

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019

MINUTES

1. Mayor Brill Mittler called the meeting to order at 9:40 p.m.
2. PRESENT: Mayor; Council (except Councilpersons Fine and Foster-Dublin); Borough Attorney; Borough Administrator; Borough Clerk.

NOTE: Upcoming Meeting schedule:

April 23, 2019	Standing Committee Meetings; Special Meeting if needed.
May 7, 2019	Agenda Meeting 6:30 PM; Regular Meeting 7:00 PM; Conference Meeting to follow.

3. Public Discussion (15 minutes) – none.
4. Memorial or Commendatory Resolutions or Presentations scheduled as indicated:
 - a. STAC – Tree Planting – Chairperson Rosie Baruh appeared to give a presentation. She noted that the Shade Tree Advisory Committee is required to have a community forestry management plan. Highland Park is in compliance with the State requirements. The plan was filed and approved recently and provides for the planting of trees neighborhood by neighborhood. They will plant trees only when requested by residents. Will be doing plantings on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis. The expected tree planting date is May 1st. They have put together a letter to be signed by the Mayor. The first area will be Lincoln Avenue. Plantings will be done in the verge. Councilwoman Welkovits noted that she has an objection to having a tree planted without her permission. She had a problem with tree roots. Ms. Baruh noted that in the past when trees were planted, there was no consideration as to size and type of tree. Now, they will plant trees that can fit in the space provided. Letter will go to everyone in the neighborhood notifying them that a tree is going to be planted. Borough Administrator Jover suggested that they use hang tags to notify residents. May run into same problem of having trees planted that residents don't want. Ms. Baruh noted that STAC has discussed this and it is set forth in the community forestry management plan. They have tried to get a community meeting set. The May 1st planting date is not something they control as it goes out to bid. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that they need to better manage communication. Borough Administrator Jover asked that she provide her with the list of addresses.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, the Borough Council agreed to extend the Conference Meeting beyond 10:00 PM.

5. Ordinances on 1st Reading – no ordinances scheduled for introduction for 5/7/19:
 - a.
 - b.
6. Ordinances on 2nd Reading – no public hearings scheduled for 5/7/19:
 - a. CAP Rate Exception Ordinance.
 - b. Overlay Zoning Ordinance.
7. Resolutions for Next Meeting - scheduled for 5/7/19:
 - a. Bills List (5/7/19).
 - b.
 - c.

- d.
8. Appointments – none.
9. Borough Attorney’s Report – none.
10. Borough Administrator’s Report – none.
11. Standing Committee Status Reports – none.
12. Discussion Items.
 - a. Right of Way Agreement – Tabled from discussion until May 7, 2019.
 - b. Volunteer Appreciation – Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the Communications Coordinator has not heard from all of the Council Members about their committees. She had also reached out to the Board Chairs and has not had a response. Borough Administrator to work with the Communications Coordinator. Need to decide on Volunteer of the Year.
 - c. Cannabis Discussion – Tabled from discussion until May 7, 2019.
 - d. Diversity Training – Mayor Brill Mittler noted that money was set aside in 2018 for this type of training that was conducted by Elizabeth Williams Riley. She is putting together a list of influences to be on this panel. They will have three hours of meetings in May. She will submit a proposal for execution of this plan. Community diversity training is important after what happened at the middle school last week. Students started a hate website on Reddick posting photos (example: Auschwitz – “Best thing that ever happened”). Unless there is a victim, it cannot be called a hate crime.
 - e. Ordinance Banning Puppy Mills – Councilwoman Welkovits noted that these types of places are located in Midwest states. Borough Attorney’s office provided Governing Body with an ordinance, but it is not what the Borough wants. The Humane Society wants to put a stop to this way of branding puppies. The draft ordinance is banning them from giving away all pets.
 - f. Hiring Updates – Borough Administrator Jover noted that she interviewed a number of candidates for the full time Tax Collector position. She has a strong candidate from Watchung Borough who will also be responsible for the water & sewer billing. She would like to offer her the position with a salary of between \$60,000 and \$68,000. She is not currently the Tax Collector in Watchung, but handles everything in the office. She needs to check her references and get her an offer letter before the next Council meeting.
 - g. Budget Presentation – Borough Administrator Jover reminded the Governing Body that she would do a brief presentation on the 2019 Municipal Budget at the May 7th meeting, but the budget will not be adopted. She will provide a draft of her presentation to the Governing Body prior to the meeting. Discussion about the budget and the funding for various departments, especially the Library.
13. Goals – Not discussed.
14. Executive Session – none.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hale, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

MAYOR & COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES – 4/16/19

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk