

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 18, 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 Cook, Gillespie, Koehnemann, and Widman, Staff: Jordan Bauer and Mike Russell, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Clerk Bellm, and 8 citizens.

MINUTES

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 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 FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Highland Haunted House – Special Event Application – Travis Tilton, representative, stated we are requesting to have a haunted house, at 620 13th Street, Thursday, October 22, 2026 – Sunday, October 25, 2026, 6pm-10pm. I own the old JetLite Factory that is under construction for a new gym location. I do not have any use for the approximately 11,000 Sq Ft. until December. There has not been a haunted house in Highland for at least 15 years. I am not sure what to expect. The event will have fifty-plus scare actors plus parking people. Councilwoman Sloan stated make sure the insurance is covering you. Mr. Tilton stated I have spoken with the insurance. They do not see any issues, but will not issue the rider until thirty-days prior. Councilman Napper warned there are county and state laws that you have to comply with as well. Councilwoman Bellm suggested coming back closer to the event so that we have an idea of what to expect. Mr. Tilton explained there will be seven large rooms and with room captains, then there are the hallways from room to room. City Attorney Michael McGinley suggested we need to think along the process similar to Queen of Hearts, where we were not sure what to figure for traffic and parking. Public Safety Director Carole Widman stated we will plan for the worst-case scenario and hope for the best. Councilman Napper pointed out Haunted Houses have to be inspected by the state before they may open up. It was suggested to utilize advance ticket sales to gauge the crowd. Mr. Tilton stated, from experience, advanced tickets were more of timesaver for attendees, but more difficult for those working at the door. He stated we are thinking \$20 per person, with kids under the age of six to be free. The school district has given permission to allow for parking on their parking lot. Only so many people can get in from 6-9:30pm. Mayor Hemann noted our first date was at a haunted house. So, memories can be created. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the request to host a haunted house, per the special event application, October 22 – 25, 2026. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Dave Todd noted there was no packet on the website this week. City Manager Conrad reported we had difficulty when we did Adobe software update and could not get it posted to the website. Mr. Todd

inquired about how the power cost adjustment rate is determined each month. Mayor Hemann responded you picked a good night to ask. Director Cook is going to giving a report on various electric rate issues under Staff Reports.

Requests of Council:

Councilwoman Sloan asked if we need to look at a plan to deal with the scooters and e-bikes. We don't allow golf carts, but allow for e-bikes on sidewalks and out on streets. City Manager Conrad responded Chief Widman is putting together a report. The State is looking at passing legislation on e-mobility devices. There is another bill in session, right now. We are waiting to see what the State puts into place. Chief Widman reported it sounds like the cutoff is 28mph. If the unit has the ability to go over 28mph, the operator must be over 16, with helmet, and have insurance. Mayor Hemann noted that this is a concern statewide. City Attorney McGinley pointed out the State was very much in favor of these modes of transportation because they are efficient, affordable, and environmentally friendly; however, they now need to figure out how to regulate those utilizing. Councilwoman Sloan expressed there is a difference between a 16-year versus seven-year-olds. Chief Widman acknowledged the ones you are talking about are e-bikes you can get a Walmart and kids are not being supervised on. That is going to be difficult to regulate.

Staff Reports:

Light & Power Director Dan Cook addressed the question regarding the power cost adjustment by explaining that our base is \$0.10 per kilowatt hour. Power Cost Adjustment is \$0.1050 to \$0.1250 per kilowatt hour. The power cost adjustment changes monthly. It is used to pay for costs associated with providing by the IMEA. As expenditures are incurred, the City, as part of IMEA, absorbs those costs. So, there is a base rate fee and then anything over that to maintain system. It is charged on kilowatt basis.

Annual Fair Solar Credit Update – Director Cook reported that last year the Fair Solar Credit was .039 per kilowatt hour. This next year, it will be .072 per kilowatt hour. That goes into effect May 1 and will reflect starting on the June bill.

Electric Rates – Director Dan Cook reminded everyone we do have schedule rate changes going into effect, which were voted on in 2025, to cover costs and continue to maintain our system. Meter base rate will increase from \$25 for residential to \$27 per month, with per kilowatt charge of 0.1034 increasing to 0.1050 per kilowatt hour. Commercial base rate will go from \$55 to \$60, with kilowatt charges increasing from .0890 to .0903 per kilowatt hour. Industrial users' base rates will increase from \$105 to \$110 with kilowatt charges increasing as well. He noted there is another 1.5% increase planned for next year. With these increases we are 25% lower than the State average. Additionally, I feel our response time is exceptional. The IMEA purchases power in advance, but we do it conservatively, in order to be competitive.

Annual Discussion on Purchasing Policy – City Manager Chris Conrad stated there are no State law changes, this year, and we have no suggestions for any changes. He reviewed, under the policy, directors have authority to approve all purchases under \$1,500. For \$1,500-\$24,999, it requires both the director and City Manager to approve. \$25,000 and above must have the director, City Manager and the council's approval. Quotes and pricing, for amounts under \$1,500. \$1,500-\$5,000 must have at least three verbal quotes. \$5,000-\$24,000 must have three written quotes and attached to the purchase request. \$25,000 and above must be competitively bid unless it falls under one exception of purchasing consortium or sole source purchasing. Joint Purchasing, per state statute, municipal governments can purchase items either through the State bid or through approved purchasing consortiums. The State bid or consortium pricing is considered the public bid/quoting process. An example would be computer servers. Because of the amount, these still require council approval. For Sole Source purchases, these do not require competitive bids or quotes but still require council approval if over \$25,000. This exemption exists for the

following reasons: The purchase is for equipment for which there is no comparable or competitive product or is only available from one supplier; purchase is from a public utility, natural gas or other regulated monopoly; the purchase is for a component or replacement part for which there is no commercially available substitute and which can only be obtained from the manufacturer or a single supplier; it is the purchase of an item where compatibility is the overriding consideration, such as computer software or the meters for our electrical system; or, if it is a used item that becomes immediately available and is subject to prior sale.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor's Reappointment of George Jones to the Police and Fire Commission – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the reappointment of George Jones to the Police and Fire Commission, for another three-year term, to expire June 2029 as attached. 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 Jeffrey Hebrank to the Liquor Control Commission – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the mayor's reappointment of Jeffrey Hebrank to the Liquor Control Commission, for another three-year term, to expire June 2029 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid # PR-03-26, for Highland Silver Lake Structure No. 2 In-Lake Sediment Basin – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bid # PR-03-26, for Highland Silver Lake Structure No. 2 In-Lake Sediment Basin to Stutz Excavating, Inc, of Alton, IL in the amount of \$241,218.75 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid MFT Section 27-00000-00-GM, for the 2026 Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Materials – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to award Bid MFT Section 27-00000-00-GM, for the 2026 Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Materials: CA-6 Aggregate, to Mike A. Maedge Trucking, Inc, in the amount of \$13,650.00; CA-7 Aggregate, to Mike A. Maedge Trucking, Inc, in the amount of \$8,320.00; Grit (CM-13 Slag), Beelman Logistics, LLC, \$587.50; Seal Coat Furnished & Delivered, to Beelman Logistics, LLC, \$67,620.00; MC-800 Prime, Furnished & Applied, Evergreen Roadworks, LLC, \$50,176.35; and, CRS-2 – Emulsion, Furnished & Applied, Seal Coat Aggregate Hauled and Spread awarded to Piasa Road Oil, LLC, \$119,800.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-67/ORDINANCE Repealing and Replacing Chapter 78 – Utilities, Article II, Electric Service Regulations, Division 6. – Net Metering and Interconnection Policy – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-67/ORDINANCE #3450 repealing and replacing Chapter 78 – Utilities, Article II, Electric Service Regulations, Division 6. – Net Metering and Interconnection Policy as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad explained this is bringing us into compliance with State statues that go into effect June 1, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-68/ORDINANCE Authorizing Real Estate Interests in Easements to be Sold to Energy Transfer for the Southern Illinois Connector Pipeline Project – Councilman Napper made a motion to approve Bill #26-68/ORDINANCE #3451 authorizing real estate interests in easements to be sold to energy transfer for the Southern Illinois Connector Pipeline Project as attached. Motion seconded by

Councilwoman Bellm. City Manager Conrad reported Energy Transfer runs the pipeline that currently runs through Highland. They are at ICC, presently, seeking right-of-way for a second pipeline to run from Wood River, IL. The majority of the project will be underground. We do not have a timeline. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1314 for May 2, 2026 through May 15, 2026 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1314 for May 2, 2026 through May 15, 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 7:07pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk