

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025**

Mayor Hemann called the Special Session to order at 6:55pm at Highland City Hall. Council members Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Conrad, City Attorney Kathryn Warren, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Ohren, and Widman, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Treasurer Nicolaides, City Clerk Bellm, and 11 citizens.

MINUTES

Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2025 Regular Session as attached; 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 approve the minutes of the November 17, 2025 Executive Session as attached; seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Highland Jaycees BBQ during Cookie Crumble – Special Event Application – Jon Meadows requested permission for the Jaycees to do a BBQ fundraiser on Saturday, December 6, 2025, in conjunction with the Highland Chamber of Commerce Cookie Crumble, from 10am -2pm. We would like to be setup on the corner of Main Street and Laurel Street, across from Wild Growth Gaming. We are requesting four designated parking spaces be blocked off for the grill, supplies, and to serve food. We will also need electric hookup. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the Highland Jaycees' request to hold a BBQ on Saturday, December 6, 2025, in conjunction with the Cookie Crumble as requested. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Councilwoman Bellm asked Director Cook if getting power was going to be okay. Director Cook stated they had discussed with staff and they will setup the temporary power box poles. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Sally Rehberger and John Hester came forward to speak. Ms. Rehberger stated we have an idea of how to improve things on Veterans' Honor Parkway. I was involved in a car wreck coming off Trestle Road. I looked both ways. I saw a truck coming the one direction. I did not see the car behind the truck. My daughter lives off Trestle Road. It seems that intersection is so close to the overpass. Then there is the speed of traffic at that point. We are asking to have a four-way stop at the intersection of Trestle Road and Veterans' Honor Parkway. Mr. Hester stated he was coming in from Trestle. Looked both ways before pulling out. He stated I did everything I was supposed to. Mayor Kevin Hemann stated we will refer this to staff, look to see records of any other accidents at this intersection and get recommendations. City Manager Conrad noted it was not an ideal location for traffic to stop on Veterans' Honor Parkway, because it was so close to the overpass. Traffic on that roadway would not see the stop sign intersection approaching when headed south.

Requests of Council:

Councilwoman Bellm and Councilwoman Sloan expressed their gratitude to the street crews for the great job clearing the roadways this past week.

Staff Reports:

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Transfer of Graves in Cemetery From Patti Brown to Marilyn Sumner, Otto Sumner and Scott Sumner – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve transfer of Grave Spaces #3 & #4, in Lot #61, of Block #12 in Highland City Cemetery from Patti Brown to Marilyn Sumner, Otto Sumner and Scott Sumner as attached. Seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #25-127/RESOLUTION Making Separate Statement of Findings of Fact in Connection With Ordinance Granting Special Use Permit for Two (2) Short-Term Rental Units Within the C-2 Zoning District at 823 Main Street, PIN # 01-2-24-05-06-104-019, Highland, Illinois 62249 – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #25-127/RESOLUTION #25-12-3236 making separate statement of findings of fact in connection with Ordinance granting special use permit for two (2) short-term rental units within the C-2 Zoning District at 823 Main Street, PIN # 01-2-24-05-06-104-019, Highland, Illinois 62249 as attached. Seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #25-128/ORDINANCE Granting a Special Use Permit to Dylan Richter, For Two (2) Short-Term Rental Units Within the C-2 Zoning District at 823 Main Street, PIN # 01-2-24-05-06-104-019, Highland, Illinois 62249 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #25-128/ORDINANCE #3415 granting a special use permit to Dylan Richter, for two (2) short-term rental units within the C-2 Zoning District at 823 Main Street, PIN # 01-2-24-05-06-104-019, Highland, Illinois 62249 as attached. Seconded by Councilman Napper. Councilwoman Sloan asked for clarification on the memo regarding special conditions. City Manager Conrad explained CPZ (Combined Planning & Zoning Board) wanted to insure there would be dedicated parking in back. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #25-129/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing its Sale and/or Disposal, Including a Mini Excavator and a Backhoe Loader – Councilman Napper made a motion to approve Bill #25-129/ORDINANCE #3416 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, including a mini excavator and a backhoe loader as attached. Seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #25-130/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Joint Funding Agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation for Preliminary Engineering – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #25-130/RESOLUTION #25-12-3237 approving and authorizing the execution of a joint funding agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation for preliminary engineering as attached. Seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #25-131/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Services Agreement with Metro East Humane Society and Metro East Friends of Ferals for Trap, Neuter, and Return Project – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #25-131/RESOLUTION #25-12-3238 approving and authorizing the execution of a services agreement with Metro East Humane Society and Metro East Friends of Ferals for trap, neuter, and return project as attached. Seconded by Councilman Klaus. City Manager Chris Conrad reported that Director Schmitt lives in the northwest part of the county and is unable to make it this evening due to the weather. She sent in some literature explaining the program. Copies were made for the council and there are additional copies here if anyone would like one. This program is at no cost to the city. They will coordinate the catch and release with city staff. Councilman Napper inquired they will neuter the cat but then return them to the same spot. City Manager Conrad replied yes, evidently, the cats are territorial. Mayor Hemann noted ferals are a common problem for communities of our size. City Manager Conrad pointed out this organization is licensed to do this. Councilwoman Bellm inquired, obviously, they check to see if the cat is microchipped first. City Manager Conrad replied yes. Councilwoman Sloan pointed out that while the cats are returned, they are not breeding anymore. City Manager Conrad noted the cats are also vaccinated before returned. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #25-132/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing the Acceptance of a Proposal from First Collinsville Bank of Highland for Local Lending to Purchase a New Ambulance and Auto Load Stretchers - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #25-132/RESOLUTION #25-12-3239 approving and authorizing the acceptance of a proposal from First Collinsville Bank of Highland for local lending to purchase a new ambulance and auto load stretchers as attached. Seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad reported the total purchase cost is \$315,000 with lending proposal of \$250,000. There is not a penalty for early payoff. The department budgeted for the auto load stretchers this year, and was budgeting for a new ambulance for the next year. Another community backed out of the purchase of this demo unit ambulance. This is a rare opportunity, because it will not have the long lead-time of the build of a new unit. Director Widman noted that the lead-time is typically around 720 days. City Manager Conrad noted they will take our unit in trade and reutilize the box. Mayor Hemann stated he saw the demonstration of the auto load stretchers. They will make things much safer for EMS staff. City Manager Conrad noted the new ambulance box height will allow staff to stand upright and includes a safety harness system. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1303 for November 15, 2025 through November 28, 2025 – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1303 for November 15, 2025 through November 28, 2025 as attached. 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. Seconded by Councilman Napper. All aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk