

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK

REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 1, 2024 – 7:00 PM

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, October 1, 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](http://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.**

Karen Swaine led the flag salute

**Roll Call:**

Present: Mayor Foster, Councilpersons: Canavera, Hale, Hersh, George, Kim-Chohan arrived at 7:09 pm, Postelnik, Borough Administrator Jover, Borough Attorney Shah, and Borough Clerk Santiago.  
Absent: None

**Honors, Awards and Presentations.**

Mayor Foster recognized October as Breast Cancer Awareness month and urged all to get a mammogram.

Mayor Foster and Council President recognized Carol Avelsgaard for her 13 years of dedicated service on the Shade Tree Advisory Committee.

**Approval of Minutes,**

**September 3, 2024 Regular Session mtg.**

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

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

**September 17, 2024 Regular Session mtg.**

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

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

**Council Reports.**

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported the Rent Control Board met and approved a 3.55% increase for the period of January 1st 2025 to December 31st 2025. The numbers and percentage came from the CPI data sheets from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics for New York Metro and Philadelphia Metro. She mentioned there was still a vacancy on the board for an alternate two tenant seat. If you interacted please fill out the volunteer application on the Borough's website and submit. Tonight we are appointing a new Tax Assessor, our longtime Tax Assessor Thomas Mancuso has retired after 17 years and we welcome Logan and we look forward to working with you and wished Thomas Mancuso well in his retirement. She attended the grand opening and ribbon cutting of SuperFresh along with all of my colleagues and like many of you I was impressed by the stores stunning makeover. She also attended the Woodbridge Mayor McCormac's annual breakfast, and the theme this year was Middlesex County and Municipal connection. Middlesex County did give a shout out to Highland Park for their grand opening of SuperFresh and it was kind of a picture into neighboring towns like Piscataway and Milltown who recently lost their supermarket. You start to realize that we're not alone in these hurdles that Highland Park has overcome in such a small period of time, so kudos to Highland Park and everyone here for making that happen. We are being looked at as a model town and lastly Happy Hispanic Heritage Month, observed from September 15 to October 15 and she encouraged everyone to attend an event locally or virtually, visit a museum or culture center, listen to some Hispanic music, try traditional Hispanic food or even support a Hispanic owned business like ours in our downtown.

Councilman Hale reported he was so excited about SuperFresh. The other day I made a fantastic smoked trout and argula salad with grapefruit dressing. If you would like the recipe please email me. But the cool

thing is when I decide to make it, I got everything for it at SuperFresh in 10 minutes and was eating it in 30 minutes. They have a great senior program if you over 60 and register with them on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7:00am to 3:00pm you get 5% off. I understand there is even a new Facebook Group called Kosher @ SuperFresh- Highland Park which helps identify great Kosher deals at SuperFresh. I am sure there will be others soon to follow. He thanked Councilwomen Kim-Chohan for attending the Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce 24th Annual Mayors Breakfast. It was a great opportunity to meet and great economic and business development folks from around the county and he had a work obligation so thanks to Stephany for going. Also I may have mentioned this last time but a shout out to Council President Hersh and Councilwoman Canavera for attending the Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development last week down in Atlantic City. Next week he will be joining folks from Main Street Highland Park and going to the 2024 Middlesex County Business Summit which is another opportunity to meet businesses and entrepreneurs to tell them about Highland Park and encourage them to come to Highland Park. We are adding additional staff focused on Economic Development. The Borough Administrator has more details but we are very excited to Rutuja Vartek as our new Economic Development Coordinator who will work closely with the Administrator on a number of projects, including the NPP and direct personal outreach to local businesses. She comes to us from the Bloustein Planning School where she worked on evaluating a SID program in Dunellen and was instrumental in running focus groups of local businesses. She will start later this month. This goes to show you how central economic development and business development is to this Mayor and Council. I may Chair the Economic Development but it really is a central aspect of this entire Council, Mayor and Borough. Lastly, October is filled with Jewish Holidays this year Rosh Hashanah this week then Yom Kippur and later in the month my favorite Sukkot. The year that is ending Rosh Hashanah Wednesday night is 5784 and it has been a rough one from start to finish, even up to today where we have heard of significant missile attacks on Tel Aviv. So to paraphrase a great television sage Col. Sherman T. Potter. Here is to 5785, we hope and pray that she will be better than the last one. Shana Tova everyone let's have a happy and healthy new year.

Councilwoman Canavera reported the Board of Health wants you to know about 2 important things this month. Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is held throughout October. DVAM brings advocates across the nation together to end domestic violence. Communities and advocacy organizations across the country connect with one another in a true sense of unity to end domestic violence for good. DVAM is a chance for anyone and everyone – victims, survivors, advocates, supporters, and political leaders to unite in our work to end domestic violence. This is a time of solidarity and support. It is also a time for victims and survivors to share their stories. Only through collaboration will it be possible to end domestic violence. If you or someone you know needs help please call 1.800.799.SAFE (7233) or Text "START" to 88788. It is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month which is an annual campaign held every October to raise awareness about breast cancer and promote early detection, prevention, and treatment. The initiative encourages individuals to educate themselves about the disease, support those affected, and participate in fundraising activities for research and support services. The Human Relations Commission wants to remind everyone that we are in the second half of Hispanic Heritage Month which is September 15 - October 15, is an annual celebration in the United States that honors the history, culture, and contributions of Americans whose ancestry can be traced to 20 countries and one territory. It is also LGBTQ+ History Month which is an annual observance dedicated to honoring the history and contributions of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, as well as the broader gay rights and civil rights movements. This month-long celebration serves to highlight role models, foster community, and affirm the civil rights contributions of the LGBTQ+ community. The Commission for Universal Access wants you to know that World Sight Day is an annual global event observed on the second Thursday of October, which is October 10th this year. It is aimed at raising awareness about vision impairment and blindness. Organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), the day highlights the importance of eye health and the need for equitable access to eye care services. The overarching goal is to encourage individuals, governments, and organizations to take action to improve eye health and prevent avoidable blindness. The Community Food Pantry is open on the second and fourth Thursday from 9 am to 10:45 am and again at 6 pm to 7 pm. Saturday following Thursday from 9:30 am to 10 am. The Highland Park Gives a Hoot Food Pantry is every Tuesday and Wednesday at the Zone 6 Center from 10 am to 11 am. The Mental Health Commission reminds you that if you or someone you know is in crisis please reach out for help. Call the lifeline at 988 or text HOME to 741741. Both are 24/7 free and confidential.

Councilman George acknowledged Breast Cancer Awareness and mentioned he was wearing his mother's pink pin who was a double mastectomy survivor from the cruel days in the early 1980s and she wore it every day and then passed it on to my wife. Just before our next meeting will be commemoration Native American people's day, greetings to all of our Jewish families as the holidays approach and he prays for peace. The Police Department had the gun safety program last week but unfortunately it was not well attended and thinks it conflicted with too many events. However it turned out to be even more of a benefit because certain speakers brought other speakers in who actually expanded the ability to reach into both gun safety and the consequences of lack of gun safety. The next program will be run very soon. Trunk or Treat event is Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6p.m. to 8pm at the Community Center. There is a car decorating competition anybody can join in and decorate their car and if you want to contact Officer Fitzgerald at [dfitzgerald@hpboro.com](mailto:dfitzgerald@hpboro.com) to enter your vehicle. The library the news keeps getting better and better, he met with staff and the Executive Director today at the library and then afterwards the buildings and grounds committee is meeting tonight to discuss the current status and opening. Right now the temporary facility has been closed so that the staff can get situated to the main building, get the new

facilities up and running. The roofing contractors are at work removing the old ductwork and fabricating at their made plan for the duct and hopefully buildings and grounds will have more news tonight uh their meeting at 7pm.

Councilman Postelnik said the opening of SuperFresh is tremendous and commended the Mayor and Administrator and staff and my fellow Council Members for all the work they did to make this finally come to fruition. The flu clinic is on Wednesday October 9th from 10am to 11am at the Community Center, the clinic is open to all residents please call 732-819-0052 or stop by the Community Center for more details. The Blood Drive is scheduled for Tuesday October 15th from 12pm to 6pm at the Community Center to make an appointment uh go to [nybc.org/drive](http://nybc.org/drive) and use sponsor code 6531. The annual Halloween festival and costume parade will be back on Sunday, October 27 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm in the parking lot by the Community Center, it is always a really good time, lots of kids, lots of activities and lots of music, events, candy. The Arts Commission is hosting a Poetry Festival on Sunday Oct 6th 4-9pm at Pino's Wine Cellar at 13 N 4th Ave. Come see poets from town and around the state. There will be featured performers and a poetry competition. He wished everyone who celebrates a Happy New Year and wished that this New Year there is peace.

Council President Hersh reported Sustainable Highland Park is a very active organization that really works hard to inform us on policy and advocate and also post events in the community. Among those that you should keep a lookout for are community cleanups, a guided tour of the native plant sanctuary, Middlesex County is hosting a paper shredding event in Donaldson Park, there is a free native plant giveaway and our next meeting is October 23rd that's a Wednesday at 7:30. You can go to [sustainablehighlandpark.org](http://sustainablehighlandpark.org) for a link to the meeting on October 23rd but also for links and more information on everything just mentioned. It is Fall and I sound like a broken record but the shrubs continue to grow, and he reminded everyone to maintain your shrubs if they run along a sidewalk and particularly if you have a corner property. It is important as a walking community, it's essential our walkways are free of obstructions and have room for two people to pass each other comfortably but it's also important for those using a wheelchair a stroller or anything else that might require additional space. As we embark on our town-wide safe routes to school program and improve crosswalks, sidewalks and sidewalk ramps it's essential that sight lines at corners are clear for automobile and pedestrians and cyclists. If you have a corner property you have a beautiful view of your corner but you also have additional responsibilities to keep shrubs clear of sidewalks for maximum visibility. Five Sustainable tips for the Fall courtesy of Sustainable Highland Park bring your reusable mug for your seasonal drink or leave the leaves or even better compost your leaves, thrift or repurpose your old clothes. Sustainable Highland Park we work together to put together a comprehensive resource list ahead of the town-wide garage sale on options that you have to free yourself of your extra garage sale goods instead of by the side of the road for garbage pick-up. Other options are you carving a pumpkin cook with nutritious pumpkin seeds and compost the unused parts and inflate your tires for better fuel efficiency particularly in the cold weather. September 21st was zero emissions day this is all about taking meaningful steps to reduce our carbon footprint and contribute to a healthier planet. A couple things that you can do to prepare and make a difference today and every day is by saving energy, turn off the lights when you leave your room, unplug electronics when they're not in use, opt for air drying your clothes and dishes instead of using energy intensive dryers. Every bit of energy saved helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions choose zero emissions transportation the way we move around matters we just talk about walking at zero emissions ditch the car today if you can. He mentioned he is a commuter and drives a lot so he looks for every opportunity not to and get out of the car and walk, bike or take public transportation this will not only reduce your carbon footprint but you also enjoy the fresh air and exercise that really makes a difference. Your voice is powerful, advocate for policies and practices that prioritize environment, come to some of our meetings and learn about statewide legislation or other Advocate or other multi-town advocacy efforts. For example Sustainable Highland Park and the Environmental Commission work with a consortium of regional environmental commission and join the movement so you can share your zero emissions day actions and you can share them with Sustainable Highland Park if you email [highlandparksustainable@gmail.com](mailto:highlandparksustainable@gmail.com). On the consent agenda tonight we will vote on authorizing a professional service agreement for engineering related to improvements on North Highland Avenue, Graham Street and South 8th Avenue some more of our investment in roads along with previously reported pending improvements to Fourth Avenue, Denison and Harper Streets. He thanked the Public Works department for their tireless work throughout the town-wide garage sales and Arts in the Park and then also managing two both pickups the following week as well as garbage collection and recycling collection. We really appreciate the residents and your involvement placing items neatly and it all works together. He thanked Councilman Hale for mentioning the Governor's Housing conference hosted by the New Jersey Housing Mortgage Finance Agency as mentioned Council Hale and I were both there and it was just a really good opportunity to learn about the needs of communities statewide and also our statewide need for more housing. They spoke about rent control and rent control really is a symptom of of a housing market that is unchecked and out of whack and what we're hearing from presidential candidates as well is that housing production is going to be very important for all our communities moving forward in order to drive down prices, create more houses, create more housing options and really truly integrate our communities financially.

**Administrator.**

Borough Administrator Jover reported point out one other resolution on for tonight regarding the security systems upgrades at the rec complex that refers to the new track and turf field area that we partnered with the schools on renovating fairly recently. We have a little money left over from our collaboration and we

mutually agreed it would make sense to install additional cameras to be able to keep track of things back there in the evening hours we do get quite a bit of litter and refuse left behind after evening use and we hope this helps deter some of that and also helps us follow up on any issues that may happen back there. We're looking forward to implementing that over the next few months.

**Borough Attorney's Report.**

Borough Attorney Shah advised everyone that we've implemented a new set of procedures on how we conduct Council meetings. The Mayor runs the meetings and the public will have three times in today's agenda to participate, first opportunity for public participation is after the Mayor's report this time is limited to questions only about the resolutions and ordinances that are up for a vote on today's agenda any questions or comments will be first placed on the record that will be from individuals that are sitting in the room with us and then via zoom and the public portion will be closed, once the public portion is closed the Mayor will respond to the question or direct a member from the governing body, or directors to respond to the public. The public cannot speak once the public portion is closed. The second opportunity to tonight for the public to speak will be for the each of the second hearings with ordinances that we have on the agenda. At this time a member of the public may have a question or a comment regarding that specific ordinance that is being introduced for a second hearing, once the comments are heard or any questions that are asked, the public portion will be closed and the Mayor will respond or direct a member from the governing body or directors to respond. Then finally after a vote for the consent agenda is passed there shall be a third opportunity for public participation. The public at this time may ask a question or make a comment on any topic once all the members of the public are heard in person and via zoom, the public portion will be closed, once the public portion is closed no one from the public will be able to comment. The Mayor then will respond or direct anyone else from to respond.

**Mayor's Report.**

Mayor Foster reported on October 8<sup>th</sup> there we will be bringing local government to the community. We are going to be meeting at 6:30 p.m. outside of the Irving School on Merilind Avenue and it will be from 6:30 pm to about 7:30 pm. We want to hear from members that live in the 13th District. If you have any questions or comments you may have you can address us there. We want to make it easy for those who can't attend a council meeting and bring government to you. Hope to see you there!! We have a survey done by our Communications Department on how to better communicate and we need to hear from you. We would like you to let us know how we can better communicate with each and every one of our residents. We are looking for different ways in which to do so and you can participate in that by visiting our web-site and the link is [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com). It is about 10 questions, it won't take long for you to answer the questions and she encouraged everyone to participate. She mentioned that they will giving away gift certificates and we really want to hear from you so please go to our site get that information and let us know how we can better communicate with you. She indicated that she attended a breakfast that we had for one of our longstanding employees of over 17 years, our Tax Assessor Thomas Mancuso, she thanked him for his many years of service and we're looking forward to having Logan as Council Member Kim-Chohan reported. She wished a Happy New Year to the members of the Jewish community and everyone please continue to enjoy SuperFresh.

**Public Participation.**

Mayor Foster opened the floor for public participation.

Angela Perone, 242 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue indicated she fell on a piece of sidewalk on Mansfield Avenue, she went to the Housing Authority and they told her it is a Borough issue. She asked if the Borough could get the 4x5 piece of sidewalk repaired it is very hazardous. The Borough mentioned about the blind and she would like to be in contact with you about that. Mr. Glazer had talked to us about Universal Access and a woman from Universal Access sent us an email and she asked for a telephone number because we need to communicate other than email.

Mr. Bondi, 239 South 6<sup>th</sup> Ave said he heard a comment about Nixel and he has requested it three times and still isn't receiving them He would like to be included in the event of an emergency, or some things that are going on in town.

Lois Lebbing, North 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, said SuperFresh is beautiful and crowded with people and crowded with merchandise but questioned the five foot aisles regarding accessibility. She indicated that there were little shelves here and there producing it to less than four feet and if you have two wheelchairs coming maybe somebody should look into that. She does not think two days of driving around except for lunch and a few stops I don't think did five miles so I think you really should consider the town-wide garage sale without a map

Diane Feldman, North 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue commented on Ordinance 2094 and asked how this was going to be enforced and she would like to know what the plan is. She seen Representative Pallone and the town is getting funding for three additional police officers and she would like to know what additional traffic enforcement there will be now that we have additional police officers.

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

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

Opposed: None.  
Absent: None.  
Abstain: None.

Mayor Foster addressed Mr. Bondi concerns with the Nixle and asked him to leave his information again and also asked him to check his spam folder because those emails may be going into your spam folder.

Borough Administrator Jover addressed Ms. Perone's concerns with the sidewalk and indicated that she would follow-up and ensure it is taken care of. Mayor Foster indicated that Councilwoman Canavera will be in touch to assist with services for the blind. Councilwoman Canavera said that volunteers do not like giving out their personal numbers but would provide Ms. Perone her personal phone number at the end of the meeting.

Mayor Foster addressed the grant received from Mr. Pallone, we're still working through the details of that and the Borough does not know the specifics at this time. We did receive the grant for anti-Semitism, anti-Asian violence and general violence against people of color. To keep our town safe all of the safety and community policing will be considered as we look to hire and get new Staffing on board. We don't know all the details of it as yet and we'll provide that as soon as we can.

**Ordinances Requiring a Second Reading.**

**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)

Clerk reported on Ordinance No. 24-2092 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 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. 24-2094.

Diane Feldman would like to understand how traffic enforcement is going to take place at this intersection. Mayor Foster indicated the grant that we're going to be receiving and we will look at all the Dynamics. The Chief will decide how the police department will be serving the community in these areas. We do not have that information at this time but please stay tuned we'll provide it as soon as we have it.

Seeing no one further, on motion by Councilman George and seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, the public hearing on Ordinance No. 24-2094 was closed.

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

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

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

Clerk reported on An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Part II General Legislation, Chapter 278-17 Parking (On-Street Accessible Parking Spaces) with the Borough of Highland Park 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. 24-2095.

Lois Lebbing, North 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, said she is going to bet those electronic tickets are being given out on the turns on North 4<sup>th</sup>. On street parking is this strictly for residential homes and or like the restaurant and apartments on the Avenue that had accessible parking for the accessible apartment and Highland Parks Planner forced the builder Anton to remove it. How many spaces on Raritan Avenue on both sides of the block have a handicap parking space? The apartment parking is small and the handicap parking space was turned down by Highland Park and the Universal Access. If you paint the last four digits of the plate then you can cover it over and put new digits assuming there's another person going to park that you can enforce it. That way so neighbors will park in the handicap whether it's here or at the restaurant.

