

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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 Kathryn Warren, Directors Cook, Gillespie, and Hubbard, Deputy Chief Athmer, City Staff Jordan Bauer, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Clerk Bellm, 12 citizens, and 1 member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 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 August 17, 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:

HHS Homecoming Parade – Special Event Application – Councilwoman Bellm made motion to approve the Special Event Application to hold the Highland High School Homecoming Parade on September 30, 2026 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Treats on the Streets 2026 – Special Event Application – Marshall Rinderer requested permission to host Treats on the Streets, on Friday, October 30, 2026. We are requesting street closures from 12pm-6pm. School is out of session that day. We are requesting the same street closures as last year. Typically, we have about 1,000 kids participate. Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Treats on the Streets, Friday, October 30, 2026, with street closures around the Square, as per the application. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Business After Hours Highland Square – Special Event Application – Daniel Maze, requested permission to use the Downtown Square and gazebo on Thursday, October 14, 2026, 5:00pm – 8:00pm, for the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours for Highland Square District. We are planning to have a musician on the Square and serve drinks. With it being in a public area, I realize there may be that interaction with the public. Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the request for use of the downtown Square and gazabo on Thursday, October

14, 2026 to host Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours as per the attached Special Event Application. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Olly Odle, of Cypress Street, addressed the council regarding the amount of cats running loose in that area. She stated I came close to hitting these cats several times. As an animal lover, I don't want to. There is a vacant house at 615 Zschokke Street and that is where several of these cats are living. Neighbors estimate as many as forty cats at this location. It has caused extreme distress for the neighbors who cannot let their kids play outside because of the feces and smell and the cats try to get into their home. Metro East Humane Society has an annual spay and neuter program. I will do my best to assist in finding a way to put together a fundraiser to assist in this program and working to get these cats fostered and a new home.

Jeanine with Metro East Friends of Ferals stated she is here with members of the Metro East Humane Society. We are getting inundated with complaints about feral cats. We entered into an agreement with the City of Highland in December 2025. We have been working through as much as we can. To date we have spayed and neutered 180 cats. We cannot do more without additional funding to provide education, rehoming, and the spay/neuter program. She asked that the city consider allocating funds for these programs. It costs \$750 for a mobile clinic. In Grantfork, in a matter of three weeks, 65 cats were spay/neutered. She recommended several of these throughout the year. Councilwoman Bellm asked how do you do a clinic. Jeanine explained we trap the cats the night before. The mobile trailer pulls up. A veterinarian does the spay/neuter in the trailer. Then later the cats are returned to the wild. Mayor Hemann stated City Manager Conrad will address during Staff Report.

Comments & Requests of Council:

Councilman Napper noted this is the week of 9/11. I personally had friends that were impacted by that event. It was a tragic event and want to pay honor to those impacted, the victims, first responders, and all their families. Councilman Klaus stated I second that.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Chris Conrad reported deconstruction of Spindler Park Bathrooms has begun. The new restrooms are scheduled to be installed in early October. Temporary restrooms are in place and will remain until the new restrooms are open.

City Manager Conrad asked Metro East Humane Society members to reach out to him to discuss potential events.

NEW BUSINESS

Award Bid # PR-05-26, for Korte Rec Center Natatorium Lights – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to award Bid # PR-05-26, for Korte Rec Center Natatorium Lights to Zobrist Electric, in the amount of \$51,650.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-99/ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 78 – Utilities, Article II – Electric Service Regulation, Division 3 – Billing and Rates, Sec. 78-111 General Electric Service Considerations – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-99/ORDINANCE #3465 amending Chapter 78 – Utilities, Article II – Electric Service Regulation, Division 3 – Billing and Rates, Sec. 78-111 General Electric Service Considerations as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Councilman Napper asked when was the last time we raised those rates. Director Cook stated he does not know, exactly, but it has been quite some time. This is to raise the minimum inspection fee for electrical work. Even small projects, such as adding an outlet should have an inspection. This requires the electrician to travel to the site, conduct the inspection, document the results, and complete any necessary follow-up. A \$25 minimum would help cover the basic cost of providing the inspection while remaining affordable. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-100/RESOLUTION Authorizing and Directing Application to the 2026 Cycle 17 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) for Assistance, for the Purpose of Design and Construction of a Shared Use Path for Use by Both Bicyclists and Pedestrians from Glik Park to Silver Lake Park and a Spur Along Illinois-143, as well as Within Easements on Highland Columbus Club Owned Property - Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-100/RESOLUTION #26-09-3300 authorizing and directing application to the 2026 Cycle 17 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) for assistance, for the purpose of design and construction of a Shared Use Path for Use by both bicyclists and pedestrians from Glik Park to Silver Lake Park and a spur along Illinois-143, as well as within easements on Highland Columbus Club owned property as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Councilman Napper asked is this path going to impact the fence line or ballfields that are there. City Manager Conrad responded we talked with Knights of Columbus about installing a net along one side. There are utilities in this area already. It will be close to the fence, but not up against it. This was the number one request by citizens in the survey done last year. These grants take a while. We will not know until next spring if we are awarded the grant. So, this is at least 28-36 months before anything happens. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-101/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois Surplus and Authorizing Its Sale and/or Disposal, Including Information Technology Equipment - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-101/ORDINANCE #3466 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, including information technology equipment as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-102/ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 6, of the Code of Ordinances, Alcoholic Liquor, to Increase the Number of C Liquor Licenses to Six – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-102/ORDINANCE #3467 amending Chapter 6, of the Code of Ordinances, Alcoholic Liquor, to increase the number of C Liquor Licenses to six as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Mayor Hemann noted, obviously, this relates to the next item on the agenda. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-103/RESOLUTION Issuing a “C” Liquor License to Aldi Inc., Pursuant to Chapter 6, Of the Code of Ordinances, City of Highland, Entitled Alcoholic Liquor – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-103/RESOLUTION #26-09-3301 issuing a “C” Liquor License to Aldi Inc., pursuant to Chapter 6, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Highland, entitled Alcoholic Liquor 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 #1321 for August 15, 2026 through September 4, 2026 – Councilman Klaus made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1321 for August 15, 2026 through September 4, 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 the regular session to enter into executive session under Illinois Open Meetings Act under the following exemption: 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) to discuss litigation. Motioned seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Open Meeting temporarily adjourned at 6:58pm.

Mayor Hemann reconvened the Regular Session at 7:20pm. Council members Klaus, Sloan, Bellm and Napper were present. Others in attendance were City Attorney Warren, City Manager Conrad, Deputy Police Chief Athmer, Deputy City Clerk Flake, and City Clerk Bellm.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. All aye, none nay. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk