

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 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 Michael McGinley, Directors Gillespie, Hubbard, Koehnmann, Widman, and Wilken, Staff Jordan Bauer, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Clerk Bellm, 15 citizens and 1 member of news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2026 Regular Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Hemann introduced Ben Kloss as Mayor for the Day. Ben is the son of Josh and Amy Kloss. Ben got to sit through the weekly staff meeting, then we visited City Hall, Parks & Rec, Public Works, Wastewater Treatment Facility, and Electric Department, as well as stopped in at several of the parks; and, we got to watch the city staff fly a drone. Mayor Hemann thanked Ben for serving as Mayor for the Day.

BID OPENING

City Attorney Michael McGinley opened sealed bids submitted by parties interested in purchasing 355 Courtland. Said property was declared surplus by Ordinance No. 3452 and offered for sale by advertising in The Troy Times Tribune on June 4, June 11 and June 18, 2026. One bid was received from Chad Zobrist, 12760 Iberg Road, in the amount of \$10,001. City Attorney McGinley stated we will go into Executive Session later to discuss acceptance of this bid. Acceptance of the bid and sale would be voted on at the next council meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

2026 Street Art Festival – Special Event Application – Hillary Holzinger, Highland Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, requested permission for the Street Art Fest to be held Saturday, September 19, 2026, with a rain date of Sunday, September 20. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the Highland Chamber of Commerce's requests to hold the Street Art Festival as per the Special Event Applications 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:

Councilman Napper recognized the Coldwell Banker agents that put the flags around the roundabouts and the downtown Square. For more than 20 years, agents from Coldwell Banker Brown have

continued this long-standing tradition of placing American flags on the downtown Square, the roundabout, and the area surrounding the agency's office on Highway 40. It really looks nice, and they do it just to make it look so nice and as a simple gesture of civic pride. The 2026 Flag Placement Crew consisted of participating agents: Jane Duft, Connie Winkeler, Sue Holzinger, Sarah Miller, Monny Sandifer, and Diane Korte-Lindsey. Kids assisting were Nora Miller, Memphis Miller, and McKenzie Rexford. Agents Craig Wieseman, Jeff Waters, and Wayne Sackett were unable to assist this year, but have assisted in past years.

Mayor Hemann welcomed back Councilman Klaus who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Staff Reports:

Chief Widman, Councilman Napper, and Councilwoman Sloan got together to discuss how to address E-bikes. Chief Widman reported this is an issue that a lot of communities are having. We had a discussion on what we are doing and may like to see. The council was provided a summary of proposed regulation and what current Illinois law is. We are proposing no passengers for those operating E-Bikes or electric scooters under the age of 16 and no use of them inside interior of parks. We would be responsible for signage and the cost of that signage. On mixed use paths, it is difficult to regulate. However, inside the parks it can be done. I had someone approach me, stating they almost hit a grown man that is not stopping at stop signs or intersections. Chief Widman suggested putting out a survey on social media to assess the community's feelings on the proposed regulations. It was the consensus with the council that would be a good way to get awareness and feedback.

City Manager Conrad noted "Mayor" Ben Kloss was listening to Reanna talk about using spreadsheets and he stated he finds spreadsheets interesting. I have to wonder about what he is seeing at home.

Mayor Hemann asked for an update on the Broadway underpass. City Manager Conrad reported IDOT requested additional information and photos, this past week. They are at the start of a new fiscal year, with a new engineer, new assistant engineer and other staff. We did invite them out for a physical inspection.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid # PR-05-26, for Korte Rec Center Natatorium Lights – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid # PR-05-26, for Korte Rec Center Natatorium Lights as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Councilwoman Bellm asked what is "natatorium". Director Laura Wilken replied indoor pool. The current lights are over ten years old and the bulbs cannot be replaced. We have two fixtures out. Councilwoman Bellm asked "Mayor" Kloss if he knew what a natatorium was. Ben replied yes. City Manager Conrad noted Ben is on the swim team, so he is familiar with natatorium. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid # E-06-26, for Distribution System Line Clearance Services – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid # E-06-26, for Distribution System Line Clearance Services as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-81/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing its Sale and/or Disposal, Including a Backhoe Breaker Attachment – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-81/ORDINANCE #3456 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, including a backhoe breaker attachment as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-82/RESOLUTION Approving Application and Awarding Certain Financial Incentives under the City of Highland Façade Improvement Program to Maiden Gall, LLC for 923 Main Street, Highland, Illinois – Councilman Napper made a motion to approve Bill #26-82/RESOLUTION #26-07-3291 approving application and awarding certain financial incentives under the City of Highland Façade Improvement Program to Maiden Gall, LLC for 923 Main Street, Highland, Illinois as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1317 for June 13, 2026 through July 3, 2026 – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1317 for June 13, 2026 through July 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 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)(21) to discuss closed meeting minutes. City Attorney McGinley stated that we added 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) to discuss sale of real property to that agenda. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Open Meeting temporarily adjourned at 6:53pm.

Mayor Hemann reconvened the Regular Session at 7:11 pm. Council members Klaus, Sloan, Bellm and Napper were present. Others in attendance were City Attorney McGinley, City Manager Conrad, Director Widman, Deputy City Clerk Flake, and City Clerk Bellm.

Bill #26-83/RESOLUTION Regarding the Release of Executive Session Minutes – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-83/RESOLUTION #26-07-3292 regarding the release of executive session minutes as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. 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 Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk