

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 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 Kathryn Warren, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Koehnemann, Ohren, and Widman, Jordan Bauer and Mike Russell, City Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Clerk Bellm, and 14 citizens.

MINUTES

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2026 Regular Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. 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 March 16, 2026 Executive Session as attached. Seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Hemann opened the public hearing to receive comments from the public regarding the City's intent to sell Bonds. Normally this is a common practice to hold a public hearing when we do this. With no one coming forward to comment, Mayor Hemann closed the public hearing.

MAYORAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Hemann recognized William "Bill" Koehnemann for fifty-six years of dedicated service to the City of Highland. Mr. Koehnemann was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals on October 13, 1969 and, he also served on the Combined Planning and Zoning Board.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

2026 Kirchenfest – Special Event Application – John Keeven, 2026 General Chairman, requested permission for the 54th Kirchenfest to be held August 21, 22, & 23, 2026. It is a wonderful family event. We appreciate all the city and city employees do to make it a successful event. He stated he also comes with a request for road closure for the Student Appreciation Day for the school. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the request to hold Kirchenfest 2026 on August 21, 22 & 23, 2026 as per the special event application attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

City Manager Conrad noted that the Special Event Application for the St. Paul's School Student Appreciation Day was received tonight. It is the same request as previous years for road closure. Councilwoman Bellm asked what day. Mr. Keeven replied May 21. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the request for road closure of Lemon Street and Olive Street between 9th Street and Main Street for Student Appreciation Day on May 21; seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Tour Co Shakespeare in the Park – Special Event Application – Parks Director Brad Koehnemann explained St. Louis Shakespeare Festival goes around and does these shows around the St. Louis area. They reached out to us and asked if we would host the performance of "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" on the stage on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, as the Community Market is wrapping up for the evening. Admission is free. Councilwoman Bellm asked is this the same as Shakespeare in the Park in St. Louis. Director Koehnemann replied yes. Councilwoman Bellm expressed they are excellent. Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve hosting Tour Co Shakespeare in the Park on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 on the Downtown Square as per the special event application attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Requests of Council:

No comments or requests.

Staff Reports:

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill #26-43/RESOLUTION Accepting a Proposal for Underwriting; Selecting an Underwriter in Connection with the Proposed Issuance by the City of its General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2026; and Acknowledging Certain Disclosures Pursuant to MSRB Rule G-17 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-43/RESOLUTION #26-04-3269 accepting a proposal for underwriting; selecting an underwriter in connection with the proposed issuance by the City of its General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2026; and acknowledging certain disclosures pursuant to MSRB Rule G-17 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad reported we partnered with Joy Howard, last fall. UMB was the best, lowest bidder. This will be bonds for part of the two TIF projects that will be done later this year. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Making Tentative Budget for FY 2026-2027 Available for Public Review at City Hall and Setting the Public Hearing Date for 6:30 PM on Monday, April 20, 2026 at the Highland City Hall, 1115 Broadway - Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve making the Tentative Budget for FY 2026-2027 available for public review at City Hall and setting the public hearing date for 6:30 PM on Monday, April 20, 2026 at the Highland City Hall, 1115 Broadway as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Councilman Klaus inquired if there are no objections, and if we all vote yes, is it pretty sure that there will be a 3% tax levy imposed in December. City Manager Conrad explained the levy passed in December will be for the next budget year. The levy would be used for pension, IMRF, and insurance. Pension fund years' end April 30. Then it goes into an audit period, so we usually do not receive those figures until the end of the calendar year. The police pension is the third highest tax levied. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-44/ORDINANCE Annexing Certain Territory to the City of Highland, Madison County, Illinois, Owned by Kevin Wich and Kaitlyn Feldmann, Specifically: PPN# 01-2-24-04-07-201-010 – Councilman Napper made a motion to approve Bill #26-44/ORDINANCE #3440 annexing certain territory to the City of Highland, Madison County, Illinois, owned by Kevin Wich and Kaitlyn Feldmann, specifically: PPN# 01-2-24-04-07-201-010 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-45/RESOLUTION Appropriating Funds for Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Materials (MFT Section 27-00000-00-GM) – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-45/RESOLUTION #26-04-3270 appropriating funds for Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Materials (MFT Section 27-00000-00-GM) as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Councilman Klaus noted this is not any tax that we have on gasoline purchased in town. City Manager Conrad pointed out that contrary to popular belief, Highland does not have a municipal gas tax. There are only a handful of counties, which all surround Cook County, that are even allowed to impose their own gas tax. The only tax is at the federal and state level. This Motor Fuel Tax, the state charges, and it is disbursed based on population. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting for Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Materials (MFT Section 27-00000-00-GM) – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting for Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Materials (MFT Section 27-00000-00-GM) as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Mayor Hemann noted this is putting notice out there for bids for the materials. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-46/RESOLUTION Waiving Customary Bidding Procedures for Purchase of a New Teupen Tracked Aerial Device with Trailer Pursuant to Sourcewell Pricing – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-46/RESOLUTION #26-04-3271 waiving customary bidding procedures for purchase of a new Teupen Tracked Aerial Device with Trailer pursuant to Sourcewell pricing, to Altec Industries, Inc., in the amount of \$252,848.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Councilman Napper asked what a Teupen is. Director of Light & Power Dan Cook explained a Teupen is a small unit that is remote controlled. It can get into relatively small areas and extend to high areas to trim trees. We want to use it to maintain the 138kV line. Our existing trucks cannot reach that high. This device will also allow for areas in the city where there is fencing and other objects that restrict access near power lines, where trees are. The tracks move in and out to get into these areas and then extend to brace itself. Councilman Klaus asked if this is in the budget. Director Cook replied, yes, it has been in the budget for a few years. The purchase was hinged upon Ameren beginning construction of the Sursee line. This will be reimbursed over time. It will also be utilized to service the parks department as well. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-47/RESOLUTION Waiving Normal and Customary Bidding Procedures and Authorizing the Purchase of One Server, One Power Vault and One Expansion Card from CDW Through the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-47/RESOLUTION #26-04-3272 waiving normal and customary bidding procedures and authorizing the purchase of one server, one power vault and one expansion card from CDW, in the amount of \$108,394.80, through the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad stated we are fortunate, a lot of these items have been negotiated through the State already. Councilman Napper inquired if this is something we can purchase locally. City Manager Conrad replied no, this is commercial grade. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-48/RESOLUTION Waiving Customary Bidding Procedures for Purchase of One Hundred and Forty-One (141) New Microsoft Office Software Licenses Pursuant to Sourcewell Pricing – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-48/RESOLUTION #26-04-3273 waiving customary bidding procedures for purchase of one hundred and forty-one (141) new Microsoft office software licenses pursuant to Sourcewell pricing, in the amount of \$49,173.30, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-49/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing its Sale and/or Disposal, Including IT Equipment – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-49/ORDINANCE #3441 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, including IT equipment as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-50/RESOLUTION Authorizing City to Enter into a Local Distribution Agreement With MLB Media, LLC – Councilman Napper made a motion to approve Bill #26-50/RESOLUTION #26-04-3274 authorizing City to enter into a local distribution agreement with MLB Media, LLC as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Mayor Hemann inquired if this for licensing the channel for us to watch Cardinals and Blues games. Jordan Bauer replied, right now, just Cardinals baseball. The Blues will negotiate at the end of their season. Mayor Hemann pointed out that is Channel 78 on VTV. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-51/ORDINANCE Authorizing the Execution of a Real Estate Sales Contract with Keeven Family, LLC for Right-of-Way for Roads, Maintenance, Access and Other Public Purposes – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-51/ORDINANCE #3442 authorizing the execution of a real estate sales contract with Keeven Family, LLC for right-of-way for roads, maintenance, access and other public purposes as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad reported this is for purchase of approximately 1.7 acres. We own to about 100 feet past Walmart's property line. This will purchase property up to Munie Gravel Pit. Based upon the survey, last year, citizens expressed making it a priority to extend a trail to Silver Lake Park for access. This will take the path along Frank Watson, at Koepfli, then over to Cally Lane. We have verbal commitment from the KC's for easement. We will be working with IDOT on how and where to cross at Route 143. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-52/ORDINANCE Amending the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 90 – Zoning, Article III – Districts and Zoning Maps, Division 11 – Permitted Uses, Sec. 90-201 – Permitted and Accessory Use Table, Table 3.1.B – Principal Non-Residential Uses – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-52/ORDINANCE #3443 amending the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 90 – Zoning, Article III – Districts and Zoning Maps, Division 11 – Permitted Uses, Sec. 90-201 – Permitted and Accessory Use Table, Table 3.1.B – Principal Non-Residential Uses as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Councilwoman Sloan noted this is adding language to add pet care retail into C-2. Director Carole Widman clarified pet care and boarding are allowed in C-2 already. This adds pet care retail into C-2. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-53/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing its Sale and/or Disposal, Including KRC Equipment – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-53/ORDINANCE #3444 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, including KRC equipment as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Director Koehnmann stated this includes several things, including a

vintage fax machine, the spin cycle bikes, the Muny Band's orange chairs, etc. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1311 for March 14, 2026 through April 3, 2026 – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1311 for March 14, 2026 through April 3, 2026 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 Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk