

**Enrolled Minutes of the Thirty-Third Regular or Special Meeting  
For the Twenty-Ninth Highland Town Council  
Regular Plenary Meeting (Electronic)  
Monday, February 22, 2021**

The Twenty-Ninth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its regular plenary session on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:30 O'clock P.M. in the regular place, the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.

*\*Special note:* This special meeting was convened allowing members of the Town Council to participate electronically without being physically present, to be counted in the quorum and able to simultaneously listen and respond to matters taken up in the meeting, all pursuant to Governor Holcomb's Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-09, extended by Executive Order No. 21-03 allowing meetings to be convened pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-3.6 for the duration of the Corona Virus COVID 19 Emergency. All members of the Town Council participated electronically with the Clerk-Treasurer participating as well. The electronic platform also allowed the public to observe and participate from on-line access.

The Town Council President, Roger Sheeman presided. The Town Clerk-Treasurer, Michael W. Griffin, was present to memorialize the proceedings. The meeting was opened with Councilor Bernie Zemen leading in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Roll Call:** Present on roll call were Councilors Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Mark J. Schocke, Thomas Black and Roger Sheeman. The Clerk-Treasurer, Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings. All were participating electronically. A quorum was attained.

**Additional Officials Present:** (All electronically) John P. Reed, Town Attorney; Pete Hojnicky, Police Chief; William R. Timmer, Jr., CFO, Fire Chief; Mark Knesek, Public Works Director; Kathy DeGuilio-Fox, Redevelopment Director; Alex M. Brown, CPRP, Parks and Recreation Superintendent; and Kenneth J. Mika, Building Commissioner, were present.

*Also present:* Larry Kondrat and Edward Dabrowski of the Board of Waterworks Directors; Robyn Radford of the Redevelopment Commission; and Ed Dabrowski as IT (Contract) Director (all electronically) were also present.

*Guests:* Theresa Badovich of the Idea Factory was also present (electronically).

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the regular meeting of February 8, 2021 and the special meeting of February 12, 2021 were submitted for consideration. Councilor Zemen moved the approval of the minutes. Councilor Schocke seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The minutes of the regular meeting of February 8, 2021 and the special meeting of February 12, 2021 were approved.

**Comments from the Public or Visitors:**

There were no comments from visitors or the public.

**Appointments:**

*Executive Appointments (May be made in meeting or at another time)  
(Listed in case there is readiness)*

1. **Municipal Plan Commission:** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. *(Note: Currently held by Thomas Vander Woude (I)) Citizen members cannot have more than two of any party. Currently, 2 D, 1 R and 1 Ind.*

The Town Council President, as municipal executive, announced his appointment of Hunter Balczo, 3126 Condit, Highland, Indiana, 46322.

2. **Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals:** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. This appointment only necessary if there is a change to the appointment on the Plan Commission. *(Note: Currently held by Joseph Grzymiski term is co-extensive with his plan commission term for which there is no fixed term)*

The Town Council President acknowledged that no action was necessary regarding this appointment based upon the likelihood that there would be no change by the Town Council on this appointment.

3. **Waterworks Board of Directors:** (2) appointments to be made by Town Council President. *(Note: Currently serving Lawrence R. Kondrat (R), and George A. Smith (R). Current composition of the board is three Republicans and two Democrats. No more than three of any one party under state law.*

The Town Council President, as municipal executive, announced his appointment of Jason Tharp, 9343 Kennedy Avenue and reappointment of George S. Smith, 3221 O'Day Drive.

4. **Board of Sanitary Commissioners:** (2) appointments to be made by Town Council President. *(Note: currently serving, Richard Garcia (D) and Greg Cieslak (R)). Current composition is three Republicans, two Democrats. Current law provides no more than three of any one party.*

The Town Council President, as municipal executive, announced his re-appointments of Richard Garcia 3035 Farmer Drive, and Greg Cieslak, 2104 Birchwood Lane.

#### Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

5. **Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC):** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. *(Note: No action is necessary unless the Town Council President wishes to change appointment. Appointee must be an elected official of the community represented. Currently serving, Michael Griffin. He is the Immediate Past Chair of the Commission.)*

The Town Council President acknowledged the current appointment of the Michael Griffin, the Town Clerk-Treasurer, and indicated that he affirmed the continuing service.

6. **Town Representative to the Lake County Public Safety Communications Commission.** *Pursuant to Lake County Ordinance No. 1362A-2, the Town of Highland is a Group A municipality, so the appointment is an Executive appointment. Term expires 12.31.2020 and terms are four years. (Currently held by William R. Timmer, Jr., CFOD)*

The Town Council President announced his reappointment of William R. Timmer, Jr. CFOD, Highland Fire Chief to an additional term.

7. **Economic Development Commission.** (1) Appointment to be made by the municipal executive, but requiring nomination from the Town Council. Term ends just before February 1<sup>st</sup>. *(Currently held by Michael Wieser. He has asked not to be reappointed.) This term does not expire until February 1, 2021.)*

- a. Nomination by the Town Council. *(The council would pass a motion to nominate.)*

Councilor Schocke moved to nominate Robin Salzeider for the consideration of the Town Council President. No second to the motion ensued. The motion could not be considered and was not set before the Town Council President for his action.

Councilor Zemen moved to nominate John M. Bach for the consideration of the Town Council President. Councilor Herak seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were four affirmatives and one negative. With Councilors Zemen, Herak, Black and Sheeman voting in the affirmative and Councilor Schocke voting in the negative, the motion passed. John Bach was nominated.

- b. Appointment by executive. *(If nominee is acceptable, the Town Council President may appoint.)*

The Town Council President accepted the nomination and announced his appointment of John M. Bach, 9153 Idlewild Drive, Highland, to the Economic Development Commission.

#### Home Rule Boards and Commissions

8. **Community Events Commission** *Multi-Year position: (1) appointment to be made by the Town Council President. Term: 4 years. (Note: Currently serving, Jacqueline Herrera )*

The Town Council President announced his re-appointment of Jacqueline Herrera, 8112 Wicker Park Drive to the Community Events Commission.

9. **Tree Board:** (2) appointments, to be made by the municipal executive, but requiring nomination from the Town Council. *(Positions currently held by William (Bill) Vargo and Judy Vaughn.)*

- a. Nomination by the Town Council. *(The council would pass a motion to nominate.)*

Councilor Zemen moved to nominate Judy Vaughn for the consideration of the Town Council President for appointment to the Tree Board. Councilor Herak seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Judy Vaughn was nominated.

Councilor Zemen moved to nominate Joan Robeck for the consideration of the Town Council President for appointment to the Tree Board. Councilor Herak seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Joan Robeck was nominated.

- b. Appointment by executive. *(If nominee is acceptable, the Town Council President may appoint.)*

The Town Council President accepted the nomination of Ms. Vaughn and announced his re-appointment of Judy Vaughn, 3817 Jewett Street, Highland, to the Tree Board.

The Town Council President accepted the nomination of Ms. Robeck and announced his appointment of Joan Roback, 8941 Ohio Place, Highland, to the Tree Board.

- **Tree Board Chairperson.** The Town Council President also appoints the Chairperson to be selected from the membership of the board. (See HMC Section 8.25.030 (C)) (*Currently held by Bill Vargo.*)

The Town Council President indicated that he would delay action on the appointment of a Tree Board Chair until he conferred with the Tree Board members.

### ***Legislative Appointments***

1. **Municipal Plan Commission:** (3) appointments to be made by Town Council. (*Note: Appointees may be elected or appointed officials or employees of the Town. Currently no vacancies. No action necessary as incumbents continue to serve unless the legislative body acts to change. Currently serving: Bernie Zemen (Elected Official); Douglas Turich (employee); Joseph Grzymski (employee)*)

It was noted that the Town Council as legislative body did not wish to make changes to these appointments.

2. **Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals:** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council as the Fiscal Body of Unit. (*Note: Currently held by David Helms*)

Councilor Herak moved to re- appoint Dave Helms to the Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Dave Helms 9306 Waymond Avenue was reappointed to the Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals.

3. **Park and Recreation Board:** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council. (*Note: Currently serving Carlos Aburto (D).*)

Councilor Schocke moved to appoint Ms. Kylee McLellan, to the Park and Recreation Board. No second to the motion ensued. The motion could not be considered and was not set before the Town Council for its action.

Councilor Black moved to appoint Carlos Aburto to the Park and Recreation Board. Councilor Zemen seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Carlos Aburto, 9139 Prairie Drive, was re-appointed.

4. **Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners:** (2) appointments to be made by Town Council. (*Note: currently serving Steven Jurczak (D) and James k. Slagle (D)) Cannot have more than three persons of any single party. Current composition is Three D and Two R.*

Councilor Schocke moved to appoint Ms. Octavia Rolland, to the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners. No second to the motion ensued. The motion could not be considered and was not set before the Town Council for its action.

Councilor Schocke moved to appoint Mr. John Beebe, to the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners. No second to the motion ensued. The motion could not be considered and was not set before the Town Council for its action.

Councilor Herak moved to reappoint Steve Jurczak and James Slagle to the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Steve Jurczak, 2547 Wicker Avenue and James Slagle, 3404 Eder Place were reappointed to the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners.

5. **Redevelopment Commission** (2) appointments to be made by Town Council. *(Note: currently held by Robyn Radford, LCSW; and Cyril Huerter)*

Councilor Zemen moved to reappoint Robyn Radford and Cyril Huerter to the Redevelopment Commission. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were four affirmatives and one negative. With Councilors Zemen, Herak, Black and Sheeman voting in the affirmative and Councilor Schocke voting in the negative, the motion passed. Robyn Radford, 9527 O'Day Drive and Cyril Huerter, 8740 Carolina Avenue were re-appointed to the Redevelopment Commission.

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

6. **Lake County Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council. *(Note: currently held by Councilor Thomas "Tom" Black. Must be a member of the Town Council (Fiscal Body). Term is co-extensive with term of councilor. **No action necessary** unless the Town Council wishes to change the appointment. The term continues until acted upon or status changes as a fiscal body member)*

It was noted that there was no desire to make a change to this appointment.

Home Rule Commissions

7. **Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council. Term: Two years ending 1 Jan 2023. *There is currently 1 of the 17 in place and serving. Currently serving is Teri Yovkovich.*

The Town Council President indicated without objection that owing to the ongoing recruiting for members of this body, there was not readiness regarding these appointments.

8. **Joint Board of Delegates of the Interlocal Cooperation Ethics Entity.** *Continues until recalled. Currently, Michael Griffin.*

It was noted that there was no desire to make a change to this appointment.

9. **Community Events Commission** *Multi-year positions:* (3) appointments to be made by the Town Council. **Term: 4 years.** *(Note: Currently serving Dawn Wolak and Kristen Smith. Also there is a vacant post the term of which expires 1 January 2022, unexpired term)*

Councilor Schocke moved, seconded by Councilor Zemen, then withdrew his motion to appoint Michael Blejski to the Community Events Commission. It was noted that the multi-year position was first to be considered. It was further noted that this was not what Councilor Schocke and Councilor Zemen intended.

Councilor Herak moved to appoint to an expiring multi-year position Kristen Smith. Councilor Schocke seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Kristen Smith, 9801 Fifth Street was reappointed to a multi-year term on the Community Events Commission.

*Single year positions:* (9) appointments to be made by the Town Council. **Term: 1 year.** *(Note: Currently serving, John A. Salzeider, Stan M. Allen, Michael Cardone, Michael Blejski, Christopher Kornaus, Deanna Christ, Elizabeth Alakel, and Jason Tharp)*

Councilor Schocke moved that Michael Blejski be reappointed to the Community Events Commission to one of the single year positions. Councilor Herak seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were four affirmatives and one negative. With Councilors Zemen, Herak, Schocke and Sheeman voting in the affirmative and Councilor Black

voting in the negative, the motion passed. Michael Blejski, 9333 Fifth Street was re-appointed to the Community Events Commission.

Councilor Herak moved to appoint the following persons to the Community Events Commission. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The following persons were appointed to single year terms on the Community Events Commission.

Jeffery Pena, 10399 Timberridge Lane                      Deborah Trevino 3012 Lakeside Drive

Stan Allen, 3510 Laverne Drive                              Christine Gonzales, 9032 Pettit Drive

Elizabeth Alakel, 3048 100<sup>th</sup> Place

- 10. Traffic Safety Commission:** (5) appointments, which must be comprised of 1 representative from the **Fire Department**, (1) representative from the **Public Works Department (Agency)**, (1) **member from the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners**, and (2) **members** from the **Police Department**. Also note, HMC Chapter 10.45 provides that the Police Chief serves as Chief of the Commission regardless of being a member of the commission. (*Currently serving, William Timmer, CFO, Fire Department Representative; Vacant\* (owing to retirement) Public Works Department (Agency) representative; Steve Jurczak, Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners representative; Commander John Banasiak, Police Department representative; and Chief Peter T. Hojnicky, Police Department representative.*)

Councilor Herak moved the appointment of the following persons as indicated to the Traffic Safety Commission. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The following persons were appointed to the Traffic Safety Commission as indicated:

Peter Hojnicky, Police Department representative

John Banasiak, Police Department representative

Mark Knesek, Public Works Department representative

William R. Timmer, Jr., CFOD, Fire Department representative

Steven Jurczak, Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners representative

It was noted that Councilor Tom Black continues to serve as the Town Council representative as his term is co-extensive with his term as Town Councilor.

#### **Unfinished Business and General Orders:**

- 1. Redevelopment Resolution No. 2021-07 (Works Board 2021-01):** A Resolution Authorizing, Accepting and Approving the Conveyance, Return and Transfer of a Certain Parcel of Land and/or its Improvements to the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department (Agency) of the Town of Highland in Consequence of the Completion of the Redevelopment Project and Improvement Work Performed by the Redevelopment Department. (*At its meeting of January 26, 2021 the Redevelopment Commission approved the completion of the Downtown Parking Project. While the project was underway, it required temporary transfer of the property to the Redevelopment Department. Once approved by all the needed bodies, the area of the project, bike trail and other improvements will be transferred to the Parks and Recreation Department. The Park and Recreation Board approved at its meeting of February 18, 2021. The Town Council acting as the Works Board of the Town is the last governing body required to act to perfect the return of the property.*)

Councilor Herak moved to approve Redevelopment Resolution No. 2021-07 and adopt Works Board order No. 2021-01. Upon a roll call vote, there were four affirmatives and no negatives. With Councilors Zemen, Herak, Schocke, and

Sheeman voting in the affirmative and Councilor Black voting in the negative, the motion passed. The resolution was approved and the order was adopted.

**TOWN of HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
Resolution No. 2021-07  
(Works Board Order No. 2021-02)**

**A Resolution Authorizing, Accepting and Approving the Conveyance, Return and Transfer of a Certain Parcel of Land and/or its Improvements to the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department (agency) of the Town of Highland in Consequence of the Completion of the Redevelopment Project and Improvement Work Performed by the Redevelopment Department**

**WHEREAS**, The Redevelopment Department through its Redevelopment Commission established the Highland Downtown Redevelopment Area that encompasses the municipal parking lot located on the southwest corner of the intersections of Highway and Kennedy Avenues;

**WHEREAS**, The Redevelopment Department through its Redevelopment Commission conducted a redevelopment project constructing desirable improvements for municipal parking lot located on the southwest corner of the intersections of Highway and Kennedy Avenues, which includes enhancement to parking lot and the bike trail, which includes the construction of a public restroom depot, all consistent with the plan for the Downtown Redevelopment Area;

**WHEREAS**, The Redevelopment Department through its Redevelopment Commission customarily returns, transfers or restores jurisdiction to the properties and the improvements to the original departments of jurisdiction upon completion of such projects and does now desire to accept and resume jurisdiction over the property now improved and enhanced as indicated;

**WHEREAS**, The Redevelopment Commission desires to return and transfer jurisdiction of the respective portions of the improvement to the Parks and Recreation Board and the Works Board, which in turn, desire to accept and resume jurisdiction over the property now improved and enhanced as indicated,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town of Highland Redevelopment Commission as follows:

**Section 1.** That the Redevelopment Department conducted a redevelopment project constructing desirable improvements for municipal parking lot located on the southwest corner of the intersections of Highway and Kennedy Avenues, which includes enhancement to parking lot and the bike trail, which includes the construction of a public restroom depot, all consistent with the plan for the Downtown Redevelopment Area;

**Section 2.** That the project is now satisfactorily completed, the temporary easement/ authorization or jurisdiction granted by the proper governing bodies to support the exercise of redevelopment powers on the properties is dissolved, and those improvements of public way and other infrastructure improved or installed in consequence of the Downtown Redevelopment Area project described herein, become property of the respective individual departments, all according to governing law;

**Section 3.** That the proper officers of the Town of Highland Park and Recreation Board and the Works Board should evidence or ratify authorization for the improvements and to act to accept the improvements as conveyed, *to the extent that they may apply*, all pursuant to IC 36-7-14-12.2; IC36-7-14-22.5; IC 36-1-11-8; and IC 36-1-4-16.

Duly passed and adopted by the Highland Redevelopment Commission of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021, having passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

**REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION of the  
TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

*/s/ Cyril Huerter, President*

**Attest:**

*/s/ Robin Radford, Secretary*

**Approval by Park and Recreation Board**

The Highland Park and Recreation Board now hereby approves the following:

(A) The Park and Recreation Board accepts and acknowledges that the project constructing desirable improvements for municipal parking lot located on the southwest corner of the intersections of Highway and

Kennedy Avenues, which includes enhancement to parking lot and the bike trail, and which includes the construction of a public restroom depot, all consistent with the plan for the Downtown Redevelopment Area is now satisfactorily completed;

(B) That the necessary temporary easement/ authorization or jurisdiction granted by this body to support the exercise of redevelopment powers on the properties is hereby ratified for such period of time as was necessary to execute the project, pursuant to IC 36-1-4-16 and now is dissolved, returned to the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department; and

(C) That those improvements of public way and other infrastructure improved or installed in consequence of the Downtown Redevelopment Area project described herein, are accepted and become property of the Park and Recreation Department, particularly *the improved bike trail and the public restrooms*, all according to governing law.

Duly resolved and approved by the Park and Recreation Board of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021, having passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

**PARK and RECREATION BOARD  
of the TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

/s/ Carlos Aburto, President

*Attest:*

/s/ Chris Ray, Secretary

**Approval by the Works Board  
Order No. 2021-02**

The Town Council acting as the Works Board now hereby approves the following:

(A) The Town Council acting as the Works Board accepts and acknowledges that the project constructing desirable improvements for municipal parking lot located on the southwest corner of the intersections of Highway and Kennedy Avenues, which includes enhancement to parking lot and the bike trail, and which includes the construction of a public restroom depot, all consistent with the plan for the Downtown Redevelopment Area is now satisfactorily completed;

(B) That the necessary temporary easement/ authorization or jurisdiction granted by this body to support the exercise of redevelopment powers on the properties is hereby ratified for such period of time as was necessary to execute the project, pursuant to IC 36-1-4-16 and now is dissolved, returned to the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department (Agency); and

(C) That those improvements of public way and other infrastructure improved or installed in consequence of the Downtown Redevelopment Area project described herein, are accepted and become property of the Public Works Department (Agency), particularly *the parking lot and any other improvements not intended for the Parks and Recreation Department*, all according to governing law.

**Duly Resolved Ordered and Approved**, by the Town Council acting as the WORKS BOARD of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2020, having passed by a vote of 4 in favor and 1 opposed.

**WORKS BOARD of the TOWN of  
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

/s/ Roger W. Sheeman, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

*Attest:*

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/ACPFIM/CMO  
Clerk-Treasurer (IC 33-42-4-1; IC 36-5-6-5; IC 36-5-2-10.2)

- 2. Resolution No. 2021-07:** An Exigent Resolution Providing for the Transfer of Appropriation Balances from and Among Major Budget Classifications in the Public Safety Local Income Tax Fund as Requested by the Proper Officer and Forwarded to the Town Council for its Action Pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18-6.



Councilor Herak moved the passage and adoption of Resolution No. 2021-07. Councilor Zemen seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The resolution was adopted.

TOWN OF HIGHLAND  
APPROPRIATION TRANSFER RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-07

AN EXIGENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING for the TRANSFER of APPROPRIATION BALANCES from and AMONG MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATIONS in the PUBLIC SAFETY LOCAL INCOME TAX FUND as REQUESTED BY THE PROPER OFFICER AND FORWARDED to the TOWN COUNCIL for its ACTION PURSUANT TO I.C. 6-1.1-18-6.

WHEREAS, It has been determined that certain exigent conditions have developed since adoption of the original budget and it is now necessary to transfer certain appropriations into different categories than were initially appropriated for the various functions of the **Public Safety Local Income Tax Fund**;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana as follows:

**Section 1.** That for the expenses of said municipality, the following appropriations are hereby transferred and set apart out of the funds hereinafter named for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same, such sums herein transferred unless otherwise stipulated by law;

**Section 2.** That it has been shown that certain existing unobligated appropriations of the **Public Safety Local Income Tax Fund**, which are not needed at this time for the purposes for which originally appropriated, and may be transferred to a category of appropriation in order to satisfy an existing need, as follows:

PUBLIC SAFETY LOCAL INCOME TAX FUND

Reduce Account:		
249-0000-43007 EQUIPMENT SCBA		\$ 10,000.00
Total 400 Series Reductions:		\$ 10,000.00
Increase and Create Accounts:		
249-0000-PPE & COVIND SUPPLIES		\$ 10,000.00
Total 200 Series Increases:		\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total of Fund Decreases:</b>		<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
<b>Total of Fund Increases:</b>		<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>

DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED this 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of February 2021 by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of  
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

/s/ Roger Sheeman, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

Attest:

/s/ Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/ACPFIM/CMO  
Clerk-Treasurer (IC 33-42-4-1; IC 36-5-6-5)

- 3. Commendation Letter for Day Off and Signature Authorization.** Action to approve Letters of Commendation for Exemplary Public service leading to the award of a single paid day off for several workers in the Metropolitan Police Department. Pursuant to Section 4.13 of the Compensation and Benefits Ordinance, for the day off to be effective requires the approval of the board of jurisdiction and the Town Council. The Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners has granted preliminary approval to a letter of commendation to *Lance Corporal John Hinkel* regarding the rescue and apprehension of a person suspected of fleeing a traffic stop.

Action should include approval for the members of the Town Council to sign the letters of commendation.

*The Police Chief and the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners are asking for approval of a letter of commendation for the exemplary public service evidenced in the rescue and then apprehension of a person suspected of fleeing a traffic stop:*

- *Lance Corporal John Hinkel*

Councilor Herak moved to approve the letter commendation for Lance Corporal John Hinkel and to authorize members of the Town Council to sign the letter individually. Councilor Schocke seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The letter of commendation was approved.

4. **Authorizing the proper officer to publish legal notice of a public hearing:** Public Hearing to consider additional appropriations in the amount of \$110,000 in the **Public Safety Income Tax Fund**.

Councilor Herak moved to authorize the publication of legal notice for a public hearing on proposed additional appropriations as indicated. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The legal notice and public hearing were authorized.

**Remarks from the Town Council:**  
*(For the Good of the Order)*

- **Councilor Bernie Zemen:** • *Fire Department, Liaison* • *Liaison to the Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals.*

Councilor Zemen acknowledged the Highland Fire Chief who expressed appreciation for the several residents who on their own initiative uncovered the fire hydrants from snow drifts.

Councilor Zemen acknowledged the Building Commissioner who offered a survey of the matters pending before the Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilor Zemen praised the municipal workforce for its response in clearing the roads during the heavy snows in recent days.

- **Councilor Mark Herak:** • *Budget and Finance Chair* • *Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners, Liaison* • *Public Works Liaison* • *Economic Development Commission Liaison* • *Board of Sanitary Commissioners Liaison.*

Councilor Herak expressed condolences to George Georgeff of the Redevelopment Commission on the recent passing of his father.

Councilor Herak expressed affirmation for Michael O'Donnell, a former Highland town councilor and police officer owing to the declining health of his mother.

Councilor Herak thanked Terry Krooswyk of the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners for his recent assistance to Highland.

Councilor Herak also praised the municipal workforce for its response in clearing the roads during the heavy snows in recent days.

- **Councilor Mark Schocke:** *Park and Recreation Board Liaison • Liaison to the Tree Board.*

Councilor Schocke acknowledged the Parks and Recreation Superintendent who noted that the County had three weeks at the pandemic metric of yellow, which would allow some gatherings. The Parks and Recreation Superintendent offered a survey regarding parks and recreation.

The Parks and Recreation Superintendent also noted that Recreation Supervisor Matt Jillson was leaving the Highland department to assume a role at the new community center in Merrillville.

Councilor Schocke expressed disappointment with some of the appointments made during the meeting. Councilor Schocke indicated that he would be working on an ordinance that would limit the terms of the Town Council and for the boards and commissions. Councilor Schocke indicated he hoped to distribute it for review at the next study session.

- **Councilor Tom Black:** *Liaison to the Board of Waterworks Directors.*

Councilor Black praised the municipal workforce for its response in clearing the roads during the heavy snows in recent days.

Councilor Black, acknowledging Mr. Kondrat, then offered an update on the status of the ongoing wholesale rate litigation and negotiation with the several customer communities and the City of Hammond.

- **Councilor President Roger Sheeman:** *Town Executive • Chair of the Board of Police Pension Trustees • Chamber of Commerce Liaison • Liaison to the Community Events Commission • Information Technology Liaison • Redevelopment Commission Liaison.*

Town Council President offered comments regarding diversity and on the boards and commissions.

The Town Council President encouraged persons that may not have been appointed to remain interested as there are appointments each year. The Town Council President encouraged persons interested in appointments to the Main Street Bureau and the Community Events Commission to obtain an application.

The Town Council President acknowledged the Redevelopment Director, who commented on the next downtown restaurant crawl and offered a modest survey of redevelopment activity. It was noted that the Green Witch Restaurant on Highway Avenue in the Downtown Highland was under new ownership.

#### **Comments from Visitors or Residents: (In person and electronically)**

1. Aaron Straker, Highland, (electronically) urged the proper officer to review the condition of the fence bordering the yard on the Erie Street Side of K & S Engineering, 9715 Kennedy Avenue, Highland.

With leave from the Town Council, the Building Commissioner discussed the issue and noted that there was some communication with the business to correct the condition. The Building Commissioner indicated that he would follow-up.

2. Larry Kondrat, Highland, (electronically), inquired about the site of the former Ultra Super Grocery Store, 8401 Indianapolis Boulevard, and references a recent inquiry presented by another resident regarding the price for the property.

Mr. Kondrat further expressed concerns regarding a planned antique mall there.

3. Aaron Straker, Highland,(electronically) thanked the fire department for its response in suppressing a treadmill fire experienced by his neighbor.

**Payment of Accounts Payable Vouchers.** There being no further comments from the public, Councilor Zemen moved to allow the vendors accounts payable vouchers as filed on the pending accounts payable docket, covering the period February 9, 2021 through February 22, 2021 as well as to ratify the payroll dockets for the paydays of January 29, 2021, and February 9, 2021. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The accounts payable vouchers for the vendor docket were allowed, payroll dockets and other payments allowed in advance were ratified, and for all remaining invoices, the Clerk-Treasurer was authorized to make payment.

**Vendors Accounts Payable Docket:**

**General Fund, \$311,108.22; Motor Vehicle Highway and Street (MVH) Fund, \$101,739.33; Local Road and Streets Fund, \$5,521.60; Law Enforcement Continuing Education and Training and Supply Fund, \$735.00; Information Communications Technology Fund, \$50,416.00; Municipal Cumulative Capital Development Fund, \$2,666.66; Traffic Violations and Law Enforcement Agency Fund, \$1,500.00; Community Crossings Grant Fund, \$66,050.01; Total: \$539,736.82.**

**Payroll Docket for payday of January 29, 2021:**

**Council, Boards and Commissions, \$8,350.24; Office of Clerk-Treasurer, \$17,691.23; Building and Inspection Department, \$8,858.18; Metropolitan Police Department, \$117,533.48; Public Works Department (Agency), \$71,531.09; Fire Department, \$27,372.99; and 1925 Police Pension Plan Pension Fund, \$68,622.81; Total Payroll: \$319,960.02.**

**Payroll Docket for payday of February 12, 2021:**

**Council, Boards and Commissions, \$0.00; Office of Clerk-Treasurer, \$16,807.83; Building and Inspection Department, \$9,056.99; Metropolitan Police Department, \$125,699.73; Public Works Department (Agency), \$86,854.10; Fire Department, \$3,870.80; and 1925 Police Pension Plan Pension Fund, \$0.00; Total Payroll: \$242,259.45.**

**Adjournment of Plenary Meeting.** Having completed all matters on the agenda, noting there was no further business before the Town Council, the Town Council President adjourned the meeting. The regular plenary meeting, convened electronically, of the Town Council for Monday, February 22, 2021 was adjourned at 7:39 O'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/ACPFIM/CMO  
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/ACPFIM/CMO  
Clerk-Treasurer