

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026**

Mayor Hemann called the Regular Session to order at 6:30pm at Highland City Hall. Council members Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Conrad, City Attorney Trent Carriger, Directors Gillespie, Hubbard, Koehnemann, and Wilken, Supervisor Pugh, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Clerk Bellm, and 35 citizens.

MINUTES

Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2026 Regular Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Presentation by Oates and Associates – Master Trail Plan - Jody Shaw, of Oates and Associates, explained we are working on the Master Trail Plan for the City of Highland. We are looking to go over where you want the city to go next. Where do you think the priority should be? The goal of the Master Trail Plan is to create more places for people to walk and bike to. We started this about a year ago. It is important to know it is funded completely by partners of the Metro East Parks District. We have been able to do this plan at no cost to you. Currently under design is the school-to-school connector trail, to connect the existing elementary to the new primary school, going by the VFW Hall. It has been funded by a three million dollar grant. One of the biggest things from the community survey has been getting kids safely to school. We had 879 responses to the survey sent out last year. So, Highland is not afraid to tell us what they think. Question #11, we asked people what location or roadway they feel is unsafe for pedestrians to cross. The number one answer was Illinois 143 between Walmart and Walgreen's. Places you would visit more if could get there? Number one was Silver Lake Park, followed by Glik Park. Places to get to by foot would be the Square, Korte Rec Center, and Northtown Shopping Center and followed by no specific destination. People just want to walk for recreation or exercise.

Ms. Shaw explained, on the map, the large arrows represent connections that are missing in your current system that are the highest priority for the city. That is based on the community feedback. All the parks are in green. Most notable are the trails that go around the city. Highland has the most city-owned bike trails in the metro east. Yes, that is more than Edwardsville. Madison County Transit owns those. The black dotted line is a connection from Gilk Park to Silver Lake Park, which the city has begun on already. A shared use path and bike trail are kind of interchangeable, but is basically a ten-foot wide sidewalk that you can either walk or bike on. It would be from Glik Park on the south, then travel along a maintenance road the city has, across Koepfli Lane, and then over to Cally Lane to Silver Lake Park. This involves talks with KC Hall and different developments north of Walmart. These are great opportunities when you have new developers coming in to talk. The second one, is already moving forward also, and is what we call Broadway East. So, from Poplar Street/Broadway Roundabout going east and goes all the way to Veterans Honor Parkway Roundabout. The city has submitted a grant application for this one. It would entail taking a portion of Broadway and the bike lane on the north now, and it would bring the curbs

in, to make room for those 10-foot wide sidewalks on the north side of Broadway, which would take you to Kaeser Park and across the creek to Swallow Lane. That is the first phase of that project. Eventually, the city would work to get it all the way to Veterans' Honor Parkway roundabout.

What we are doing here tonight is to figure out where we are going to go next. I have three options up here. Broadway West is in light blue on the map. That would connect to the MCT park-and-ride lot out there by Hemlock. It drops south to Broadway, at least to Spindler Park. Then there is the red-dotted line, which we call Woodcrest. It comes up from the downtown area going north on Walnut with a shared use path. There is the Walnut Street and 6th Street intersection, which a lot of people have feelings about. With the bike trail, we could make some improvements to that intersection. Obviously, it would involve the railroad. From there it heads to Hoffman Park then to the substation off Route 40 to the west side of Woodcrest Shopping Center. Again, Walnut Street is wider than it needs to be, so it could be narrowed and the shared use path can be put along one side. Then there is the dark blue line, Northtown trail, which comes from Glik Park, off the walking trails, to Suppiger Way. She noted that anytime we are crossing 143 or 40, IDOT decides where the crossing goes. At some point, it would then connect into Bulldog Trail, giving those high school students a way to get to Northtown that does not include going through the woods.

We are asking for input with the community feedback surveys. We will collect them when you leave and use this to incorporate where we go next. We are here to answer any questions and we appreciate your input. You can make comments on the form as well.

A citizen came forward and stated I have lived in Highland for five years or so. Probably over thirty years I have walked the streets and sidewalks as part of my daily exercise program. I've fallen many times because of the sidewalks. A year-and-a-half ago, I fell and had to have surgery. If you have extra money to build these new trails and sidewalks, you need to spend money to maintain the existing before any new ones. City Manager Conrad stated we do have a plan to repair sidewalks every year in our budget. We do the worst first. Does it mean we get them at the right time? No, I can't say that. But, we do work to replace several blocks each year. This year, we have budgeted for 800 cubic yards of concrete for replacement and repairs. However, with over sixty miles of sidewalk, it is difficult to find all areas. He agreed, we have to take care of what we have. The lady stated you cannot walk and look around; you have to look down the whole time because you are always afraid you will hit a crack, a root, or gumballs. You cannot enjoy the scenery because you have to watch every step or else you'll end up on your face.

Todd Korte stated I walk a lot, too. There are sidewalks that definitely do need some attention. I would encourage you to look at that. I'd like more info on the trail that is going to the school. We have Poplar Street to get kids to school already. This is not a "not in my backyard" thing. The reality is that you have a right-of-way and public path currently along Poplar Street that would get you from the two schools. Julie Korte stated no one has contacted us about how far it is going to be from our driveway and what will prevent anyone from coming down our driveway. Another resident stated I live on Terrace Hill. He questioned how the hill will be maintained with construction of the path. Public Works Director Joe Gillespie acknowledged that is a very good question. We have not determined which side we will go and how will be designed, yet. The resident stated he thought that was the meeting tonight.

Councilwoman Bellm expressed I want to hear citizens' thoughts as far as priorities. Jody Shaw pointed out these are grant funded projects. Unfortunately, there are not many grants to maintain sidewalks. Mayor Hemann encouraged everyone to fill out the surveys and return them.

St. Paul – 2026 Spaghetti Dinner – Special Event Application – Maggie Abendroth requested a partial road closure of Lemon Street, from 9th Street to Main Street, 11:00am – 5pm, on Sunday, March 8,

2026, for a drive-thru Spaghetti Dinner that the St. Paul's 6th Grade is hosting. Councilman Napper made a motion to approve the St. Paul's School Special Event Application for road closure as requested. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Highland Community Closet – 2026 Soup on the Square – Special Event Application – Jennifer Shafer, Representative, requested permission to use the north side of the downtown square on Saturday, November 7, 2026 for the Highland Community Closet to host their second annual Soup on the Square, from 11am-2pm. Last year we did 1400 servings. Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve use of the north side of Square on Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 11am-2pm, as per the Special Event Application attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Councilman Napper asked where the clothes come from. Mrs. Shafer explained this is a community swap of clothing, blankets, shoes, and other items. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Lisa Sauer State Farm Agency – 2026 Easter Egg Hunt – Special Event Application – Lisa Sauer requested approval to host the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 12:00pm-3:30pm. The hunt begins at 2:00pm, and is usually over by 2:03pm. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the request of Lisa Sauer's State Farm for use of the downtown square, on Saturday, March 28, 2026, for Easter Egg Hunt as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Highland Jaycees – 2026 Schweizerfest – Special Event Application – Dan Hocker requested approval of the Special Event Application for the Highland Jaycees' 2026 Schweizerfest, June 12-14, 2026, with road closures on Thursday night through Sunday night of the event. Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the 2026 Schweizerfest Special Event Application as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

HFD Auxiliary – 2026 Hydrants, Hoses, and Heroes 5K – Special Event Application - Brooke Quade stated we are seeking approval to host our Hydrants, Hoses, and Heroes 5K on May 2, 2026. Councilman Napper made a motion to approve the request of Highland Fire Department Auxiliary for street closures to host Hydrants, Hoses & Heroes 5K on Saturday, May 2, 2026, starting at 7:00am as per the Special Event Application as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Highland Parks & Rec – 2026 Highland Market – Special Event Application – Laura Wilken stated we would like to host the Highland Market on the Square on Tuesdays, from 4pm to 7pm, May 5th to September 29th. This will start the week before Mother's Day, at the request of several vendors. Since we are starting two weeks earlier, we will not have the market on the Tuesday before Schweizerfest and the week of Madison County Fair. Mayor Hemann asked, if we have rain, will it be moved inside the Weinheimer Center. Director Wilken replied yes, we have the signage and everything in place to do that. Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the 2026 Highland Market at the Square as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Highland Arts Center & Music School – Color and Sound Festival – Special Event Application – Angelina McLaughlin-Heil, owner and director, stated, last year we did Painted Pianos. This year, we are requesting permission to have the Color and Sound Festival on Saturday, May 2, 2026, 8am to 4pm. The event will have musical performances from 9am – 3pm. We are collaborating with Highland Civic Women's Club to grow the event. We want to promote fellow businesses around the Square, and hope to

have specials at businesses with sidewalk sales, food specials, etc. New this year, will be “Highland’s Got Talent”, a talent competition, in which we hope to get community members to show off their talents. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Highland Music School’s request to host their Color and Sound Festival with painted pianos on Downtown Square, on Saturday, May 2, 2026, 9am – 3pm per the Special Event Application. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Brian, a resident, stated trails are important. The proposed Broadway West creates a loop because of its connection to existing trails. Tomorrow, I am going to Edwardsville, because they have such a large system.

Requests of Council:

Councilwoman Sloan noted that, a few months back, we talked about putting something out to the residents regarding people putting trashcans back and get bulk trash off the curb once pickup is done in their area. City Manager Conrad stated we have been triaging these issues with one-on-one education. He suggested putting something out at the same time as information regarding the spring cleanup.

Staff Reports:

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Award Bid # PW-04-25, for Water Main Replacement 2025 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bid # PW-04-25, for Water Main Replacement 2025 to Haier Plumbing and Heating, Inc., of Okawville, Illinois in the amount of \$930,560.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Mayor’s Appointment of Marcus Alvarado to the Industrial Development Commission – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the mayor’s appointment of Marcus Alvarado to the Industrial Development Commission as attached. His term will expire May 6, 2026. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Mayor’s Reappointment of Ben Eberwein to the Cemetery Board of Managers – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the mayor’s reappointment of Ben Eberwein to the Cemetery Board of Managers, for an additional two-year term, to expire March 1, 2028, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper.

Approve Mayor’s Reappointments of Gary Pugh, Randy Ammann and Donald Rommerskirchen to the Silver Lake Commission – Councilman Napper made a motion to approve the mayor’s reappointments of Gary Pugh, Randy Ammann and Donald Rommerskirchen to the Silver Lake Commission for an additional three-year terms, to expire March 2029, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-13/RESOLUTION Approving the Temporary Closure of IL Route 160, a State Highway in the City of Highland, IL from Old Trenton Road to Cypress Street for Schweizerfest Event and Parade – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-13/RESOLUTION #26-02-3252 approving the temporary closure of IL Route 160, a State Highway in the City of Highland, IL from Old Trenton Road to

Cypress Street for Schweizerfest Event and Parade as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-14/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing a Tender of Defense, Indemnity, Hold Harmless, and Lease Agreement for Shared Space at the Korte Recreation Center Between City of Highland and Ashley Wilson – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-14/RESOLUTION #26-02-3253 approving and authorizing a tender of Defense, Indemnity, Hold Harmless, and Lease Agreement for shared space at the Korte Recreation Center Between City of Highland and Ashley Wilson as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-15/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing its Sale and/or Disposal, Including a 2025 New Holland and a 2002 Kubota – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-15/ORDINANCE #3427 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, including a 2025 New Holland and a 2002 Kubota as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Director Koehnemann explained we have a small tractor that cannot reach over the dump truck, to load salt, and a Kubota that is on its last leg. We are able to trade in for a newer unit that can load salt. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-16/RESOLUTION Awarding Bid From Rooters Construction for PR-15-25 Regarding Spindler Park Pickleball Courts – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-16/RESOLUTION #26-02-3254 awarding bid from Rooters Construction for PR-15-25 regarding Spindler Park Pickleball Courts in the amount of \$281,000 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-17/RESOLUTION Authorizing the Mayor and/or City Manager to Apply for Park Commission Loan from Madison County, Illinois - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-17/RESOLUTION #26-02-3255 authorizing the mayor and/or City Manager to apply for park commission loan from Madison County, Illinois as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-18/ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 46 – Parks and Recreation, Article I – General, Adding Section 46-3 – Ice Fishing – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-18/ORDINANCE #3428 amending Chapter 46 – Parks and Recreation, Article I – General, adding Section 46-3 – Ice Fishing as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Councilwoman Bellm asked City Manager Conrad to talk about this. City Manager Conrad clarified the change is to prohibit ice fishing. Councilwoman Sloan expressed with what just happened by New Baden, recently, we do not people on the lake when it is iced. City Manager Conrad reported we actually got some requests. It is rare that we see the number of extreme cold days we have had. We will include this on the signage when we update it. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-19/RESOLUTION Making Separate Statement of Findings of Fact in Connection With Ordinance Granting Special Use Permit to John Cronin With North Arrow Development, on Behalf of Grandview Farm LP, for Planned Unit Development at 217, 221, 225, 229, 233 Flax Dr Highland, Illinois – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-19/RESOLUTION #26-02-3256 making Separate Statement of Findings of Fact in connection with ordinance Granting Special Use Permit to John Cronin with North Arrow Development, on behalf of Grandview Farm LP, for Planned Unit Development at 217, 221, 225, 229, 233 Flax Dr., Highland, Illinois as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Mayor Hemann reported this was approved by the Combined Planning and Zoning Board after

review. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-20/ORDINANCE Granting Special Use Permit to John Cronin with North Arrow Partners for Planned Unit Development at 217, 221, 225, 229, 233 Flax Dr Highland, Illinois – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-20/ORDINANCE #3429 granting Special Use Permit to John Cronin with North Arrow Partners for Planned Unit Development at 217, 221, 225, 229, 233 Flax Dr Highland, Illinois as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-21/RESOLUTION Approving Preliminary Plat for Proposed Subdivision to be Developed by John Cronin with North Arrow Partners Located in Madison County, Illinois, PPN 02-1-18-28-00-000-001.003 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-21/RESOLUTION #26-02-3257 approving preliminary plat for proposed subdivision to be developed by John Cronin with North Arrow Partners Located in Madison County, Illinois, PPN 02-1-18-28-00-000-001.003 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-22/RESOLUTION Authorizing the Sole Source Purchase of a 2022 Ram 1500 Quad Cab From McGinley Incorporated for \$29,600.00 and Waiving Customary Bidding Procedures – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-22/RESOLUTION #26-02-3258 authorizing the sole source purchase of a 2022 Ram 1500 Quad Cab from McGinley Incorporated for \$29,600.00 and waiving customary bidding procedures as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Councilman Napper inquired where this vehicle is going. City Manager Conrad responded Building and Zoning. We are adding a staff member. When we downsized, a few years ago, we sold off a vehicle. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-23/RESOLUTION Rejecting Lowest Bid From Bi-State Construction and Awarding Bid to CTR Concrete and Builders Inc. for E-18-25 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-23/RESOLUTION #26-02-3259 rejecting lowest bid from Bi-State Construction and awarding bid to CTR Concrete and Builders Inc., in the amount of \$106,044.08 for E-18-25 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. City Manager Conrad explained we awarded the bid at our last meeting for the storage facility. When we notified Bi-State, they sked to be released from the contract. The next lowest bidder was then contacted. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-24/RESOLUTION Issuing a “F” Liquor License to Tricia Feyerabend and Shannon Hogg, Pursuant To Chapter 6, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Highland, Entitled Alcoholic Liquor – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-24/RESOLUTION #26-02-3260 issuing a “F” Liquor License to Tricia Feyerabend and Shannon Hogg, pursuant to Chapter 6, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Highland, entitled Alcoholic Liquor as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad noted Shannon and Tricia have been very busy with this project. Tricia Feyerabend stated after extensive remodeling we have made an indoor/outdoor venue. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-25/ORDINANCE Approving and Authorizing Execution of a Development Agreement for a Project in Business District Project Area, With Corranmore Holdings, LLC and Other Actions Related Thereto – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-25/ORDINANCE #3430 approving and authorizing execution of a development agreement for a project in Business District Project Area, with Corranmore Holdings, LLC and other actions related thereto as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Councilwoman Sloan asks what happens after the ten years. City Manager Conrad responded they

will need to extend the agreement. He noted we are adding more than fifty parking spaces within a half block of the Square, between this and the old Chipper's property parking lot. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-26/ORDINANCE Approving and Authorizing Execution of a Development Agreement for a Project in Business District Project Area, With Shaun Voegele and Other Actions Related Thereto – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-26/ORDINANCE #3431 approving and authorizing execution of a development agreement for a project in Business District Project Area, with Shaun Voegele and other actions related thereto as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Mayor Hemann noted this is the other half of the project to expand parking for Square. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1308 for January 31, 2026 through February 13, 2026 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1308 for January 31, 2026 through February 13, 2026 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to temporarily adjourn this regular session to enter into executive session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act under the following exemption: 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) to discuss the performance and compensation of a specific employee. Motioned seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Open Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Mayor Hemann reconvened the Regular Session at 8:22 pm. Council members Klaus, Sloan, Bellm and Napper were present. Others in attendance were City Attorney Carriger, City Manager Conrad, Deputy Chief Athmer, Deputy City Clerk Flake, and City Clerk Bellm.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. All aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk