

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026**

City Clerk Barbara Bellm called the Regular Session to order at 6:30pm. Mayor Hemann was absent. Council members Klaus, Sloan, Bellm and Napper were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Conrad, City Attorney Trent Carriger, Directors Gillespie, Hubbard, Koehnemann, and Widman, Fire Chief Straub, City Staff: Jordan Bauer, Sam Wright, Stephanie Nicklin, Deputy City Clerk Flake, City Clerk Bellm, Treasurer Nicolaides, and 7 citizens.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

City Clerk Bellm asked for a motion to elect one councilperson to serve as mayor pro tem during the temporary absence of Mayor Hemann. The mayor pro tem shall perform the duties and possess all the rights and powers of the mayor and shall vote in his/her capacity as councilperson only. Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to elect Councilwoman Peg Bellm as mayor pro tem. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. All aye, none nay. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 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.

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2026 Executive Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. 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 September 17, 2026 Special Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. 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 September 17, 2026 Executive Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Pro Tem Bellm read a document proclaiming the week of September 17-23, 2026 as Constitution Week. Marilyn McCall, representative of the Daughters of The American

Revolution Silver Creek Chapter, was present to receive the proclamation. Mrs. McCall stated with this year being the 250th year of our nation, the Silver Creek Chapter had made a metal American Flag, which was dedicated to the library and is on display in front of the library. Inside the library, there are two display cases within the library for showing as well.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

St. Paul Catholic School Fall Festival – Special Event Application – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve St. Paul Catholic School's request for road closure of Main Street, between Olive and Lemon Streets, on October 23, 2026, from 4:30pm-8pm, for their fall festival, as per the Special Event Application. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Highland Music School Cello Performance – Special Event Application – Councilwoman Sloan Made a motion to approve Highland Music School's request for use of the Square and gazebo on Saturday, October 24, 2026 for cello performances per Special Event Application as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

A lady came forward to ask if there has been any movement on getting budget billing established. City Manager Chris Conrad reported we continue to build our new software out. We hope to rollout the billing portion this winter. It is a very complex thing. The lady responded her bill this past month was \$450.00. She went on to explain literature that we brought to share with the council regarding Love Packages, which accepts used crutches, canes, walkers, as well as bibles, Christian books, etc. They have already picked up over 600 tons. Instead of throwing away, these things can be donated. Councilwoman Sloan asked if you have to send them or will someone pick them up. She responded she has a friend that comes to Highland with Bibles and such, that could pick them up.

Betsy Frisse, lives in Highland, and has a daughter who lives on Lincoln Lane. Mrs. Frisse stated she recently read that the City has applied for funds for a trail behind Lincoln Lane, along the KC Hall property to go to Highway 143 by Walmart. Why is this trail needed? There will be no way to monitor the activity on that trail. To have trails behind homes is only asking for trouble. There is a street on the other side of the KC Hall – Northview. There are sidewalks along Highway 143 to get to Walmart. How do you protect the privacy of the homeowners on Lincoln Lane. Are you putting up berms, fencing, or lighting? Lincoln Lane is a shortcut, now, from Koepfli to 143. I have seen trucks going through there to use it as a shortcut. Why not put curbing and sidewalks on Lincoln Lane? The article did say the trail was asked for by residents. I don't know when these meetings occur or how people are notified on them. I will hold the City responsible for protecting homeowners.

Bryan Korte stated it has been a couple of weeks ago that he was last here to discuss the subway at Lemon Street, that goes under Broadway. Since then, he has found out several things. It was closed in the 1980s per Jeff Menz. I have looked into this some more. I know the city manager stated IDOT wants it closed because it cannot become ADA accessible. However, from what I have found is that, if it is not feasible to do, you do not have to. We have ramps at the intersection that allow for handicap to cross at the intersection. I contacted IDOT and spoke with Mr. Poettker. He stated he did not have a problem with it. He said it is in the hands of the City Council. The city would be responsible for it. Mr. Korte stated he

sees saving the subway would require some concrete work, replacing the sump pump, adding LED lights within it, cameras for monitoring it, and some paint.

Mr. Korte noted a lot of gallons of water go into it when it rains. He acknowledged the lady that wants it closed lives right there at the corner. He questioned where this water is going to go, if this is filled in. Is she going to be coming to City when it is in her basement?

Mr. Korte stated he has done some research on graffiti proof paint. He pictures this being painted with bright, light colored paint. Maybe paint it with a mural down there. Highland has a lot of unique things. This is one. If our forefathers saw a need for it to be there, then it should be. With the technology that exists today, we have the means to monitor it now. With this being the 250th year of our nation, it is the perfect time to re-open it. In Philadelphia, where the documents of our country's founding were signed, there were plans to tear down the building, but it was saved. Just like the belltower, placed by the parking lot, it is no longer used, but it was saved. IDOT says they will do what the city wants. Councilwoman Sloan thanked Mr. Korte for looking into it.

Ryan Rick stated it has been forty-some years since anyone walked under there. We are on the right path now. It is an eyesore. He inquired if there is any movement on the matter with the feral cats. City Manager Conrad stated he will address that in staff reports.

John Kapp stated the Thursday Night concerts were great. I can't wait for next year.

Deputy City Clerk Chris Flake read an electronic request sent to the City Council from Claire Schaffer:

'My comment for the Council addresses the following: senior care within Highland. I would like to bring attention that the Young at Heart bus line has extremely limited access. I would ask that an additional route be set up. I would also inquire as to why my home is not within "city limits" enough to access public services, but is included on the Highland city limits zoning map. I have not been able to find a map dictating what the public service limitations are that have been established for the city, so I can only presume that this is an error, or that the Young at Heart only serves small parts of Highland's city area. Please expand this service.'

The council inquired as to what area is not served. Deputy City Clerk Flake stated this person did not provide a physical address or phone number. Their name did not appear in the city's utilities, so he does not believe they live within the city's limits. He will attempt to reach out.

Comments & Requests of Council:

No comments or requests presented.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Chris Conrad explained the grant for the trail that we applied for was in response with what residents expressed as a number one priority in a survey done last year. Mrs. Frisse expressed it is putting my daughter's home at risk. You are putting a trail on KC property that is in people's backyard. You will have people walking through other peoples' yards. There is a peripheral route on the other side. Are you saying that it is a done deal? City Manager Conrad responded we have only applied for funding at this time. We are in the process over the

next few months meeting for the comprehensive plan, which these things are included in. Residents can express their opinions on these plans, as well as others at those meetings. Mrs. Frisse stated we don't know where you find this stuff out. Councilwoman Sloan responded things are posted on the city's website, social media, and the Highland Happening app. Mrs. Frisse inquired are we responsible for putting up a fence for privacy. City Manager Conrad responded your concerns can be discussed with the engineers, as part of the design. Statistics show that where these paths are put in, crime goes down rather than up.

City Manager Conrad explained the Young at Heart Van is a joint venture with Madison County Transit to provide service within city limits.

City Manager Conrad reported we have been working with Friends of Ferals regarding the issue of cats, particularly in the area of Zschokke Street near 6th Street, and scheduling the first couple of clinics. The particular house where the cats seem to be homing, the city has been working on condemnation proceedings for some time now. What complicates things is that the property was sold to another, at the courthouse, for back property taxes. The contact information for the new owner is not correct. City Attorney Trent Carriger explained we have to make contact with the new property owner.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid # E-08-26, for Purchase of One 3 Phase 225 kVA Transformer – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid # E-08-26, for purchase of one 3 Phase 225 kVA Transformer as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. City Manager Conrad reported this is for replacement of our stock. Staff recently replaced one in the Northtown area, behind Circle K. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-104/RESOLUTION Authorizing City to Enter into a Streaming Agreement with the National Hockey League for St. Louis Blues – Councilman Napper made a motion to approve Bill #26-104/RESOLUTION #26-09-3302 authorizing City to enter into a streaming agreement with the National Hockey League for St. Louis Blues as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-105/ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 6, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Highland, Alcoholic Liquor, to Increase the Number of D2 Liquor Licenses to Twelve – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-105/ORDINANCE #3468 amending Chapter 6, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Highland, Alcoholic Liquor, to increase the number of "D2" Liquor Licenses to Twelve as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-106/RESOLUTION Issuing a "D2" Liquor License to Oscar Farina on Behalf Of Big O's Sport Bar Highland Square LLC, Pursuant to Chapter 6, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Highland, Entitled Alcoholic Liquor – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-106/RESOLUTION #26-09-3303 issuing a "D2" Liquor License to Oscar Farina on behalf Of Big

O's Sport Bar Highland Square LLC, pursuant to Chapter 6, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Highland, entitled Alcoholic Liquor as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-107/RESOLUTION Waiving Competitive Bidding Requirement and Approving And Authorizing the Purchase of a New 2027 Dodge Durango from McGinley Incorporated for \$42,545.00 – Councilman Napper made a motion to approve Bill #26-107/RESOLUTION #26-09-3304 waiving competitive bidding requirement and approving and authorizing the purchase of a new 2027 Dodge Durango from McGinley Incorporated for \$42,545.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. City Manager Conrad pointed out this purchase is being made through Stellantis, as part of the Governmental Purchasing Agreement. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-108/RESOLUTION Approving First Amendment to Ambulance Service and Lease Agreement Between the City of Highland and St. Joseph's Hospital of the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-108/RESOLUTION #26-09-3305 approving first amendment to ambulance service and lease agreement between the City of Highland and St. Joseph's Hospital of the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad reviewed we entered into an agreement with HSHS about 5-6 months ago for forty hours per week of availability for transfer services. We were asked for an additional thirty hours to take this to seven days a week. In looking at our statistics from the first several months of operations, it appears the transfer truck is running about 70% of their calls for the hospital and transfers, and about 30% of their calls have been backup to our primary unit or 911 calls. Therefore, we proposed a 70/30 split with the hospital to add the additional 30 hours a week of coverage. This will move service to seven days per week for ten-hours per day. The new hours will mainly be adding Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to the schedule. Councilman Klaus asked does this cover our costs. City Manager Conrad replied yes. This has been a revenue stabilizer. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-109/RESOLUTION Authorizing the City Manager to Sign a Memorandum of Understanding with International Association of Firefighters - Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-109/RESOLUTION #26-09-3306 authorizing the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with International Association of Firefighters as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. City Manager Conrad noted this supports the agreement with hospital. It reflects the new hours. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-110/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Moran Economic Development for Assistance and Services Related to Specialized Economic Development Programs for the Business District – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-110/RESOLUTION #26-09-3307 approving and authorizing the execution of a professional services agreement with Moran Economic Development for assistance and services related to specialized economic development programs for the Business District as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. City Manager Conrad asked for Director Mallord Hubbard to address Items H, I, J, K & L of the agenda. Director Hubbard explained we

have worked with Moran Economic Development for several years, with regards to the various TIF Districts and business districts. This is to enter into a contract for the business district. What initiated this process? We have talked with several landowners about annexing property into the city. Many of those are prime for development. One is eager to develop that property. Before we get to final annexation, public input will be taken. Councilwoman Sloan inquired this allows for city expansion and growth. Director Hubbard replied yes. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-111/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Moran Economic Development for Assistance and Services Related to Specialized Economic Development Programs for the TIF Districts – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-111/RESOLUTION #26-09-3308 approving and authorizing the execution of a professional services agreement with Moran Economic Development for assistance and services related to specialized economic development programs for the TIF Districts as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-112/RESOLUTION Providing for a Feasibility Study for a Proposed Amendment To the Existing Highland Redevelopment Plan and Project Area # 2 – Councilman Napper made a motion to approve Bill #26-112/RESOLUTION #26-09-3309 providing for a feasibility study for a proposed amendment to the existing Highland Redevelopment Plan and Project Area # 2 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-113/RESOLUTION Providing for a Feasibility Study for a Proposed Amendment To the Existing Highland Redevelopment Plan and Project Area # 3 – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-113/RESOLUTION #26-09-3310 providing for a feasibility study for a proposed amendment to the existing Highland Redevelopment Plan and Project Area # 3 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-114/RESOLUTION Declaring an Intent to Reimburse Certain Redevelopment Project Costs – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-114/RESOLUTION #26-09-3311 declaring an intent to reimburse certain redevelopment project costs as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1322 for September 5, 2026 through September 18, 2026 – Councilman Klaus made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1322 for September 5, 2026 through September 18, 2026 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Sloan 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. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Open Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:23pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Peg Bellm reconvened the Regular Session at 7:40pm. Council members Klaus, Sloan, and Napper were present. Others in attendance were City Attorney Carriger, City Manager Conrad, Director Widman, Deputy City Clerk Flake, and City Clerk Bellm.

Councilman Napper made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. All aye, none nay. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Peg Bellm, Mayor Pro Tem

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk