

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 – 7:00 PM

To attend the meeting electronically, please follow the instructions below:

By phone:

1-929-205-6099

Webinar: 920 9574 9666

By computer, smartphone or tablet:

<https://zoom.us/j/92095749666>

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK:

The Mission of the Highland Park Borough Council is to establish a government based upon the principles of good government: ethics, efficiency and the effective provision of services.

The Borough Council is committed to creating a thriving community, which is sustainable economically, environmentally and socially.

The Borough Council is further committed to creating a community which values its unique and diverse populations and encourages direct public participation in the governing process.

**AGENDA**

\* Denotes Consent Agenda Posted Items. Ordinarily, consent agenda items, pursuant to Ordinance No. 920, are not read nor debated unless there is a request by a member of Council or the public. Furthermore, unless requested by a member of Council for a separate vote, all consent agenda items, as per Council's Rules of Order, Article IV, shall be considered in the form of one **MOTION**.

1. Call to Order and Open Public Meetings Statement.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call.
4. Honors, Awards and Presentations.
  - Swearing-In: Sergeant Gaetano Palumbo  
Officer Oscar Cleaver
  - Moms Helping Moms (MHM) Foundation - September 23 to 29 as Diaper Need Awareness Week in Highland Park
5. Approval of Minutes.
  - 5.a **MOTION** to approve minutes as distributed:

- August 13, 2024 Regular and Executive Session Mtg.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

6. Council Reports.
7. Borough Administrator's Report.
8. Borough Attorney's Report.
9. Mayor's Report.
10. Public Participation.  
*(21 minutes total; 3 minutes per speaker limited to items on this Agenda. Comments from members of the public attending the meeting in-person will be heard first, followed by members of the public attending the meeting via Zoom.)*
11. Ordinances Requiring a Second Reading.
  - 11.a **Ordinance No. 24-2093** Capital Ordinance Providing for Improvements to Highland Avenue, in the County Middlesex, State of Jersey, Appropriating \$550,000 from the Department of Transportation Local Transportation Projects Program Therefor to Pay the Cost Thereof.
    - a. Public Hearing
    - b. **MOTION** to adopt/reject Ordinance 24-2093 **ROLL CALL VOTE**
12. Consent Agenda Items - Resolutions. **ROLL CALL VOTE**
  - MOTION** to adopt/reject
  - 12.a \*9-24-218 Resolution Authorizing Closure of Route 27 and Granting Approval for the Annual Arts in the Park Festival to be held on September 8, 2024
  - 12.b \*9-24-219 Resolution Authorizing Manhole Sealing and Rehabilitation Services with Sewer & Water Evaluation & Rehabilitation Procedures, Inc. (SWERP)
  - 12.c \*9-24-220 Resolution Authorizing RFQ for 2025 Professional Services
  - 12.d \*9-24-221 Resolution Awarding Bid for the 2024 Roadway Improvements Project - North Fourth Avenue, Denison Street and Harper Street
  - 12.e \*9-24-222 Resolution to Approve On-Premise Raffle License - Raritan Valley Road Runners, Inc.
  - 12.f \*9-24-223 Resolution Authorizing Amendment to Annual Salary Resolution
  - 12.g \*9-24-224 Resolution to Approve Bills List
13. Appointments.  
Safe Walking and Cycling Committee

Nathaniel Koenig

14. **Second Public Participation.**  
*(3 minutes per speaker on any topic; subject to 9 PM conclusion. Comments from members of the public attending the meeting in-person will be heard first, followed by members of the public attending the meeting via Zoom.)*
15. Recess (5 minutes).
16. MOTION to adjourn.
17. **Next Scheduled Meeting:** September 17, 2024 @ 7 PM

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE NO. 24-2093  
BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX**

**CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO HIGHLAND AVENUE  
PROJECT, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,  
APPROPRIATING \$550,000.00 FROM THE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS  
FUND THEREFOR TO PAY THE COST THEREOF:**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOROUGH OF  
HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AS  
FOLLOWS:**

Section 1: The capital purpose described in Section 2 of the capital ordinance is hereby authorized as a general capital purpose to be undertaken by the Borough of Highland Park, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey for the said improvement (s) or purpose stated in Section 2 hereof, and is hereby appropriated the sum of \$550,000.00 funded by Local Transportation Projects Fund Program.

Section 2: The capital purpose hereby authorizes roadway improvements to Highland Avenue.

Section 3: The expenditure of \$550,000.00 appropriation for a New Jersey Department of Transportation, for the purpose set forth in Section 2 hereof, is hereby authorized and approved.

Section 4: The capital budget of the Borough is hereby amended, if needed, to conform with the provisions of this capital ordinance and, to the extent of any inconsistency herewith, a resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing the full detail of the amended capital budget and capital programs as approved by the Director of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department Of Community Affairs is on file in the office of the Clerk, if needed, and is available for public inspection.

Section 5: This ordinance shall take effect immediately after the final adoption as described in N.J.S.A. 40:49-2.

Introduced on first reading by title: August 13, 2024

ADOPTED:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elsie Foster, Mayor

**RESOLUTION NO. 9-24-218  
BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CLOSURE OF ROUTE 27 AND GRANTING  
APPROVAL FOR THE ANNUAL ARTS IN THE PARK FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**

**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 8, 2024.

**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 8, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
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 8, 2024, between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
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.
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.
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 Wiczorkiewicz, Dept. of Public Works.

I, Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of said Borough on September 3, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES

| Council Member | Ayes | Nays | Abstain | Absent |
|----------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Canavera       |      |      |         |        |
| George         |      |      |         |        |
| Hale           |      |      |         |        |
| Hersh          |      |      |         |        |
| Kim-Chohan     |      |      |         |        |
| Postelnik      |      |      |         |        |

**RESOLUTION NO. 9-24-219  
BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MANHOLE SEALING AND REHABILITATION  
SERVICES WITH SEWER & WATER EVALUATION & REHABILITATION  
PROCEDURES, INC. (SWERP)**

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for manhole sealing and rehabilitation services near South Adelaide Ave and Valley Place in the Borough of Highland Park; and

**WHEREAS**, three (3) quotes were solicited and only one quote was received as follows:

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Sewer & Water Evaluation & Rehabilitation Procedures | \$10,230.00            |
| Vortex Services                                      | \$15,900.00            |
| En-Tech  | no quote provided; and |

**WHEREAS**, the Water and Sewer Department has recommended that said services be provided from Sewer & Water Evaluation & Rehabilitation Procedures Inc. (SWERP), Bristol, PA based on their quote for same and previous work done for Highland Park, their experience and equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available for this purpose in Account No. 5-05-55-500-423, as reflected by the certification of funds available by the Chief Financial Officer No. 2024-69.

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

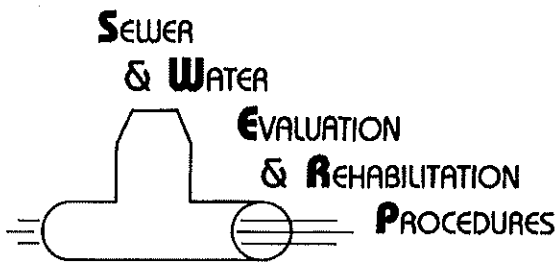
1. The Water and Sewer Department is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for manhole sealing and rehabilitation services near South Adelaide Ave and Valley Place in the Borough of Highland Park from Sewer & Water Evaluation & Rehabilitation Procedures, Inc. (SWERP), 1237 Hayes Boulevard, Bristol, PA 19007, at a total cost not to exceed \$10,230.00.
2. That a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Water and Sewer Department and the Chief Financial Officer.

I, Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of said Borough on September 3, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES

| Council Member | Ayes | Nays | Abstain | Absent |
|----------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Canavera       |      |      |         |        |
| George         |      |      |         |        |
| Hale           |      |      |         |        |
| Hersh          |      |      |         |        |
| Kim-Chohan     |      |      |         |        |
| Postelnik      |      |      |         |        |



March 19, 2024

Borough of Highland Park  
c/o: Mr. Kenneth Miele, Middlesex Water Company  
221 South Fifth Avenue  
Highland Park, NJ 08904

**RE: Price Quotation for Manhole Sealing and Rehabilitation  
Highland Park, NJ (Easement Near South Adelaide Ave. and Valley Place)**

Dear Mr. Miele,

We are pleased to provide you with this price quotation to rehabilitate and seal the above grade sanitary sewer manhole located in the wooded area adjacent to S. Adelaide Ave. and Valley Place in Highland Park, NJ that was inspected during our site visit on Friday, March 8th. Our pricing includes all of the labor, equipment, materials and confined space entry procedures necessary to complete the following work:

**Manhole Interior Sealing Work:** Clean manhole interior using 4,000 psi pressure washing. Install 24" and 8" diameter flow through plugs (as feasible) to isolate flows internally within the manhole. All exposed interior manhole surfaces will be lined with high strength, Silatec MSM Manhole Rehabilitation mortar applied at a thickness of 3/4" to structurally restore and seal the interior of the manhole. Prior to installation of the manhole liner, Sikafix HHLV expanding polyurethane chemical grout will be injected to seal manhole defects where identified as potential sewage exfiltration points.

**Manhole Exterior Sealing Work:** Inject expanding polyurethane chemical grout at potential sewer exfiltration points and apply 2 coats of Xypex Concentrate waterproofing mortar (or one coat of Cemtec Waterproofing Mortar to exposed exterior concrete surfaces up to 1/2" thickness.)

**Lump Sum Price to Seal and Rehabilitate Manhole as Described Above: \$ 10,230.00**

**Notes / Exclusions:**

Regulation of sewer flows may be required in order to set sewer plugs and to perform the work described above. Lowering of existing flows is to be provided By Middlesex Water Company, if required.

Access points to existing right of way and an on-site water potable water source is to be provided By Others. Manhole will be accessed through existing easement using a John Deere Gator Utility Vehicle.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide you with this price quotation, and we look forward to providing you with quality workmanship on this project. If there are any questions, or if you require any type of additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very Truly Yours,

Alfred H. De Vincent  
Estimator

**RESOLUTION NO. 9-24-220  
BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RFQ FOR PROFESSIONALS - 2025**

**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 Affordable Housing Planner, 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, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey:

1. 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.

I, Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of said Borough on September 3, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES

| Council Member | Ayes | Nays | Abstain | Absent |
|----------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Canavera       |      |      |         |        |
| George         |      |      |         |        |
| Hale           |      |      |         |        |
| Hersh          |      |      |         |        |
| Kim-Chohan     |      |      |         |        |
| Postelnik      |      |      |         |        |



**RESOLUTION NO. 9-24-221  
BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX**

**RESOLUTION AWARDING BID FOR 2024 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT  
- NORTH FOURTH AVENUE, DENISON STREET AND HARPER STREET**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to duly advertised Notice to Bidders solicited pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, on August 8, 2024 eight (8) bids were received for the NJDOT FY 2024 Municipal Aid program resurfacing and reconstruction of Denison Street from North 2nd Avenue to North 5th Avenue, Harper Street from South 1st Avenue to South 4th Avenue (full width/halfwidth), and North 4th Avenue from Denison Street to Raritan Avenue. Including but not limited to Hot Mix Asphalt milling and/or pavement repairs, installation of new handicap ramps, installation of Hot Mix Asphalt 9.5M64 Surface Course and Hot Mix Asphalt 19M64 Base Course, storm sewer improvements and related work within the Borough of Highland Park; and

**WHEREAS**, eight (8) bids were received for the Project, which were opened on August 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. as follows:

| <b>Company</b>           | <b>Total Bid Amount</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fischer Contracting Inc. | \$569,197.74            |
| D.L.S. Contracting       | \$581,003.25            |
| Black Rock Enterprises   | \$610,000.05            |
| Top Line Construction    | \$625,388.13            |
| Lucas Brothers           | \$627,000.00            |
| Crossroads Paving        | \$651,156.25            |
| Seacoast Construction    | \$684,607.05            |
| Z Brothers               | \$720,547.50            |

**WHEREAS**, the lowest bid was submitted by Fischer Contracting, Inc. of Scotch Plains, NJ with a bid of \$569,197.74; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Engineer has reviewed the bids and recommends that a contract be awarded to Fischer Contracting Inc. as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Attorney's office has reviewed the bid documents submitted by Fischer Contracting Inc. and advises that its submission is in compliance with the minimum bidding requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the award of this contract is subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, in accordance with a Municipal Aid Grant awarded to the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, funds for this purpose are available in Capital Account No. C-04-55-836-001 in an amount not to exceed \$569,197.74, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer Certification no. 2024-70.

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

1. The Council hereby awards a contract to Fischer Contracting, Inc. 10 Short Hills Lane, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076, NJDOT FY 2024 Municipal Aid program for an amount not to exceed contract amount of \$569,197.74, subject to the approval of the New Jersey Department of Transportation as may be required.

2. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute an Agreement consistent herewith.

I, Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted the Borough Council of said Borough at its meeting on September 3, 2024.

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Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES

| Council Member | Ayes | Nays | Abstain | Absent |
|----------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Canavera       |      |      |         |        |
| George         |      |      |         |        |
| Hale           |      |      |         |        |
| Hersh          |      |      |         |        |
| Kim-Chohan     |      |      |         |        |
| Postelnik      |      |      |         |        |

**RESOLUTION NO. 9-24-222  
BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ON-PREMISES RAFFLE LICENSE  
RARITAN VALLEY ROAD RUNNERS, INC.**

**WHEREAS**, the Raritan Valley Road Runners, Inc. has made application to the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park for a license to hold, operate and conduct an On-Premise 50/50 for Cash and an On-Premise for merchandise in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law (NSJA 5:8-50 to 76), on September 25, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council has made or caused to be made an investigation of the qualifications of said applicant and the merits of said application and have determined that said applicant is qualified to hold, operate and conduct Raffles in accordance with the Raffles Licensing Law and the findings set forth in the Form 5A of the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue a license to the Raritan Valley Road Runners, Inc., for the holding, operation and conduct of a raffle on the above date upon payment of a legal fee therefor, subject to the provisions of the Raffles Licensing Law and the rules, regulations and amendments thereto promulgated by said Control Commission.

I, Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of said Borough on September 3, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES

| Council Member | Ayes | Nays | Abstain | Absent |
|----------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Canavera       |      |      |         |        |
| George         |      |      |         |        |
| Hale           |      |      |         |        |
| Hersh          |      |      |         |        |
| Kim-Chohan     |      |      |         |        |
| Postelnik      |      |      |         |        |

**RESOLUTION NO. 9-24-223  
BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO ANNUAL SALARY RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the annual Salary Resolution No. 1-24-12, which was adopted on January 2, 2024, showing the names, titles and salaries of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park, is amended as follows:

- Carlos Grajales, Laborer, \$44,803.20 Salary, Effective 09/03/2024
- Michael Bobish, Library Director \$118,450 Salary, Effective 01/01/2024
- Karen Jarzabski, Senior Librarian, \$84,468.24 Salary, Effective 01/01/2024
- Nathalie Levine, Librarian 3, \$62,620.91 Salary, Effective 01/01/2024
- Melaina Squicciarini, Librarian 2, \$62,082.22 Salary, Effective 01/01/2024
- Indru Udeshi, Sr. Librarian, \$56,032.07 Salary, Effective 01/01/2024
- Joseph Oriti, Library Asst. \$39,112.19 Salary, Effective 01/01/2024
- Jennifer Smith Mullen, Sr. Library Asst. \$46,179.02 Effective 01/01/2024

**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.

I, Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Highland Park Borough Council at a meeting held on September 3, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES

| Council Member | Ayes | Nays | Abstain | Absent |
|----------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Canavera       |      |      |         |        |
| George         |      |      |         |        |
| Hale           |      |      |         |        |
| Hersh          |      |      |         |        |
| Kim-Chohan     |      |      |         |        |
| Postelnik      |      |      |         |        |

**RESOLUTION NO. 9-24-224  
BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF BILLS LIST**

**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 9/3/2024 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 44.

I, Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of said Borough on September 3, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Santiago, Borough Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES

| Council Member | Ayes | Nays | Abstain | Absent |
|----------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Canavera       |      |      |         |        |
| George         |      |      |         |        |
| Hale           |      |      |         |        |
| Hersh          |      |      |         |        |
| Kim-Chohan     |      |      |         |        |
| Postelnik      |      |      |         |        |