

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 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 Kathryn Warren, Directors Gillespie, Koehnemann, Widman, and Wilken, Staff: Russell, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Clerk Bellm, 13 citizens and 1 member of news media.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Hemann read a document recognizing the Silver Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The chapter donated a sculpture of the American Flag and had it placed at the Louis Latzer Library, in commemoration of the country's 250th Celebration. Members of the Silver Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution were present to receive this proclamation. Mayor Hemann stated that the dedication at the library was, yesterday. The sculpture is very beautiful. Councilwoman Bellm stated her appreciation that someone did something to recognize the 250th Celebration.

MINUTES

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 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:

Madison County Fair – Special Event Application – Daniel Ammann, current president of Madison County Fair Board, stated this year's event will be July 21-26, 2026. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the special event application for the Madison County Fair, to be held July 21-26, 2026 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

St. Paul Open House – Special Event Application – Councilman Napper made a motion to approve the road closure of Main Street, between Olive Street and Lemon Street, for the St. Paul School Open House, on Monday, August 10, 2026, 4:30pm to 7:30pm, as per the special event application as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Celebration of Life on Square – Special Event Application – Bonnie Talbott requested to hold a Celebration of Life for her sister, Marilyn, on Sunday, June 28, 2026, 2:00pm-4:00pm. Ms. Talbott stated her sister lived in Georgia, but her friends and family live here in the surrounding communities. She wants to provide an opportunity for them gather, sing songs, and remember her sister. Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the special event application for Bonnie Talbott, to host a Celebration of Life, Sunday, June 28, 2026, 2:00pm-4:00pm as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Ashley Deibert-Alier addressed the council regarding the underpass at Broadway and Lemon Street. She stated her family has lived at the corner of this intersection, since 2017. As a family of five, with one on the way, the condition of this structure directly impacts the residents there. There seems to be a lot of passing around of responsibility between IDOT and the City. No one wants to admit potential liability. The issues with the structure have evolved as it is eroding and becoming a safety issue. I did have a conversation with City Manager Conrad today. It seems as no one is communicating. Two times, every year it gets pumped out. It only gets checked on when I notify City Staff. It took just under two weeks to get done, this year. The transparency of City Staff was later contradicted. IDOT washed their hands of it and said the city is taking control. In this past week, we have seen what happens with sink holes. There are children and teenagers that play on the grates. Pests and mosquitos effect our health and happiness. I hope that something can be done to move forward with resolution to this issue soon. Councilwoman Bellm stated she did not know when that structure was put in. It was there as long as she could remember and she used that underpass. It was kind of scary then. Mayor Hemann stated I have found that everyone here has the best interest of the city in mind. When you say they are dishonest, it hits hard. This issue is complex. Your voice is understood. Sometimes things are complex and it takes time to get to the bottom of issues.

John Kapp reported this past weekend was the big Schweizerfest. The Jaycees and everyone worked hard in the heat. The Jaycees did a good job with putting the event on. Mayor Hemann thanked John for helping him clean up his stand, last night. John wished everyone a good summer.

Requests of Council:

Councilwoman Sloan, on behalf of the Jaycees, thanked the city and all the departments that helped the Jaycees put the Schweizerfest together.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Conrad responded to the concerns regarding the Broadway underpass issue. He began by stating I apologize for the miscommunication with staff. It is owned by IDOT, but maintained by City. The problem is this structure dates back so far that it is difficult to find records on that. We have reached out to IDOT's Head of Operation, regarding what solutions we can do to alleviate the issues. Mayor Hemann asked City Manager Conrad to keep us updated. City Manager Conrad explained we don't know when it was put in. IDOT went back into their microfilm. They think they found the designs of it. This will take some engineers on our side and IDOT to decide how to fill. Brad Koehnemann reported he was told it was built in 1928 for any kid that lived south of Broadway to be able to safely get to the Catholic school.

We have submitted our proposal to be a test site for the IMEA Battery Energy Storage System pilot program. This is to test out the technology and determine the feasibility of using it as a resource. We should find out in the next 60 days if we are selected.

As NHL season winds down, FanDuel will be filing bankruptcy and going off the air. At this point, we are not sure what channel NHL Blues Hockey will be aired on. As soon as we have that information, we will let everyone know.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor's Reappointments of Joshua Short, Nancy Genteman and Jeffrey Hebrank To The Library Board of Trustees – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Mayor's reappointments of Joshua Short, Nancy Genteman and Jeffrey Hebrank to the Library Board of Trustees, for additional three-year terms, to expire June 30, 2029, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Mayor's Reappointment of Linda Montayne to the Tree Commission – Councilman Napper made a motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Linda Montayne to the Tree Commission for an additional three-year term, to expire July 2029, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Transfer of Graves in Cemetery From Kathy Pipken and Lynn Klein to Steve Schmitt – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve transfer of Grave Spaces #1, 2 & 3 in Lot #84 of Block #10 in cemetery from Kathy Pipken and Lynn Klein to Steve Schmitt as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-76/RESOLUTION Waiving Customary Bidding Procedures for Purchase of New Playground Equipment for Glik Park Pursuant to Sourcewell Pricing – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-76/RESOLUTION #26-06-3288 waiving customary bidding procedures for purchase of new playground equipment for Glik Park pursuant to Sourcewell Pricing, from Hutchinson Recreation & Design in the amount of \$195,115.00, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Mayor Hemann reported he received a call today from someone that wanted to express they did not like the condition of the playground equipment. Do we know when this will be installed? P&R Facilities Director Laura Wilken responded we anticipate sometime this Fall. Parks Director Brad Koehnemann agreed based upon that it took six weeks to get one part that we needed to fix one of the units. Mayor Hemann suggested an announcement on the Highland Happenings app and/or social media to provide updates on this project. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-77/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing its Sale and/or Disposal, Including a Ferno Manual Load Stretcher – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-77/ORDINANCE #3454 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, including a Ferno Manual Load Stretcher as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-78/RESOLUTION Authorizing the Purchase of a Ferno Power Load Stretcher From Ferno for \$72,975.40 and Waiving Customary Bidding Procedures – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-78/RESOLUTION #26-06-3289 authorizing the purchase of a Ferno Power Load Stretcher from Ferno for \$72,975.40 and waiving customary bidding procedures as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. City Manager Conrad noted this will be for the third truck. The employees like these and our insurance company really loves them. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-79/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing its Sale and/or Disposal, Including a 2008 Combination Sewer Cleaner Truck – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-79/ORDINANCE #3455 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, including a 2008 Combination Sewer Cleaner Truck as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-80/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Moran Economic Development for Comprehensive Plan Services – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-80/RESOLUTION #26-06-3290 approving and authorizing the execution of a professional services agreement with Moran Economic Development for Comprehensive Plan Services as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. City Manager Conrad reported their timeline is about fourteen months, with a start date in July. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1316 for May 30, 2026 through June 12, 2026 – Councilman Napper made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1316 for May 30, 2026 through June 12, 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 7:04pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk