

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 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 Chris Conrad, City Attorney Michael McGinley, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Koehnemann, and Widman, City Staff Mike Russell and Jordan Bauer, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Clerk Bellm, 16 citizens, and 1 member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 3, 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.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Veterans Day Parade – Special Event Application – Krystle Huelsmann and Gerry Mensce, representing the Moose Lodge #2479, requested permission for the annual Veterans' Day Parade on Sunday, November 8, 2026. Ms. Huelsmann stated this event is a joint effort with V.F.W. Post #5694 and American Legion Post #439. The parade will start at 2:00pm, beginning at the intersection of Olive Street and Main Street, then proceeding west on Main Street to the Square, where a ceremony will follow the parade. They invited Mayor Hemann to read the proclamation and give a brief speech. Councilman Napper made a motion to approve the Moose Lodge #2479 request to sponsor the Veterans' Day Parade and for use of the Square on Sunday, November 8, 2026 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Highland Moose Lodge - Highland Moose Lodge Annual Chili Cook Off – Special Event Application – Kerry Fenton, representative for Highland Moose Lodge #2479, requested approval for their annual Chili Cook-Off to be held Sunday, October 18, 2026, on the Square. This is held in conjunction with Rusty Rodz Car Show. She stated we would need the streets blocked off around the Square, 8am-3pm and have access to the bathrooms and electric. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the request of Highland Moose Lodge to host their annual chili cook-off on Sunday, October 18, 2026, per the Special Event Application as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bryan Korte, Sun Court, addressed the council regarding the underpass on Broadway, which seems to be a done deal now that IDOT has plans to fill it in. I think that is a shame. Here we have an underpass, when other communities are looking for safe solutions to walk around cities, and we are going to fill it in. I know it went into a bit of disrepair and vandalism. However, technology has changed with cameras and LED lighting. If the City is paying for it to be filled in, I would like to see the cost comparison. I'd like to go through it before it is filled in. Mayor Hemann responded I appreciate the

nostalgia of it. City Manager Conrad will provide an update on it during Staff Reports. Mr. Korte stated I heard the concrete is structurally sound. Having grown up on Poplar Street, and living in Highland my whole life, I have found memories of it. I was hit on Poplar Street, as a child, by Lester Hug's wife, when I was chasing my brother. I used the underpass as a kid. Highland has lost a lot of historical things, and this is just one more. Once it is filled in, it is gone forever.

Deputy City Clerk Chris Flake read into record an email sent by Jacob Rose, Highland Historical Society President and Chairperson of City of Highland Historical Commission:

'Dear City Council Members, Mayor Hemann: I wanted to communicate on behalf of the Highland Historical Society as President the society support for Bill #26-98 Ordinance for TBeard Inc and the project she is currently pursuing. The owner had met with the Highland Historical Society during our membership meeting last Thursday and communicated her direction of the project, much to the expressed appreciation by the Highland Historical Society. The Structure involved in this project, according to the National Historic Road leadership team in Vandalia, IL, is one of the sole surviving structures along the National Road that is built in the second empire architectural style, and is linked to the Schiller Ship disaster event. The Highland Historical Society will be assisting the owner with fundraising to restore the historic structure, and is in support of the proposed use group/business use (Air BNB) on the second floor to help support local tourism.

Lastly, I would like to communicate (wearing my other hat) that the City of Highland Historical Commission is also in support of this project and will do anything it can under its structure/limits to support this project. This is a very important structure for its local architectural significance, local history to our community, and we are enthusiastic in supporting its restoration. Best wishes, and thank you for your time in reading this. Jacob Rose'

Requests of Council:

No comments or requests.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Conrad reminded everyone that Shakespeare in The Park will be performing tomorrow evening, at the Square. This is a free event. Everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy the performance.

As far as the Broadway Underpass, I think IDOT forgot. It has been closed for use for over twenty years. It is IDOT's to deal with. There is no way to make it ADA accessible, which is another issue. We also understand that the State does not want any gaps under their roadway. Mayor Hemann asked if IDOT is paying the costs to do this. City Manager Conrad replied yes. They will be doing the project when they do the resurfacing of Broadway/Route 160 from New Trenton Road to Lemon Street, along with other stretches of IL 160 in the area, next summer.

City Manager Conrad addressed the inquiries being made regarding FLOCK cameras, which are privately owned license plate readers, by stating the City of Highland does not have them. We do have cameras that read license plates as part of joint effort by IDOT and DEA for drug traffic control, under an agreement with the State. We do not have FLOCK cameras.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor's Appointment of Andrea Garson to the Tree Commission – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the mayor's appointment of Andrea Garson to the Tree Commission, to fill a vacant position, with a term to expire July 2027 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Mayor's Reappointment of Robert Vance to the Combined Planning & Zoning Board – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the mayor's reappointment of Robert Vance to the Combined Planning & Zoning Board, for an additional five-year term, to expire August 31, 2031 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid # E-06-26, for Distribution System Line Clearance Services – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to award Bid # E-06-26, for distribution system line clearance services to Siebert Tree, of Lake Villa, Illinois, in the amount of \$112,000 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad stated this is to supplement our city crew. Mayor Hemann asked if it was common to only get one bid. Director Dan Cook explained, in the tree trimming industry like this, it is common to only get one or two bids. This project is for only 5.5 miles, which does not get a lot of interest. This is a very reasonable bid. They have a crew in Louisiana, right now, and should be into do the job in the next week or so. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid # PW-07-26, for Sealing Shared Use Paths 2026 – Councilman Napper made a motion to award Bid # PW-07-26, for Sealing Shared Use Paths 2026, to Asphalt Services LLC, of Maryland Heights, Missouri, in the amount of \$20,099.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-91/RESOLUTION Approving Third Amendment to Service Agreement Between The City of Highland and Momentum Telecom, Inc. – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-91/RESOLUTION #26-08-3296 approving third amendment to service agreement between the City of Highland and Momentum Telecom, Inc. as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-92/RESOLUTION Making Separate Statement of Findings of Fact in Connection With Ordinance Granting Special Use Permit for a Gym/Health Club Within the Industrial Zoning District at 620 13th Street, PIN # 01-2-24-05-10-101-034, Highland, Illinois 62249 – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-92/RESOLUTION #26-08-3297 making Separate Statement of Findings of Fact in connection with ordinance granting Special Use Permit for a Gym/Health Club within the Industrial Zoning District at 620 13th Street, PIN # 01-2-24-05-10-101-034, Highland, Illinois as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. City Manager Conrad stated this is the next step in the renovation of the old JetLite building. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-93/ORDINANCE Granting a Special Use Permit to Travis Tilton, for a Gym/Health Club Within the Industrial Zoning District at 620 13th Street, PIN # 01-2-24-05-10-101-034, Highland, Illinois 62249 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-93/ORDINANCE #3461 granting a Special Use Permit to Travis Tilton, for a gym/health club within the Industrial Zoning District at 620 13th Street, PIN # 01-2-24-05-10-101-034, Highland, Illinois 62249 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-94/RESOLUTION Waiving Competitive Bidding Requirement and Authorizing Purchase of Meter Communication Modules with Associated Licenses from Tantalus Systems, Inc. –

Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-94/RESOLUTION #26-08-3298 waiving competitive bidding requirement and authorizing purchase of meter communication modules with associated licenses from Tantalus Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$57,684.75 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. City Manager Conrad stated this item and the next are true sole source purchases that we do each year, because they mate with our existing systems. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-95/RESOLUTION Waiving Competitive Bidding Requirement and Authorizing Purchase of ITRON Electric Meters from Anixter Power Solutions, LLC – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-95/RESOLUTION #26-08-3299 waiving competitive bidding requirement and authorizing purchase of 300 ITRON Electric Meters from Anixter Power Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$32,700.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-96/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing its Sale and/or Disposal, Specifically, a 2000 Vermeer V5750 Trencher – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-96/ORDINANCE #3462 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, specifically, a 2000 Vermeer V5750 Trencher as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-97/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing its Sale and/or Disposal, Including a 1998 Chevrolet Cheyenne Pickup Truck – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-97/ORDINANCE #3463 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, including a 1998 Chevrolet Cheyenne Pickup Truck as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-98/ORDINANCE Approving and Authorizing Execution of a Development Agreement for a Project in Business District Project Area, with TBeard Inc. and Other Actions Related Thereto – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-98/ORDINANCE #3464 approving and authorizing execution of a development agreement for a project in Business District Project Area, with TBeard Inc. and other actions related thereto as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. City Manager Conrad stated this particular property has significant historical value. We will be waiving the building fees and entering into a façade agreement down the road. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1320 for August 1, 2026 through August 14, 2026 – Councilman Klaus made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1320 for August 1, 2026 through August 14, 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 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)(11) to discuss litigation. Motioned seconded by Councilman Napper. City Attorney Michael

McGinley stated no votes will be taken after the Executive Session. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Open Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:04pm.

Mayor Hemann reconvened the Regular Session at 7:53pm. 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.

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 7:54pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk