

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK

REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 – 7:00 PM

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 2024, 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 April 18, 2024 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 and has remained continuously posted as required by law.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief of Police Abrams led the flag salute

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Foster, Councilpersons: Hale, George, Kim-Chohan arrived at 7:09 pm, Postelnik, Borough Administrator Jover, Borough Attorney Shah, and Borough Clerk Santiago.
Absent: Councilwoman Canavera, and Council President Hersh

Honors, Awards and Presentations.

Mayor Foster read a proclamation in recognition of ARC - Direct Support Professional Recognition Week - September 8-14, 2024.

Approval of Minutes,

It was moved by Councilman George and seconded by Councilman Hale the minutes of September 3, 2024 Regular Session minutes were not approved, as distributed, by the following roll call vote:

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

Mayor Foster said the minutes would be relisted for the October 1, 2024.

Council Reports.

Councilman Hale gave a huge shout out to Rebecca Hersh and her team at Main Street Highland Park for Arts in the Park followed immediately by the town wide garage sale. Two huge events back to back, and that is especially difficult and both were a huge success. Next we are having a public hearing tonight on the redevelopment plan for 810 North 2nd and the Planning Board reviewed the plan and found it "not inconsistent with the Master Plan" which basically means that the plan we are voting on tonight meets some of the goals for our Master Plan specifically goals for flexible design options and strategic infill. It's a small project in comparison to others but I believe a good one. Our economic development team is reaching out to new avenues for business development in HP. In particular, we are trying to attend various conferences and workshops in Middlesex County and State to raise our profile. Council President Hersh and Councilwomen Canavera are at one on Atlantic City right now that focuses on both housing and economic development issues. I recently attended a conference on incubating start-up companies, an Orthodox Jewish business roundtable and have others schedule including the Middlesex County business development summit, the Choose New Jersey quarterly meeting and a Woodbridge regional economic conference. The goal of all of these is to try and attract more businesses to HP and let them know we are open for business. Thanks to Mayor Foster for pushing these outreach efforts. Lastly, we are very excited about the long awaited opening of SuperFresh this Friday, September 20th. It really was a team effort to move all the levels we could to get a new super market as fast as we did. I want to particularly thank our Community Center staff, the Food Pantry, Main Street HP and even other food businesses like Park Deli and Glatt 27 who stepped up to fill as much of the void for our seniors and those most in need while we were without a supermarket. Like any new business there will be kinks and hurdles to overcome, but is confident we will have the best supermarket HP has ever seen. Unfortunately family obligations out of State will prevent me from attending the Friday ribbon cutting, but is excited to go shopping at SuperFresh as soon as I get back. I hope you are as well.

Councilman George announced that it was a great yard sale! Always a good kickoff for the Fall. Arts in the Park was just a perfect day and a crowded event which shows the diverse activities shared by the diverse audience in Highland Park Aisle 7 conversations. The Library Board of Trustees approved closing the temporary space as of next Wednesday, September 25th. The staff will begin the transition to the renovated Library soon after that and the Library is looking for a soft reopening in mid-October, which is still not set at this time. The roofing contractor is finalizing the ductwork fabrication plans with the Architect and roofing will begin next week, fabrication and conditions permitting. There will be a formal reopening and dedication ceremony following the reopening in November, and we'll have details on that. Our Public Safety facilities had a short memorial for the 911 fallen emergency responders on the morning of September 11th, a morning just like then, at the time of the first plane hitting Tower 2. Again, we thank all our first responders for their services. The Police Department will have speakers for a discussion of firearms safety and storage tomorrow night at the Community Center from 7pm to 8pm.

The program will look at safe practices for gun safety and discussion of the risks and consequences of ignoring simple home procedures to maintain safe gun possession and use. In response to questions over safe nighttime lighting in the Triangle, the Police have started observation of conditions throughout the Triangle and gathering information about lighting there. This project is continuing and our Department will be collating and then reporting on existing conditions and any conclusions and recommendations which come out of the study. SWACC this Friday, September 20th you may be lining up for the opening of Superfresh, but it is also National Parking Day, and SWACC will be having a parklet set up at the former Bergen Auto, now the Lower Raritan Watershed's boatbuilding school. Park(ing) Day is a one day global event where people across the world temporarily repurpose street parking spaces and convert them to tiny parks and places for art, play, and activism. You may have seen them before in towns where flatbed trailers are set up like sidewalk cafes, and we have several versions here on South Third and on North Fourth. Parklets are a growing part of downtown redevelopment and renovation, and please, load your reusable shopping bags and come and enjoy reusing the streetscape and learning what SWACC has been advocating as part of our renovation of our town.

Councilman Postelnik reported a number of exciting events and programs coming up: a senior health and fitness walk that's presented by Middlesex County be held at Roosevelt Park in Edison and is on Wednesday September 25th, the Department of Aging is hosting a trip to Atlantic City which will be on Monday September 30th and a little later we'll be hosting a flu clinic on Wednesday October 9th from 10 am to 11 am. which will be at the Community Center, the clinic is open to all Highland Park residents and for more information on any of those events please contact Community Center at 732 819 0052. The Department of Recreation programs registration just open up for some programs like men's basketball, women's basketball, adult soccer and adult volleyball a lot of fun so please sign up. The Art Commission update they will be hosting a Poetry Festival on Sunday October 6 from 4 pm to 9 pm at Pino's at 13 North 4th Avenue come see poets from town and around the State. There will be featured performers and a poetry competition and then echoed a couple things that his colleagues mentioned Arts in the Park and garage sale weekend we just fantastic I gave a special shout out to the Arts Commission, Historical Commission for all the time that they put out on the Arts in the Park Street Festival they were there all day engaging folks and showing them cool art projects, selling cool t-shirts or telling them and showing some pictures of some interesting historical photos and items. He urged everyone to go to SuperFresh often and frequently I know I will probably be there almost every day.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reminded everyone that the water bill that you have received in your mailbox this past week reflects the new rate increase that was passed on due to Middlesex Water company increasing their price for the Borough to purchase water and also Middlesex County Utility Authority increased their rate as well to support ongoing rates and capital upgrades so that increase was just passed along to the residents. If you have any concerns you can always email myself or the Borough Administrator. The Anchor benefit is back again if you have any changes or if you went from renter to Homeowner, you can update your status at nj.gov/treasury/taxation/anchor. She also mentioned the success of the town-wide garage sale and I look forward to next year's.

Administrator.

Borough Administrator Jover reported regarding the town wide yard sale and reminded everyone about bulk pick up, this this week is the Northside then Southside will be on Thursday. Just remember these are bulk items so any remainders from your yard sale, if it fits in your toter you're looking to get rid of it please put it in your toter or a bag so it's easier for the crews to collect She reminded everyone that there will be no recycling this week.

Borough Attorney's Report.

Borough Attorney Shah said that she would go through some rules implemented since February, on how we conduct our Council meetings. Referring to the agenda notice there's three opportunities in which the public can participate, the first part is going to be after the Mayor's report and during that time period the procedure is going to be that we open up to the public, they have a limited time to speak but can only speak about items on the agenda, resolutions or ordinances, we take all the questions and comments in and then we make a motion to close the public portion after we have closed the public portion the Mayor, who runs the meeting, is basically going to respond to the questions or direct any the Councilmembers or staff to speak to those inquiries or comments. Second part on the agenda there's an Ordinance requiring a second reading and ordinances that are on the agenda for the second reading the public can come up they can make a comment or have a question we will then close the public portion and then the Mayor will either respond to the inquiry or the comment or direct either myself or a members of the governing body to respond. The third part is after the consent agenda, we open it up to the members of public and this session you can ask a question about anything, then we're going to close the public portion again and then the Mayor again is going to either respond or direct any members of the governing body or administrator to respond. During all the three opportunities in which the public can speak, and once it's closed the public cannot speak once the public portion is closed.

Mayor's Report.

Mayor Foster reported that the Street Fair was the Arts in the Park was an amazing success, we had a huge turnout and I was so happy to be there. It felt like a perfect summer day and everyone was out and it felt really good to be around everyone. We also had the Public Information Committee present and we were doing a survey and we wanted to see how we could more effectively communicate with all residents and as we all are aware we get our use our news sources from many different places these days it is not

the typical via newspaper to get your news or listen to one radio station. We are looking for ways to communicate with all sectors of our community and the public information committee took time out to put a survey together and to access the survey you can go to the Borough's web-site for more information. You can scan the QR code to get the survey on your phone or fill the survey out there and just let us know how we can more effectively communicate with each and every one of you. For completing the survey there is a gift card that is available so please go and fill that out let us know how we can better and much more effectively communicate with each and every one of you because we do want to hear your concerns and we do appreciate you interacting with us. She said this past weekend she attended two wonderful events and one was the Lower Raritan River Watershed they were here in town and these are people who are protecting our waterways and making sure that we have clean fresh drinking water. As you may be aware there is a water issue globally and if we don't start looking at ways of how to protect and to have clean fresh water we will be having some issues in the not too distant future. There are about 100 volunteers to make sure that our waterways are safe, it's clean and we have good fresh drinking water. They are going to be doing a lot of surveys around town so if you see them, they may stop and ask questions of you please help them fill out that survey as well because drinking water is something that we all need. The Chinese Autumn Moon Festival has started and she went to the Highland Park Chinese Association event in Donaldson Park this year, if you remember last year they had a full event in the Farmers Market lot, this year they scaled back but they're gearing up for a full event next year so be on the lookout. She wished everyone from our Chinese Community a wonderful Autumn Moon Festival. Speak of festivals if you notice as you were coming in the front door or if you went to the Community Center you see the beautiful decorations and thanked Kim and all the helpers at the Community Center for making Borough Hall and the Community Center look much more like fall and much more welcoming. She stating she is starting a new initiative and it's bringing government to the people often times people don't have time to come to Council meetings or maybe they have questions when they watch the videos so we want to go to different districts and to be able to set up and have meetings and have Q&A Community forums so the first one will be on October 8th that will be on Merilind Street and we will have members from police, fire, first aid and OEM and Councilmembers including herself and we'll be there to ask and get questions that you may have wanted to ask from us and to get more information and to better to communicate with you much more effectively. The goal is to provide more information to the people and to have better and much more effective communication tools. She will be sending out more information on the community meeting "Bringing government to your Community" information will be posted on the website and we will be disseminating information in those neighborhoods. The town is made up of 13 districts and we plan to go to all 13 within this year and the coming year.

Public Participation.

Mayor Foster opened the floor for public participation.

Colleen Tyler, 142 North 6th Avenue complimented the Mayor and Council for all their accomplishments on behalf of our town including the recreation program, food pantry, senior programming, all the Arts festivals and music events, farmers market and accessibility efforts leading to why she attended this evening which is approval for letter of resolution 9-24-229 for the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission and asked why this interest in promoting dispensaries as many as six because she does not see the benefit. She spoke about the negative consequence and urged the council to really think about the long-term effects of having six cannabis shops in town and please vote no.

Mary Botteon, Madison Avenue spoke about Resolution 9-24-229 Council support of CRC for a pot shop please vote no. Council has ordered for six marijuana stores to sell very potent THC recreation marijuana products none of which are approved by the FDA. Some of the folks such as Sal Raspa of Raspa Jewelers and Teddy Pardo who was a former Highland Park police officer have business together to sell recreational marijuana products on Raritan right across the street from the dojo where children go to practice every day after school. Gayle Brill Mittler's son is another example of who Council approved to be involved in selling marijuana in Highland Park at a location right near a park at a block and a half from Irving School for those of you who share our concerns please feel free to contact me at m b o t t e o n at verizon.net also please be aware that all three judges in the New Jersey State Appellate division agreed with us that our lawsuit on these matters should go forward so that is what is happening and we are very grateful for that and please vote no on resolution 9-24-229.

Lois Lebbing, North 2nd Avenue said the town wide sale was terrific and suggested doing it more often. She said before computers this town would put out booklets with a list of businesses and it was free and from this building you could tell the businesses to obey the State laws and price every article for sale. She noted she had not shopped at Freshmart since July because there were not prices and asked if anyone else has gone there and is there prices. The Chinese festival when it was at the Farmers Market last year she could not read the food trucks because it was not in English and could not buy any Chinese food. Don't forget someone needs to water the beautiful mums every day.

There being no one further, it was moved by Councilman George and seconded by Councilman Hale to close public participation, and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Ordinances Requiring a Second Reading.

Ordinance No. 24-2092 An Ordinance of the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, Authorizing the Adoption of the “810 No. 2nd Avenue Redevelopment Plan” Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12a-1, et seq.

Clerk reported on Ordinance No. 24-2092 An Ordinance of the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, Authorizing the Adoption of the “810 No. 2nd Avenue Redevelopment Plan” Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12a-1, et seq. has been duly advertised for consideration of passage on final reading by title and affidavits of publication are on file.

Mayor Foster opened public hearing on Ordinance No. 24-2092. Seeing no one, on motion by Councilman George and seconded by Councilman Hale, the public hearing on Ordinance No. 24-2093 was closed.

On motion by Councilman Hale and seconded by Councilman Postelnik, the ordinance entitled as above, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Ordinances Requiring a First Reading.

Ordinance No. 24-2094 Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Part I Administrative Legislation, Chapter 7 Traffic (Schedule X, Stop Intersections) within the Borough of Highland Park (Cleveland Avenue at Madison Avenue)

Clerk reported on Ordinance No. 24-2094 An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Part I Administrative Legislation, Chapter 7 Traffic (Schedule X, Stop Intersections) within the Borough of Highland Park (Cleveland Avenue at Madison Avenue) has been introduced by the Public Safety Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Postelnik, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title, authorize publication and set public hearing for October 1, 2024, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Ordinance No. 24-2095 Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Part II General Legislation, Chapter 278-17 Parking (On-Street Accessible Parking Spaces) within the Borough of Highland Park

Clerk reported on Ordinance No. 24-2095 An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Part II General Legislation, Chapter 278-17 Parking (On-Street Accessible Parking Spaces) within the Borough of Highland Park has been introduced by the Public Safety Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title, authorize publication and set public hearing for October 1, 2024, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Consent Agenda Items - Resolutions.

Mayor Foster asked the Council Members if there were any Resolutions they would like pulled from the consent agenda. There were none.

Resolution Nos. 9-24-221, Resolution 9-24-225 through 9-24-230 were duly adopted on a motion made by Councilman Hale seconded by Councilman Postelnik and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolution No. 9-24-221

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:

Company	Total Bid Amount
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.

Resolution No. 9-24-225

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 30:4-27.1, et seq., sets forth a policy for public mental health cooperation between police departments and mental health service providers to insure the safe and effective delivery of mental health services responding to certain behavioral crisis calls; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park wish to support the delivery of said services by having the Borough of Highland Park Police Department participate in a pilot program with the Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care Services.

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 Chief of Police of the Borough of Highland Park is hereby authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care Services to cooperate in the delivery of behavioral health care services.
2. A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding is on file with the Borough Clerk and may be inspected during regular business hours.

Resolution No. 9-24-226

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:

- Karen Aarons, Crossing Guard, \$20.64 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2024
- Jenifer Calo, Crossing Guard, \$20.64 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2024
- Catherine Ciociari, Crossing Guard, \$12,562.00 Salary, Effective 09/05/2024
- Charlene Gee, Crossing Guard, \$12,562.00 Salary, Effective 09/05/2024
- Carol Gordon, Crossing Guard, \$20.64 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2024
- William Lajtos, Crossing Guard, \$20.64 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2024
- Christopher Lopez, Crossing Guard, \$20.64 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2024
- Lucille Morris, Crossing Guard, \$12,562.00 Salary, Effective 09/05/2024
- Genevieve Pruitt, Crossing Guard, \$20.64 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2024
- Fox Rayside, Crossing Guard, \$20.64 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2024
- Jacqueline Rhein, Crossing Guard, \$12,562.00 Salary, Effective 09/05/2024

Deborah Riddick Smith, Crossing Guard, \$12,562.00 Salary, Effective 09/05/2024
Chantal White, Crossing Guard, \$20.64 Hourly, Effective 09/05/2024
Maryann Autunnale, Tax/Utility Office Support, \$450 Per Month, Effective, 08/01/2024

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.

Resolution No. 9-24-227

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 5-24-158, adopted by the Borough Council on May 21, 2024, a contract was awarded to Mak Group, LLC, 82 Midland Avenue, Suite D, Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07663, for the Highland Park Public Library Roof replacement; and

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 1, certified by Arcari + Iovino Architects PC, for bonds, insurance and submittals and there is due to Mak Group, LLC the sum of \$18,620.00 in accordance with said Pay Estimate No. 1; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Capital Fund Account No. C-04-55-835-001, in an amount not to exceed \$18,620.00, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer Certification no. 2024-71.

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 Mak Group, LLC, 82 Midland Avenue, Suite D, Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07663 the sum of \$18,620.00, as certified by the Architects certification of Pay Estimate No. 1 for bonds, insurance and submittals.
2. Certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Chief Financial Officer, Code Official and the Arcari + Iovino Architects PC.

Resolution No. 9-24-228

WHEREAS, the mission articulated in the Highland Park Community Forestry Management Plan is to strive to achieve an urban forest that is safe, healthy, diverse and aesthetically pleasing that also sustains and enhances valuable ecosystem services and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, the annual tree planting program is an essential part of achieving that mission.

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 Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for receipt of bids for the Borough’s 2025 Tree Planting Program.
2. Bids will be received at a date and time to be determined by the Borough Clerk and the Borough Administrator, said bids to be in accordance with specifications prepared by the Borough Administrator in consultation with the Department of Public Works and the Shade Tree Advisory Committee.

Resolution No. 9-24-229

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park have adopted Chapter 136 of the “Code of the Borough of Highland Park” which authorizes the operation of adult personal-use cannabis businesses within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough received ten (10) proposals for a Local Retail Cannabis Business License; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council reviewed and evaluated the proposals; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council passed a resolution of local support for five (5) Class 5 retail cannabis businesses; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission granted a conditional cannabis business license to ANJA LIFE, LLC on October 27, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2023, the Borough Council passed a resolution of local support to ANJA LIFE, LLC in accordance with Borough of Highland Park Ordinances 21-2027 and 22-2044; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission granted an annual cannabis business license to ANJA LIFE, LLC on December 20, 2023; and

WHEREAS, on or about January 10, 2024, ANJA LIFE, LLC became the first adult use cannabis dispensary in the Borough of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the license for ANJA LIFE, LLC shall expire on December 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, ANJA LIFE, LLC is applying to the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission for a renewal of their cannabis license; and

WHEREAS, ANJA LIFE, LLC needs a letter of support from the Borough of Highland Park in order to file a renewal cannabis license application; and

WHEREAS, the proper local application and renewal fees have been received from ANJA LIFE, LLC; and

WHEREAS, this applicant has been investigated and approved by all appropriate Borough officials; and

WHEREAS, it has been recommended that due to the above referenced reasons, ANJA LIFE, LLC be awarded a resolution for local support for an additional one-year (1) year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park being the governing body thereof, be and is as follows:

1. The above recitals are hereby incorporated as if restated herein in full.

2. The Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park formally memorialize their continued support for ANJA LIFE, LLC with respect to its renewal application to the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission for a Class 5 Cannabis Retail Dispensary License.
3. The Borough Administrator shall hereby issue a letter of support to ANJA LIFE, LLC in favor of their license renewal application to the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission along with a certified copy of this resolution.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution No. 9-24-230

WHEREAS, on August 13, 2024 Borough Council passed Resolution No. 8-24-202 authorizing sewer main repairs on Braun Avenue; and

WHEREAS, during the course of the repair the need for additional repairs to another section of sewer main was discovered; and

WHEREAS, three quotes for this work were solicited and received as follows:

B&W Construction Co. of NJ Inc.	\$10,900.00
J. Fletcher Creamer & Sons Inc.	\$11,766.18
Moran Paving	no response; and

WHEREAS, USA-Highland Park, the Borough’s Water and Sewer Utility Operator, has recommended that said services be purchased from B&W Construction Co. based on their quote for same; and

WHEREAS, funds shall be available in Utility Budget Account No. 4-05-55-500-423 in an amount not to exceed \$10,900.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Finance Director No. 2024-72.

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 Borough Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to accept the quote for the repairs to the sewer main on Braun Avenue from B&W Construction Co. of NJ, P.O. Box 574 South River, NJ 08882 at a total cost not to exceed \$10,900.00.
2. That a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the USA-Highland Park Operations Foreman and the Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution No. 9-24-231

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 9/17/2024 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 44.

Appointments.

Crossing Guards

Karen Aarons, Jenifer Calo , Catherine Ciociari , Charlene Gee , Carol Gordon, William Lajtos, Christopher Lopez, Lucille Morris, Genevieve Pruitt, Fox Rayside, Jacqueline Rhein, Deborah Riddick Smith, Chantal White

Mayor's Teen Advisory Committee

Ethan Paul Chen, Madeline (Maddie) Hulme

Sustainable Highland Park

Meliha Pihura Shiu

On motion made by Councilman George and seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, the appointment of Crossing Guards Karen Aarons, Jenifer Calo, Catherine Ciociari, Charlene Gee, Carol Gordon, William Lajtos, Christopher Lopez, Lucille Morris, Genevieve Pruitt, Fox Rayside, Jacqueline Rhein, Deborah Riddick Smith, Chantal White, Mayor's Teen Advisory Committee, Ethan Paul Chen, Madeline (Maddie) Hulme and Sustainable Highland Park, Meliha Pihura Shiu was approved and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

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

Second Public Participation.

Mayor Foster opened the floor for public participation.

Lois Lebbing, North 2nd asked where Councilwoman Canavera was because she has not seen her in months, she asked about the parking along South 5th Avenue there are cones up that say until 3 pm and the cones are still there. She stated that pavers should not have been used at the Felton park because they are anti-accessible but who cares. Accessible parking on every street, east or west would be very helpful.

The business booklet must have been created by the Borough's Economic Development Committee/Commission.

Collen Tyler, 142 North 6th Avenue, spoke about Cannabis shops she wasn't able to vote and is against them and many people not knowing the plan for it.

Sal Baptist, Raritan Avenue wanted to know what period of time the Crossing Guards are appointed for.

Michele Racioppi, South 4th said she is against privatizing the Crossing Guards. read something from Insider nj.com from April of this year um a new study analyzing official government data has identified the states where pedestrians are most at risk of being killed in car crashes with New Jersey topping the list.

Lucille Morris spoke about there being no lights or signs stating in school zones. Lately it's been terrible with the running of the stop signs and people not yielding to pedestrians and stopping and asking us which way is the school.

Brian G., 137 Hill Street, said he also is against privatizing crossing guards and underscores how very important those jobs are. He urged the Mayor and Council to not consider privatization.

Lois Lebbing, North 2nd spoke about her new water meter readings and bills always ending in all zeros, it is impossible to constantly have zeros. The Planning Board Meeting Zoom calls and having to attend meetings in person to speak and it was indicated at the meeting you must attend in person to speak and suggested changing the language on the agenda so it is clear.

There being no one further, it was moved by Councilman George and seconded by Councilman Postelnik to close public participation, and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Mayor Foster addressed Ms. Lebbing suggested she reach out to the school regarding the placement of the cones. Councilwoman Canavera and Council President Matt Hersh are at a Housing Conference that was noted at the top of the meeting. The Tot Lot is continuing to be fixed, when repairs are done it will be opened. The town booklet is on the internet.

Mayor Foster address Ms. Tyler;s regarding cannabis shops indicating that there was a referendum put out by the State of New Jersey and seventy percent of people of Highland Park voted in favor of cannabis shops in town.

Borough Administrator Jover address Sal Baptist indicating that the crossing guard's term is for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mayor Foster address Michele Racioppi indicating that been no decision made with regards to privatizing crossing guards. It goes before the Public Safety Committee then to the Governing Body to be discussed in detail at a Work Session where a final decision will be made.

Mayor Foster address Ms. Lebbing and suggested bringing the bill to the water department to have them look at it. The Planning Board decides how they will conduct their meetings.

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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Borough Clerk