

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 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, Widman, and Wilken, Jordan Bauer, Treasurer Nicolaidis, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Clerk Bellm, 8 citizens and 1 member of news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 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.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Superheroes for Life 5K Run/2K Walk – Special Event Application – Tricia Blasdel representing Relevant Pregnancy Options Center requested permission to hold their Steps for Life 5K Run and 2K Walk on Saturday, September 12, 2026. We request the assistance of one police officer at Sportsman Road and Nagel Drive. It will go through and around Glik Park, and end at the Options Center. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Relevant Pregnancy Options' request to host Steps for Life 2026 5K Run/2M Walk on September 12, 2026 as requested and per application attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Mary Ottis, Kingsbury Ct., thanked the city staff for the repairs being made to the entrance to Kingsbury Court. When I talk to the street crews, they are tired of me, because when I asked when the cul-de-sac would be repaired, I was told it was not on the schedule they had. Hampton Court and Sunrise Court cul-de-sac have been completed. I have more updated pictures of our cul-de-sac. We have younger families that have moved into our neighborhood. When the young kids ride their bikes on the cul-de-sac, after it rains, they get stuck in the mud. Mayor Hemann responded they are doing the worst first. While it seems like it takes forever, it is on the list, I am sure. City Manager Conrad stated he would address it under Staff Reports.

Requests of Council:

None.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Conrad reported good news is the State passed a budget. In the budget, we were appropriated \$30,000 for general capital improvements. I reached out to Representative Charlie Meier to thank him for his support. It was unexpected but appreciated.

We have received some requests, over the last few weeks, regarding placement of shipping container storage units. There is nothing in the ordinances to address them. In looking at other communities, most allow for them in commercial or industrial areas. Some allow with temporary permits in commercial or industrial zoned properties. Most prohibit outright in residential. Edwardsville allows but has aesthetic requirements with permit on property. City Manager Conrad asked the council members to think about this and provide feedback.

We received one proposal for services for the Comprehensive Plan review. It was from Moran Development, who is partnering with Oates and Associates on the plan and services. We are evaluating that proposal. We have provided a print-off copy of the proposal for council members to review. The committee reviewing the plan will meet over a fifteen-month period, spreading this out over two fiscal budget years. Councilman Klaus has volunteered as council representative for this.

E-Bikes – Chief Carole Widman noted there has been a lot of conversations about issues we have been having with e-bikes. Illinois law recognizes three classes of low-speed electric bicycles. The classifications are based on speed capability and whether the bicycle uses pedal assist or a throttle. Class 1: Pedal-assist only, up to 20 mph. Class 2: Throttle-assisted, up to 20 mph. Class 3: Pedal-assist, up to 28 mph. We've had several issues with them, as well as other communities throughout the state. So, the state has been trying to figure out how to regulate them, like bicycles. Recently, some laws went into effect. Any regulation just increases the need for signage. For example, if not allowed on trails at Glik Park, which we can do since we own the park, we have to post that signage. Class 3 e-bikes that are 750 watts or higher requires registration and the operator must be 16 years of age or older. Director Widman stated we have to decide how we want to regulate. Right now, they are not allowed on sidewalks. She reported we have had two accidents with e-bikes. In both instances, the vehicles were stopped; the kids on the e-bikes hit the vehicles. Councilwoman Sloan expressed my concern is kids do not know how to properly handle the bikes. Councilman Klaus inquired e-bikes are not to be on sidewalks. Chief Widman replied no. Bicycles are not either. Councilman Klaus asked what about mobility scooters. Chief Widman replied that is where this gets tricky. Councilwoman Bellm noted I saw a young one, maybe ten years old, out on the street. That is scary. Director Widman pointed out we have a lot of street parking. Then you have these e-bikes out in the street with traffic. Our goal is to protect kids. Councilman Napper added some of the older streets are very narrow with parking on both sides of street. Councilman Klaus suggested holding a safety class. Chief Widman pointed out anything we put into an ordinance means the police department must enforce. I don't want my officers out ruining kids' summer. Councilman Napper suggested offering safety classes for families. Director Widman acknowledged we have some events coming up and thought about providing helmets at those; however, if you can afford the e-bikes the helmets are a fraction of the cost of those. Councilwoman Bellm asked what other communities are doing. Director Widman stated O'Fallon, MO just passed something. Today I saw that Mascoutah had just put something into place. Basically, it is just educating what the State of Illinois put into place. City Manager Conrad pointed out this just went out last night. While it first goes into place next year, I believe we will see a huge social media campaign. Chief Widman recommended that if officers respond to incidents involving e-bikes, we will just have officers have conversation with parents regarding safety.

City Manager Conrad addressed Mary Ottis' request regarding street repairs. He explained concrete panels are evaluated for surface and structural deficiencies. Whenever there are structurally deficient panels, those are replaced first in subdivisions. Then there is surface level, where the top pops off. What is at the cul-de-sac is a surface issue. He added the panels replaced in your subdivision, this year, is about 8% of panel replacements budgeted for this year. Ms. Ottis asked just keep us on the list.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill #26-69/ORDINANCE Declaring Real Property of the City of Highland Surplus and Authorizing its Sale Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-1 and 65 ILCS 5/11-76-2, Specifically 355 Courtland, City of Highland, Madison County, Illinois Parcel No. 01-2-24-04-402-014 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-69/ORDINANCE #3452 declaring real property of the City of Highland surplus and authorizing its sale pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-1 and 65 ILCS 5/11-76-2, Specifically 355 Courtland, City of Highland, Madison County, Illinois Parcel No. 01-2-24-04-402-014 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad reported this lot is at the far south end of Courtland. There is a drainage easement that runs through it and a small detention area that takes up about a third of the lot. The city acquired it for a potential pocket park, several years ago. Since then, we have a more established trail system and Rinderer Park. We have had some limited interest in purchasing it, in the past. Councilman Napper stated I drove by and looked at the lot. It looks like they could fit a small two-story on the property. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid # PW-04-26, for Clean Sludge Lagoons 2026 – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid # PW-04-26, for Clean Sludge Lagoons 2026 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-70/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing its Sale and/ or Disposal, Specifically, Case Backhoe Loader – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-70/ORDINANCE #3453 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/ or disposal, specifically, Case Backhoe Loader as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-71/RESOLUTION Waiving Customary Bidding Procedures for Purchase of a 2024 New Holland Series 80C Compact Wheel Loader Pursuant to Sourcewell Pricing – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-71/RESOLUTION #26-06-3283 waiving customary bidding procedures for purchase of a 2024 New Holland Series 80C Compact Wheel Loader pursuant to Sourcewell pricing to Midwest Tractor Sales, Inc., of Breese, Illinois, in the amount of \$89,500.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-72/RESOLUTION Approving Change Order Number One for the Aldi Store Access Road and Sanitary Sewer Extension – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-72/RESOLUTION #26-06-3284 approving Change Order Number One for the Aldi Store Access Road and Sanitary Sewer Extension, representing a decrease of \$33,210.02, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-73/RESOLUTION Waiving Competitive Bidding Requirement and Authorizing a Construction Contract with Joiner Sheet Metal and Roofing and City of Highland – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-73/RESOLUTION #26-06-3285 waiving competitive bidding requirement and authorizing a construction contract with Joiner Sheet Metal and Roofing and City of Highland, in the amount of \$417,913.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad explained this is through the TIPS (The Interlocal Purchasing System). It is part of the State of Illinois' consortium pricing. Mayor Hemann pointed out this gives us the opportunity to work with local sources. Councilman Napper expressed I like to see local business used. City Manager Conrad noted this company has done quite a bit of work with us over the past few years. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-74/RESOLUTION Approving First Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement Between the City of Highland and Heartlands Conservancy – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-74/RESOLUTION #26-06-3286 approving First Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Highland and Heartlands Conservancy as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. City Manager Conrad pointed out this does not change any existing financial commitments. With this amendment it will allow for cost-sharing of any easements and right of way purchases and engineering on future projects. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-75/RESOLUTION Authorizing the Mayor and/or City Manager to Apply for Participation in the IMEA Battery Energy Storage System Pilot Program – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-75/RESOLUTION #26-06-3287 authorizing the mayor and/or City Manager to apply for participation in the IMEA Battery Energy Storage System Pilot Program as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Director Cook explained IMEA tries to be proactive with energy technology. While battery storage is not a good and effective method, right now, as it is new technology. Batteries go hand in hand with solar. You gather during the day and then drain it by using it a night, to help balance the load. I feel we are in a good location to host one of these. Councilman Napper asked are other cities vying for this. Director Cook replied yes. He added IMEA will pay for the fencing, engineering and construction costs. We would have to provide a switch to tie into it, if we are selected to host this. City Manager Conrad noted MISO and PJM were at a local meeting, recently, regard concerns from a capacity standpoint. They basically said they would be happy to have anything that would add capacity to the system. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1315 for May 16, 2026 through May 29, 2026 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1315 for May 16, 2026 through May 29, 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 7:14pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk