

REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 6, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:04 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler; Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Jover; Borough Clerk Hullings.

Absent: Councilwoman Kim-Chohan.

Mayor Brill Mittler asked the Council members to present their reports.

Councilwoman Welkovits reported that last week after the Board of Adjustment meeting, the Borough Planner, Jim Constantine, reviewed all the tools in their toolbox that the Borough can use to maximize opportunities for redevelopment of our downtown. Downtown redevelopment is critical to our municipality and is the greatest source of ratables. Members of the Planning Board were also present as Mr. Constantine reviewed the Borough's designation as an area in need of rehabilitation and the role of the screening committee, which was created to meet with developers and ready a project before being assigned to an agency or board. Last Tuesday, was their monthly Planning Board meeting. They are creating a new committee to start thinking about the review of the Master Plan, which will be done in 2019. That team will be headed by our former Mayor Steve Nolan. The Safe Walking and Cycling Committee has a new webpage at www.hpboro.com/swacc. Yesterday, there was a fantastic kickoff meeting with representatives from the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the Borough's new consultants. The NJDOT is providing this consultation service for free to the Borough and they will be designing a bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure for the Borough. This is a grant program that the NJDOT sponsors and the Borough is very fortunate to be in the program. They met with them along with the Borough Administrator, members of the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee. The consultants will be providing a scope of work and they hope to roll out things to the public in May of this year.

Councilman Hersh reported that the Board of Health will hold its regular meeting on March 8th as they continue to work on advancing their 2018 goals, including tobacco prevention, opioid awareness and prevention, and planning for their health fair, which is set for May. He attended a meeting today in Jamesburg with the New Jersey Healthcare Quality Institute and Highland Park was named as a 2018 Healthy Town to Watch. This is the second year in a row that we received this designation. They are getting a mini grant of \$500 to go towards newly revitalized Mayor's Wellness Campaign, which is under the close watch of Dr. Cliff Lacy. The HP Gives a Hoot will hold its regular monthly meeting on March 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room in Borough Hall. The Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs will meet on March 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room in Borough Hall. He spoke yesterday at a march called No Dream Deferred: NJ Statewide Day of Action on Broward Commons at the Rutgers, New Brunswick campus. This is part of a string of statewide actions that took place at Rutgers Newark, Rutgers Camden, Rutgers New Brunswick, Westfield, Hamilton Township, and Mays Landing. March 5th was President Trump's end date for DACA, which was delayed by the Federal Courts, and as such, dreamers and allies took back the day. Dreamers are demanding a Dream Act that does not criminalize our communities and separate families. It was good to see so many people so fired up and fighting back and it was good to see so many Highland Parkers there. The Highland Park Housing Authority will hold its regular meeting on March 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the Samuel Kronman building. On March 19th at 7:30 p.m., the Commission for Universal Access will meet at Borough Hall. On Sunday, March 18th at 3:00 p.m. will be the annual Unity Celebration at the Senior/Youth Center. Last year's program featured children from the entire school community, both public and private. The celebration includes musical performances, spoken word performances, dance and more. Last year's celebration featured the premiere of the official song of Highland Park's Stand in Unity by Ray Anderson. On March 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior/Youth Center, the Human Relations Commission Book Club, the New Brunswick Area NAACP, and the Highland Park Parents of Students of Color will meet to discuss Carol Anderson's *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of our Racial Divide*. The book examines obstacles against black progress in America. They will be joined by Bill Davis, a Professor at Rutgers and branch historian for the New Brunswick Area NAACP. The book can be found at the Library, on audible or in your favorite book store. He encouraged residents to get their official Highland Park Municipal ID. You can review the application and get additional information on www.hpboro.com.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reported on the passing of Public Safety Dispatcher Karen Connors. She was employed by the Police Department for the last 18 years. She asked for a moment of silence in her memory. Highland Park will have a warming center at the Senior Center, when necessary, from 7:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. If residents need access to the warming center, they should contact the Highland Park Police Department. No children can be accepted at the warming center because the building will be staffed by volunteers. The Reformed Church of Highland Park has volunteered their facility and will be open 24 hours. After a snowfall, residents are urged to remove snow from their sidewalks so that the sidewalks can be accessed by all residents. Downtown businesses are encouraged to remove snow from all areas to make accessibility to their businesses easy for patrons.

Councilman Fine – No report.

Councilman George reported that the Department of Public Works was out all day brining and getting ready to come in as soon as the snow accumulates to the point NJDOT says they have to start plowing. They will be able to operate their new RTV tonight and into tomorrow. There is a plan to use the RTV in areas where they know they have problems with the bigger trucks. Thinks this smaller piece of equipment will allow them to expand the usage of man hours and the ability to service some areas they haven't been able to. Veterans who have trouble transporting to the VA or other treatment facilities can call the Middlesex County Veterans Service Office, which is part of the Department of Human Services, at 732-745-4051. Yesterday, the co-founder of Microsoft, Jeff Pace and his ship the SS Petrol,

discovered the resting place of the USS Lexington, which was sunk during the battle of the Coral Sea. It was sunk by the USA after it was severely damaged and unrepairable. It is the first of the major carriers that was sunk during the war, but it was instrumental in turning the course of the war in the South Coral Sea. It is a designated graveyard as of last night for the servicemen who went down with the ship.

Borough Administrator Jover noted that Borough Offices will be closed tomorrow due to the weather. The Borough has made application to the Board of Public Utilities for an energy audit of all the Borough buildings and that will kick off in the next month.

Borough Attorney Schmierer - No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler reported that the Borough's Facebook page posted a list of volunteers to shovel snow. The use of brine to pre-treat roads before a snow storm does a great job in melting the snow. She noted that there is a resolution on the consent agenda to support the Democracy Act. Senator Diegnan has introduced new legislation to give energy tax rebates to the municipalities. The money that went to the municipalities was redirected and kept by the State for quite a number of years. The Borough of Highland Park is owed over \$5 million in back energy rebates. She encouraged residents to contact their legislators to voice support for this legislation.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves.

Herb Gross, Adelaide Gardens, commented about the tragedy in Florida and other shooting tragedies. The President would like to see retired Police and Veteran's stand guard in schools. Highland Park should think about hiring these individuals.

Karen Kantor, Graham Street, invited residents that are concerned about gun violence to be part of helping solve the problem. The Brady Campaign will host a meeting on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. at Pino's.

Ruth Matilsky, South 4th Avenue, commented that the Democracy Act was sent to committee in the Senate and the Assembly and Senator James Beach, Chairman of the State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee, has decided to break the bill up into its parts and to pass each part individually. Thinks if the Borough passes resolution to support Democracy Act that it is important to say that you want the entire bill to pass, whether together or separately. She was told that the extended mail-in voting part has already passed the Senate and is on its way to the Assembly. On March 26th, the Committee is going to take up automatic voter registration at the DMV and hopefully they will act speedily enough so that this passes in time for the Primary. They are not sure about the extended in person voting and that would mean leaving polling places open for 2 weeks before an election. There are some counties that do that and the whole idea of the Democracy bill was to include that. Mayor Brill Mittler commented that given this information, she would like to get a motion to postpone the voting on 3-18-77 to the next meeting so that they can revisit the wording of the resolution and include more wording to modify it at her recommendation to endorse it in whole or in part. Ms. Matilsky provided the Mayor with some wording to amend the resolution.

Josh Haimson, South 1st Avenue, commented that delaying the vote on this resolution is counterproductive because what is going on is that some Legislators are concerned about certain costs associated with the early voting and there are costs involved. People have to staff offices and there are probably political concerns about expanding the number of people who vote. Highland Park should show strong support for all the components of the Democracy Act and especially the ones that are now somewhat in question, such as early voting, which can have a substantial, positive impact on voter participation, especially among groups who find it difficult to vote. A key issue is we want to get this bill passed in time for the 2018 voting midterms, which is a crucial election in determining the future of this country. Delaying the vote will only allow more discussion about different concerns about different components. The value of these components is already self-evident.

Melanie McDermott, 330 South 3rd Avenue, commented about the threat that is facing the Borough's public safety and local environment in the form of the emerald ash borer. She has had the opportunity to present to the Shade Tree Commission on this topic. She is looking forward to speaking to the Governing Body about this issue. She is concerned about the sequence and the timing around this issue. By the time the Borough has the time to turn their attention to this pressing issue, the funds for addressing this issue will have been allocated. In 2015, an inventory of ash trees was done in Highland Park identifying 407 ash trees. It was known at that time that the ash borer was in Middlesex County. Every single ash tree in the Borough will die. By the time the outward symptoms of the sickness of the tree become evident, it is already too brittle to be removed by normal methods. The Borough has 73 street trees for which the Borough is responsible. Many of the others fall to the County and they have been doing nothing so far, but are trying to come up with a plan. If the Borough does not remove these trees, they are a public safety hazard. If the Borough removes them before they are infested or in the first year of their infestation, it will cost approximately \$2,000. If the tree is already infested, it will cost two to three times more than that to remove. If the Borough does not act now and start on phased process of removal of the street trees, the costs will rise. She is imploring the Council to set aside some funds to start addressing the problem this year. Fortunately, the Borough has hired a forester through the Community Forestry Program, and their plan is up for renewal. Kevin Scibilia has already been hired by the Borough and he needs to work with STAC to pass a plan that will hopefully be approved by the State and Urban Community Forestry Council, upon which she now sits. She is appointed by the State Forester to this body. She has been urging the Shade Tree Commission to take advantage of the contract with their forester and have the forester front load the effort on ash trees and come up with strategy of how to address this problem. She suggested banding together with other municipalities and get the County moving and do bulk contracts that would save everyone a lot of money. The immediate opportunity for the Council is to instruct the Shade Tree Commission to report back at the next meeting with an initial strategy and to decide what trees are slated for removal this year. It is possible to

chemically treat trees, but that means it is a lifetime commitment of treatments. Councilman George noted that he has contacted the County Park Department and is meeting with other towns where County parks are located to see what plans are feasible. The Borough cannot afford the hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund this. Will need to do some work this year and phase in over the next 2-3 years.

No one else appearing to be heard, the Mayor closed the public discussion.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, with Councilman Hersh voting against, Resolution No. 3-18-77 was separated from the Consent Agenda.

The Clerk reported advertising an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DISSOLVING THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-24 AND N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-20, for consideration of passage on final reading by title and that affidavits of publication thereto are on file. She also reported that the ordinance had been posted and made available to the public, as required by law.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote, the above entitled ordinance was taken up on final reading by title.

Mayor Brill Mittler declared the public hearing on the ordinance open to all officials and persons present and called upon all those wishing to speak for or against the ordinance to do so.

No one appearing to be heard and no objections having been received in writing, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

On motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, the ordinance entitled as above, being Ordinance No. 18-1955, was duly adopted by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 3-18-73

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DISSOLVING THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-24 AND N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-20, passed on final reading at this meeting be delivered to the Mayor for his/her approval, and if approved by him/her, that the same be recorded in full by the Borough Clerk in a proper book kept for that purpose, and be advertised by publishing the same by title in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published in this municipality, in the manner prescribed by law.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman Hersh, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

No. 3-18-74

Whereas, a need has arisen to provide adequate funds for certain budget items pending adoption of the Local Municipal Budget for 2018 and NJSA 40A:4-20 provides for the making of emergency appropriations in such cases; and

Whereas, the total emergency temporary resolutions adopted in the year 2018 pursuant to the provisions of NJSA 40A:4-20 (Chapter 96, PL 1951), as amended, including this resolution, total \$7,219,420.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Highland Park (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with NJSA 40A:4-20;

1. An emergency temporary appropriation be and the same is hereby made for the budgetary appropriation herein:

DESCRIPTION	Temp Budget #2
BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION - SW	\$ 64,203
BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION - OE	\$ 9,096
MAYOR & COUNCIL - SW	\$ 11,012
MAYOR & COUNCIL - OE	\$ 3,167
MUNICIPAL CLERK - SW	\$ 51,559
MUNICIPAL CLERK - OE	\$ 8,792
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION - SW	\$ 19,519
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION - OE	\$ 58,467
ANNUAL AUDIT - OE	\$ 9,975
TAX COLLECTION - SW	\$ 22,410
TAX COLLECTION - OE	\$ 4,933
TAX ASSESSOR - SW	\$ 19,686
TAX ASSESSOR - OE	\$ 4,360
LEGAL - OE	\$ 170,000
ENGINEERING & PLANNING - OE	\$ 15,000
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEV - OE	\$ 40,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - OE	\$ 48,667

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COMMUNICATIONS - SW	\$ 30,366
COMMUNICATIONS - OE	\$ 10,967
CENTRAL SERVICES - OE	\$ 27,500
PLANNING BOARD - OE	\$ 27,500
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - S & W	\$ 9,987
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - OE	\$ 5,050
CODE ENFORCE - SW	\$ 113,068
CODE ENFORCE - OE	\$ 12,630
COUNTY HEALTH SERV - OE	\$ 14,813
ANIMAL CONTROL - OE	\$ 7,000
GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE - OE	\$ 200,000
EMPLOYEE GROUP HEALTH - OE	\$ 500,000
UNEMPLOYMENT - OE	\$ 1,667
POLICE - SW	\$ 1,168,326
POLICE - OE	\$ 67,850
POLICE DISPATCH - SW	\$ 79,623
POLICE DISPATCH - OE	\$ 833
POLICE EMERG MGT - OE	\$ 1,706
FIRST AID CONTRIB - OE	\$ 6,825
FIRE - SW	\$ 73,071
FIRE - OE	\$ 26,172
MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR - SW	\$ 5,666
MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR - OE	\$ 12,167
MUNICIPAL COURT - SW	\$ 70,170
MUNICIPAL COURT - OE	\$ 5,000
PUBLIC DEFENDER - SW	\$ 1,575
PUBLIC DEFENDER - OE	\$ 3,000
PUBLIC WORKS - ROADS - SW	\$ 367,508
PUBLIC WORKS - ROADS - OE	\$ 37,233
PUBLIC BUILDING & GROUNDS - SW	\$ 14,706
PUBLIC BUILDING & GROUNDS - OE	\$ 37,608
MOTOR POOL - SW	\$ 25,071
MOTOR POOL - OE	\$ 51,333
MCIA - RECYCLING - OE	\$ 3,000
COMM SERV - RECREATION - SW	\$ 23,375
COMM SERV - RECREATION - OE	\$ 5,667
COMM SERV - AGING - SW	\$ 76,756
COMM SERV - AGING - OE	\$ 7,283
TEEN CENTER - SW	\$ 5,250
LIBRARY - SW	\$ 223,105
LIBRARY - OE	\$ 101,069
HUMAN RELATIONS COMM - OE	\$ 1,200
IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE COMM - OE	\$ 788
BOARD OF HEALTH - OE	\$ 341
ARTS COMMISSION - OE	\$ 2,500
ENVIRONMENTAL COMM - OE	\$ 289
SUSTAINABLE HIGHLAND PARK - OE	\$ 302
SHADE TREE - OE	\$ 131
SAFE WALKING & CYCLING - OE	\$ 788
CABLE - OE	\$ 2,231
ELECTRICITY - OE	\$ 35,000
STREET LIGHTING - OE	\$ 63,333
TELEPHONE - OE	\$ 21,567
FUEL OIL/GASOLINE/NATURAL GAS - OE	\$ 36,000
SANITARY LANDFILL - OE	\$ 88,333
PERS - OE	\$ 479,828
PFRS - OE	\$ 780,028
SOCIAL SECURITY - OE	\$ 95,539
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND - OE	\$ 250,000
BOND PRINCIPAL - OE	\$ 525,000
DBIZ LOAN PRINCIPAL - OE	\$ 33,334
BOND INTEREST - OE	\$ 263,369
BAN INTEREST - OE	\$ 102,672
BAN PRINCIPAL - OE	\$ 112,000
MCIA - LEASE/LOAN AGREEMENT - OE	\$ 302,506
TOTAL	\$ 7,219,420

2. Said emergency temporary appropriations will be provided for in the 2018 budget under the various captions listed herein.
3. A certified copy of this Resolution will be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim, Chohan, Welkovits.
 Opposed: None.
 Abstain: None.
 Absent: None.

No. 3-18-75

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that transfers of 2017 budget appropriation balances shall be made as follows:

Description	From	To
Administration OE		115.00
Legal		460.00
Central Services OE		75.00
Motorpool OE		11,500.00
Finance OE	395.00	
Audit	685.00	
Tax Collector OE	2,500.00	
Human Rights Commission OE	870.00	
Construction Code OE	500.00	
Police Dispatch OE	1,000.00	
Building & Grounds OE	900.00	
Animal Control Services	2,000.00	
Dept on Aging OE	400.00	
Arts Commission	700.00	
Cable	300.00	
Telephones	1,900.00	
	12,150.00	12,150.00

Resolution Nos. 3-18-76 through 3-18-81, except 3-18-77, were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Hersh, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.
 Opposed: None.
 Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:

No. 3-18-76

WHEREAS, taxes on gas and electric utilities were originally collected by the host municipalities, and when the State made itself the collection agent for these taxes, it promised to dedicate the proceeds to municipal property tax relief; and

WHEREAS, just as municipalities collect property taxes for the benefit of school districts, counties and other entities; the State is supposed to collect Energy Taxes for the benefit of municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, for years, though, State officials have diverted funding from Energy Taxes to plug holes in the State budget and to fund State programs; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of underfunding has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these cuts, in a number of municipalities property taxes are higher now, despite the fact that they are spending less, proving that the State's diversion of tax relief funding has contributed to higher municipal property taxes; and

WHEREAS, S-1881, sponsored by Senator Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., would change the manner in which energy tax receipts are distributed to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the bill would require certain energy tax receipts to be paid directly to municipalities and, thereby, would assure local property taxpayers compensation for hosting transmission facilities and lines that allow gas and electric energy corporations to serve customers and conduct business in our Garden State; and

WHEREAS, the time has come to restore to local budgets the millions in property tax relief that have been annually diverted to meet State needs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Highland Park salutes the sponsor for listening to the Mayors in their districts and all around New Jersey and for advancing this legislation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we enthusiastically support and urge our State Legislators to pass S-1881;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the following; Governor Phil Murphy, and all members of the New Jersey State Legislature, and to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 3-18-78

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of Highland Park of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to sign the contract agreement with Garden State

Fireworks for the Fireworks Display to be held on Sunday, July 1, 2018 with a rain date of Monday, July 2, 2018.

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 3-18-79

WHEREAS, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq.* as amended from time to time (the “Redevelopment Law”) authorizes municipalities to determine whether certain parcels of land in the municipality should be studied for the purpose of implementing a redevelopment plan for said parcel; and

WHEREAS, a parcel of land located on River Road and designated as Block 183, Lot 24 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Highland Park may qualify for the preparation of a redevelopment plan; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council wishes to engage the Borough Planner, Jim Constantine, and LRK, Inc. to undertake and complete a redevelopment study for the purpose of preparing a plan for said parcel; and

WHEREAS, a component of said redevelopment plan will involve neighborhood meetings, community open-house workshops, public presentations and public hearings before both the Borough Council and the Highland Park Planning Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Highland Park be and the same is hereby authorized to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with LRK, Inc., Public Ledger Building, Suite 756, 150 South Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106, for a sum not to exceed \$35,000 including the cost for preparing and printing exhibits and reports. Funds for this purpose shall made available upon adoption of the 2018 Municipal Budget. The Agreement authorized by this Resolution is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

This Agreement is entered into without competitive bidding as a Professional Services Agreement under the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i)*. Said Agreement qualifies as a Professional Services Agreement since the services to be rendered are being rendered by a licensed professional planner whose practice is regulated by law.

The following resolution, introduced by the Recreation and Arts Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 3-18-80

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Section 3 of Resolution 1-18-18, adopted by the Borough Council on January 2, 2018, shall be amended by adding/changing the following fees:

Description Programs	Program Fees		Participant Fees	
	HP	Non-resident	HP	Non-resident
Late Fees	\$15.00	\$15.00		
Mens Basketball	\$30.00	\$40.00		(10 sessions)
Flag Football	\$95.00	\$120.00		
Adult Indoor Soccer	\$30.00	\$50.00		(10 sessions)
Adult Soccer on the turf	\$ 30.00	\$40.00		(10 sessions)
Soccer Clinics	\$50.00	\$70.00		(5 sessions)
Fall Soccer	\$75.00	\$90.00		
Youth Basketball	\$75.00	\$90.00		
Youth Baseball and Softball	\$75.00	\$90.00		
Mens Softball (per team)	\$300.00	\$300.00		
Womens Softball (per team)	\$300.00	\$300.00		
Tennis	\$80.00	\$96.00		(8 sessions)
Youth Track and Field	\$60.00	\$80.00		(8 sessions)
Volleyball - Adult	\$30.00	\$40.00		(10 sessions)
Israeli Dance	\$80.00	\$100.00		(10 sessions)
Fitness For All	\$80.00	\$100.00		(10 sessions)
Tai Chi	\$80.00	\$100.00		(10 sessions)
Adult Class 2X per week	\$130	\$160		(20 sessions)
Misc Programs				
Summer Camp	\$200.00	\$250.00		(per week)
beforecare	\$15.00	\$20.00		
aftercare	\$50.00	\$60.00		
Table Tennis	\$40.00	\$48.00		(4 sessions)
Theater	\$125.00	\$150.00		
Chess	\$80.00	\$95.00		(8 sessions)
Art Class	\$30.00	\$36.00		(5 sessions)
Juggling Club	\$30.00	\$36.00		(5 sessions)
Engineering	\$60.00	\$80.00		(6 sessions)
Sports Sponsors		\$300	Supports a team in 1 sport	
		\$600	Supports teams in 3 sports	
Vendor Fees		\$150	Food Vendor	

\$100 Small Merchandise Vendor
\$150 Large Merchandise Vendor
\$50 Any Highland Park Business

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Director, Recreation Program Coordinator and Director of Community Services forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 3-18-81

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.

The bills approved for payment at this meeting, Bills List 3/6/2018 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 37.

The Council opened the discussion on Resolution No. 3-18-77 regarding the Democracy Act. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin commented that because of the importance of Democracy Act she strongly recommended that they adopt the resolution as proposed and make amendments to the resolution at a later time. Councilman Fine agreed with Councilwoman Foster-Dublin that time is of the essence and they should vote on the resolution as is to support the Democracy Act. Councilwoman Welkovits commented that it seems they are trying to dilute the act by splitting it up and thinks these are important issues and would like to vote on it tonight. Councilman Hersh concurred with his fellow Council Members and that is why he voted not to pull it from the consent agenda. He feels they need to get this through and make a statement. Councilman George commented that Highland Park needs to join the other States and municipalities in enacting the Democracy Act. He has some reservations as to how they think they can finance keeping offices manned in municipalities, he thinks they need to expedite it and send a message.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Fine, Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Kim-Chohan.

No. 3-18-77

WHEREAS, New Jersey has a low rate of voter participation, particularly in off-year elections. In 2014, only 33 percent of eligible New Jersey voters voted, ranking New Jersey 41st among the 50 states in terms of voter participation; and

WHEREAS, increasing voter participation is critical for the health of our democracy. New Jersey can and should do better in helping its citizens exercise their right to vote; and

WHEREAS, by increasing voter participation, New Jersey could serve as a model for other states, many of which have been making voting more difficult; and

WHEREAS, voters can often find it difficult to get to the polls on Election Day, if they work long hours or have family responsibilities. Allowing opportunities for in-person early voting in the weeks leading up to the election can increase the likelihood that these potential voters cast their ballots. In-person early voting is currently in place in more than 20 states; and

WHEREAS, making it easier to register to vote is an important tool for increasing voter participation. Automatic registration through the Motor Vehicle Commission, a reform currently in place in 9 states, can substantially increase the proportion of eligible voters who are registered. It can also help keep voter rolls accurate and up to date; and

WHEREAS, 37 states currently allow for online voter registration. New Jersey is not one of them. Online registration is a simple and straightforward reform that could make registering to vote much easier in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Democracy Act was previously approved by the NJ legislature in 2015. Although it was vetoed by Governor Christie, there is widespread support for the Act; and

WHEREAS, by approving the Act soon, the state legislature could make sure that many more voters participate in elections, starting with the important 2018 mid-term election. Additionally, voting would become more accessible for those with disabilities and those who do not speak English; and

WHEREAS, we also urge the legislature to add a provision to the Democracy Act that would allow for same-day registration, where voters can register when they come to vote. This policy is in place in 15 states and has been shown to have a substantial positive effect on voter participation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that we urge the NJ legislature to approve the Democracy Act soon so that it can be implemented in time for the election in fall 2018. We want to be sure that New Jersey residents can have their voices heard in this and other important elections.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, our State Legislators, League of Municipalities and surrounding municipalities including New Brunswick, East Brunswick, North Brunswick, Piscataway, Metuchen, Franklin Township and Forward Not Back, Central Jersey.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves.

No one appearing to be heard, the Mayor closed the public discussion.

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 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings
Borough Clerk