

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 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 Attorney Kathryn Warren, Directors Gillespie, Koehnemann, Widman, and Wilken, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Clerk Bellm, and 7 citizens.

MINUTES

Councilman Klaus a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 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.

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2026 Executive Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

No comments or requests.

Requests of Council:

No requests or comments.

Staff Reports:

E-Bikes - Chief Carole Widman reported she exported the data from the community survey sent out. A copy was provided to the council. We had about 400 responses, which is a pretty good response. The typical responses show citizens are just concerned about the safety of the children primarily. We received a lot of comments. Most common was that kids ride their bikes to park, but if they cannot go into the park, what is the use. There has been a lot of talk about education and enforcing the laws that the are on the books from the State. The big thing with that is that there are no passengers allowed. Another big thing was education. Chief Widman suggested putting together some education that they can take into the schools during PE classes, health classes, or similar and also re-starting up the bike rodeo. Councilwoman Sloan inquired about how to regulate bikes during events such as Kirchenfest or Schweizerfest where they are in between the crowds. Chief Widman acknowledged you can control that somewhat. She pointed out the things to think about are enforcement. If it is on paper, but we cannot enforce it, then it becomes ineffective. Chief Widman suggested mirroring the law provided by the State and education. We want parents to have the knowledge. Make it known that there will be citations, which are fines. Generally, the parents end up paying those fines. Mayor Hemann asked what is the next step. Chief Widman stated getting the information to legal counsel to establish an ordinance and then come up with a program that we take to the schools. Councilman Klaus inquired if a kid on a Schwinn bike tries to out run the police what

do you do. Chief Widman stated we have school resource officers that can look at these kids and know who they are. Councilman Klaus stated I am not against it. Councilwoman Bellm pointed out we are not being the bad guys here; we are following State guidelines. Chief Widman pointed out this is not just about e-bikes, but also those riding regular bikes recklessly.

Director Joe Gillespie, filling in as Interim City Manager, reported we continue to work towards a resolution on the underpass. Someone from IDOT did a visit to do measurements. The resurfacing of 12th and 13th Streets are complete. They turned out really nice, and are open for traffic. We have also completed curbs and gutters construction for the Aldi Store project.

Mayor Hemann gave a shout out to Staff for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new pickleball courts, last week. It was a great turnout.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor's Appointment of Robert Bowman and Mayor's Reappointment of Joseph Garson to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Robert Bowman and Mayor's reappointment of Joseph Garson to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, for three-year terms, to expire July 2029 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid # PW-07-26, for Sealing Shared Use Paths 2026 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid # PW-07-26, for Sealing Shared Use Paths 2026 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid # PW-04-26, for Clean Sludge Lagoons 2026 – Councilman Napper made a motion to award Bid # PW-04-26, for Clean Sludge Lagoons 2026 to Metro-Ag Waste Injection Systems, Inc., of St. Rose, Illinois, in the amount of \$125,738.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-84/RESOLUTION Waiving Customary Bidding Procedures for Purchase of New 2025 Ram 3500 Big Horn Pickup with Service Body for Water Distribution/Sewer Collection Division – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-84/RESOLUTION #26-07-3293 waiving customary bidding procedures for purchase of new 2025 Ram 3500 Big Horn Crew Cab 4x4 Pickup with Stahl Challenger Pro CP98WD-36.5 Service Body, through the Sourcwell Program, for Water Distribution/Sewer Collection Division, in the amount of \$71,024.37 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Director Gillespie pointed out that this is through the Sourcwell Joint Purchasing program, for both the truck and the body. Mayor Hemann asked if we will surplus the truck we are replacing. Director Gillespie replied yes. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-85/ORDINANCE Authorizing the Sale of City Owned Surplus Real Estate to Chad Zobrist Pursuant to Real Estate Sales Contract as Attached – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-85/ORDINANCE #3457 authorizing the sale of city owned surplus real estate PPN# 01-2-24-04-20-402-014, Address: 355 Courtland Highland, Illinois 62249, to Chad Zobrist pursuant to real estate sales contract as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Mayor Hemann noted this was the only bid received, and it does meet the criteria. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-86/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing its Sale and/or Disposal, Including Police Department Equipment – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-86/ORDINANCE #3458 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, including police department equipment 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 #1318 for July 4, 2026 through July 17, 2026 – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1318 for July 4, 2026 through July 17, 2026 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 Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk