

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF HIGHLAND HISTORICAL COMMISSION
LOUIS LATZER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 1001 9TH STREET, HIGHLAND, IL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026
6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

Officers:	Present	Absent
Jacob W. Rose – Chairperson	X	
Jeff Menz – Secretary	X	
Sara Knobloch	X	
Joe Garson	X	
Vacant Seat		

MINUTES:

Motion – Approve Minutes of the October 28, 2025 Historical Commission Meeting.
Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Anyone with anything to address the Historical Commission may do so at this time.

- No visitors.

REPORTS:

1) Historic Properties Reports

- Latzer Homestead –
 - Wood rot found and replaced.
 - All painting and staining completed except for window sills.
 - DeAnna Dobbs is the new caretaker. She will move in at the end of March 2026.
 - The Homestead is hosting a 250th USA birthday celebration in September. Karen Barker is coordinating.
 - They are looking to increase the number of rentals at the Homestead.
 - There are 4 new members of the Historical Society.
 - The boiler went out in the Homestead and will be replaced in April .
- Kaeser Park –
 - HVAC is replaced.
 - Painting is scheduled for the Spring of 2026.
 - Maintenance work is scheduled for the east side of the barn and the house trim.
- City Hall Belfrey (previously referred to as the bell tower) –
 - Members of the Heffron family will replace the finial.

2) Highland Historic Commission Guidelines Manual and Preservation Plan

- No discussion.

3) Landmarks Committee (A Highland Historical Society Committee) (Commission Auxiliary)

- Digital Archive Website
 - Scanning continues at the Latzer Library. Karen Mason found more historic photos.

- Mexican-American War Cannon
 - The grant application deadline is April 2026. That money would be used to move the cannonballs to the cannon.
- Historical Structures Program / Historical Tours
 - Beth McReynolds is working on a Belfrey fact sheet and will place it on the Historical Society website.
 - Karen Barker is looking for a bus or trolley service to operate during future tours.
 - Karen Barker and Sharon Hargus are working on details for future tours.
 - The Prohibition tour is postponed to work out details.
 - There is interest in setting up tours for residential properties.

4) Historic Building Inventory.

- No progress.

5) First Designated Project

- Convince Highland to be a “Certified Local Government”
 - This would allow access to grants for historic preservations, speakers, and surveys.
 - Registration of the City Cemetery allows access to grants that would aid with maintenance expenses.
 - What other benefits are available? Who else in the region has Historical Preservation?

OLD BUSINESS:

- The photo survey of the old primary school building led to the discussion of photo-documenting other locally historic structures in town including the Chapel at the City Cemetery, The Latzer Library, The Belfry, and several others. Tentative schedule:

Latzer Library – Jacob and Jeff, date to be determined. Intended to fill in the blanks of a previous photo survey. Submit photos for State evaluation.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The property at 1017 Main Street (most recently DBA Chipper’s Bar) is scheduled for demolition. Jeff took photos of the exterior before demolition. The site will be an expansion of the parking lot cattycorner from the Weinheimer building.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

Motion carried by voice vote.

Adjournment made at 7:24pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 6:30pm at Louis Latzer Public Library, downstairs small meeting room. Anyone requiring accommodations, provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to attend this public meeting, please contact Jackie Heimburger, ADA Coordinator (618-654-7115).