2023
Joseph Olarra, Police Officer, \$110,111.00 Salary, Effective 11/24/2023
Brian O'Marra, Detective, \$129,518.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Adalberto Pacheco, Sergeant, \$140,527.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Gaetano Palumbo, Detective, \$129,518.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Mark Reefer, Police Officer, \$62,386.00 Salary, Effective 08/01/2023
John Sachau, Lieutenant, \$157,390.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Justin Samson, Police Officer, \$62,386.00 Salary, Effective 12/01/2023
Kevin Shiffner, Sergeant, \$140,527.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Nicolas Sica, Police Officer, \$52,841.00 Salary, Effective , 02/15/2023
David Soden, Lieutenant, \$157,390.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Alexander Triana, Police Officer, \$62,841.00 Salary, Effective 07/01/2023
Ryan Vanaman, Police Officer, \$52,841.00 Salary, Effective 02/15/2023
Derek Wenskoski, Sergeant, \$145,190.00 Salary, Effective 01/01/2023
Antonio Avila, Laborer w/ CDL \$25.19 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Bradley Batcha, Building Maintenance Worker, \$24.25, Effective 01/01/2023
D'Andre Bell, Laborer, \$21.54 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Robert Cahill, Driver, \$37.76 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Dennis Chekenian, Driver, \$31.49 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Edward, Corson, Driver, \$38.67 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
John Geoghan, Laborer, \$33.42 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Jose Gonzalez, Laborer w/ CDL, \$35.81 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Thomas Kohler, Equip. Operator, \$39.60 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Delaney McAvoy, Mechanic \$31.68 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Michael Milan, Driver, \$37.76 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Jeffrey Reap, Driver, \$36.05 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Rudolph Rohan, Laborer, \$34.89 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Mark Rohan, Laborer \$34.89 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Nathaniel Smith, Laborer, \$21.54 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
Walter Walker, Laborer, \$21.54 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023
James Webb Jr., Laborer w/ CDL, \$26.96 Hourly, Effective 01/01/2023

Resolution 9-23-196

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough and its residents to publicly bid for the services of its Professionals, including but not limited to, the Borough Attorney, Bond Attorney, Labor Attorney, Auditor, Engineer, Planner, Planning Board Attorney, Board of Adjustment Attorney, Redevelopment Attorney, Planning Board Engineer, Board of

Adjustment Engineer, Tax Appeal Attorney, Special COAH Planner, Special COAH Attorney, Risk Manager, Prosecutor, and Public Defender to perform services for the Borough;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough is hereby authorized to publicly bid for the services of its Professionals to perform professional services for the Borough by a Request for Qualifications

Resolution 9-23-197

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 52:34-6.2 authorizes contracting units, including the Borough of Highland Park, to make purchases and contract for services through the use of nationally recognized and accepted cooperative purchasing agreements that have been developed using a competitive bidding process by another contracting unit within the state of New Jersey or within any other state; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 5-09-166, adopted May 5, 2009, the Borough of Highland Park entered into an agreement with a local cooperative called Educational Services Commission of New Jersey (ESCNJ) which enters into contracts for a wide variety of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of entering the contract with ESCNJ was to obtain better prices than the Borough would be able to obtain individually, and to save the Borough the expense of bidding; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to upgrade the play structure and surface at the Felton Avenue Tot Lot as more fully described on the attached quote; and

WHEREAS, the Borough desires to purchase said goods under ESCNJ 20/21-22; Co-op #65MCESCCPS, from Ben Shaffer Recreation, PO Box 844, Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849, at ESCNJ contract prices; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Capital Account No. C-04-55-833-001, in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer No. 2023-56.

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

1. The Borough of Highland Park is hereby authorized to contract with Ben Shaffer Recreation, PO Box 844, Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849, for an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00.
2. Certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough Administrator, Director of Code Enforcement, and the Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution 9-23-198

WHEREAS, the local capital budget for the year 2023 was adopted on the 2nd of May, 2023; and; **WHEREAS**, it is desired to amend said 2023 capital budget section.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, that the following amendment to the adopted section of the Budget be made:

CAPITAL BUDGET (Current Year Action)

2023

1	2	3	4	PLANNED FUNDING SOURCES FOR CURRENT YEAR - 2023					6
				5a	5b	5c	5d	5e	
PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT NUMBER	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	AMOUNTS RESERVE D IN PRIOR YEARS	2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	CAPITAL SURPLUS	GRANTS IN AID AND OTHER FUNDS	DEBT AUTHORIZED	TO BE FUNDED IN FUTURE YEARS
Improvements to Various Borough Buildings	ADM-1	1,050,000.00			20,000.00	215,000.00		165,000.00	650,000.00
TOTALS - ALL PROJECTS		14,085,000.00			105,000.00	215,000.00	500,000.00	3,280,000.00	9,985,000.00

**Borough of Highland Park
Middlesex County, New Jersey**

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK

CAPITAL BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1 (CONTINUED)

6 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAM - 2023 - 2028 SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCES AND AMOUNTS

1	2	BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS		4	5	6	BONDS AND NOTES				
		3a	3b				7a	7b	7c	7d	
	TOTAL	CURRENT YEAR	FUTURE	IMPROVEMENT	CAPITAL	GRANTS-IN-AID	SELF				

PROJECT TITLE	COST	2023	YEARS	MENT FUND	SURPLU S	OTHER FUNDS	GENERA L	LIQUIDATIN G	ASSESSMEN T	SCHOO L
Improvements to Various Borough Buildings	1,050,000.00			52,500.00	215,000.00		7,825,000.00			
TOTALS - ALL PROJECTS	14,085,000.00			229,250.00	215,000.00	500,000.00	4,140,750.00	9,000,000.00		

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the office of the Director of Local Government Services.

Resolution 9-23-199

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.

1. The bills approved for payment at this meeting, Bills List 9/5/2023 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 42.

Appointments.

On motion made by Councilman George and seconded by Councilman Hale the following were appointed: Crossing Guards: Monique Thomas, Deborah Riddick-Smith, Karen Aarons, Thomas Stephen, Christopher Lopez, Charlene Rayside, Lucille Morris, Carol Gordon, Jacqueline Rhein, Catherine Ciociari; Arts Commission Nikki Gonzalez, Alternate to Regular Member.

ROLL CALL Ayes: Councilpersons George, Hale, Hersh, Postelnik
 Opposed: None.
 Absent: Canavera, Kim-Chohan
 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, prior to Work Session.

Jessica Hundson, Montgomery St. had questions regarding the payment and taxes agreement with the Frederick, 31 River Road. She added that the Mayor and Council looked over the Pilot Agreement. Why was it given to a developer, why was it given to them and designated as an urban renewal property?

Councilman Hale replied the Pilot agreement for 31 River Road is several years old and you'll have to forgive us it's not exactly fresh in our memory. Generally urban renewal Pilots are given to places where what exists is in some disrepair or it is not up to the status of the community. The agreement provided greater tax revenue than the existing intent so that when the houses were built, the amount of tax revenue that came and is still coming to the Borough actually exceeded the amount of revenue or amount of taxes that were being paid for by the old medical office building. The amount of money that was coming to the Borough at the beginning of this was actually greater than the amount it was being paid. My understanding was that it wasn't advantageous to us.

Ms. Hundson said that may not be true. It was 50,000 prior and my understanding is that at least when it started at 42,000, I may have both numbers inaccurate but my understanding was that it wasn't advantageous to us then.

Borough Administrator Jover added that Councilman Hale is correct is was several years ago. I did look at it recently because you requested some information. I think you have some pretty in depth questions, which I'd be happy to run through with you in another format or later given some time to prepare. It is my recollection as well that the taxes paid versus the PILOT program in total would never be less than the taxes that we would have gotten under the prior use.

Ms Hundson replied she is concerned that we have the same developer as a conditional developer. Pilot agreements in many case transfer the responsibility of financial contributions from developers to residents also not making any contributions to our public schools. Also by ensuring that the annual

service charges collected are and also ensure the residents that tax rates do not go up for residents. She asked for updates as to committed contribution to the schools from the pilot agreement.

Borough Administrator Jover said that we were discussing that with the Board of Education and the governing body did commit to a contribution and intends to do that this year.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street wanted to give feedback about the fireworks. I heard positive feedback. A lot of people thought it was better to switch, I don't know financially whether it would make sense to do both. I hope you'll be looking at the budget. There are a lot of other options to go to for fireworks on July 4th weekend. There's been discussions about air quality and sound for pets and kids. I don't know if adding another is better than switching the date to later.

Mayor Foster said we will be taking a very serious look at that.

Councilman Postelnik added this is very preliminary. We've actually been considering some of the more environmentally friendly alternatives to fireworks. We don't know if we would have both of those. That's generally the larger expenses associated with these events. We're looking at all those options. I think we can accommodate two events that's my wish, but thank you for your feedback.

Joe Staly, Johnson St. read the proposed resolution for the striking nurses.

Dan Macheret, South 7th Street, asked Councilman Hale if he had a personal relationship with the owner or owners of Garden Homes. Councilman Hale replied he knew the owner of Garden Homes, yes.

Mr. Macheret's follow up question is, do you think it's proper and ethical to be negotiating on behalf of the borough, including potential pilot agreements with somebody that you have a personal relationship with? Councilman Hale replied I do not see a conflict.

Mr. Macheret said if you don't see a conflict with negotiating potential pilot agreements with somebody you have a personal relationship with, that's very shocking. Councilman Hale replied that he knows the developer through the developer process and he's known that developer's family for some time.

Mr. Macheret asked how long he has known the developer's family. Councilman Hale said he didn't know exactly how long he's known Mr. Tanzman.

Mr. Macheret said the fact that doesn't raise any ethical concerns for you is shocking and a little offloading.

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). - None

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Postelnik and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Borough Clerk