

**Enrolled Minutes of the Twenty-Sixth Regular Meeting or Special Meeting
For the Thirtieth Highland Town Council Regular Plenary
Business Meeting (In person) Monday, January 27, 2025**

The Thirtieth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its regular plenary session on Monday, January 27, 2025 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 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 George Georgeff 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, 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 JPR Legal Services 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 January 13, 2025 Plenary meeting were approved by general consent.

Special Orders:

1. Election of the **Town Council President** for 2025, pursuant to Section 2.05.040 of the Highland Municipal Code.

Councilor Black nominated George Georgeff for Town Council President in 2025. There were no further nominations. Councilor Black moved that nominations be closed, and

a unanimous ballot be cast in favor Councilor George Georgeff as the 2025 Town Council President. Councilor Turich seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Councilor George Georgeff was elected the 74th Town Council President and he assumed the chair.

2. Election of the **Town Council Vice President** for 2025, pursuant to Section 2.05.040.

Councilor Scheeringa nominated Doug Turich for Town Council Vice President in 2025. There were no further nominations. Councilor Black moved that nominations be closed, and a unanimous ballot be cast in favor Councilor Doug Turich as the 2025 Town Council Vice President. Councilor Scheeringa seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Councilor Doug Turich was elected to serve as Town Council Vice President.

3. Presentation of Plaque of appreciation to the 73rd *Town Council President*, Philip Scheeringa

The Town Council President read aloud an inscription on a plaque acknowledging Councilor Philip Scheeringa and his service as 73rd town council president.

On behalf of the people of Highland, the Town Council and the Town Clerk-Treasurer present this special expression of appreciation to

Philip Scheeringa

In recognition of his service to the Town of Highland, Indiana serving as the Sixty-Ninth President of the Highland Town Council , for a term commencing January 1, 2024 through January 25, 2025.

Presented on the 27th Day of January 2025 in the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, by its Town Council and Clerk-Treasurer.

4. Service as a Police Commissioner: Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation to Larry Moses, for his 13-1/2 years of service as a Highland Metropolitan Police Commissioner, serving from July 25, 2011 through December 31, 2024. Town Council President Georgeff, Metropolitan Police Chief Potesta and Metropolitan Police Commission Chairman Danny Stombaugh, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Steve Jurczak presented retiring Metropolitan Police Commissioner Larry Moses a plaque of appreciation for his service as a member of the Highland Police Commission.
5. Special Presentation: Sandy McKnight and Carol Parker of the Community Events Commission presented awards to the winners of the HCCE Christmas Tree Decorating Contest. 1st prize went to **Jimmy's Johns** at 2424 Ridge Road, Highland and 2nd prize went to **Artistic Mindz** at 2645 Highway Avenue, Highland. The manager of Jimmy John's, Anna Sallay accepted the award on behalf of Jimmy

John's and Stacy Robbins, owner of Artistic Mindz, accepted the award on behalf of Artistic Mindz. The HCCE would like to thank all the businesses who participated in the **Christmas Tree Decorating Contest**.

Comments from the Public or Visitors:

Katrina Daniel, Highland, commented regarding Ordinance No. 1813 and the events that occurred at the January 13, 2025 study session. While discussing a woman's compensation, the discussion of family planning came up. I'm not an employment law expert, but that comment, whether intentional or not could be considered discrimination, putting Highland at risk for a lawsuit. She wasn't sure as Attorney Reed wasn't there but he would probably say the same thing. Last year, in Hendricks County, west of Indianapolis, \$300,000 was paid out from taxpayer's money for a discrimination case. She said she is an HR Professional and a good HR Manager can proactively advise everyone about HR issues. The Town should think about hiring an HR Professional.

Carol Parker, Highland, said the HCCE is very happy to see the Parks more engaged and taking on more responsibility, as the HCCE put in over 120 to 130 hours individually in 2024 and remember there were only five (5) of us. She asked that what the HCCE has already set in motion, like the amusement rides, fireworks, appreciation lunches for the workers of the Town, bands that had been consulted and who verbally committed, the wristbands that were given to winners from the dance contests and especially contracts that are already in place, would be honored by the Park Department. It is important that the Town's word to people means something. As things are moving forward, realizing that some members of the HCCE who initiated those things might not or might be on the new HCCE Commission, Ordinance No. 1813 states that input from the HCCE will be considered. I hope this does take place, especially when it comes to the 4th of July and the BBQ Festival. Those events bring in the most revenue but they also exert the most amount of man hours and work hours. The Parks, as they become more engaged, will have the advantage of having paid employees to do the work but the working knowledge is with the members of the HCCE.

Jeff Rosignol, Highland, wanted to share his views of keeping the liaison position in house and saving a lot of money versus going out and hiring someone from the outside. He heard numbers for a total compensation package from \$100,000 to \$150,000. He thought the decision to keep it in house was fantastic. He complimented Kathy Camp-Burke, who handled the food vendors last year but decided not to reapply this year. He said she not only handled the food vendors for the 4th of July but she also ran the Republican hot dog booth. The main she did was to make sure there wasn't a duplication of products, which the vendors liked. She really did a phenomenal job.

Staff Reports: none were filed.

Communications:

Restaurant Crawl resumes January 28th

South Shore Convention - 2025 Restaurant Weeks – February 17 to March 2nd

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)

1. **Municipal Plan Commission** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. *(Note: Currently held by Toya Smith, (D) term ending 1st Monday January 2025.) No more than two (2) of any party. Current composition is two (2) Republicans, one (2) Democrat. Term is four (4) years.*

Action. The Town Council President as municipal executive announced the reappointment of **Toya Smith**, 8822 5th Street, Highland as the citizen member to the Highland Municipal Plan Commission. The Clerk-Treasurer noted he would prepare the proper certificates of appointment to be executed by the Town Council President.

2. **Redevelopment Commission** (3) appointments to be made by Town Council President. *(Note: Currently held by George Georgeff, Alex Robertson and Tom Black, all expiring 1st Monday in January 2025 and up to 90 days after term expires if no action)*

Action. The Town Council President as municipal executive announced the appointments of **Alex Robertson**, 2914 Highway Avenue, Highland; **Philip Scheeringa**, 3327 George Street, Highland, and **Tom Black**, 3515 Garfield Avenue, Highland to the Redevelopment Commission. Terms are 1 year and until a successor is appointed and qualified, subject to the limitation in IC 36-1-15-10(d)(1). The Clerk-Treasurer noted he would prepare the proper certificates of appointment to be executed by the Town Council President.

3. **Waterworks Board of Directors:** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. *(Note: Currently held by Peggy Phillips (R), term ending 1st Monday January 2025). Term is for three (3) year. Current composition of the board is two Republicans and three Democrats. No more than three of any one party under state law.*

Action. The Town Council President as municipal executive announced the reappointment of **Peggy Phillips**, 2848 38th Street, Highland to the Waterworks Board of Directors. The Clerk-Treasurer noted he would prepare the proper certificates of appointment to be executed by the Town Council President.

4. **Board of Sanitary Commissioners:** (2) appointments to be made by Town Council President. *(Currently held by Greg Cieslak (R) and Richard Garcia (D), term ending December 31, 2024 and up to 90 days after term expires if no action.) Term is for four (4)*

years. Current composition of the Board is three (3) Democrats and two (2) Republicans. There can be no more than 3 from any one party.

Action. The Town Council President as municipal executive announced the re-appointment of **Richard Garcia (D)**, 3035 Farmer Drive, Highland and **Greg Cieslak (R)**, 2104 Birchwood Lane, Highland to the Board of Board of Sanitary Commissioners. Terms are 4 years and until a successor is appointed and qualified, subject to the limitation in IC 36-1-15-10(d)(1). The Clerk-Treasurer noted he would prepare the proper certificate of appointment to be executed by the Town Council President.

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

5. **Economic Development Commission.** (1) Appointment to be made by the municipal executive, but requiring nomination from the Town Council. *(Currently held by Blane Roberts, term ending 1st Monday February 2025 and up to 90 days after term expires if no action)*
6. **Northwestern Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC).** (1) No action necessary unless a change is desired. Town Council President is appointment authority. Must be an elected official who resides in the Town. *(Current serving: Tom Black.) Must be a member of the Town Council. Term is co-extensive with term on council unless legislative body acts otherwise*

Action. The Town Council President as municipal executive noted that no action was necessarily required if no change was desired, however, the Town Council President wished to affirm and acknowledge the continuing appointment of **Tom Black**, 3515 Garfield Avenue, Highland to the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. Terms are in force until the appointing authority appoints a successor. The Clerk-Treasurer further noted he would prepare the proper certificate of appointment to be executed by the Town Council President.

7. **Joint Board of Delegates of the Interlocal Ethics Entity.** (1) Appointed by Municipal Executive *(Current serving: Tom Black)* No term. Notifying in case the Council President wants to recall and appoint someone else. *Must be a member of the Town Council. Term is co-extensive with term on council unless legislative body acts otherwise*

Action. The Town Council President as municipal executive noted that no action was necessarily required if no change was desired. However, The Town Council President wished to affirm and acknowledge the continuing appointment of **Tom Black**, 3515 Garfield Avenue, Highland as Highland's appointment to the Shared Ethics Entity, Joint Board of Delegates. Terms are in force until the appointing authority appoints a successor.

8. **Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors.** (1) Appointment by Town Council President. (NOT DUE UNTIL JUNE 30 2025) *(Currently serving Christine Cash) Appointing authority must give sole consideration to individuals who are knowledgeable about or employed as executives or managers in Hotel, Motel, Banking, Real Estate and hospitality. Cannot hold an elected or appointed political office*

Home Rule Boards and Commissions

9. **Main Street Bureau Board of Directors.** Town Council President appointment. (1) Appointment. Town Council Representative must be a member of the Town Council. *Term co-extensive with term of appointee. (Note: Currently serving is Alex Robertson)*
10. **Tree Board.** (2) Appointments to be nominated by the Town Council but appointed by the Town Council President. *(Note: Currently held by Richard Underkofler and Blane Roberts, term ending 1st Monday January 2025). Term is for three (3) years Richard Underkofler; Blane Roberts)*
- a. Nomination by the Town Council. *(The council would pass a motion to nominate.)*
 - b. Appointment by executive. *(If nominee is acceptable, the Town Council President may appoint.)*
- **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 James Colias.)*
11. **Committee and Liaison Assignments.** *Assignments made by Town Council President. (Custom and Convention)*
- Action.* The Town Council President as municipal executive made the following Committee and Liaison Assignments:
- The Town Council President announced the following liaison and committee assignments:
- **George Georgeff:** *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 • Liaison to the Board of Water Works • Liaison to the Sanitary Board*
 - **Doug Turich:** *Park and Recreation Board Liaison • Liaison and Plan Commission Member • Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals Liaison • Redevelopment Commission Member • Liaison to Building & Inspection Department*
 - **Alex Robertson:** *• Redevelopment Commission Member • Fire Department Liaison • Public*

*Works Liaison • Liaison to Main Street Bureau • Liaison to the Tree Board
• Liaison to the Highland Neighbor for Sustainability.*

- **Thomas (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*
- **Philip Scheeringa:** *Redevelopment Commission Member • Information Communications and Technology Department Liaison • Metropolitan Police Commissioners Liaison.*

Legislative Appointments

1. **Municipal Plan Commission** (Note: *Appointees may be elected or appointed official or employees of the Town. No action necessary as incumbents continue to serve unless the legislative body acts to change.*
Currently serving: Morgan Wright (municipal employee); Bernie Zemen (appointed official, he is a member of the Water Board); Doug Turich (elected official). The term of office of a member (who is appointed from the membership of a legislative body, a public board or commission or as an employee) is co-extensive with the member's term of office on that body, board, or council, or term of employment, unless the appointing authority appoints, at its first regular meeting in any year, another to serve as its representative. (Pursuant to IC 36-7-4-217)

Action. The Town Council President as municipal executive noted that he was making no changes to the three (3) members currently serving: Morgan Wright who serves in the capacity as municipal employee, Bernie Zemen who serves in the capacity as appointed official and Doug Turich who serves in the capacity as elected official.

2. **Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals:** (1) appointment to be made by Fiscal Body. (Note: *Currently held by David Helms, term ending 1st Monday January 2025). Term is for three (3) years.*

Toya Smith (appointed by the Plan Commission to the Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals) (Term co-extensive with her Plan Commission term – 1st Monday in January 2025)

3. **Park and Recreation Board.** (1) appointment to be made by the Town Council. (Note: *Current appointee is Carlos Aburto (D), term ending 1st Monday January 2025) Term is for four (4) years. (Current composition is 2 democrats and 2 republicans. Not more than 2 members may be of the same party.)*
4. **Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners.** (2) appointments to be made by the Town Council. (Note: *Current appointees are Mike Danko (R) and Larry Moses (R), term*

ending 1st Monday January 2025). Term is for three (3) years. (Current composition for these five citizen positions is three democrats and two republicans)

- 5 **Redevelopment Commission.** (2) appointments to be made by the Town Council.
(Note: current appointees are Doug Turich and Philip Scheeringa.)

Action. Councilor Scheeringa moved the appointment of **Doug Turich**, 9336 4th Place, Highland, and the appointment of **George Georgeff**, 2251 Oakdale Avenue, Highland both to a term of one-year and until a successor is appointed and qualified, subject to the limitation in IC 36-1-8-10, on the Redevelopment Commission. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Doug Turich and Philip Turich were appointed to the Redevelopment Commission as indicated. The Clerk-Treasurer noted he would prepare the required certifications of appointment as required.

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

6. **Lake County Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors.** (1) No action necessary unless a change is desired. (Note: Currently serving Tom Black) Must be a member of the Town Council. Term is co-extensive with term on council unless legislative body acts otherwise.

Home Rule Commissions

7. **Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council. Term: Two years ending 1 Jan 2025. *Currently serving are Renee Reinhart, Alex Robertson, Diane Barr-Roumbus, James Roumbus Sandy McKnight, Al Simmons, Ben Reinhart, Sandy Ray, Ben Tomera, Laura Pilewski and Desiree Biro.*
9. **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, Mike Pipta, Fire Department representative; Mark Knesek Public Works Department (Agency) representative; Steve Jurczak, Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners representative; Commander John Banasiak, Police Department representative; and Chief Ralph J. Potesta, Police Department representative.)

This agenda item was removed, as the Clerk-Treasurer advised that the item should not have been placed on the agenda, as the Traffic Safety appointments are for three (3) years and the current members were appointed last year.

General Orders and Unfinished Business:

1. **Appropriation Enactment No. 2025-01:** An Enactment Appropriating Additional Moneys in Excess of the Annual Budget for the **General Fund**, all pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18, and I.C. 36-5-3-5. Councilor Black introduced and filed at the Town Council Plenary Meeting of January 13, 2025. To pass requires a simple majority of the Council.

Councilor Black moved for the passage adoption of Appropriation Enactment No. 2025-01. Councilor Robertson 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 Councilor Turich abstaining. The motion passed. Appropriation Enactment No. 2025-01 was passed and adopted pending the signature of the municipal executive.

**Town of Highland
Appropriation Enactment
Enactment No. 2025-01**

AN ENACTMENT APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONIES IN EXCESS OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET for the GENERAL FUND ALL PURSUANT TO I.C. 6-1.1-18, and I.C. 36-5-3-5.

WHEREAS, Following a public hearing advertised pursuant to I.C. 5-3-1, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget for the **General Fund**;

WHEREAS, It has been determined that such additional appropriations as may be approved by this enactment, will not increase the levies set under I.C. 6-1.1-17, all pursuant to I.C. 36-5-3-5;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED 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 additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the **General Fund** herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

GENERAL FUND

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Acct. No. 1101-0007-36001 Fire Department Equipment Repairs | \$22,246.36 |
| Acct. No. 1101-0007-36003 Fire Department Building Repairs | \$28,753.64 |

Total 300 Series: \$51,000.00

Fund Total: \$51,000.00

Section 2. That the Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized and instructed to inform the Department of Local Government Finance of this action and that these monies be made available for expenditure pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18.

Section 3. That in satisfaction and for the purposes of the provisions set out in I.C. 36-5-2-9.6, I.C. 36-5-3-5, I.C. 36-5-4-2, this enactment shall be deemed properly filed and introduced before the Town Council at a regular or special meeting, properly called and convened pursuant to I.C. 5-1.5-14 *et seq.*

Introduced and Filed on 13th day of January 2025. 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 27th Day of January 2025, 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

George Georgeff, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

ATTEST:

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

New Business:

1. **Proposed Ordinance No. 1813:** An Ordinance to Amend Several Chapters of the Highland Municipal Code, Particularly regarding the Council of Community Events and Related Funds, Pursuant to IC 36-1-3 *et seq.* and other relevant Statutes.

Councilor Scheeringa introduced and moved for the consideration of Ordinance No. 1813 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Turich seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The Ordinance could be considered at the same meeting of its introduction.

Councilor Turich moved for the passage adoption of Ordinance No. 1813 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Scheeringa seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a two-thirds vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no (0) negatives.

The motion passed. The enactment was passed and adopted upon the signature of the municipal executive at the same meeting of its introduction.

**ORDINANCE No. 1813
of the
TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTERS 3.05 AND 11.15 OF THE HIGHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALTER THE OVERSIGHT AND APPOINTING AUTHORITY RELATED TO THE COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMISSION AND REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, ALL PURSUANT to IC 36-1-3 ET SEQ. AND OTHER RELEVANT STATUTES.

WHEREAS, The Town of Highland is a local unit of general government governed by a Town Council, which is both the fiscal and legislative body of the Town;

Whereas, The Town of Highland, is a municipality located in Lake County which operates as a Town under the laws of Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, IC 36-1-3-2 and IC 36-1-3-6(b)(1) confer upon all local units the powers that they need for the effective operation of government as to local affairs and prescribe the manner and form of enactment for any such exercise of power; and

Whereas, IC 36-1-3-6 (b)(1) prescribes that any such exercise of power shall be
authorized through enactment of an ordinance passed by the
legislative
body; and

Whereas, The Town of Highland, is a Municipal Government which may pass and codify ordinances for the operation of the government, all pursuant to IC 36-1-4 and IC 36-1-5; and,

WHEREAS, The Town Council as the governing body for the municipality, may establish, aid, maintain, and operate recreation facilities, cultural, historical programs, pursuant to its general culture and recreation powers conferred in IC 36-10-2;

WHEREAS, The Town Council has enacted certain ordinances regarding the Community Events Commission, a Commission of the unit organized pursuant to IC 36-10-2 and IC 36-1-3 et seq.; and,

WHEREAS, The Town Council recognizes that volunteers and volunteer organizations are essential to the success of special events and community gatherings; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council desires to further perfect the culture and recreation services of the municipality, currently delivered by a Community Events Commission, organized pursuant to IC 36-10-2 and IC 36-1-3; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Town Council, the Park and Recreation Board and the Community Events Commission have discussed ways and means to further perfect the culture and recreation services of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Town Council, the Park and Recreation Board and the Community Events Commission have discussed transferring the oversight and appointing authority of the Community Events Commission to the Park and Recreation Board, under provisions of IC 36-10-3-17; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council has determined that it would be of great public benefit to support by proper legislative action the change of oversight of the Community Events Commission and the appointing authority regarding the same to the Park and Recreation Board under the provisions of IC 36-10-3-17; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council now desires to modify provisions in subchapters of the Highland Municipal Code, to organize the Community Events Commission under the oversight and appointing authority of the Park and Recreation Board.

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

Community Events Commission

11.15.010 Establishment

Section 1. (a) That Chapter 11.15.010(B) is hereby repealed in its entirety to be replaced by a successor section, which shall read as follows:

Section 1. (a) That Chapter 11.15.010(B) is hereby repealed in its entirety to be replaced by a successor section, which shall read as follows:

(B) The Park and Recreation Board shall be the controlling and appointing authority for the Community Events Commission, determining the number of voting members, the length of terms and which are multi-year staggered appointments and which are annual concurrent appointments. All current terms of the Community Events Commission are considered lapsed and must reapply to the Park and Recreation Board for consideration of appointment.

Section 2. (a) That Section 11.15.010(K) Establishment styled as

Community Events Commission is hereby repealed in its entirety replaced to read as follows:

(K) The park and recreation superintendent or his/her designee shall serve as the purchasing agent for the activities of the Community Events Commission, pursuant to HMC 3.05.050(D)(11);

Section 3. (a) That Section 11.15.010(L) Establishment styled as Community Events Commission is hereby amended to add item (L) to read as follows:

(L) All current terms of the Community Events Commission are considered lapsed and must re-apply to the Park and Recreation Board for consideration of appointment.

Purchasing

3.05.050 Duties and responsibilities of purchasing agents

Section 4. (a) That Section 3.05.050(D) styled as Duties and responsibilities of purchasing agents to be amended to add item (11) to read as follows:

(11) The park and recreation superintendent or his/her designee shall serve as the purchasing agent for the activities of the Community Events Commission,;

3.05.030 Purchasing agencies

Section 5. (a) That Section 3.05.030(H) styled as Purchasing agencies to be amended to add item (H) to read as follows:

(H) The park and recreation board shall serve as the purchasing agency for the activities of the Community Events Commission;

Section 6. That the provisions of all other ordinances in conflict with the provisions hereof are of no further force nor effect and are hereby repealed;

Section 6. That if any part of this ordinance shall be held invalid, such part shall be deemed severable and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining parts of this ordinance;

Section 7. Any and all such ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed and of no further force or effect.

Section 8. This ordinance shall become and be in full force and effect *retroactively from January 13, 2025*, and after its passage and adoption upon its signature by the executive in the manner prescribed by IC 36-5-2-10(a).

Introduced and Filed on the 27th day of January 2025. Consideration on same day or at same meeting of introduction sustained a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed, pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this 27th Day of January, 2025, 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**

George Georgeff, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

Attest:

Mark Herak, Clerk-Treasurer (IC 33-16-4-1; IC 36-5-6-5)

- 2. Approval and instruction.** Action to approve and instruct the Town Council President to affix his signature to the Financial Commitment Letter dated January 27, 2025, to Mrs. Kathy Eaton-McKalip, Director of LPA/MPO & Grant Administration for the Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund.

**The motion should be to approve the list of streets and associated costs per Application #14322 and to approve the letter of Financial Commitment dated January 27, 2025 and to authorize the Town Council President to affix his signature.*

Councilor Black moved to approve the list of streets and associated costs per Application #14322 and to approve the letter of Financial Commitment dated January 27, 2025 and to authorize the Town Council President to affix his signature. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The letter was approved and the signature was authorized.

TOWN OF HIGHLAND

Highland Municipal Building • 3333 Ridge Road • Highland, Indiana 46322
Main Office: (219) 838-1080 • Utility Billing: (219) 972-7589 • Fax: (219) 972-5097



January 27, 2025

Mrs. Kathy Eaton-McKalip
Director of LPA/MPO & Grant Administration
100 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

RE: Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund – Financial Commitment Letter
January 2025 Call – Application #14322
Town of Highland

Dear Mrs. Eaton-McKalip,

This letter confirms the Town of Highland's financial commitment for our January 2025 Community Crossings Application #14322. We plan to utilize funding from approved source(s) in order to provide the 50% local match for awarded projects. We expect our aggregate local cost share for the 12 projects included in Application #14322 to be \$753,271.70. We have the local funding available to provide the required 50% match for each of our projects that are awarded.

Sincerely,

George Georgeff
Town Council President

Town Council

George Georgeff
Ward One

Doug Turich
Ward Two

Alex Robertson
Ward Three

Tom Black
Ward Four

Philip Scheeringa
Ward Five

Mark Knesek
Public Works Director

John Reed
Attorney

Clerk-Treasurer

Mark Herak

Town of Highland, Indiana
2025-1 Community Crossings Matching Grant
Application #14322
Project Locations

| 2025-1 CCMG Project Locations | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Street Name | Limits | Estimated Construction Cost | Estimated Match | General Description of Work |
| Wirth Rd | Kleinman Rd to Olive Av | \$ 213,093.00 | \$ 106,546.50 | Resurface road; replace signage, pavement markings, loop detectors, add storm sewer |
| Price Pl | Wirth Rd to 38th St | \$ 47,262.00 | \$ 23,631.00 | Resurface road; replace signage, pavement markings, curb ramps |
| Irish St | Price Pl to Olive Av | \$ 32,217.00 | \$ 16,108.50 | Resurface road; replace signage, pavement markings, curb ramps |
| 42nd Pl | Uible Rd to Kleinman Rd | \$ 126,353.00 | \$ 63,176.50 | Resurface road; replace signage, pavement markings, curb ramps |
| Grace St | 120' S. of Alice St to 43rd St | \$ 47,078.00 | \$ 23,539.00 | Resurface road; replace signage, pavement markings |
| Grace St | Ridge Rd to Strong St | \$ 406,853.00 | \$ 203,426.50 | Resurface road; replace signage, pavement markings, curb ramps, loop detectors |
| Delaware St | Ridge Rd to LaPorte St | \$ 334,677.40 | \$ 167,338.70 | Resurface road; replace signage, pavement markings, curb ramps |
| Candis St | Kennedy Av to 5th St | \$ 91,419.00 | \$ 45,709.50 | Resurface road; replace signage, pavement markings |
| Woodward Av | Bluebird Ln to Martha St | \$ 69,596.00 | \$ 34,798.00 | Resurface road; replace signage, pavement markings, curb ramps |
| Woodward Av | Martha St to Dead End | \$ 31,661.00 | \$ 15,830.50 | Resurface road; replace signage, pavement markings |
| Georgetown St | Dead End to Kennedy Av | \$ 68,847.00 | \$ 34,423.50 | Resurface road; replace signage, pavement markings, curb ramps |
| Sara Ln | Dead End to Dead End | \$ 17,380.00 | \$ 8,690.00 | Resurface road |
| TOTAL COST: | | \$ 1,596,149.40 | \$ 798,074.70 | |

- Proposed Ordinance No. 1808-A:** An Ordinance To Amend Ordinance No. 1808 to Establish the Wage and Salary Rates of the Elected Officers, the Non-Elected Officers and the Employees of the Town of Highland, Indiana particularly regarding Creating a Category Specialty Pay Provision within the Park and Recreation Department.

Councilor Turich introduced and moved for the consideration of Ordinance No. 1808-A at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Scheeringa seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The Ordinance could be considered at the same meeting of its introduction.

Councilor Turich moved for the passage adoption of Ordinance No. 1808-A at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Scheeringa seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a two-thirds vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no (0)

negatives. The motion passed. The enactment was passed and adopted upon the signature of the municipal executive at the same meeting of its introduction.

**ORDINANCE No. 1808-A of the
TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

AN ORDINANCE to AMEND ORDINANCE No. 1808 to ESTABLISH THE WAGE and SALARY RATES of the ELECTED OFFICERS, the NON-ELECTED OFFICERS, and the EMPLOYEES of the TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA PARTICULARLY REGARDING CREATING A CATEGORY SPECIALTY PAY PROVISION WITHIN THE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, Title 36, Article 1 Chapter 4 of the Indiana Code confers certain general corporate powers on the several units of government in Indiana;

WHEREAS, Section fifteen of that chapter specifically provides that a unit of government may fix the level of compensation of its officers and employees;

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-5-3-2 provides in pertinent part that the town legislative body shall provide reasonable compensation for the other town officers and employees;

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-5-3-2(b), further provides that the Town Legislative body shall, by ordinance fix the compensation of its own members and the Town Clerk-Treasurer;

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-5-3-2(c) still further provides that the compensation of an elected town officer may not be changed in the year for which it is fixed, nor may it be reduced below the amount fixed for the previous year;

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Highland, as the Town Legislative body, now desires to amend the ordinance that was adopted to fix the compensation of its elected officers, appointed officers and employees of the Town for the year 2024 and thereafter as amended;

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Highland, as the town legislative body, has been advised that it is necessary create the position in the Park and Recreation Department of: **LIAISON TO THE COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMITTEE**; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Highland, as the Town Legislative body has been further advised to create a category labelled **Specialty Pay Provision** to include the **LIAISON TO THE COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMITTEE** and that the bi-weekly range is \$461.54 - \$653.83 beginning

February 2, 2025

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, that the category labelled Specialty Pay Provision be created within the Park and Recreation Department, pursuant to the provisions indicated herein and as follows:

Section 1. That Section 11 of Ordinance No. 1808 be amended by creating a section labelled Specialty Pay Provision with the following section, which shall be numbered as Section 11 (C) and read as follows:

Section 11. *Parks and Recreation.* That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the non-elected officers and employees of the Town of Highland are hereby fixed for its **Park and Recreation Department** as follows:

(C) Specialty Pay Provisions:

Specialty Pay:

(1) *Liaison to the HCCE* \$461.54 – \$653.83 bi-weekly

Section 2. That all portions of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed and are of no further force nor effect;

Section 3. That a job description be on file for any position created and authorized by this ordinance and maintained on file with the Park and Recreation Department and the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer;

Section 4. That except where otherwise noted herein, other compensation and benefits matters not expressly provided herein for salaried and hourly employees and the Clerk-Treasurer shall be as set forth in the Compensation and Benefits Ordinance, commonly called the Employee Handbook as amended from time to time;

Section 5. (A) This Ordinance shall become effective and shall remain in full force and effect beginning *after its passage and adoption* pursuant to any constraints currently in force in Ordinance No. 1808 and until its repeal or amendment by subsequent enactment;

(B) That the Clerk-Treasurer shall have authority to implement the provisions of this ordinance pursuant to the authority expressly set forth in IC 36-5-6-6 (a) (3) & (4).

Introduced and Filed on the 27th day of January 2025. Consideration on same day or at same meeting of introduction sustained a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed, pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this 27th Day of January 2025, 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**

George Georgeff, 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)

Comments from the Town Council:

(Good of the order)

- **Councilor Doug Turich:** *Park and Recreation Board Liaison • Liaison and Plan Commission Member • Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals Liaison • Liaison to Building & Inspection Department*

Councilor Turich acknowledged Building Commissioner Ken Mika who gave the following report:

JANUARY 27, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING / BUILDING & INSPECTION REPORT

- BZA & PLAN COMMISSION MET RECENTLY AND SELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2025. BOTH BOARDS KEPT THINGS AS THEY WERE IN 2024.

To date no business has been filed with either board yet for February.

- Construction projects continue. Last week Thursday we finished out the main temperature controlled building and half of a second building. The 4 other buildings are still in various stages of construction.
- Progress is being made on the Cardinal Campus Boutique Hotel a considerable amount of wall framing has occurred over the past couple weeks.

Councilor Turich then acknowledged Park Superintendent Alex Brown, who said the new light poles are up at Sankowski Field. The actual lights will be installed by April in time for the Highland's JV's game and Highland's girls softball. He said it looks like there will be a break in the weather and the park crew will be able to take the Christmas Decorations down at Main Square. He said the cold weather made the ice at Meadows pond really good. There were a lot of skaters taking advantage of the good ice this past weekend.

• **Councilor Alex Robertson:** *Fire Department Liaison • Redevelopment Commission Member • Public Works Liaison • Liaison to Main Street Bureau • Liaison to the Tree Board • Liaison to the Highland Neighbor for Sustainability.*

Council Robertson began by thanking the HCCE for all the hard work they put in over the years, growing and making the festivals successful. He acknowledged Public Works Director Mark Knesek who said with the sub-zero weather, the Town is getting bombarded with water main breaks. He said if anyone has rave, and the many notifications about water main breaks, people are calling in to ask if there really are that many water main breaks. He tells them that its no mistake. With cold temperatures, causing Lake Michigan water to get super cold causing stress cracks in the water mains as the water is pumped through. He said they had a strange one today, called in by resident Larry Kondrat. He said somehow the water from the break made its way into a resident's garage and the water was coming up through the floor. Upon investigation, it was the resident's service line which ran underneath the garage, which is never a good thing. The public works crew worked on that for five (5) hours. They needed a jackhammer to break the frost to get to the water main. He commented that they had six (6) water main breaks last week. He described one that happened last week, which wasn't the Towns. It occurred behind the buildings of Highland Grove. The water hydrant valve bonnet blew off and as water was flowing out of the hydrant, the water made its way to a Nipsco ground transformer, which caused a super dangerous situation. Thankfully, the water just flowed into the retention pond after that. The Highland Fire Department was called out as the breaker boxes were vibrating and smoking. That continued until Nipsco killed the power. The mall contracted with Grimmer Construction to do to repairs. Back in the nineties, for some reason the valve companies decided to get some Chinese steel bolts and save a little bit of money. Over time, these bolts began to corrode and break. Highland had the same bolts used in the subdivision behind Meijer and were experiencing the same problem. The Water Department took a proactive approach and dug up every valve in the subdivision and replaced all the bolts on the flanges. The Town replaced all of the bolts with stainless steel. He said with the minimum amount of snow fall so far this year, the salt dome is full and he hasn't had to go out and purchase anymore salt.

Councilor Georgeff asked Mr. Knesek when we will be going out for bids on the solid waste contract?

Mr. Knesek said the bid packages were already sent out and are due this Friday. The bid opening will take place at the Public Works Garage. He said three (3) companies pick up

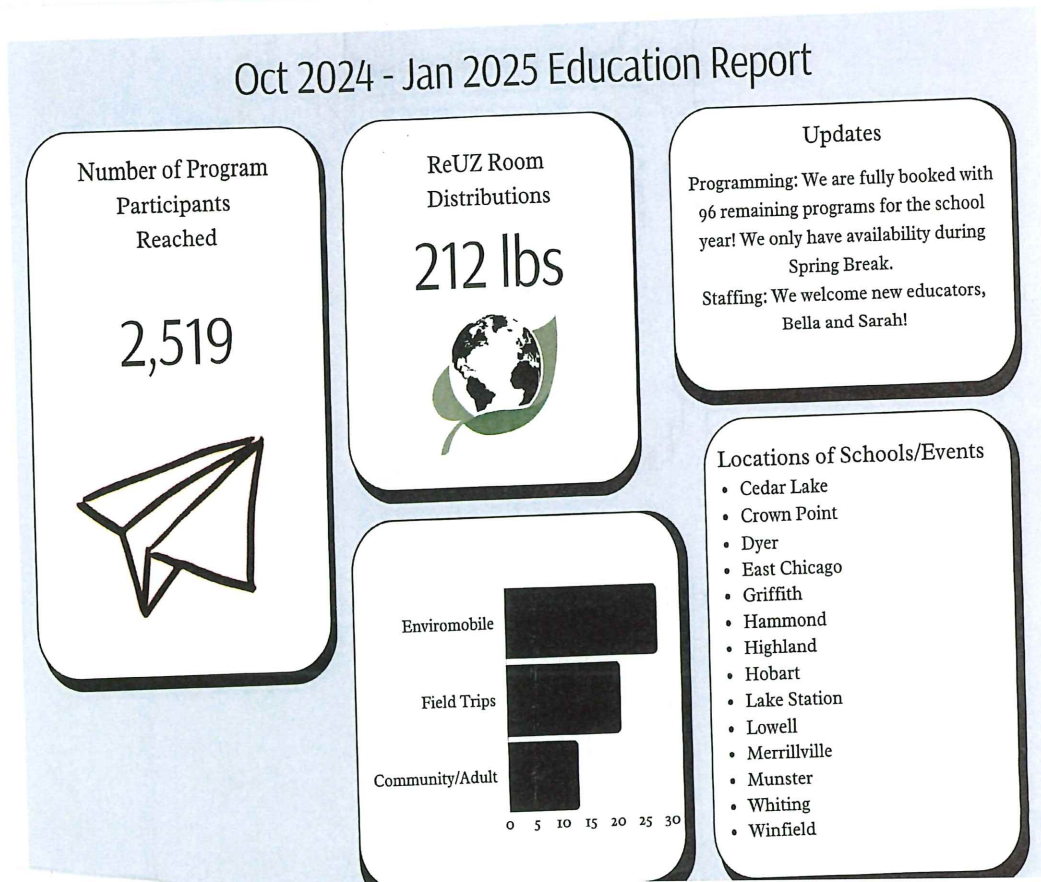
the bid package. He hopes that all will submit proposals but his concern they won't. Most don't have the equipment to cover the Town in one (1) day as required. He gave the example of Homewood Disposal which has Munster's contract. Munster allows them to do the Town in five (5) days.

Councilor Georgeff asked Councilor Black that since he is on the Solid Waste Management Board, if he could use his expertise and review the proposals. Councilor Black said he would.

Councilor Robertson then acknowledged Fire Chief Mike Pipa who said that since the last plenary meeting, they had 24 calls, including an auto aid with Schererville on a structure fire a week ago Sunday. He said they responded to a box alarm in New Chicago which was a fatal fire. Once they got out there, they were told they weren't needed. For the box alarms, their territory is everything north of US 30, with Schererville being the quadrant to the west. He said Truck 2 is back in service and parked in South Station. South Station is running now at full capacity with a truck and engine. He also commented on the water break behind Highland Grove that Public Works Knesek commented on earlier in the meeting. As Mark had said, all the water from the hydrant was flowing into the Nipsco ground transformer. He said he was the 1st to respond to a fire call at Best Buy. He said every other light in Best Buy was flickering on and off in the store. Store clerks were calling him into the back by the electrical panels as they were all chattering. When he went back into the store, he smelled smoke. He then went outside figuring it has to be a power issue. When he went outside and back, he saw the Nipsco ground transformer covered in water and ice forming. He immediately called out Nipsco. At that point the fire fighters safely evacuated everyone from Lynn's Furniture, all the way to Ashley Furniture. While evacuating, the fire pump in Lynn's Furniture kicked on and quickly filled the room with smoke as it burned up. That started to set off fire alarms in other stores. At that point, one of his officers felt it was best that we upgraded it to a structure fire, immediately calling out departments from Schererville, Munster and Griffith. The next day, he went back out to the scene. He said the only damage was in the fire sprinkling room.

- **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 gave the following update from the Lake County Solid Waste Management District Board:



- **Councilor Philip Scheeringa:** • *Metropolitan Police Commissioners Liaison* • *Information Communications and Technology Department Liaison* • *Redevelopment Commission Member*

Councilor Scheeringa began by thanking everyone who helped him as the 73rd Town Council President. He said it was a real pleasure and he learned a lot. He said it can be cumbersome at times and you a lot of papers to sign.

He then acknowledged IT Director Ed Dabrowski, who said just a brief report just to piggyback on something that Chief Potesta mentioned about the new Animal Warden. If anybody wants to reach out to the Animal Warden, you can reach him at animalwarden@highland.in.gov. He said he is finishing the phone upgrade in the police department. He is moving the police department's phone system onto the Town's. Previously, the police department had their own stand alone system. The upgrade should save the Town roughly \$15,000 a year in savings. He is also looking at some email and software options that could save the Town another \$4,000 a year. He said he finally got the last zone to work so he was able to turn off the Christmas theme downtown (red & white).

That zone finally starting talking to the wi-fi. He said he is working with Pure Illumination on getting some lights changed out and looking at that controller.

Councilor Scheeringa then acknowledged Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta who went over the crime statistics since the January 13th Plenary Meeting:

Town Council Meeting 01/27/2025 – Police Department notes for 01/13/2025 thru 01/27/2025:

0 Robberies / 0 Rapes / 0 Assault arrests

1 Burglary – Nephews of victim broke into his house and were found eating food. Both nephew's arrested and charged.

2 Auto Thefts – 1 suspect was the victim's son – charged by Hammond PD

1 was stolen from an apartment complex sometime within the past 3-4 weeks.

6 DUI arrests made

Responded to 12 Domestic Disturbance calls – 1 arrest made

Responded to 49 accidents – 2 involved personal injury

Had a rash of thefts from vehicles overnight. Work trucks again were the targets. Tool stolen. Losses ranged from \$200 to \$3,000. *3 vehicles Total*

5 Retail Thefts. 4 arrests made. Losses ranged from \$63 up to \$1,375.

Suspects from: Chicago / Steger IL / Park Forest IL / 3 migrants from Blue Island IL / Homeless Hammond resident

Had another personal check intercepted in the mail by unknown suspects. Resident mailed check to pay T-Mobile bill. Check was washed and cashed for approximately \$3,000 more than it was originally made out for. Detectives investigating.

Saturday morning 1am our 2 SWAT Team members responded to a call in East Chicago to assist with a barricaded / suicidal suspect who was holding hostages. Suspect was eventually taken into custody.

We have a new animal warden – Frazier Drakkar – has past work experience with the Humane Society – owns his own dog grooming business – his email will be posted on the PD website in the next few days.

All 3 of our rookies are progressing nicely. Officer Jimerson-Bell will be delayed about 1 month due to a National Guard call up. He will be gone through most of February and resume his Field Training immediately upon his return.

Messages

From: BRIAN ORTH (HIPD) **To:** RALPH POTESTA; BRIAN ORTH
Subject: JAN STATS FOR CODE

15 DAYS IN CODE WHICH INCLUDES TODAY

170 TOTAL CASES

47 NEW JUNK VEHICLE CASES

9 PARKING VIOLATIONS

1 STOP ARM CITATION DURING SCHOOL / FOLLOWING BUSES IN AM

35 FOLLOW UPS ON VEHICLES THAT WERE TAGGED

154 OF THESE CASES ARE SELF INITIATED ACTIVITY

STARTING TODAY WILL GO BY BUSINESSES FOR HANDICAP & FIRE LANE PARKING VIOLATIONS
MEIJER & STRACKS WERE DONE --- NO VIOLATIONS BUT DID SPEAK TO A DRIVER TO REMIND THEM
THAT THEIR PLACARD HAD TO BE VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC --
TRY 2 LOCATIONS EVERYDAY - MIX THEM UP

1/27/2025

Page 1 of 1

- **Councilor George Georgeff:** *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* • *Liaison to the Board of Water Works* • *Liaison to the Sanitary Board*

Councilor Georgeff acknowledged Redevelopment Director who gave the following report:

TOWN OF HIGHLAND'S REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MARIA BECERRA, DIRECTOR January 27 2025

Safe Street for All. A Consultant made a presentation today with recommendations. These recommendations would be to make improvements to intersections that have a high accident record or fatalities. With this Plan the Town is eligible to apply for an Implementation Plan for federal dollars to implement the short- and long-term recommendations, 1st quarter of this year. These federal grants can be as high as 7 million dollars, the funds will sun set 2027.

The Town will continue with the process of updating the Master Plan this year.
We continue to seek input from Highland Residents on their visions for the Town for the next 10-20 years.

Several applications have been received for the Commercial Grant funding for this year.

Main Street will have their first meeting February 6th at 6:15. There is a proposal to change the monthly meeting to the first Thursday of every month.

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

Comments from Visitors or Residents:

Larry Kondrat, Highland began by congratulating Councilor Georgeff on his election as Town Council President. He then began talking about a wheel tax which will be discussed in the study session immediately following the plenary meeting. He was advised that not much discussion will take place until it is sure the bill will be adopted. Larry said the Council really needs to consider it because that's where we get our road money. I was driving down Martha Street today and that's like a goat path. It is the bumpiest road I've seen in Highland in a long time. He said he has never seen so many potholes that need fixing. The last council considered a road tax but didn't adopt one. If the State requires a road tax, you need to make sure the State keeps the current funding, in addition to the road tax. If the State cuts back funding for roads because of a road tax, you should end the road tax. The State did the same with Education. They sold the lottery on additional revenues to fund education. After the lottery was in place, they eliminated the school funding already in place and replaced it with only the money from the lottery. If a road tax is implemented, the Council should keep the current funding level and add the road tax to the pool, so more roads can get paved, maybe write into the ordinance that the current percentage of funding for roads without a wheel will be maintained after the road tax is implemented. Also, I would like to see a sunset provision that expires at the end of each Council's term. Make the new or incoming Council vote on the wheel tax.

Public Works Director Knesek responded to the suggestion of a sunset provision. If the bill is passed, the Town will have to implement a road tax otherwise we'll lose funding for the CCMG. A sunset provision would essentially eliminate Highland from receiving funds.

Jeff Rosignol, Highland, said he was here roughly six (6) months ago, maybe longer and he spoke to the Council and Attorney Reed regarding a problem he was having with a short term rental across the street from his house. He realized that Attorney Reed wasn't present tonight but he was inquiring if anything was done? He continued, there is a short-term rental policy in place in the Town of Highland, prohibiting Airbnb's in the Town of Highland.

Building Commissioner said they are allowed but they must be owner occupied. In this particular case, the owner of the house lives in California.

Mr. Rosignol said his concern is that the policy is not be enforced. You have an absentee owner, living in California, who rents out his house as an Airbnb and nothing is done about. He advertises in ads. My concern is that as I see strange cars or vans coming and going from the house. How do we know if its not be used as a location for the trafficking of kids or housing migrants. He said we all know what happens to migrants, Highland arrests them. They send them to County where there processed and then transport to Chicago, where Chicago lets them free in a matter of minutes. He referenced a situation in Logansport and other parts of the state. He said the owner seems to be following the State Statute but not the Town's.

Mr. Mika said he feels Mr. Rosignol's frustration as he is experiencing the same frustration with Attorney Reed. Nothing has been done. He said he asked Attorney Reed to file an injunction against the owner but nothing happens.

Mr. Rosignol said he has talked with John on numerous times and he has said he was working on it but nothing.

The Council advised Mr. Rosignol that the next time it happens to reach out to Building Commissioner Mika.

Councilor Georgeff 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 Scheeringa moved to allow the vendors accounts payable vouchers as filed on the pending accounts payable docket, covering the period January 15, 2025 through January 27, 2025, . Councilor Turich 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 not inclusive of the Fire Department Quarterly were ratified and for all remaining invoices, the Clerk-Treasurer was authorized to make payment.

Accounts payable vouchers January 15,2025- January 27,2025, in the amount of
\$1,167,014.26

General Fund, \$464,305.34; **MVH Fund**, \$48,803.70; **LR&S**, \$5,232.49;
LAW Enforcement Continuing Education Training and Supply Fund, \$2,972.69;
Public Safety Income, \$1,316.00; **Donation**, \$44.00; **Special Events** \$79.98; **Solid Waste**,
\$1,001.30;
ICT Fund, \$15,004.64; **Police Pension**, \$68,887.55; **Insurance Premium**, \$559,366.57

Payroll Docket for payday of January 24, 2025 by fund:

General, \$383,809.51

Payroll Docket for payday of January 24, 2025

Office of Clerk-Treasurer, \$17,390.85; Building and Inspection Department,
\$14,642.23 Metropolitan Police Department, \$193,538.78; Public Works
Department (Agency), \$92,419.84; Fire Department, \$2,344.40 and
Information and Technology Department, \$4,350.35;
Total Payroll: \$324,686.45.

Payroll Docket for payday of January 31,2025 by fund:

Total Payroll by fund: \$82,494.52

Payroll Docket for payday January 31,2025

Boards & Commissions. \$12,740.00; Police Pension, \$68,779.90

Total Payroll: \$81,519.90

Councilor Scheeringa moved the payroll docket listed for the Fire Department Quarterly be ratified. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were four (4) affirmatives and no negatives and one (1) abstention, with Councilors, Georgeff, Robertson, Black and Scheeringa voting in the affirmative and Councilor Turich abstaining. The Clerk-Treasurer was authorized to make payment.

Fire Department Quarterly:

Payroll Docket for payday of January 24,2025 by fund:

Total Payroll by fund: \$66,582.23

Payroll Docket for payday January 24,2025

Fire Department Quarterly. \$61,850.64

Total Payroll: \$ 61,850.64

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, January 27, 2025, adjourned at 7:35 o'clock p.m.

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting of February 10, 2025.