

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK  
MAYOR & COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

MINUTES

1. Mayor Brill Mittler called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and 7:54 p.m.
2. PRESENT: Mayor; Council (except Councilwoman Kim-Chohan); Borough Attorney; Borough Administrator; Borough Clerk.

**NOTE: Upcoming Meeting schedule:**

<b>March 6, 2018</b>	<b>Council Committee Reports 6:00 PM; Agenda Meeting 6:30 PM; Regular Meeting 7:00 PM; Conference Meeting to follow.</b>
<b>March 13, 2018</b>	<b>Special Meeting – Budget Presentations – Department Heads – 6:00 PM.</b>
<b>March 20, 2018</b>	<b>Council Committee Reports 6:00 PM; Agenda Meeting 6:30 PM; Regular Meeting 7:00 PM; Conference Meeting to follow.</b>

3. Council Goals
4. Public Discussion (15 minutes) – none.
5. Memorial or Commendatory Resolutions or Presentations scheduled as indicated:
  - a. Library Board of Trustees – Bruce Tucker, President of the Board of Trustees, appeared before the Governing Body along with Library Director Jane Stanley. He introduced Alan and Leslie Burger of Library Development Solutions, one of the most highly regarded library consultancies in the tri-state area. Leslie is a former national president of the American Library Association and a former director of the Princeton Public Library who saw it through the transformation and capital campaign that produced their magnificent new facilities. The Board of Trustees has worked with them since 2012, when they first started re-envisioning the Library. The Board of Trustees is here tonight to ask that the Governing Body include \$625,000 in the capital budget to help bring the Library into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That amount is only slightly more that they estimated they would require in 2013 to accomplish a strategic upgrade. As you know, the voters approved a \$125 million library construction bond, which will provide 1:1 matching funds to libraries for upgrades. This has given them a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fulfill their strategic vision at half the cost. In order not to miss out on the grant cycle, they need the Borough to signal its support now by including the full amount in the capital budget. They will then be able to fully revise and update their plans, develop a capital campaign out of which they would reimburse the Borough as much as possible, and then apply for a NJ state grant in September when the application process is expected to begin. Library Director Jane Stanley noted that the library would remain open during improvements, with occasional scheduled closings for safety. The library will provide full access to the collection. Construction parking will be off-site and not permitted in the parking lot. They will provide weekly website/email updates to inform the community of their progress. Alan and Leslie Burger took turns providing information about the project. They noted that the Highland Park Public Library is in desperate need of repairs due to deferred maintenance. They must modernize to meet the interests and needs of residents in a digital world. The library is an extraordinarily busy and popular place, especially for children, teens and seniors. They plan to revise/update the 2013 floor plans to provide:

- Digital technology lab for training and content development
- After school and homework help space
- Power everywhere for charging and mobile computing
- Double the amount of comfortable seating
- Small meeting rooms, group study rooms and space for collaborative learning
- Better sight lines throughout the building
- Newer, lower fixtures with more bookstore type features
- More focused, targeted and easy to use print and digital collections.

Borough would have to commit to at least half of the grant. By committing to the full amount, the library would have to win the grant. Discussion about how the grant works, the amount of the funding and possible fundraising that would be done. Library Director Stanley noted that she has some donors and one major donor that would contribute to this project.

6. Ordinances on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – no ordinances scheduled for introduction for 3/20/18:
  - a. CAP Rate Exception Ordinance.
  - b.
7. Ordinances on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – no public hearings scheduled for 3/20/18:
  - a.
  - b.
8. Resolutions for Next Meeting - scheduled for 3/20/18:
  - a. Bills List (3/20/18).
  - b. Introduction of 2018 Municipal Budget.
  - c.
  - d.
9. Appointments – none.
9. Borough Attorney's Report – none.
10. Borough Administrator's Report – none.
11. Standing Committee Status Reports – none.
12. Discussion Items.
  - a. Redevelopment Plan for Block 183, Lot 24 – Resolution was adopted at the Regular meeting.
  - b. Employee Policy Regarding Suspension while Pending Charges – Mayor Brill Mittler noted that there is currently no policy about suspensions with or without pay. They have consulted with the Labor Attorney about this matter. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that if someone is out with an indictable offense, you can suspend them without pay. It is easier to withhold pay than to try and get reimbursed. Councilman George advised that they should have a policy that is consistent with the law and it should be reviewed by Counsel.
  - c. Recreation Program Fees – Resolution adopted at Regular meeting.
  - d. S5 Update – Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the 2% arbitration cap legislation is on hold in the legislature.
  - e. PSE&G Solar Update – Matter postponed for discussion until the next meeting.
13. Executive Session – none.

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There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hersh, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings  
Borough Clerk