Councilman George responded on behalf of the members of the Public Safety Committee and the Chief what we deal with a number of times during our meetings are requests for accessible parking on the residential streets. This ordinance does not designate or take away it allows us a little more flexibility the Ordinance allows two accessible spaces per each one of our 13 districts. What we found we would get a request for one in one District whereas people would come and say the family who used that access accessible space have moved can we get parking back. The suggestion which was brought to Council

by Public Safety was to have the ordinance to allow us to flex those zones for example if a space is no longer needed here but a space is needed there to allocate it a little more fairly. He also noted these are not reserved accessible spaces they're available to everyone. It's still a public space but you grant the courtesy but it is publicly accessible at all times. We just try to locate it conveniently this ordinance does not give or take away any spaces it allows us to allocate spaces in the future when we get these requests without taking a long time, it'll take us sometimes two or three months to get a space reallocated. This way it would move a lot faster and allow people in the neighborhood to kind decide their own flexing problems

Seeing no one further, on motion by Councilman George and seconded by Councilwoman Canavera, the public hearing on Ordinance No. 24-2095 was closed.

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

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

**Ordinances Requiring a First Reading.**

**Ordinance No. 24-2096** An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 230-124 (Zoning Map) and 230-4 Attachment 4 in order to Update the Zoning Map within the Borough of Highland Park

Clerk reported on Ordinance No. 24-2096 An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 230-124 (Zoning Map) and 230-4 Attachment 4 in order to Update the Zoning Map within the Borough of Highland Park has been introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Council President Hersh, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title, authorize publication and set public hearing for October 15, 2024, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Councilpersons: Canavera, Hale, Hersh, George, Kim-Chohan, Postelnik  
Opposed: None.  
Absent: None.  
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. 10-24-232 through 10-24-236 were duly adopted on a motion made by Council President Hersh seconded by Councilwoman Canavera and carried by the following roll call vote:

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

**Resolution No. 10-24-232**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Highland Park is the owner of certain surplus property which is no longer needed for public use; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Council is desirous of selling said surplus property in an “as is” condition without express or implied warranties.

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

- (1) The sale of the surplus property shall be conducted through GovDeals pursuant to New Jersey State Contract #83453/T-2581 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Contract. The terms and conditions of the agreement entered into with GovDeals are available online at [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com) and also available from the Borough Clerk’s Office in the Borough of Highland Park.
- (2) The sale will be conducted online and the address of the auction site is [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com).
- (3) The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-9.
- (4) A list of the surplus property to be sold is attached to the original of this resolution.
- (5) The surplus property as identified shall be sold in an “as-is” condition without express or implied warranties with the successful bidder required to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement concerning use of said surplus property.
- (6) The Borough of Highland Park reserves the right to accept or reject any bid submitted.

**Resolution No. 10-24-233**

**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 existing security systems in the Field House and Press Box at the Highland Park Recreation Complex, as more fully described on the attached quote; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough desires to purchase said goods and services under ESCNJ 23/24-38; Co-op #65MCESCCPSBID, from Open Systems Integrators, Inc. 211 Yardville Hamilton Square Road, Hamilton NJ 08620, at ESCNJ contract prices; and

**WHEREAS**, funds for this purpose are available in Capital Account No. C-04-55-830-001, in an amount not to exceed \$42,000.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer No. 2024-73.

**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 Open Systems Integrators, Inc. 211 Yardville Hamilton Square Road, Hamilton NJ 08620, for an amount not to exceed \$42,000.00.
2. Certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Borough Administrator, Director of Code Enforcement, and the Chief Financial Officer.

**Resolution No. 10-24-234**

**WHEREAS**, a Municipal Tax Assessor is responsible for the assessment of real estate within a municipality, with the objective to provide equality in the distribution of a levy which includes for the Borough of Highland Park, the following levies; municipal, school, county, library and open space; and

**WHEREAS**, effective October 17, 2007, pursuant to Resolution No. 10-07-325, Thomas Mancuso was appointed Tax Assessor; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 30, 2024, Thomas Mancuso will be retiring from his position as Tax Assessor, leaving a vacancy effective October 1, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Administrator and CFO have identified and recommend Logan Ortutay, a Certified Tax Assessor in the State of New Jersey (CTA No. 2586), for the position; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-148 Tax and Deputy Assessors, every Municipal Tax Assessor and Deputy Assessor shall hold office for a term of four years from the first day of the July following his/her appointment; and

**WHEREAS**, Logan Ortutay shall be appointed from October 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 and from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029.

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

1. The Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park does hereby grant its advice and consent to the Mayor's four-year appointment of Logan Ortutay to the position of Tax Assessor for the Borough of Highland Park.
2. The initial and continued appointment authorized by this Resolution shall be subject to and conditioned upon Logan Ortutay holding and maintaining certification as a Tax Assessor.
3. The Borough Clerk is hereby directed to file a copy of this Resolution with the State Department of Treasury - Division of Taxation Director and with the Middlesex County Tax Administrator.

**Resolution No. 10-24-235**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Highland Park has need of the services of an engineer to provide engineering services in connection with the Improvements to N. Highland Avenue, Graham Street and South 8th Avenue, in accordance with letter proposal from Bruce Koch, CME Associates, dated August 15, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, CME Associates, Parlin, N.J., is a firm of licensed engineers of the State of New Jersey with extensive experience in providing these services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council desire to provide for the method of compensation of said consulting engineer; and

**WHEREAS**, funds for this purpose are available in Capital Fund Account No. C-04-55-837-001, in an amount not to exceed \$101,182.00, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer No. 2024-74.

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

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough an Agreement for professional services with CME Associates, 3141 Bordentown Avenue, Parlin, NJ 08859, a copy of which is attached.
2. Notice of this contract be published as required by law and that a copy of executed Agreement be placed on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

**Resolution No. 10-24-236**

**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 10/01/2024 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 44.

**Second Public Participation**

Mayor Foster opened the floor for public participation.

Angela Perone, 242 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue asked the status of getting a new bus at the community center.

Lois Lebbing, North 2nd said you will save some emissions and energy if you turn up the air conditioning. The survey doesn't have questions on the back for those of us without electronic gadgets. There are two people who have more bills ending in zeros from less than 200 to 800 this is too fishy this is too impossible. In the Highland Park Employee Handbook page 21 refers to falsifying documents. Is that going on here? In 2014 and earlier the Auditor noted there were exceptions relating to missing authorizing signatures, missing approval signatures, missing receiving signatures and missing claiming signatures. With this water meter stuff, I question what's happening. The January 2015 minutes from an adjourned meeting page 326 tax certificates were sold and the Tax Collector determined an error because it was for 24 cents not dollars and the property does not exist. Then there's another one, \$115 property does not exist same page. I appreciate staying in Highland Park and I'll be visiting because this is fraud.

Sal Baptist, Raritan Avenue, indicated at the last council meeting there was a comment made in reference to the many marijuana shops and that 70 % of Highland Park voted to legalize the sale of marijuana. I did vote to legalize the sale of marijuana I did not at any point vote to have a pot shop on every block of Raritan Avenue which is what it's becoming and I think it's dishonest to conflate voting to legalize the sale of marijuana with voting to have more pot shops in town than there are places to buy alcohol. You are discussing the appointment of the new Tax Assessor however there is also a new crossing guard who should have been appointed I believe she finished training already and I don't see her mentioned anywhere. Given everything going on with the privatization of the crossing guards and one would think that you would appoint her promptly upon finishing training.

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

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

Borough Administrator Jover addressed Ms. Perone about the bus indicating it's unrepairable so we're looking into options, we don't have money in this budget so I'll have to come to Council either for special allocation of capital funds to purchase a new bus and we're also looking into options potentially at buying a used bus which has an advantage of being quicker potentially and maybe a cost savings. This was unexpected and we are moving as quickly as we can to try and address this issue.

Mayor Foster indicated that she has also shared with Ms. Perone those sentiments when we met that I have reached out to the County and our surrounding communities and other places to try to see if they had a bus that they could loan and no one has a loaner because there is a shortage of vehicles in general. We are as the Administrator said she's doing her best to address this issue. As it pertain to toying of documents, it is not appreciated taking that tone with any staff member. They are here to serve the community. They are not here to be bullied or harassed, so I really don't appreciate that tone. If you have a water bill question please go to the water department and have those addressed.

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 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago  
Borough Clerk