

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
MAYOR & COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018

MINUTES

1. Council President George called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and 7:45 p.m.
2. PRESENT: Council; Borough Attorney; Borough Administrator; Deputy Borough Clerk.

NOTE: Upcoming Meeting schedule:

May 8, 2018	Standing Committee Meetings; Special Meeting if needed. Council Committee Reports 6:00 PM; Agenda Meeting 6:30 PM; Regular Meeting 7:00 PM; Conference Meeting to follow.
May 15, 2018	

3. Agenda Discussion.
4. Public Discussion (15 minutes). - None
5. Memorial or Commendatory Resolutions or Presentations scheduled as indicated: - None
6. Ordinances on 1st Reading –scheduled for introduction 5/15/2018: - None
7. Ordinances on 2nd Reading – scheduled for 5/15/2018:
 - a. Ordinance to Amend Water and Sewer Ordinance
 - b. Ordinance to Provide for a Surcharge for Metered Water Usage
8. Resolutions for Next Meeting - scheduled for 5/15/2018:
 - a. Bills List (5/15/2018)
 - a. Adoption of Budget
 - b. Fireworks Resolution
 - c.
9. Appointments. - None
10. Borough Attorney's Report. - None
11. Borough Administrator's Report. - None
12. Standing Committee Status Report. - None
13. Discussion Items.
 - a. Independence Day Fireworks Celebration – New Dates – July 2 (raindate July 3)
Borough Administrator Jover said this was listed to ensure everyone was aware of the new dates and this was being done in conjunction with New Brunswick.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan indicated that on the day of the fireworks display they were looking into a sprinkler fest as an idea, mid-day for children and would ask Middlesex County water to sponsor the activity. She said she would get more information to the Borough Administrator.

b. ADA Compliance for 212 Raritan Avenue (TJ)

Borough Administrator Jover indicated that she spoke to the Borough Attorney who looked into the ADA Compliance further and the way that the building is used, no public meetings no public access and has had conversations with Rebecca Hersh and she understands, she will put signs up. There was really only one organization using the building and they will not be having meeting there and are in the process of moving their things to Borough Hall. She said that she would join Matt Hersh in a conversation with Universal Access regarding this and also let them know that we will have an automatic door at the teen center.

c. Solar Field (TJ)

Borough Administrator Jover said that there was an on-site meeting that went really well, she had conversation and went over the key points, closure and post-closure plan which PSE&G is drafting the information on our behalf, our Borough Engineer will review. She said that it was pretty minimal with our ongoing responsibilities with the exception of having to survey the premises to ensure no dumping has occurred etc. PSE&G is suppose to be sending that to us for approval, once she is in receipt of that to share a resolution will be needed to submit that closure and post closure plan after endorsement from the Borough Engineer. For the large area we are not going to touch they have requested that we put some additional plantings or some additional screening, we also have the monies from PSE&G for trees that they removed as apart of the project so we will have the money to do the plantings. She said that the

Borough will have to come up with the money to do the removal, she spoke to the Bond Counsel to see what our options would be and we could reallocate monies without taking on new debt, we will need an RFP and it is estimated that it will be between \$30-50 thousand to do the clean-up. The Mayor has been speaking with State representatives for grants but we will not have the luxury of waiting for those grants, we will have to spend the money and hopefully we could then repay it with grant monies. She reminded everyone that the Borough would be getting rents based on the kilowatts which could be pretty sizable for this installation so within 2-3 years we will have paid back that money. So in the near future we will be having a resolution and a Capital Ordinance to reallocate the monies for the clean-up.

Council President George said that he spoke to the Native Plant volunteers, the the trail volunteers plan on putting in a second entrance into the Meadows around so they want to coordinate so they know where the fencing is ultimately going to be and on the planting they have the list of deer resistant plantings and a planting plan and maybe able to roll in with the National Trails grant because it is the same area. He suggested the Borough Administrator check in with Steve Barns and Mary Denver.

d. Bike Lane (SW)

Councilwoman Welkoviits indicated last weekend the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee created another pop-up bike lane, this time a contra bike lane on Walter Ave, in anticipation of the traffic to and from our Earth Day celebration at the Environmental Center. A pop-up lane is inexpensive and spray painted quickly. Walter is one way to cars but two ways to bikes. The neighbors immediately felt the traffic calming effects and the bicyclists were thrilled.

Councilwoman Welkoviits indicated that she thought that the Borough Engineer sent something to the NJDOT regarding the bike path. The Engineer plans to be at the Street Fair this weekend.

e. New Park Gym (JF)

Councilman Fine said that they had a Finance Standing Committee meeting last week and they want to recommend to the Borough Council a circuit gym at the Teen center location and if we decide to move forward with it it should not add any new cost.

Borough Administrator Jover said in speaking with the Bond Counsel if there is unspent capital monies it can be reallocated but will not be taking new debt on it.

Councilman Fine said that if timing is an issue, and we were all onboard it does not have to be done this year.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin said that the teen center project was scaled back a lot due to budget constraints and the consideration was for Donaldson park and it was shared that was a flood zone, then the high school was looked at near the tot lot which is a prime piece of real estate and is used by a lot of families and believed you would get a lot of resistance. She said that there were other things that were being looked at but there is only so much space. She said that they were going to speak to our entities such as Robertwood Fitness to help fund some of the project.

Borough Administrator Jover said that she would get the plans to show how much space is available for a proposed outside gym.

Councilman Hersh said that he would reach out to John Carroll at the County, they have indicated in the past that they would monies if it were the right project.

14. Council Goals (5 minutes each).

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan said that she reviewed the last three years of audits and there are the same comments in every audit and asked why these have not been corrected.

Administrator Jover said that she would have Rob Gardner attend the next Finance Committee to explain, she believes those comments are common in a small town with staffing limitations.

Councilman George said that the parking utilization study is done and will be going out to the members and they will reconvene when they review everything. He said that he was going to refer the deer population issue to Sustainable Highland Park and they will come back with a recommendation because it is becoming very dense. To be scheduled for a conference agenda in the near future.

Councilman Fine said that the Governor signed the SALT deduction bill on Friday and asked how the Borough can get that started if we wanted to make that a policy, he said that he would be bringing this to the Finance Committee. Borough Attorney Schmierer said that the League of Municipalities is working on a package for towns and suggested connecting the League of Municipalities Mike Cerra on Monday.

15. Old Business. - None

16. Executive Session Resolution.
Possible Executive Session Items: Volunteer Organizations (EFD) – NEVER WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION – Should these be closed session anyway!

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin indicated that there was an opioid overdose on South 1st Avenue, an unknown vehicle parked on South 1st Avenue and a someone called in regarding a susicious person and it was found to be an overdose who was transported to the hospital.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin said regarding the First Aid Squad response time has dropped and said that it was being looked into to have Robertwood Johnson to run daytime services and have the the First Aid Squad run calls from 8pm-6am, and Robertwood Johnson would cover the rest of the time and the First Aid Squad is comfortable with this arrangement.

Administator Jover asked the Borough Attorney to look into whether or not this is something that would need to bid or RFP be required. Robertwood Johnson would come to a Council meeting to present to help make a decision and asked to keep the agenda light for May 15 and that she would reach out to make the arrangements.

17. Meeting Adjourned.

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 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Santiago
Deputy Clerk