

**Topics Tentatively Scheduled for Study Session Discussion
and
Topics Requested for Action at Future Business Meetings of the
Thirtieth Town Council of Highland**

This meeting will be convened as an in person meeting.

Topic: Town of Highland, IN - Town Council Study Session

Time: April 28, 2025 Immediately following the adjournment of the April 28, 2025 plenary meeting

This meeting contributes to Agenda building for the plenary meeting. Please, also be aware of the running enrolled list of matters that are likely for the plenary meeting, subject to review by the municipal executive. By practice and local ordinance, study sessions are distinguished from plenary (regular business) meetings of the Town Council "as they shall be conducted with less formality and with no votes or final actions of a dispositive nature unless provided otherwise by proper notice, pursuant to IC [5-14-1.5](#) et seq." (Confer HMC Section 2.05.130(3))

x. Discussion: Appointments.

Unless otherwise noted, all terms expire on the 1st Monday in January 2025 and until a successor is appointed or qualified, not exceeding ninety (90) days.

• Statutory Boards and Commissions

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

Regional Statutory Appointments.

1. **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 Commissions or Boards

Legislative Appointments

1. **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.

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The Town of Highland acknowledges its responsibility to comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to assist individuals with disabilities who require special services (i.e. sign interpretative services, alternative audio/visual devices, etc.) for participation in or access to Municipal sponsored public programs, services and or meetings, the Town of Highland requests that individuals make requests for these services forty-eight (48) hours ahead of the scheduled program, service and or meeting. To make arrangements, contact the ADA Coordinator for the Town of Highland at (219) 972-7595.

Regional Statutory Appointments

Home Rule Commissions

4. **Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council. *(Note: Current Appointees are: Diane Barr-Roumbus, James Roumbus, Sandy McKnight, Al Simmons, Sandy Ray, Ben Tomera, Laura Pilewski and Desiree Biro, term ending 1st Monday January 2027). Term is for two (2) years.*

x. **Discussion:** Summary of Revenue Impact:

Based on the 2nd reading amendment, the Town of Highland will receive less revenue over the next three years: (Civil Town only, not inclusive of Sanitary or Water)

- **2026:** \$748,600 less (not inclusive of circuit breaker loss – 2024 it was \$508,531.58
- **2027:** \$783,960 less (not inclusive of circuit breaker loss –
- **2028:** \$1,559,780 less (not inclusive of circuit breaker loss –

Budget Reduction Estimate:

The General Assembly estimates a total reduction to the Town of Highland of \$3,092,340 over the next three years due to SB1. To address this, the Town should consider:

1. **Raising Revenue:** Explore alternative sources like Wheel Tax, Trash Fees, Other Fees, Income Taxes, etc.
2. **Adjusting Services:** Identify services that can be modified, reduced, or discontinued.

In reality, SB1 is roughly 370 pages, I don't think anyone has totally grasped the impact

Use the 2025 budget as a baseline to evaluate these solutions. Likely, a combination of approaches will be necessary.

Highland residents face a double jeopardy on taxes like the wheel or local income. If the county was to pass a wheel tax, in addition to the local income and the Council passes the same, Highland residents would be double taxed.

Any additional debt, created by any taxing units (school town referendum, library board, county etc.) will most likely trip the circuit breaker for many residents, meaning less revenue for the Town.

x. **Discussion:** The May 26, 2025 Town Council Plenary Meeting and Study Session fall on Memorial Day. Does the Council want to meet? Cancel? Reschedule? In 2024, the Council cancelled the Monday, Memorial Day meeting and rescheduled it for the next day on Tuesday.

x. **Discussion:** Lamar Advertising Non-Binding Letter of Intent to purchase easement. Currently, Lamar pays the Town of Highland, \$40,000 annually. Lamar is proposing to pay a one-time, lump sum of \$450,000 to purchase the easement.

Placeholders:

x. **Discussion:** Revisiting plans about a new town hall

Councilors Turich and Robertson to tour existing sites (both internally and externally) to determine if another suitable site could be found to accommodate the head count in the town hall during the construction of a new town hall or during retrofitting the existing town hall or eliminating the need to do neither and permanently locate the head count into a different facility. Inclusive should be any external costs such as rent, utilities and other miscellaneous costs and loss of revenue if a town owned facility is used. A determination of the head count that could be relocated.

x. **Discussion:** Restructuring the Police Commission

Police Commission Liaison Scheeringa to meet with FOP President Glidewell and then report back to the Council on subjects that need the attention of the Council.

x. **Discussion:** Attorney Reed to meet with the Clerk-Treasurer to draft a middle ground proposal to present to the Council on how to comply with the new state law regarding parking over a sidewalk and exempt those with driveways that are too short to allow the homeowner to be in compliance. Some driveways in the older section of Highland won't accommodate one car.

Proposed Ordinance No. 1818: An Ordinance to Amend Title X of the Highland Municipal Code relating to Stopping, Standing, and Parking, and the Ordinance Violations Bureau, providing for the Enforcement Thereof, Repealing all Ordinances in Conflict Therewith:

Proposed

Section 10.20.070 Vehicles Parked on Sidewalks

Section 1. That Section 10.20.070, “*Vehicles Parked on Sidewalks*” of the Highland Municipal Code be amended by repealing section 10.20.070 and replacing it with a new section to be styled as 10.20.070 which shall read as follows:

The driver of any vehicle shall not park over any public sidewalk. Penalty, see

Currently

Section 10.20.070 Vehicles Parked on Sidewalks

The driver of any vehicle shall not park over any sidewalk area except at a permanent or temporary driveway.

x. Discussion: Shared Ethics Membership Renewal.

Cal Bellamy called and offered to meet with the Council to answer any questions the Council might have as he would hope they wouldn’t leave Shared Ethics. He said they are in the process of updating their training curriculum. They are working in conjunction with IUN to create new and meaningful exercises for the trainers, who will then train the Town’s employees. Highland’s trainer is Maria Becerra.

x. Discussion: disclaimer to be read before each meeting that is be live streamed and recorded.

Before we begin, we are advising that this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed. If you are uncomfortable with being recorded, we ask you to leave the meeting, otherwise , your continued attendance is your consent to be recorded.

• Plenary Business Meeting of Monday May 12, 2025

- Minutes of the Meeting of Monday, April 28, 2025
- Appointments
- Additional Appropriation Hearing – Downtown Allocation Area

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- Payroll Docket
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