

**Enrolled Minutes of the Twenty-First Regular Meeting or Special Meeting
For the Thirtieth Highland Town Council Regular Plenary
Business Meeting (In person) Monday, November 11, 2024**

The Thirtieth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its regular plenary session on Monday, November 11, 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 Doug 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, Thomas Black, 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; Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra; Mike Pipta, Fire Chief; Ed Dabrowski, Director of Information Technology, Kenneth J. Mika, Building Commissioner, Mark Knesek, Public Works Director were present. John Reed, Attorney with Abrahamson, Reed & Bilse was 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 October 28, 2024 Plenary meeting were approved by general consent.

Special Orders: None

Comments from the Public or Visitors: None

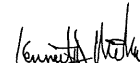
Staff Reports: The following staff reports were received and filed.

Building Report October, 2024

PERMIT TYPE	#	Res.	Comm.	Est. Cost	Fee Collected
Commercial Buildings	0			\$ -	\$ -
Comm. Additions/Remodel	2		2	\$ 18,554.00	\$ 459.00
Signs	5		5	\$ 15,226.00	\$ 969.00
Single Family	1	1		\$ 325,000.00	\$ 5,706.00
Duplex/Condo	0			\$ -	\$ -
Residential Additions	1	1		\$ 80,511.00	\$ 1,680.00
Residential Remodeling	63	63		\$ 912,022.00	\$ 19,228.50
Concrete/Asphalt/Flatwork	8	8		\$ 35,480.00	\$ 1,035.00
Garages	2	2		\$ 67,850.00	\$ 1,647.00
Sheds	1	1		\$ 7,200.00	\$ 313.50
Decks & Porches	6	6		\$ 45,990.00	\$ 1,810.50
Fences	7	7		\$ 24,579.00	\$ 1,102.50
Above/In ground pools	1	1		\$ -	\$ 54.00
Drain Tile/Waterproofing	1	1		\$ 24,904.00	\$ 504.00
Misc: Demo (2); Road Cuts (8)	10	10		\$ -	\$ 1,755.00
Total Building Permits	108	101	7	\$ 1,557,316.00	\$ 36,264.00
Electrical Permits	13	13	0	\$ -	\$ 1,957.00
Mechanical Permits	13	12	1	\$ -	\$ 1,567.00
Plumbing Permits	16	15	1	\$ -	\$ 2,657.95
Water Meters	1	1		\$ -	\$ 350.30
Water taps	0			\$ -	\$ -
Sewer/Storm Taps	0			\$ -	\$ -
Total Plumbing Permits	17	16	1	\$ -	\$ 3,008.25

October 2024 Code Enforcement: 68 Investigations, 48 Warnings & 2 Citations were issued.
 Inspections done for the month of October 2024 were as follows: 36 Building Inspections,
 28 Plumbing Inspections, 4 HVAC, and 22 Electrical Inspections. There were no Electrical Exams given

Submitted By:


 Kenneth J. Mika

2024
 TOWN OF HIGHLAND INJURIES FOR THE MONTH
OCTOBER

CASE	DATE	DEPARTMENT	DESCRIPTION	Record Only	OSHA	Not OSHA	Filed with
				No Med Treatment	Recordable	Recordable	WC Insurance
RO10	10/7/24	POLICE	Ofc exposed to drug during evidence inventory	X		X	X
RO11	10/26/24	POLICE	EE was letting a dog out of the pound when he was bit on the right forearm thru bite glove.	X		X	X

RO = Record Only

DEPT	2024		2023	2024			
	INJURIES	YEAR TO		RESTRICTED	LOST DAYS	RESTRICTED	LOST DAYS
	THIS MONTH	DATE	Total Injuries Last Year	DAYS THIS YEAR	THIS YEAR	DAYS 2023	2023
PARK & REC		1		4	56	8	219
FIRE			1				
POLICE		6	6		17	80	66
STREET		1					
WATER SEWER		1	1				
CT		1					
REDV		1					
TOTALS	0	11	8	4	73	88	285

Effective January 1, 2002 OSHA changed the recordkeeping guidelines. We now count the number of days lost from the day after the injury until the employee returns to work. Weekends, holidays, vacation days or other days scheduled off are included in the lost days count to a maximum of 180 days

Mark Herak

From: Denise Beck
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 9:40 AM
To: Mark Herak
Cc: Chad Kinley; Chief Michael Pipta
Subject: October Fire Department Stats

Good Morning,

October 2024 Stats

Types of Calls:	2024	YTD
General Alarms	16	135
Paid Still Alarms	27	353
Totals	43	488

Denise Beck

Highland Fire Department
2901 Highway Ave.
Highland, IN 46322
(219)-923-9876

Communications:

Restaurant Crawl – November 26th – 4 pm to 8 pm
Toys for Tots- drop off boxes at the Central Fire Station and the Police Depart.
Accepting Donations for Shop with a Firefighter and Shop with a Cop
Government Offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving November 28,29th
49th Annual Pumpkin Plod 10k run/5K walk- Thursday November 28
Santa’s March – Saturday, November 30th at 4:45 o’clock p.m.
Master Comprehensive Plan Meeting – Friday, December 13th at Lincoln Ctr.
Fireside Frostival – Saturday, December 14th at Main Square- from 4 to 8 pm.
Community Band Concert – December 17th – from 7 to 9 pm – Admission is free
New Year’s Eve Fireworks – Tuesday, December 31st at Midnight
All on-street parking is banned when there is more the 2 inches of snow

Appointments:

• **Statutory Boards and Commissions**

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

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

Home Rule Boards and Commissions

1. **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.)*

Council President Scheeringa, as municipal executive, announced his intention to appoint **Maria Becerra, 9025 Price Place, Highland, Indiana** as the successor appointment to the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission.

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 10 of the 17 in place and*

servicing. Currently servicing are Renee Reinhart, Alex Robertson, Diane Barr-Roumbus, James Roumbus Sandy McKnight, Al Simmons, Ben Reinhart, Sandy Ray, 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 6 of the 9 in place and servicing. (Note: Currently servicing, Jack Rowe, Linda Carter, Rachael Carter, Kathy Burke, Olga Briseno and Kelly Bridges)

General Orders and Unfinished Business:

1. **Introduced Ordinance No. 1805:** An Ordinance to Make A Technical Updating Amendment to the Compensation, Benefits and Personnel Program of the Municipality, known as the Compensation and Benefits Ordinance, Commonly Called the Municipal Employee Handbook Particularly Regarding section 5.17 authorized use of town owned and/or leased vehicles, and Repealing Prior Ordinances and Enactments in Conflict Therewith, all Pursuant to IC 36-1-3 , IC 36-5-6 ET seq and other relevant Statutes. Councilor Black introduced at the October 28, 2024 Highland Town Council Plenary Meeting.

Councilor Robertson moved for the passage adoption of Ordinance No. 1805. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were four (4) affirmatives, no negatives and one (1) abstention., with Councilors Georgeff, Robertson, Black and Scheeringa voting in the affirmative and with Councilor Turich abstaining. The motion passed. Ordinance 1805 was passed and adopted upon the signature of the municipal executive

**ORDINANCE No. 1805
of the
TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE A TECHNICAL UPDATING AMENDMENT TO THE COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND PERSONNEL PROGRAM OF THE MUNICIPALITY, KNOWN AS THE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS ORDINANCE, COMMONLY CALLED THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK PARTICULARLY REGARDING SECTION 5.17 AUTHORIZED USE OF TOWN OWNED AND/OR LEASED VEHICLES, AND REPEALING PRIOR ORDINANCES AND ENACTMENTS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH, ALL PURSUANT TO IC 36-1-3 , IC 36-5-6 ET SEQ AND OTHER RELEVANT STATUTES.

WHEREAS, Title 36, Article 1, Chapter 5 of the Indiana Code provides that the legislative body of a unit shall codify, revise, rearrange, or compile the ordinances of the unit into a complete, simplified code excluding formal parts of the ordinances;

WHEREAS, The legislative body of this unit, the Town of Highland, is the Town Council, pursuant to IC 36-1-2-9(4) and IC 36-5-2-2;

WHEREAS, The present general and permanent ordinances of the Town of Highland, formally codified in 2012, are in need of technical and substantive modifications not confined to any particular Title, Article or Chapter but nevertheless desirable to further improve and perfect the Code; and,

WHEREAS, The Town Council, is persuaded that it is necessary and desirable to adopt the several technical and substantive modifications necessary to carry out this requirement and to further improve and perfect the Code,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That the Highland Municipal Employee Handbook of the Compensation and Benefit Ordinance, be hereby amended by repealing Section 5.17.01, in its entirety, and replacing it with a new provision, to be styled as Section 5.17.01, which shall read as follows:

5.17 Authorized Use of Town Owned and/or leased Vehicles

5.17.01 The following individuals by title are permitted subject to the concurrence of the governing board of jurisdiction to utilize municipal leased and owned vehicles for the purpose of conducting public business, the providing of transportation to and from the work place and reasonable, limited personal business:

Metropolitan Police Chief
Metropolitan Police Commanders
Metropolitan Deputy Police Commanders
Public Works Director
Public Works Supervisors
Pump Station Mechanic
Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Park Director
Fire Chief
Operations Chiefs (when filling in for the Fire Chief)
Captains (when filling in for the Fire Chief)

The persons identified by title and only those persons are authorized to use the vehicle for reasonable personal business. Except as otherwise restricted by rules of regulations of the Metropolitan Police Department, reasonable personal business is described as using the vehicle within Lake County, Indiana and the assigned worker could be expected to be called for duty. In all cases municipal vehicles may not be used for personal business beyond the boundaries of Lake County, Indiana. No other person but the municipal employee(s) as listed by title in this section is authorized to operate the vehicle for person use. Pursuant to Federal and State income tax guidelines, employees using town owned or leased vehicles shall keep records of personal use.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall be effective from and after its passage and adoption, as evidenced by the signature of the Town Council President and attested thereto by the Clerk-Treasurer, all pursuant to IC 36-5-2-10 and IC 36-5-2-10.2.

Introduced and Filed on the 28th day of October 2024. Consideration on same day or at same meeting of introduction was not considered, pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED AND ADOPTED this 11th Day of November 2024, by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

**TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

Phil Scheeringa, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

Attest:

Mark Herak,
Clerk-Treasurer (IC 33-42-4-1; IC 36-5-6-5; IC 36-5-2-10.2)

New Business:

1. **Resolution No. 2024-30:** A Resolution Affirming the use of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners and Rejecting the Establishment of a Merit System for the Town of Highland Metropolitan Department Pursuant to Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-5.

Councilor Georgeff moved the passage and adoption of Resolution No. 2024-30. Councilor Turich seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and (0) negatives. The motion passed. The resolution was adopted pending the signature of the Town Executive.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-30

**A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE USE OF THE BOARD OF METROPOLITAN
POLICE COMMISSIONERS AND REJECTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
MERIT SYSTEM FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND METROPOLITAN POLICE
DEPARMENT PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE 36-8-3.5-5.5**

WHEREAS, the Town Council ("Council") is the legislative body of the Town of Highland, Indiana ("Town") and pursuant to IC 36-8-9, the Council established a Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners ("Board") to oversee the operations and management

of the Town's Metropolitan Police Department ("Department") which includes overseeing police personnel matters such as hiring, promotion, dismissal, and reprimand; and

WHEREAS, the Department is an eligible police department as defined by IC 36-8-3.5-5.5(b) with at least twelve (12) active full-time, paid members providing service to a geographic area that has a resident population of at least twenty thousand (20,000) people; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-8-3.5-5.5(d), a merit system is established under IC 36-8-3.5-5.5 for the Department, effective January 1, 2025, unless not later than December 31, 2024, a merit system has been established under IC 36-8-3.5-3 or a resolution rejecting the establishment of a merit system is adopted in accordance with IC 36-8-3.5-5.5(e); and

WHEREAS, the process to reject the merit system under IC 36-8-3.5-5.5(e) requires the Council to first adopt a resolution by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members to reject the establishment of a merit system, then, the resolution shall be voted on by the active full-time, paid members of the Department in accordance with the procedures set forth in IC 36-8-3.5-4; and

WHEREAS, should the active full-time, paid members of the Department vote to uphold the Council's rejection of the merit system, a merit system will not be established by operation of law on January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that at this time, it is in the best interest of the Department for the Board to continue to provide oversight for the Department's personnel matters and to reject the establishment of a merit system for the Department.

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

SECTION I

The Council hereby adopts this resolution ("Resolution") to reject the establishment of a merit system for the Department pursuant to IC 36-8-3.5-5.5(e).

SECTION II

The active full-time, paid members of the Department shall hold a meeting ("Meeting") to conduct a vote upon this Resolution, pursuant to IC 36-8-3.5-4.

SECTION III

Pursuant to IC 36-8-3.5-4, the Board is charged with providing notice to active full-time, paid members of the Department regarding the Meeting and setting any other procedures for governing the Meeting. Model rules and procedures for the Board's consideration are incorporated herein as Exhibit A.

SECTION IV

This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana.

Duly passed and adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, this 11th Day of November 2024, by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

**TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

Philip Scheeringa, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

ATTEST:

Mark Herak, Clerk-Treasurer

TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Voting Affirmative:

Voting Opposed:

George Georgeff

George Georgeff

Doug Turich

Doug Turich

Alex Robertson

Alex Robertson

Thomas (Tom) Black

Thomas (Tom) Black

Philip Scheeringa

Philip Scheeringa

EXHIBIT A

**PROCEDURES FOR THE BOARD OF METROPOLITAN POLICE
COMMISSIONERS' CONSIDERATION TO GOVERN THE
REFERENDUM MEETING FOR THE
ACTIVE FULL-TIME, PAID MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

1. After the adoption by the Town of Highland Town Council of a resolution to reject the establishment of a merit system ("Resolution"), a vote on the Resolution shall take place within sixty (60) days by the active full-time, paid members of the Highland Metropolitan Police Department ("Department").
2. The Town of Highland Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners ("Board") shall give all active members of the Department no less than three (3) weeks' notice that a meeting will be held to conduct the vote.
3. The Board shall ensure that notice is posted in prominent places in the police station. The notice must designate the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. The notice shall also provide a time and place for two meetings that are subsequent to the first meeting in the event that the first meeting must be continued due to lack of majority being present to vote or lack of voters for a decisive vote, therefore creating the need for members who were not present at the first meeting to cast their vote at a subsequent meeting.
4. A copy of the Resolution shall be distributed to each active member of the Department at least one (1) week before the meeting.
5. At the site of the meeting, but prior to the meeting, the attorney shall explain the purpose of the meeting and the statutory procedures for conducting the meeting. In addition, the Town Clerk-Treasurer or the Town Clerk-Treasurer's designee shall be present. After explaining the procedures for the meeting, the attorney and the Clerk-Treasurer and/or the Clerk-Treasurer's designee shall depart the meeting room.
6. Only active members of the Department may attend the meeting and only active full-time, paid members of the Department are permitted to vote.
7. The chief of the Department shall call the meeting to order and conduct a vote for the selection of one (1) active member of the Department to be selected as Chair of the meeting. The Chair shall preside over the meeting and oversee the voting on the Resolution. The voting shall be conducted by secret written ballot. The selected Chair shall then conduct

a vote for the selection of one (1) active member of the Department to serve as Secretary of the meeting. The Secretary shall take notes and prepare a memorandum of the meeting's proceedings.

8. The Chair shall distribute a ballot to each active full-time, paid member of the Department who is present to vote in accordance with a roster listing active full-time, paid members of the Department. The Chair shall keep count the number of ballots distributed and ensure that the ballots distributed match the number of active full-time, paid members on the roster who are present to vote. Before voting begins, the Chair shall announce the number of voters present and whether that number is a majority of the active, full-time paid members of the Department.

9. The voting section on the ballot shall read as follows:

Please cast your vote by marking one of the following boxes with an X:

YES, I am in favor of the resolution to REJECT the establishment of a merit system for the Town of Highland Metropolitan Police Department. [This vote indicates you *do not* want a merit system to be established.]

NO, I am not in favor of the resolution to REJECT the establishment of a merit system for the Town of Highland Metropolitan Police Department. [This vote indicates that you *do* want a merit system to be established.]

10. Each voting member shall mark their ballot, fold it in half and place it in the ballot collection box.

11. After all ballots are placed in the collection box, if a majority of active full-time, paid members of the Department have not voted, then the Chair shall announce that the meeting will be continued until the next subsequent meeting date, which was provided in the notice. The ballots shall not be opened or counted and the Clerk-Treasurer shall hold the ballot collection box in a secured location and be responsible for its security until the ballot box is needed for the subsequent meeting.

12. After all ballots are placed in the collection box, if a majority of the active full-time, paid members *were* present and did vote, the Chair shall announce that the meeting is in recess, the attorney and the Clerk-Treasurer and/or the Clerk-Treasurer's designee shall be on hand to watch the counting of the ballots in front of the active members. The Chair shall open each ballot placed in the collection box, announce for

each ballot opened whether it is marked YES or NO, and upon opening and announcing all ballots, announce the final vote count.

13. If a majority of the active full-time, paid members of the Department vote “YES” to reject the establishment of a merit system, then a merit system is not established and the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners will continue to oversee Department personnel matters for the Department. If a majority of the active full-time, paid members of the Department vote “NO” to not reject the establishment of a merit system, then a merit system will be established by operation of law under the provisions of IC 36-8-3.5-5.5 on January 1, 2025.
14. If, after following the steps in section 12, there is a number of active full-time, paid members of the Department who were not present to vote at the first meeting and if these members *were* to vote and their vote could potentially change the outcome of the decision on the Resolution, then the Chair shall announce that it will be necessary to continue the meeting to the subsequent meeting date in order for only these members to vote. The Chair shall recess the meeting and announce the subsequent meeting date. The reconvened meeting on the subsequent meeting date is subject to the rules and procedures provided herein.
15. At the conclusion of the second meeting, should a third subsequent meeting date be required to obtain a decisive outcome, the Chair shall follow the procedures in section 14.
16. The Clerk-Treasurer shall hold all counted ballots in a secured location and be responsible for their security. The Clerk-Treasurer shall also retain a copy of the meeting memorandum signed by the meeting Secretary.

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 acknowledged Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta who went over the crime statistics since the October 28th Plenary Meeting:

Town Council Meeting (11/11/2024) Police Department notes – Past two weeks:

0 Robberies / 0 Rapes / 0 Burglaries / 0 Auto Thefts

2 Assaults / No Arrests.

Responded to 15 Domestic Disturbances / 0 Arrests.

3 DUI Arrests made.

Responded to 54 accidents / 5 of those involved personal injury.

1 Porch Pirate theft / \$1,000.00 I-Phone stolen off of a porch in Brantwood subdivision. - 11/11/24

Our tool rental business had a \$7,200.00 piece of equipment rented by a Markham IL resident.
Was not returned. Detectives are investigating.

12 Retail thefts / 10 arrests made / Theft values ranged from \$60.00 all the way up to \$1,500.00

No arrested suspects were from Highland.

Arrested suspects from: Chicago / Chicago Heights / Bellwood IL / Calumet City / Munster /
Griffith / Lowell / 2 were Venezuelan Migrants arrested with Chicago addresses.

Had 5 vehicles broken into - 3 on 11/06 and 2 on 10/29.

Items stolen include: Prescription medication / \$6,100 in tools / \$2,000 in tools / \$200.00 Air
Pods / A backpack with no valuables inside.

4 vehicles were unlocked or had no signs of forced entry / 1 window broken out.

October Patrol Stats:

50 Arrests / 373 traffic citations issued / 341 traffic warnings issued / Responded to 1,152
incidents / 105 Accidents handled / 14 DUI arrests made.

Our 3 officers in the Police Academy will be graduating this Friday and will be starting their Field
Training next week!

GRTH

Ofc. OATH - Code Enforcement Stats:

10-28-24 to 11-11-24 9 Days IN CODE WORKING

2 Days in patrol
DID CODE / patrol

- 105 cases Total

79 SI's

- 49 Reciprocity ^{TAGGED} " out of state plates"

- 8 junk veh tows - Lubeworks on 45th NOV 1st

- 10 junk veh's tagged

16 Follow ups on junk veh's

1 WARNING PARKING

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

TC MTG 11-11-24 MARIA BECERRA

SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT UPDATE

WE HELD THE SECOND *STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING*.

SURVEY IS ON THE TOWN MAIN PAGE HAVE RECEIVED OVER 300 RESPONSES

CONSULTANT MADE A PRESENTATION TO THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION AT THE NOV 5TH MTG.

AND WILL MAKE A PRESENTATION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL NOV 18TH STUDY SESSION IN PREPARATION TO PASS A RESOLUTION % GOAL TO REDUCE CAR ACCIDENTS/FATALITIES.

MASTER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

AT THE LINCOLN CENTER, DECEMBER 13TH FROM 6:00 to 7:30 THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGE TO JOIN US AND GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

AMENDMENT OF THE REDEV. PLAN OF THE CONSOLIDATED REDEVELOPMENT AREA - KENNEDY AVE.

SOUTH SUBAREA EXPANSION – THE PROCESS FOR THE EXPANSION HAS BEEN INITIATED. THE COMMISSIN HAS DECLARED IT AND IT HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AT THIS MONTHS STUDY SESSION.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 2025 SPENDING PLAN WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION AT THE 11/18 MTG FOR APPROVAL.

TOWN FREE VIDEO SHOOT IS IN THE WORKS

NORTH KENNEDY PARCEL ACQUISITIONS THE PHASE I REPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED, NOW WE ARE PENDING THE SURVEY REPORTS.

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

Councilor Turich acknowledged Building Commissioner Ken Mika who reminded everyone that the BZA meeting for this month is cancelled due to the Thanksgiving Holiday but will be combined with the BZA meeting of December 11th. He said the Plan Commission met last month with Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra and Dan Botich of DEF Consulting to go over the Redevelopment Resolution concerning the amendment to consolidate the redevelopment area on south Kennedy Avenue. He said from the Building Department, Cardinal Campus is moving along as they have started erecting the steel for the 1st floor of the boutique hotel. He said the contractor for the Dunkin Donuts on Kennedy Avenue, the former Brewfest, has scheduled an interior inspection for this week. The Osborne Storage Unit Project has scheduled with Rieth-Riley to begin paving Osborne Drive.

Councilor Turich then acknowledged Park Superintendent Alex Brown, said youth basketball started practices tonight. They had the assessment practice and draft last week. There are 436 youths participating this year. He said the Pumpkin Plod is two (2) weeks from this Thursday. As of today, they have 530 people who have pre-registered for the race. He said the park crews are busy assembling the new Christmas Decorations at Main Square as the tree lighting is two (2) . He said it is like putting a jigsaw puzzle together.

- **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.*

Council Robertson acknowledged Public Works Director Mark Knesek who said with all of the pipe in the ground, the contractor is beginning to form the curbs, then they will begin forming the side-walks and drive aprons. Letters will be sent out advising the residents that they cannot use their drive aprons for three (3) weeks to allow the concrete to cure. The contractor has to install a manhole before the pump station. During the installation, the pump station will be on by-pass. He said they received a \$100,000 grant from IFA to help with the lead service line inventory. He said there exists roughly 7,000 homes that are classified as unknown per the EPA classification. The Town hired Grimmer Construction who has a vacuum truck and will suck down on both sides of the B box (the Town's side and the resident's side) to determine what the service line is made of. He said to date, they haven't found any lead service line but all copper. The process is very tedious. He said the grant will allow them to do 330 households and the Town has over 7,000 to inventory. He said they will once again be sending to the residents, instructions how they can identify their service line coming into your house. The last time they did it, they sent out approximately 9,000 letters and received maybe 100 back. Mark said the service line coming into the house is easy to check ,the hard part is checking from the buffalo box to the main.

Each Council member congratulated Councilor Robertson on the fine work he did on the beautification of downtown Highland with the decorative lighting. He did say they were experiencing some wi-fi issues but Ed Dabrowski was working on. Hopefully, the issue will be resolved shortly so the lights will be able to change colors automatically.

• **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 said there will be a Shared Ethics Joint Board of Delegates meeting this Wednesday. The main item on the agenda is to approve their 2025 budget. He said the Lake County Solid Waste Board will be meeting next Thursday also to approve their 2025 budget.

• **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 acknowledged Fire Chief Mike Pipta. Chief Pipta there were 41 fire calls in the month of October, sixteen (16) were general alarms and twenty-seven paid still alarms. He said there was a very bad fire on the 29th of October. He asked everyone to keep that family in your prayers. He said fortunately, no one was hurt. He said there have been eighteen calls thus far this month. Chief Pipta reminded everyone with the change in time, to change their batteries in their smoke detectors. He also said smoke detectors have a life span of ten (10) years.

Councilor Scheeringa then acknowledged IT Director Ed Dabrowski who said we had another successful meeting without any glitches. He said he is still working with Pure Illumination on expanding the wi-fi downtown. He said he is finding many bad outlets at the top of the light poles. He said he is in the process of weather proofing the equipment downtown.

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: None

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 October 30, 2024

through November 12, 2024. Councilor Black 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 October 30 2024- November 12, 2024 in the amount of **\$719,189.93.**

**General Fund, \$364,574.31; MVH Fund, \$22,460.56;
LAW Enforcement Continuing Education Training and Supply Fund, \$11,736.26; Public Safety
Income Tax, \$63,999.00; Donations \$500.00; Special Events, \$778.50; M CCD, \$10,022.00;
MUN Cum Street Fund \$4,141.30; Information and Communications Technology Fund,
\$14,232.69; Insurance Premium, \$226,745.31;**

Payroll Docket for payday of November 1, 2024 by fund:

General, \$295,882.38

Payroll Docket for payday of November 1, 2024;

Office of Clerk-Treasurer, \$15,364.73; Building and Inspection Department, \$8,453.93;
Metropolitan Police Department, \$139,470.95; Public Works Department (Agency),
\$76,219.29; Fire Department, \$1,944.44 and Information and Technology Department,
\$4,205.45;
Total Payroll: \$245,658.79.

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 Monday, November 11, 2024, adjourned at 7:05 o'clock p.m.

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting of November 25, 2024.