

**Enrolled Minutes of the Tenth Regular Meeting or Special Meeting
For the Thirtieth Highland Town Council Regular Plenary
Business Meeting (In person) Tuesday, May 28, 2024**

The Thirtieth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its regular plenary session on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 6:30 O'clock P.M. in the regular place, the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.

*This meeting was convened as an in person meeting and lived streamed to the Town of Highland Facebook. Facebook permits the public to observe and record the proceedings but allows no interaction between and among the Town Council and members of the public. The public is able to participate in person. Councilor George Georgeff, Councilor Turich, Councilor Alex Robertson, Councilor Tom Black and Councilor Philip Scheeringa all participated in person.

Pursuant to HMC Section 2.05.130(A)(2), the Town Council considered and reviewed the agenda in an informal proceeding in the plenary meeting room before the president called the meeting to order.

The Town Council President Philip Scheeringa presided over the meeting. The Town Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak, was present to memorialize the proceedings. The meeting was opened with Councilor Tom Black reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and offering a prayer.

Roll Call: Present on roll call were Councilors George Georgeff, Doug Turich, Alex Robertson, Tom Black and Philip Scheeringa were present. Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak was also present. A quorum was attained.

Additional Officials Present: Alex Brown, CPRP, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation; Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta; John Reed, Attorney with Abrahamson, Reed & Bilse; Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra; Ed Dabrowski, Director of Information Technology, Kenneth J. Mika, Building Commissioner were present. Mark Knesek, Public Works Director and Mike Pipta, Fire Chief were absent.

Guests: Theresa Badovich (remotely) and Robin Carlascio (remotely) of the Idea Factory were also present.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings: The minutes of the May 13, 2024 Plenary meeting were approved by general consent.

Special Orders:

1. **1. Executive Proclamation:** A Proclamation of the Municipal Executive Recognizing Patrick L. Vassar upon his retirement after forty-three years.
 - (a) Reading and Execution of Proclamation.
 - (b) Action by the Town Council President

TOWN of HIGHLAND
PROCLAMATION of the TOWN COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

A PROCLAMATION in HONOR AND RECOGNITION of Patrick L. Vassar on the Occasion of His Retirement after Forty-Three Years as an Exemplary Public Servant



Whereas, Assistant Police Chief Patrick L. Vassar, a dedicated public servant to the good residents of the Town of Highland, has concluded forty-three years of highly dedicated public service; and

Whereas, Patrick L. Vassar, a lifelong member of the community who has well served his Town, his Church and the greater Northwest Indiana community, and who has been an active member of the community, involved in its spiritual and governmental life; and

Whereas, We commend and acknowledge Patrick L. Vassar, the family man, who on July 7, 1984 married the former Rhoda Voskuil, his beloved wife of forty years this July 2024, and is father to daughter, Breanne, and sons, Ryan, Josh, Zach, and six (6) grandchildren; and

Whereas, Patrick L. Vassar, and his wife Rhoda, having raised their four children, continue to worship according to their faith in the community of Highland and are attending members of the Faith Church in Highland; and

Whereas, Patrick L. Vassar, who attended Calumet College from 1978-1980 and received an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice; and

Whereas, Patrick L. Vassar did first join the Highland Police Department on July 13, 1981, working continuously and conscientiously through April 1, 2024, and was in 1988 promoted to Highland Police Department supervisory roles; and

Whereas, Patrick L. Vassar was promoted to Corporal in 1988; Sergeant in 1990, Lieutenant in 1996, Commander in 2001 and Assistant Chief in 2008, having served with distinction and as an exemplary public servant; and

Whereas, Patrick L. Vassar, previously announced his intention to retire as Assistant Police Chief of the Highland Metropolitan Police Department, but delayed the actual date owing to the added demands of the municipality and who officially concluded his active service on April 1, 2024; and

Whereas, We commend and acknowledge Patrick L. Vassar has been a model civil servant, making a great difference to this community and its residents, while highly respected by his colleagues and peers; and

Whereas, We commend and acknowledge Patrick L. Vassar, the public servant, who served in various supervisory roles within the Highland Metropolitan Police Department through the tenure of nine Metropolitan Police Chiefs and twelve Town Councils and whose public duties has been responsible for patrol, public safety and protection of the life and safety of the residents of the Town of Highland; and

Whereas, It is most appropriate that the members of 30th Town Council recognize the dedication and commitment to community evidenced by many, many years of unbroken commitment to the practice of one's public service and profession, to the care of one's family, to the life of his community of Highland and to countless challenges of service which he has cheerfully encountered and to which he has faithfully proffered his best; and

Whereas, I and many others now say thank you to Patrick L. Vassar for "leaving his town greater than when he dedicated his life to public service," ; and,

Now, Therefore, I, Philip Scheeringa, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, on behalf of the Town Council, the Clerk-Treasurer, the Metropolitan Police Commissioners and the people of Highland, now hereby recognize Patrick L. Vassar for his dedicated service to the Town of Highland;

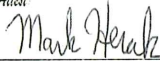
Further, I extend appreciation to Mr. Vassar for exemplary dedication to his community and wish him, on the occasion of his retirement, great joy, health, and prosperity fortified by the warmth of a grateful community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto have set my signature and caused the corporate seal of the municipality to be affixed, this 28th day of May 2024.

TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA
By its TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Philip Scheeringa

Attest



Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer



Comments from the Public or Visitors: There were no comments from the public or visitors.

Staff Reports: None

Communications:

The Lake County Solid Waste Management District is no longer accepting batteries at individual sites due to a fire at the Lowell Town Hall. Batteries should be disposed on during the Town's Hazard Waste Day at the Public Works Facility on July 27 or drop off the batteries at one of the Hazard Collection Sites

Appointments:

• **Statutory Boards and Commissions**

Executive Appointments (May be made in meeting or at another time)

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

1. **Waterworks Board of Directors:** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. *(Note: Formerly held by Curt Schroeder (D), term ending 1st Monday January 2025). Current composition of the board is two Republicans and two Democrats. No more than three of any one party under state law.*

Home Rule Boards and Commissions

2. **Shared Ethics Advisory Commission.** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. *(Note: Fill vacancy made by resignation of Rev. Tim Huizenga.) (Made pursuant to Article 5, Subdivision (A) of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Establishing the Shared Ethics Entity. Qualifications are to be persons who live work or hold property in the county. Further persons appointed must be of good character and not hold any positions within the local government.)*

Legislative Appointments

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

Home Rule Commissions

1. **Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council. Term: Two years ending 1 Jan 2025. *There are currently 13 of the 17 in place and serving. Currently serving are Rhonda Bloch, Teri Yookovich, Renee Reinhart, Alex*

Robertson, Diane Barr-Roumbus, James Roumbus Sandy McKnight, Al Simmons, Ben Reinhart, Sandy Ray, Kathy Smailis, Ben Tomera and Laura Pilewski.

- 2. Community Events Commission Multi-year positions: (4)** appointments to be made by the Town Council. **Term: 4 years.** *(Note: Currently vacant)*

Single year positions: (9) appointments to be made by the Town Council. Term: 1 year. There are currently 5 of the 9 in place and serving. (Note: Currently serving, Jack Rowe, Linda Carter, Rachael Carter, Kathy Burke and Olga Briseno)

General Orders and Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- 1. Consideration of a Special Event with Alcohol Permit (SEAP):** The CEC permit was approved by the Park and Recreation Board at its meeting of May 16, 2024, pursuant to Section 11.10.225 of the Highland Municipal Code. *(The Community Events Commission requires a permit from the Park and Recreation Board to support the beer garden as part of the Independence Day Festival and BBQ Festival. This being the first regular meeting of the Town Council following the receipt of the action of the Park and Recreation Board, the Town Council must consider the permit, pursuant to HMC Section 11.10.225(F)(4))*

Councilor Black moved to approve the Special Event with Alcohol Permit (SEAP) for the Town's 2024 Independence Day and BBQ Festivals as approved by the Park and Recreation board at their May 16, 2024 meeting. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The SEAP Permit for the HCCE was approved.

- 2. Authorizing the proper officer to publish legal notice of a public hearing: Authorize a public hearing to consider proposed additional appropriations for Monday, June 10, 2024. VIPS/Parks Public Safety Fund, \$26,822.**

Councilor Turich moved to authorize the proper officer to publish legal notice of a public hearing to consider proposed additional appropriations as indicated. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The proper officer was authorized to publish the legal notice.

Town of Highland • Office of the Town Clerk-Treasurer
Highland Municipal Building • 3333 Ridge Road • Highland, Indiana 46322

Friday May 24, 2024

ATTENTION LEGAL NOTICES

Ms. Nicole Muscari
Amanda Koepp
Christina Palma
Customer Service Representative
The Times
601- 45th Avenue
Munster, Indiana 46321

Sent Via Facsimile & Electronic Transmission

Re: Legal Notice for Hearing on Proposed Additional Appropriations in the VIPS/Parks Public Safety Fund

Dear Nicole Muscari, Amanda Koepp, Christina Palma:

Hello. Attached, please find one (1) notice for a public hearing regarding proposed additional appropriations in the VIPS/Park Public Safety Fund as indicated. Please publish this notice **one (1) time** in satisfaction of I.C. 6-1.1-18-5 *et seq.* and I.C. 5-3-1-2(b). *I have also sent this request by electronic mail.*

The enclosed notice should be published *on or before* Wednesday, May 29, 2024. As always, please send two (2) proofs of publication for our files. We should have these proofs as soon as possible following their publication in order to permit the Town Attorney to review them prior to the hearing. Our hearing is set for Monday, June 10, 2024.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for the processing of these requests. Also, if you will, please confirm your receipt by emailing me mherak@highland.in.gov.

Again, I thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer
Enclosures:
(1) Notice for VIPS/Parks Public Safety Fund

Authorizing the proper officer to publish legal notice of a public hearing: Public Hearing to consider additional appropriations in the amount of \$26,822.00 in the VIPS/Parks Public Safety Fund.

TOWN OF HIGHLAND
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL
APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, that the Town Council of said Municipality in said Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, at 6:30 p.m. on the 10th day of June 2024, will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year in the following funds:

VIPS/Parks Public Safety Fund

Acct. 2501-0000-410.01	VIPS Special Purchase Vehicle	\$26,822.00
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Total 400 Series:	\$ 26,822.00
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TOTAL for the FUND:	<u>\$26,822.00</u>
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Funds to support these additional appropriations in the VIPS/Parks Public Safety Fund shall be supported by miscellaneous revenue, unreserved unobligated fund balance on deposit to the credit of the fund.

Taxpayers appearing at such meeting shall have a right to be heard thereon. The additional appropriations, as finally made, will be filed with the Department of Local Government Finance, for its review. The Department of Local Government Finance shall make a written determination of the sufficiency of funds within fifteen days of receipt of a certified copy of the action taken.

TOWN COUNCIL of HIGHLAND
Philip Scheeringa, President

By: Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

3. Request from St. James the Less Church to use the Town's crowd Control fencing for their St. James Festival. If approved, St. James would like to pick up the fencing on June 19th. In June of 2023, the Town Council adopted Resolution No. 2023-20 establishing a rental policy, fee schedule, penalties and regulations by Non-Profits located in Highland.

Councilor Robertson moved to allow St. James the Less Church to use the Town's crowd control barriers for their festival, to be held from June 21 to June 23, with St. James picking up the crowd control barriers on June 19th. Councilor Georgeff seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed.

4. **Works Board Order No. 2024-29:** An Order of the Works Board Accepting the Proposal of X, for Operational and Related Services Associated with a Beer Garden for the Town of Highland, Associated with BBQ Festival.

Leroy's Hot Stuff – 301 W. US Highway 20 - 50/50 split with the Town/Leroy
Big Frank's Sausage – 918 Carrol Street – 57/43 split with the Town/Big Frank's

Councilor Scheeringa read the beer prices as submitted by Big Frank's and Leroy's.

Discussion: Councilor Robertson asked that the vote be deferred and the topic be placed on the next study session to discuss the possibility of HCCE handling the the operational and related services associated with the beer at the BBQ Festival. He felt the size of the BBQ Festival was small enough and the HCCE could handle the complete operation of the beer garden.

Attorney Reed said he would email the Town's liability carrier (Brown Insurance) and get the premium cost to Town, if any, to be the third party dispensing of the beer.

Councilor Black moved to defer the vote and have this item placed on the next study session. Councilor Georgeff seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were four (4) affirmatives, no negatives and one (1) abstention, with Councilors Georgeff, Turich, Black and Scheeringa voting in the affirmative and Councilor Robertson abstaining.

BEER PRICES FOR BACKYARD HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Friday, January 14, 2022 8:21 PM

HERE ARE THE PRODUCTS AND PRICES FOR THE BEER GARDEN

MILLER LITE ON TAP
ZYWIEC ON TAP
TWO HEARTED ALE ON TAP
SAM ADAMS OCTOBER FEST ON TAP
16 OUNCE DRAFT \$7
32 OUNCE DRAFT \$13
WHITE CLAW CANS \$7
ANGRY ORCHARD \$6

STAN STEFANSKI 5/23/24
BIG FRANKS
SAUSAGE LLC

LEROY'S

333 West U.S. 20 Porter, IN 46304
219.926.6211

THURSDAY
5/23/24

ALL BEER PRICES WILL BE
ONE TICKET OF \$6⁰⁰
FOR 32oz DRAFT WILL BE \$12⁰⁰ TWO TICKETS

Homemade Mexican Food

Comments from the Town Council:

(Good of the order)

- **Councilor George Georgeff:** *Chamber of Commerce; • Liaison to the Board of Water Works • Co-Chair Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commission • Redevelopment Commission Member*

Councilor Georgeff recognized Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta who provided the following statistics since the May 13, 2024 plenary meeting.

Highland PD activity 05/13 – 05/27:

0 Burglaries – 0 Robberies – 0 Rapes

1 Battery - No arrest – conflicting statements

2 incidents of Criminal Mischief – Graffiti:

Rookery – Steel retaining wall spray painted / tagged. Appears multiple offenders. One subject caught in the act – fled from our officers – taken into custody and charged – All graffiti has already been covered by Public Works – Thank you to Jeff Siple.

Little Turtle Park - Playground equipment defaced with a Sharpie pen – childish vulgarities – already removed by Parks Department staff.

REMINDER TO RESIDENTS – REPORT GRAFFITI WHEN YOU SEE IT SO WE CAN GET IT REMOVED. THE LONGER IT SITS THE MORE CHANCE OF IT CONTINUING. EVEN IF YOU SEE IT ON A BUSINESS WE WILL WORK WITH THE BUSINESS OWNERS TO GET IT REMOVED IMMEDIATELY.

13 Domestic Argument related calls – No arrests

8 DUI arrests

40 accidents covered – 6 of those involved personal injury

4 retail thefts / 4 arrests:

2 Venezuelan migrants from Chicago (\$940 IN MERCHANDISE)

1 Chicago resident (JUVENILE) and 1 Calumet Park Illinois resident (\$94 IN MERCHANDISE)

1 Auto Theft: Employee at Highland Grove business had her 08 Ford Focus stolen from the lot.

• **Councilor Doug Turich:** *Park and Recreation Board Liaison • Liaison and Plan Commission Member • Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals Liaison • Redevelopment Commission Member*

Councilor Turich began by acknowledging Ken Mika, Building Commissioner who said the BZA met last week and approved several findings of fact from the previous month's petitions. He will have them on the Council's next study session agenda. He said the Plan Commission will be meeting next month is study session.

Councilor Turich asked Mr. Mika about the legality of "signs about buying your home" being attached to stop signs. Mr. Mika said they are not legal but Highland is not the only community dealing with this. Nothing is to be attached to any traffic control signs, he added.

Before recognizing Alex Brown, Superintendent of Parks, Councilor Turich wanted to compliment the Park Department for their hard work in preparing Main Square for the Memorial Day Ceremony. He then recognized Alex Brown, Superintendent of Parks.

Alex Brown began by saying that the first movie in the park is scheduled for this Friday at Main Square. He said they are usually well attended events with hundreds of people coming out as it is a free event. He said summer camp started today. He said there is a parent meeting going on right now in the Lincoln Center in preparation of their children attending summer camp. He said the summer concert series starts this Wednesday night at Main Square. There will be a concert every Wednesday night with the exception of when the festival is going on for the 4th of July and the 2 summer theater performances going on in August. He said tomorrow night there will be a sports summit meeting with all the youth sports presidents. It's strictly between the staff and the league presidents and no park board. The staff realized that a lot of organizations don't know how the other organizations operate. For example, who do they use for pictures or who do they order uniforms from or how is their fee structured or how much are they charging for outfield fence signs? It's going to be a simple round table discussion. He said the saga of the Brantwood Park continues. The contractor was supposed to start tomorrow but with this rain, it may be delayed. They tried last week but the ground was too muddy and the post holes kept filling up with mud. He said the Park Department has two (2) long time employees retiring. Jim Dobos is retiring this Friday, after 34-1/2 years of service. For over twenty (20) years, he was in charge of maintaining Sharp Athletic Complex. Mike Janovsky, a 26-1/2 year employee, who was the midnight janitor at Lincoln Center. Many people didn't even know he existed because they didn't see him. He said either on June 7th or June 14th, there will be a retirement luncheon for both at the Lincoln Center. They were both excellent, long-term employees. He said the annual park tour will be a week from next Thursday. This is in place of their regular study session.

Councilor Turich asked if an invitation couldn't be extended to the various youth organizations that play on those fields and solicit their input as well. Alex Brown that was

an excellent idea. Alex thought definitely to invite soccer as much of the discussion will be in regards to the soccer fields at Shepard Park.

Council Turich commented on the condition of the fencing and backstops at Homestead Park as it is rusted and starting to show its age.

• **Councilor Alex Robertson:** *Sanitary Board Liaison • Redevelopment Commission Member • Council of Community Events Commission Liaison • Public Works Liaison • Liaison to Main Street Bureau • Liaison to the Tree Board • Liaison to the Highland Neighbor for Sustainability.*

Councilor Robertson said he had no report.

Councilor Turich asked Councilor Robertson about the status of the electrical quotes to change out the electrical breakers. Councilor Robertson said he has received two (2) quotes but is waiting for one to requote so he can compare the quotes side by side. He said, depending on the final price, an additional appropriation will be required. He asked that it be put on the Council's next study session next week.

• **Councilor Tom Black:** *Redevelopment Commission Liaison and Member • Member of the Lake County Solid Waste Management District Board • Member of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIPRC) • Shared Ethics Representative • Liaison Traffic Safety*

Councilor Black began by congratulating Assistant Chief Vassar on his retirement and all he's done for Highland. He said he's always been a friend. He also recognized the Council of Community Events for putting on the Memorial Day Ceremony. He said it was a great turnout and went off without a hitch.

He then acknowledged Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra who gave the following report:

5-28-2024 REPORT

RFP TO UPDATE CONSOLIDATED PLN IS OUT AND DUE DATE JUNE 13TH, FOR REVIEW JUNE 14TH AND PRESENT TO COMMISSION AT THE JUNE 17TH STUDY SESSION

THIS WEEK WE WILL HAVE OUR INITIAL MEETING WITH AMERICAN STRUCTURE POINT WHO WILL BE WORKING ON THE SSFA PLAN

WRAPPING UP THE ANNUAL REPORTING

ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH DEVELOPERS
FORMER COACH USA PARCEL OWNER – 2 APPRAISALS ARE IN
WAITING FOR 2 APPRAISALS FOR PARCELS ON KENNEDY

MAIN STREET THURSDAY MARKET GOING WELL AFT 2 RAINY DAYS LAST WEEK WE HAD SUNSHINE
ESSAY WINNERS SELECTED BY MAIN STREET AND PRIZES DISTIBUTED
COMMUNITY GARDEN SUCCESSFUL PLANTING DAY
ATTENDED THE HNS MEETING, WITH THE PLASTIC COLLECTION THEY WILL BE
RECEIVING A BENCH WHICH WILL GO IN THE COMMUNITY GARDEN
PET BLESSING MAY 30TH 6 – 7 AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN
RESTAURANT CRAWL TONIGHT – 10 PARTICIPANTS
PLANNING THE 3 BIG CRAWLS JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER

Councilor Turich asked Maria about the scorecard she had put together several weeks ago. It pertained to how many vacant properties were in Town and the progress made in trying to get them filled. He asked if she would prepare that for every public meeting. She acknowledged that she would. He then asked Maria and Building Commissioner Mika about the status of Traditions. Mr. Mika said there was nothing to report since he updated the Council two (2) weeks ago. He said no plans have been submitted to his office.

• **Town Council President Philip Scheeringa:** *Town Executive (I.C. 36-1-2-5-(4); I.C. 36-5-2-2; I.C. 36-5-2-7); • Board of Trustees of the Police Pension Fund, Chair (By Law) • Budget Committee Chairman • Redevelopment Commission Member • Co-Chair Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commission • Fire Department Liaison • Information Communications and Technology Department Liaison • Building and Inspection Department Liaison.*

Councilor Scheeringa said that Fire Chief Mike Pipta was called away but Councilor Turich would give the Chief's report. Since the May 13th Plenary Meeting, the Fire Department responded to 25 calls. One was a mutual aid call to Lake Ridge and another was structural fire in Highland on 41st Street. He said they hoped the Baby Box would be operational the 1st part of June. Councilor Turich asked the Town Attorney the status of the agreement, donating Engine 8 to a career center. Attorney Reed said he has the resolution completed and he'll present it at the next Town Council study session. Councilor Turich said he asked because they really need to clean up the bay at South Station so Truck 2 can respond out of South Station.

Councilor Scheeringa then recognized IT Director Ed Dabrowski who said he was just finishing up some projects in the downtown area. He said the camera system at Main Square Park is operational, however, the wi-fi is still waiting on a part. He said the 17G access points for the fire vehicles were installed. He said he was asked how much it would cost to take the Town Council meeting on the road. He said he was able to acquire the part at a very good price and if the Council wanted to, they could start live streaming meeting elsewhere tomorrow.

Councilor Scheeringa concluded by wishing Assistant Chief the best on his retirement. He too complimented the HCCE on the Memorial Service, as well as, all the departments (Parks and Public Works) that worked together in making the event happen.

That concluded comments from the Council and President Scheeringa then turned it over to comments from visitor's or residents, reminding them to limit it to 2 minutes.

Comments from Visitors or Residents:

Rick Volbrecht, Highland, said he was listening to WJOB and the assistant baseball coach for the high school indicated that this fall a program would be beginning in the middle school. He assumed it was associated with the school town so he reached out to the school superintendent who responded that he didn't have any idea what Mr. Volbrecht was talking about. He then directed the question about the program to Alex Brown,

Superintendent of Parks, if the Park Department was starting a middle school program. Mr. Brown responded that he was not aware of any program being started by the Park Department. He then directed his question through Councilor Scheeringa to Building Commissioner Ken Mika regarding the length of grass before Code Enforcement issues a citation. He said he had sent a note to Mr. Mika regarding the height of grass in his neighbor's yard but later retracted the note when he thought the problem was corrected. He went by the house a few days ago but he was mistaken as the problem hasn't been corrected. He said this guys grass has to be 15 to 18" long. Does Highland have an ordinance to address this issue?

Building Commissioner Mika said that they usually wait until the grass gets to about 12" before addressing and a warning is issued. The property owner is given 5 days to get it corrected or they'll get a citation.

Attorney Reed cited the Town Code which says if grass exceeds ten (10) inches the resident will be issued a warning.

Mr. Volbrecht said he raised this issue about 30 days ago. It hasn't rained every day. The property owner had ample time to cut the grass and hasn't.

Linda Carter, president of the HCCE wanted to thank everyone who came out to Monday's, Memorial Day Ceremony. She said there really was a good turnout but unfortunately the weather was cold. She said last year, it was hot and she got sunburn.

Larry Kondrat, Highland began by addressing the Council that there still exists a problem with his tree. He then explained the problem that you guys contracted with a contractor who damaged my property Evidently, your contractor doesn't know where to buy a tree. He's invited me to go looking for trees to replace the tree that your guy damage on my property. I've been trying to be polite about this. You either gonna get it done or you're going to make me do it and I don't do anything for free. I'm a professional. I have a rate if you want me to do it. I'll have my attorneys send you over a contract. It's ridiculous that your guy can't find a tree. Do you want me to go find one? It's cost plus markup plus my time. I charge a \$150 per hour as my going rate, plus expenses. Do you want me to do it? I'm gonna have to learn about trees. We can go whatever direction you want to go. You damage my property and I want it fixed. He said, let me know how you want to proceed because I can go another way. If we need to. I was trying to be a gentleman about it. He said he had a conversation with the contractor and with Highland's Public Work's Director. The contractor told me to buy whatever tree I wanted because the contractor said he couldn't find a tree. Your contractor cut down a mature tree. I cannot sit in my kitchen and eat my dinner without the sun beaming into the kitchen. The guy parks in front of the tree that was supposed to be cut down, which has a big pink X, then walks five (5) houses down to my house and cuts down my tree.

Councilor Turich volunteered to buy a tree for Larry, if Larry would give him the parameters of the tree he would like.

Councilor Scheeringa asked if there were any other comments. Hearing none, he closed comments from the public and brought it back to the Council. He then asked for a motion to pay claims.

Payment of Accounts Payable Vouchers. There being no further comments from visitors or residents, Councilor Robertson moved to allow the vendors accounts payable vouchers as filed on the pending accounts payable docket, covering the period **May 15, 2024 through May 29, 2024**. Councilor Georgeff seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The accounts payable vouchers for the vendor docket were allowed, payments allowed in advance were ratified, the payroll dockets listed were ratified and for all remaining invoices, the Clerk-Treasurer was authorized to make payment.

Accounts payable vouchers May 15,2024- May 29, 2024 in the amount of **\$245,715.77**.

General Fund, \$205,861.73; MVH Fund, \$18,054.11;
LAW Enforcement Continuing Education Training and Supply Fund, \$618.97; Traffic Violations, \$ 500; MCCD, \$9,231.23; Technology Fund, \$11,449.73;

Payroll Docket for payday of May 17, 2024 by fund:

GENERAL, \$302,204.58

PAYROLL DOCKET FOR PAYDAY OF MAY 17, 2024;

Office of Clerk-Treasurer, \$16,766.28; Building and Inspection Department, \$10,854.90; Metropolitan Police Department, \$144,697.36; Public Works Department (Agency), \$74,946.63; Fire Department, \$2,196.01 and Information and Technology Department, \$4,205.45;
Total Payroll: \$253,666.63.

Adjournment of Plenary Meeting. There being no further business on the agenda, the Town Council President declared the regular plenary meeting of the Town Council of Tuesday, May 28, 2024, adjourned at 7:22 o'clock p.m.

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting of June 10, 2024.