

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 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 Trent Carriger, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Koehnemann, and Widman, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy Clerk Chris Flake, City Clerk Bellm, 7 citizens, and 1 member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 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:

Bart Alexander, 2425 W. Lake Dr, expressed concern about the kids on scooters everywhere, and the fear of backing over one of them, and as a grandparent how he'd feel. I don't know what we can do about it. These are kids. It is getting out of control. The other thing is my mother-in-law, who is 87 years old, lives on Pine Street. There is a large tree leaning towards the house. Three years ago, a tree fell on the neighbor's deck. It cost them \$1,000. Then a few weeks later, it fell on the garage, causing another \$1,000 in damages. The tree was on her property, so it was her tree. Six years ago, I had Jim Miller look at a tree in my yard. He suggested it come down. The insurance gave me \$500 to take it down. It cost me almost \$6,000. I recently put in a new driveway and extended it over. The neighbor's tree limbs are falling on the car. There should be something the city can do to make people take care of these distressed trees. Why can't residents fix them? If the dead branches are hanging over on my property, there should be something that can be done. I know it is a civil matter, since I spoke with an attorney already. However, I don't want to wait until something happens and then have to sue my neighbor. There should be some type of ordinance. So, first concern is the kids on scooters; the second issue is distressed trees.

Mayor Hemann responded, as far as the e-bikes and scooters, there is a new ordinance coming that will have some teeth. We put out a survey to get community feedback. However, it does take parenting. City Attorney Trent Carriger added we are trying to figure out how to enforce while looking at the state's ordinance. Councilwoman Bellm added, just today, I had a kid with a helmet on, who was in the correct lane, but then suddenly switched lanes, right in front of me in traffic.

City Manager Conrad suggested staying until the meeting is over, so we can check with Public Works Director Joe Gillespie regarding the tree on Pine Street. Mayor Hemann stated it is difficult when trees are on private property. Those are private matters.

Requests of Council:

No comments or requests.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Chris Conrad pointed out Item E on the agenda is an agreement with IDOT for resurfacing of Broadway/Illinois 160. This will be taking place next Spring, between Illinois 160 at the corner by 501 Blues back to Lemon Street. As part of that, it will also include filling in the underpass.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor's Appointment of Kody Welch to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Kody Welch to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, to fill a vacancy for a term to expire July 31, 2029 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-87/ORDINANCE Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Highland School District Regarding School Resource Officers for Highland Community Unit School District No. 5 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-87/ORDINANCE #3459 approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Highland School District Regarding School Resource Officers for Highland Community Unit School District No. 5 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Mayor Hemann inquired I am taking that it is very similar to the last agreement. Director Carole Widman explained it is. The old agreement expired. Councilwoman Bellm noted there are new officers. Chief Widman stated yes; however, that has nothing to do with the agreement. The 75/25 split still exist. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-88/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing its Sale and/or Disposal, Specifically Light and Power Department Equipment, Including Transformers – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-88/ORDINANCE #3460 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, specifically Light and Power Department Equipment, including transformers as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-89/RESOLUTION Awarding Bid from Power Line Supply for Purchase of 3 Phase Pad Mount Transformer for Hogg Dairy Farm – Councilman Napper made a motion to approve Bill #26-89/RESOLUTION #26-08-3294 awarding bid from Power Line Supply for purchase of 3-Phase Pad Mount Transformer for Hogg Dairy Farm, for the amount of \$31,530.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-90/RESOLUTION Authorizing City Manager to Execute Necessary Documents with the Illinois Department of Transportation for Resurfacing of IL 160/Broadway – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-90/RESOLUTION #26-08-3295 authorizing City Manager to execute necessary documents with the Illinois Department of Transportation for resurfacing of IL 160/Broadway as attached. City Manager Conrad reported this includes language for the fill in of the underpass at Lemon Street during this project. They are talking about a January 2027 letting with construction in Spring 2027. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1319 for July 18, 2026 through July 31, 2026 – Councilman Klaus made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1319 for July 18, 2026 through July 31, 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 6:49pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk