

MAYOR AND COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING:

Presentation on Flooding Vulnerability

October 7, 2024 at 6:00pm

Henry Hudson Regional High School, 1 Grand Tour, Highlands, NJ 07732

This Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highlands is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. The notice requirements provided for in the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given by transmission to the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times, and by posting at the Borough of Highlands Municipal Building and website and filing with the Borough Clerk all on September 20, 2024.

This agenda is complete to the extent known; no formal action will be taken at this Meeting. Council may limit repetitive comments and may limit the time or number of questions or comments from any one citizen to ensure an orderly meeting and allow adequate time for members of the public to be heard.

This Special Meeting of the Borough of Highlands is called to give residents and individuals the opportunity to learn more about the Borough's current and future vulnerability to flooding, as well as how projects proposed by the Borough, State, and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) can help reduce this vulnerability. This presentation is intended to provide additional information and context to residents who may cast their vote on the non-binding ballot question regarding the USACE Floodwall Project, that will appear on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot:

"Should the Borough of Highlands accept the large-scale Federal floodwall project as presented at the May 14, 2024 Public Meeting, which includes the possible exercise of eminent domain to take private property, with an initial estimated cost to the taxpayers of at least \$13 million dollars, in addition to annual funding paid by taxpayers for maintenance estimated to be at least \$452,000 per year?"

USACE and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are prepared to design and construct this project, which is intended to reduce storm surge and damage to the Borough of Highlands during major storm events. The project will consist of a reinforced concrete floodwall along the shoreline and improve stormwater drainage in certain locations. A recent study by USACE has shown that the Borough would benefit from the proposed project by reducing damages to property, businesses, and infrastructure caused by storm surge and flooding from the bay.

In attendance will be the NJDEP, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Highlands' Professionals, and the Highlands Borough Council.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Presentation on Flooding Vulnerability
- 4. Discussion on Non-Binding Ballot Question regarding the Federal Floodwall Project

- 5. Public Comments
- 6. Adjournment

Items on the agenda are subject to change. Please check our website, www.highlandsnj.gov for more up to date meeting information.

Nancy Tran Municipal Clerk