

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025**

Mayor Kevin Hemann called the Regular Session to order at 6:30pm. Council members Klaus, Sloan, Bellm and Napper were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Conrad, City Attorney Kathryn Warren, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Hubbard, Koehnemann, and Widman, Deputy City Clerk Flake, City Clerk Bellm, and 74 citizens.

MINUTES

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2025 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

SWEARING IN

Mayor Hemann administered the official oath to Deputy Chief Scott Athmer.

Mayor Hemann administered the official oath to Sergeant Mark McKinney.

MAYORAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Hemann recognized the Highland High School Varsity Cheer Team, which competed at the ICCA State Championships on January 14, 2025. The Cheer Team came away with a State Championship in the Medium Division. This makes the fifth ICCA Championship Team, in a row, for Highland. Tess Chilbec and Kamy Schrage coached the team. Coach Chilbec introduced the 2025 cheer team and added that there was only one missing. Mayor Hemann stated I had three daughters that competed in HHS Cheer over a ten-year period, and between them, they had ten championships. I know the work that goes into it and I want you to know you are carrying on a long tradition. He noted we will let you know when IDOT establishes a location for the sign.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Veterans Day Parade – Special Event Application – Kenny Kapp, Representative, along with Lenny Gall and John Kapp were present representing Moose Lodge #2479. Lenny Gall stated the Highland Moose Lodge is requesting permission for the annual Veterans' Day Parade on Sunday, November 9, 2025. The event is a joint effort with V.F.W. Post #5694 and American Legion Post #439. The parade will start at 1:00pm, beginning at the intersection of Olive Street and Main Street, then proceeding west on Main Street to the Square. A brief ceremony will follow the parade at the Square, with all area veterans welcomed. The parade is sponsored by Moose Lodge #2479. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Moose Lodge #2479 request to sponsor the Veterans' Day Parade and for use of the Square on Sunday, November 9, 2025 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

John Kapp reported we had the great Kirchenfest, last weekend. A new record profit was set again this year. The weather was beautiful. The Homestead Show is this coming weekend.

Requests of Council:

City Clerk Bellm read a card sent to the council from Metro East Humane Society: ‘Thank You So Much for manufacturing and installing the new Metro East Humane Society signs in Highland. Being on a side street makes exposure a challenge. Peg Bellm Carnley and all of you are just wonderful! Thanks again for making this happen and giving the pups and cats a better chance of getting adopted.’

Staff Reports:

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Approving Mayor’s Appointment of Dean Korte to the Library Board of Trustees –
Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the mayor’s appointment of Dean Korte to the Library Board of Trustees, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Amy Kloss, to serve the remainder of the term to June 30, 2027 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid # PW-10-25, for Spillway Improvement 2025 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bid # PW-10-25, for Spillway Improvement 2025, to Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., of Highland, Illinois, in the amount of \$155,509.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #25-94/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement with Oates Associates, Inc. for a Shared Use Path School Connector, PW-12-15 – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #25-94/Resolution #25-09-3217 approving and authorizing the execution of a preliminary engineering services agreement with Oates Associates, Inc. for a Shared Use Path School Connector, PW-12-15, in the amount of \$405,537.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Chris Conrad pointed out this is all part of the grant received a few months ago. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #25-95/RESOLUTION Waiving Competitive Bidding Requirement and Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Purchase Order to Jansen Ford of Breese, LLC to Purchase a 2025 Ford Ranger Through the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program as a Sole Source Purchase –
Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #25-95/Resolution #25-09-3218 waiving competitive bidding requirement and approving and authorizing the execution of a purchase order to Jansen Ford of Breese, LLC to purchase a 2025 Ford Ranger through the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program as a Sole Source Purchase, in the amount of \$34,545.00, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #25-96/ORDINANCE Declaring Real Property of the City of Highland Surplus and Authorizing Its Sale Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-1 and 65 ILCS 5/11-76-2, Specifically Silver Lake North Dam Property, City of Highland, Madison County, Illinois, Parcel No. 02-1-18-08-00-000-025 –
Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #25-96/Ordinance #3401 declaring real property of the City of Highland surplus and authorizing its sale pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-1 and 65 ILCS 5/11-76-2, specifically Silver Lake North Dam Property, City of Highland, Madison County, Illinois, Parcel No. 02-1-18-08-00-000-025 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Councilwoman Sloan

asked City Manager Conrad to explain this. City Manager Conrad reported this to take a big swing with the problems we have with ground washing into the lake. This property will be part of a catch basin that one of the landowners will be constructing. All of the property must be under one ownership for the 319 Grant. This is a very big swing at the problem. We are very grateful for Mr. Urban for working on this. Mayor Hemann inquired by declaring it surplus others could come in to purchase it. City Manager Conrad noted this property is very specific in location. There will be ingress and egress easements for maintenance. Additionally, it could revert to the city under certain conditions of the sales agreement. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1297 for August 16, 2025 through August 29, 2025 –
Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1297 for August 16, 2025 through August 29, 2025 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk