

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 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 Michael McGinley, Directors Gillespie, Hubbard, Koehnemann, Ohren, and Widman, City Staff Jordan Bauer and Mike Russell, Fire Chief Chris Straub, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Clerk Bellm, 6 citizens, and 1 news staff.

**MINUTES**

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2026 Regular Session as attached. Motion 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 on final adoption of the City of Highland, Illinois Budget for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. Mayor Hemann reported no one emailed or phoned in with comments. With no one in attendance making comment, the public hearing was closed.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

*Memorial Day Parade – Special Event Application* – Kate Broadhurst, representing Highland VFW Post #5694 and Highland American Legion Post #439, requested approval of the Memorial Day Parade, on May 25, 2026. Looking forward to it this year, since it is our country's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Hoping to get several floats involved. Requesting \$250 to go towards the high school band's participation. Line-up will begin at 12:30pm at St. Paul Church, with step-off at 1:00pm. The parade will follow the same route as in the past, going east on Main St., then south on Lemon Street to 12<sup>th</sup> Street, east on 12<sup>th</sup> to Poplar Street, and Poplar Street south to VFW Road. It will end at the VFW Post, where a ceremony will be held at 2pm. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the request of the Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by the VFW Post and American Legion Post on May 25, 2026 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Requests of Council:

Councilwoman Sloan thanked Chief Straub for bringing the new fire truck out so that everyone can see it. Mayor Hemann invited everyone to go look at it after the meeting this evening, if they have not seen it yet.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Chris Conrad reported they started pouring concrete for the Pine & Main Parking Lot and they started on the pickleball courts pavement was started today also.

Mayor Hemann noted they plan to start work on the parking lot behind the Chamber of Commerce office later this week.

## NEW BUSINESS

Bill #26-54/ORDINANCE Amending Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-54/ORDINANCE #3445 amending Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Mayor Hemann pointed out this is standard procedure to amend and balance those funds out. Director of Finance Reanna Ohren explained, yes, this something that is done in December and then again at end of year. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-55/ORDINANCE Adopting the Financial Budget of the City for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2026, and Ending April 30, 2027, and Authorizing the Expenditures Therein Contained – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-55/ORDINANCE #3446 adopting the financial budget of the City for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2026, and ending April 30, 2027, and authorizing the expenditures therein contained as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Councilman Klaus asked if we approve this budget, does it mean that at the last meeting in December we are going to have a property tax increase. City Manager Conrad replied yes. Councilman Klaus asked how much. City Manager Conrad explained a lot goes into that, with pension and insurance costs. We will not have those figures until later in the year; however, he estimated 3-4%. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-56/ORDINANCE Authorizing the Issuance General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) of the City of Highland, Illinois to Finance Certain Street Projects – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-56/ORDINANCE #3447 authorizing the issuance General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) of the City of Highland, Illinois to finance certain street projects as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Mayor Hemann noted this will be used for funding of projects with the TIF districts including roadway for Aldi development off Cally Lane and the new access off of Route 40 at Sycamore. This is something we have been discussing for several months now. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Mayor's Appointment of Charles Swaim to the Combined Planning and Zoning Board – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the mayor's appointment of Charles Swaim to the Combined Planning and Zoning Board, for a term that will expire August 31, 2030, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid # PR-03-26, for Highland Silver Lake Structure No. 2 In-Lake Sediment Basin – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid # PR-03-26, for Highland Silver Lake Structure No. 2 In-Lake Sediment Basin as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad reported this is very similar to the project we did last year. That one was done on private property. This one is being done in an existing cove of the lake. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid # PW-01-26, for Street Resurfacing 2026 – Councilman Napper made a motion to award Bid # PW-01-26, for Street Resurfacing 2026 to Christ Brothers Asphalt, of Lebanon, Illinois, in the amount of \$994,922.20 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Mayor Hemann reported this is for the resurfacing of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets. City Manager Conrad noted we will be resurfacing roughly thirty blocks this year. Councilman Napper expressed there is always work to be done, but our streets are looking good. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid # PW-02-26, for Aldi Store Access Road and Sanitary Sewer Extension – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bid #PW-02-26, for Aldi Store Access Road and Sanitary Sewer Extension to Baxmeyer Construction, Inc., of Waterloo, Illinois, in the amount of \$785,647.77 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-57/RESOLUTION Authorizing Request for Qualifications and Proposals for City Comprehensive Plan Development Services – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-57/RESOLUTION #26-04-3275 authorizing request for qualifications and proposals for City Comprehensive Plan Development Services as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. City Manager Chris Conrad reported we have been working up to this. We will be asking of council for at least one member to serve on the steering committee with Ben Eberwein, from the Industrial Development Commission, and Larry Munie, from the Combined Planning & Zoning Board, as well as working with staff and conducting public meetings. The Comprehensive Plan is designed to be a guidance document. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-58/ORDINANCE Authorizing Incentive for Construction of New Single-Family Residences in Subdivisions Within the Corporate Boundaries of the City of Highland, 3 for Fiscal Year 2027 (May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027) - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-58/ORDINANCE #3448 authorizing incentive for construction of new single-family residences in subdivisions within the corporate boundaries of the City of Highland, Illinois for Fiscal Year 2027 (May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027) as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Director Mallord Hubbard reported we have had this program on the books in some capacity since 2018. Each year we look at what is working. We are modifying it by making this \$5,000 per home up from \$4,000. The City is funding the same \$100,000 amount as previous years overall. We had fifteen houses constructed under this program last year. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-59/ORDINANCE Authorizing Renewal of the “Business District A” Commercial Building Façade Improvement Program for May 1, 2026 Through April 30, 2027 – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-59/ORDINANCE #3449 authorizing renewal of the “Business District A” Commercial Building Façade Improvement Program for May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Director Mallord Hubbard reported this is the fourth year that we have had this program. This is for commercial building owners in the business districts. They are eligible to receive up to 25% of the cost they incur to improve their buildings. There is a maximum. The program is intended to encourage owners to update their buildings. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-60/RESOLUTION Waiving Customary Bidding Procedures for Purchase of a New Loader Backhoe and Breaker Pursuant to Sourcewell Pricing – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-60/RESOLUTION #26-04-3276 waiving customary bidding procedures for purchase of a new loader backhoe and breaker pursuant to Sourcewell Pricing, from Luby Equipment, in Fairmont City,

Illinois, for the amount of \$170,000.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Councilman Napper asked are we replacing a backhoe. Public Works Director Joe Gillespie replied yes. We will be selling the old unit. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-61/RESOLUTION Approving Application and Awarding Certain Financial Incentives under the City of Highland Façade Improvement Program to Jeff Weinacht for 815 Broadway, Highland, Illinois - Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-61/RESOLUTION #26-04-3277 approving application and awarding certain financial incentives under the City of Highland Façade Improvement Program to Jeff Weinacht for 815 Broadway, Highland, Illinois as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-62/RESOLUTION Approving Application and Awarding Certain Financial Incentives under the City of Highland Façade Improvement Program to Angelina McLaughlin-Heil for 917 Main St., Highland, Illinois – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-62/RESOLUTION #26-04-3278 approving application and awarding certain financial incentives under the City of Highland Façade Improvement Program to Angelina McLaughlin-Heil for 917 Main St., Highland, Illinois as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS**

Accepting Expenditures Report #1312 for April 4, 2026 through April 17, 2026 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1312 for April 4, 2026 through April 17, 2026 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. 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 6:59 pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk