Enrolled Minutes of the Thirty-Eighth Regular Meeting or Special Meeting
For the Thirtieth Highland Town Council Regular Plenary
Business Meeting (In person) Monday, June 23, 2025

The Thirtieth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its regular plenary session on Monday, June 23, 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 Alex Robertson, Councilor Tom Black all participated in person. Councilor Doug Turich and Councilor Philip Scheeringa were absent.

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 George Georgeff 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, Alex Robertson, Thomas Black were present as indicated. Councilors Doug Turich and Philip Scheeringa were absent Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak was also present. A quorum was attained.

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

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

Minutes of the Previous Meetings: The minutes of the June 9, 2025 Plenary meeting were approved by general consent.

Special Orders: None

Comments from the Public or Visitors:

Larry Kondrat, Highland, asked about the Safe Streets for all Grant. He said he can't make heads or tails of it. He asked if it was for $7m and the Town's matching portion 20% or 30%. There's like two (2) different numbers in the resolution.

The Clerk-Treasurer explained that the grant is a matching grant and the Town's portion is 20%. The 30% Mr. Kondrat referenced was a point of reference, as the vendor used a 30% contingency factor to come up with the $7.85m grant request.

Larry, then asked if the grant request is for $7.85m or $14m?

The Clerk-Treasurer responded that the original request was for $7.85m but when you include the infrastructure for Kleinman Road and the changing of the street lights on Ridge Road and Kennedy Avenue, the figure became $14m.

Staff Reports: none filed

Communications:

Alex Brown's retirement begins – June 27, 2025 - Congratulations
June 30th is the 5th Monday of the month. No meetings scheduled
4th of July Festival at Main Square from July 2 – July 6
Twilight Parade is on July 3rd, beginning at 6:30
All American Mile Run is on July 3rd, beginning at 6:00
Kiddie Parade is on Saturday, July 5th at 1:30
Fireworks are on July 6th, at the Sharp Athletic Complex beginning at dusk
Government offices will be closed on Friday, July 4th
Hazardous Waste Day in on Saturday, July 26th at the Public Works Garage

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

Legislative Appointments

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

Home Rule Commissions

5. **Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council. Term: Two years ending 1 Jan 2075. *Currently serving are Alex Robertson, Diane Barr-Roumbus, James Roumbus Sandy McKnight, Al Simmons, Ben Reinhart, Sandy Ray, Ben Tomera and Desiree Biro.*

General Orders and Unfinished Business:

1. **Ordinance Number 1808-H:** An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 1808 to establish the wage and salary rates of the Elected Officers, the Non-Elected Officers, and the Employee of the Town of Highland, Indiana particularly creating a Daytime Firefighter Stipend provision in the Highland Fire Department. (Introduced by Councilor Scheeringa at the June 9, 2025 plenary meeting, no further action was taken.) A simple majority is required to pass

Councilor Robertson moved for the passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 1808-H. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were three (3) affirmatives, no negatives. The motion passed. Ordinance 1808-H was passed and adopted upon the signature of the municipal executive.

ORDINANCE No. 1808-H
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 Creating A Daytime Firefighter Stipend Provision In The Highland Fire 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 Highland Fire Department, as part of its public duties, has a responsibility for fire suppression, prevention, public safety and protection of life and property throughout the Town of Highland and, from time to time, it is necessary to make changes to carry out the functions of the department and to better improve the operations of the department; and

Whereas, The Fire Chief has determined a need to create a Daytime Firefighter Stipend Provision for those Town Employees who serve the Highland Fire Department in addition to their designated position, shall receive a stipend to be paid along with any other departmental compensation for Firefighter response(s) throughout the month; and

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 to encourage participation from other Town personnel, it is desirable to offer a Daytime Firefighter Stipend to those employees who serve the Highland Fire Department in addition to their designated positions and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, that the Wages, Salaries, and special detail levels of the Officers and Employees of the Town of Highland, are hereby established, modified and fixed, pursuant to the provisions indicated herein and as follows:

Section 1. That in Section 12 of Ordinance No. 1808 be amended by adding a successor subdivision, to be styled as Section 12 subdivision (I) which shall read as follows:

Section 12. *Fire Department.* 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 **Fire Department** as follows:

(I) Daytime Firefighter Stipend Provision:

Daytime Firefighter Stipend Provision. Those employees who serve the Highland Fire Department in addition to their designated position shall receive a stipend to be paid along with any other departmental compensation for Firefighter response(s) throughout the month. This stipend shall be provided to any employee who serves the Fire Department consistent with the essential duties and responsibilities of the Daytime Firefighters.

A Daytime Firefighter must respond to 75% of daytime calls during their normally scheduled shift during a six (6) month period based on a calendar year starting in January and ending in December. Town of Highland employees who are unable to participate due to an excused absence (scheduled vacation, sick time, or other town emergency) will not be penalized for call absence. Those members must notify the fire chief of those excused call absences.

If an employee, who receives a stipend, goes on medical or regular leave for more than thirty (30) days, that stipend will be suspended until the employee returns to full duty.

Section 2. The Daytime Firefighter Stipend are as listed below. The monthly Daytime Firefighter Stipend is in addition to the employees regular hourly rate.

DAYTIME FIREFIGHTER STIPEND

Daytime Firefighter	$275.00/month

Section 3. The employee will begin receiving the Daytime Firefighter Stipend once the employee(s) begin NFPA 1001 Firefighter 1 and 2 training. This will be six (6) months of training on weekends and evenings.

Employee(s) receiving the stipend are required to attend one (1) NFPA Tuesday night training from 7 o'clock p.m. to 9 o'clock p.m. each month. If the employee has received a stipend and fails to graduate, the employee will be required to reimburse the Town of Highland.

Daytime Firefighters are required to attend one (1) training each month. The Daytime Fighters will be compensated at the same hourly rate for training as set forth in the Compensation and Benefits Ordinance.

Section 4. 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 5. Any and all such ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed and are of no further force nor effect;

Section 6. 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 7. 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 9th day of June 2025. Consideration on same day or at same meeting of introduction was not sought pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this 23rd Day of June, by the Town Council of the

Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of 3 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)

New Business:

1. **Resolution No. 2025-20:** A Resolution Approving an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Incorporated Town of Highland and the School Town of Highland for the utilization of School Resource Officer Program Services for 2025-2026. (Should the Council choose to act, the motion should read: I move to approve Resolution No. 2025-20 and the attached Intergovernmental Agreement between the Incorporated Town of Highland and the School Town of Highland and authorize the Town Council President to affix his signature to the Intergovernmental Agreement.)

   Councilor Black moved the passage andadoption of Resolution No. 2025-20 and the attached Intergovernmental Agreement and to authorize the Town Council President to affix his signature to the Intergovernmental Agreement. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were three (3) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The resolution was adopted.

TOWN OF HIGHLAND
TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION No. 2025-20

A Resolution Approving an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Incorporated Town of Highland and the School Town of Highland for the Utilization of School Resource Officer Program Services for 2025-2026

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-1-7-1, et seq., allows local government entities to make the most efficient use of the powers by enabling them to mutually utilize services for the mutual benefit of each other; and

WHEREAS, The Incorporated Town of Highland and the School Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana are municipal corporations empowered by the aforesaid Interlocal Cooperation Act, as amended, with authority to contract with each other on a basis of mutual advantage so as to better provide public services and facilities at a shared cost; and

WHEREAS, The Incorporated Town of Highland and the School Town of Highland desire to enter into a joint agreement pursuant to IC 36-1-7-1, *et seq.*, to provide for the ability and flexibility to obtain for the Highland Students certain gang resistance training, a heightened law enforcement presence in the local public schools as well as other related services for the mutual benefit of the participating entities, and at a shared cost,

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

Section 1. That a joint agreement, a copy of which is attached and incorporated herein by reference, among and between the Incorporated Town of Highland and the School Town of Highland entered into by the Town of Highland by and through its Town Council, this **23rd Day of June 2025** is hereby authorized and approved in each and every respect;

Section 2. That the purpose of this agreement is to authorize and allow the Town Council of the Town of Highland and the School Board of Trustees to act as a joint board of the two participating entities to mutually support and utilize certain specified services associated with the **School Resource Officer Program** for the mutual benefit of the participating entities at shared costs;

Section 3. That the Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Highland is hereby authorized to execute the duties related to the payment, collection and accounting for all moneys of this joint undertaking, pursuant to the terms of this agreement, in a manner that is mutually acceptable with the duly constituted and acting business official of the School Town of Highland;

Section 4. That the governing boards of the participating entities may be convened as a joint board, or may act as a joint board at separate meetings of the respective governing bodies of the participating entities in which the entities concur;

Section 5. That the governing boards of the participating entities may create a committee comprised of representatives from both participating entities or may designate a single individual from each of the participating entities, which may perform such administrative ministerial duties as the joint board may direct and the agreement may provide;

Section 6. That the President of the Highland Town Council and the Clerk-Treasurer are hereby authorized to execute the joint Interlocal Governmental Agreement with their signatures and any additional documents in order to implement the agreement;

Section 7. That this agreement shall be effective as indicated in and pursuant to its provisions, after the agreement has been authorized and approved by each of the participating entities, evidenced by passage and adoption of a similar Resolution all pursuant to I.C. 36-1-7-2;

Section 8. That upon its approval, this agreement repeals the agreements governing the school resource officer program, the first adopted January 17, 1997 and its succeeding agreements;

Section 9. That before this agreement takes effect, it must be recorded with the Office of the Lake County Recorder. No later than sixty (60) days after it takes effect and is recorded, the agreement must be filed with the Office of the State Board of Accounts for audit purposes, all pursuant to I.C. 36-1-7-6.

Duly Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, the 23rd day of June 2025. Having been passed by a vote of **3** 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)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

This Interlocal Governmental Agreement made and entered into in accordance with I.C. 36-1-7 by and between the TOWN OF HIGHLAND (hereinafter called "Town") and the SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND (hereinafter called "School Town"), both municipal and corporations organized and operating under the laws of the State of Indiana.

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, The Town desires to provide a Town of Highland Police Officer to the School Town to serve in the capacity as School Resource Officer to instruct in the Officer Friendly program, and to perform other related duties.

THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Town agrees to provide to the School Town the service of one (1) Highland police officer to serve as a School Resource Officer. The purpose of the School Resource Officer will be to minimize the potential for hate crimes/bullying, alcohol and drug-related use, gang-related activities, and disruption and/or criminal behavior in and around schools, such as theft, vandalism, truancy, etc. in the most effective and efficient manner possible. The School Resource Officer shall at all times, remain an employee of the Town, which shall be solely responsible for payment of all salary, insurance, worker's compensation coverage, and benefits owing by reason of the Officer's employment. The Resource Officer's duties shall include those listed on the attached Exhibit B on *"Essential Functions."* The SRO shall be considered a "school official" when acting with the intent to promote a safe school environment by enforcing laws, school policies and all other rules and procedures of the school corporation. The School shall have input, at all times, on the Resource Officers duties under this agreement. The Resource Officer shall be a resource to all School Town of Highland staff as Safe School Plans designate or as need arises. The Resource Officer shall remain subject to all laws, rules, and regulations governing police officers of the jurisdiction and lawful orders of superior officers of the police department.

2. In consideration of the same, the School Town agrees to pay for said services in accordance with the terms of this Agreement the amount of **$105,057.50 for a period of 180 days** during the **2025-2026** school year. The basis for said compensation to the Town is presented as an exhibit to this agreement incorporated herein by reference. The School Town's compensation shall be paid in two (2) equal installments, as follows:

(A) the first being due on or before January 31, 2026;
(B) the second payment being due on or before June 30, 2026.

3. The Clerk-Treasurer of the Town shall be authorized to execute the duties of receiving payments from the School Town as described in paragraph two (2) and of disbursing and accounting for all such monies in a manner consistent with the terms of this Agreement.

4. The School Resource Officer will be assigned on a full-time basis to the School Town the equivalent of up to one hundred eighty (180) days during the school year. The

School Town will only be financially responsible for the equivalent number of days actually worked by the School Resource Officer.

5. The School Resource Officer will wear clothing that will easily identify him or her as a police officer.

6. The School Resource Officer will not take personal time off when school is in session. If sick, he must notify the receptionist at the School Town Administration Center. A substitute may be assigned subject to mutual approval of the Police Chief and the School Superintendent.

7. Lunch must be eaten in a School Town cafeteria unless prior arrangements have been made with the Superintendent/designee.

8. The Town will assume all costs and responsibility of initial and ongoing training associated with the School Resource Officer position. Any vehicle or additional equipment or expenses necessary for the program shall be paid for by the Town.

9. The Town shall be responsible for selecting the police officer to serve as the School Resource Officer, subject to the consent and approval of the School Town. The School Town has final authority on the content of all instructional materials used by the School Resource Officer.

10. The administration of the terms of this Agreement shall supersede any previous Agreement and shall be accomplished through the Superintendent of the School Town or designee and the Chief of Police or designee.

11. Any other provision of this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding this Agreement may be changed or modified only with the written consent of both parties.

12. All notices or communications provided herein shall be in writing and delivered either in person or via certified or registered United States mail, return receipt requested, and with the proper postage prepaid, addressed to the party for whom such notice or communication is intended.

13. Should any part, term, or provision of this Agreement be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining portion or provisions shall not be affected thereby.

14. No failure or delay in performance of the executed service Agreement by either party shall be deemed to be a breach when such failure or delay is occasioned by or due to any Act of God, strike, lockout, war, riot, epidemic, explosion, sabotage, the binding order of any court or governmental authority, or any other cause, whether of the kind enumerated above or otherwise, not within the control of the party claiming suspension, actually provided that no cause or contingency shall relieve the School Town of its obligation to make payment for the services of the School Resource Officer programs actually provided by the Town.

15. This Interlocal Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which when so executed shall be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts, together, shall constitute but one and the same instrument, which shall be sufficiently evidenced by any such original counterpart.

16. Before this agreement takes effect, it must be recorded with the Office of the Lake County Recorder. No later than sixty (60) days after it takes effect and is recorded; the agreement must be filed with the Office of the State Board of Accounts for audit purposes, all pursuant to I. C.36-1-7-6.

Participant Counterpart

EFFECTIVE DATE. This agreement shall be effective after the same has been ratified by each of the participating entities by Ordinance or Resolution all pursuant to I.C.36-1-7-2.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Interlocal Agreement to be executed in their names and on their behalf as of the date first written above.

TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA
3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana 46322

Through its Town Council

By: _____
George Georgeff, Town Council President

Attest:

_____
Mark Herak,
Clerk-Treasurer

Participant Execution Date:_____

Approved as to Legality and Form:

_____
John P. Reed, Attorney

Participant Counterpart

EFFECTIVE DATE. This agreement shall be effective after the same has been ratified by each of the participating entities by Ordinance or Resolution all pursuant to I.C. 36-1-7-2.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Interlocal Agreement to be executed in their names and on their behalf as of the date first written above.

SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA
9145 Kennedy Avenue, Highland, Indiana 46322

Through its Board of Trustees

By: _____
Patrick Krull, President

Attest:

_____
Erica Smith-Gomez, Secretary

Participant Execution Date:_____

Approved as to Legality and Form:

_____
Rhett L. Tauber, Attorney

Exhibit A

Assumed Cost for School Resource Officer
2025-2026
Exhibit

Salary	**2025**		**2026**	
Base Salary Corporal	$ 85,528.17	•	$ 88,094.02	*
Assigned officer's longevity	$ 2,184.00		$ 3,099.20	#
One Time Pay Premium				
Subtotal:	**$ 87,712.17**		**$ 91,193.22**	
Benefits				
Medical Insurance (Family coverage)	$ 36,411.01		$ 36,665.90	**
Employer Contribution to Health Savings Account	$ 3,092.00		$ 3,192.00	
Dental Insurance	$ 1,728.14		$ 1,728.14	**
Life Insurance (.140 per $1000 of gross payroll, up to $50k)	$ 92.40		$ 92.40	**
AD&D (.02 per $1000 of gross payroll, up to $50k)	$ 13.20		$ 13.20	
Dependent life insurance coverage ($1.50/mo)	$ 19.80		$ 19.80	
Medicare	$ 1,271.83		$ 1,322.30	
Employer Contribution to PERF	$ 16,063.58	•	$ 19,182.90	***
Workers Compensation Insurance (2.06/$100 salary)	$ 1,806.87		$ 1,878.58	
Law Enforcement Liability Insurance (no discrete premium)				
Subtotal Benefits:	**$ 60,498.83**		**$ 64,095.22**	
Grand Total:	**$ 148,211.00**		**$ 155,288.44**	

Instruction Days: 180
School Year Days: 260

** *Assumes a 10% increase*

2025	**2026**
Daily rate based upon 260 days	
$ 570.04	**$ 597.26**
First Semester	Second Semester

School Compensation for 2025-2026 School Year:
FIRST SEMESTER: 2025 Days Instruction in School = 90 based upon school calendar

Daily rate: =(Total Salary for Year/260)	$ 570.04	Semester 1:	$ 51,303.81
SECOND SEMESTER: 2026 Days Students are in School = 90			
Daily rate: =(Total Salary for Year/260)	$ 597.26	Semester 2:	$ 53,753.69
		School Total:	**$ 105,057.50**

*** PERF PUBLIC SAFETY Employer is 23.3% 1/1/26
d on the 1st Class Patrol Officer plus 20 years longevity

1st Installment Due by December 31, 2025:	**$ 52,528.75**
2nd Installment Due by June 30, 2026:	**$ 52,528.75**

A 3% change in the basic bi-weekly salary is contemplated in this initial calculation for 2026

Exhibit B

1. The SRO shall be considered a "school official" for purposes of assisting educators in maintaining a safe and effective learning environment. "School Official" status includes:

   a. Conducting searches and seizures based on reasonable suspicion that a student is violating the law or rules of the school pursuant to federal law (New Jersey v. TLO, (469 US 325 (1985)) and Indiana law (Meyers v. State, 839 N.E. 2d 1154 (2005); D.L. v. State, 877 N.E. 2d 500 (2007); and T.S. v. State, 863 NE 2d 362 (2007)).

   b. Preventing a campus crisis by intervening in misconduct that violates school rules that would, if ignored, place students, faculty, and staff at risk of harm. NOTE: Disciplining students is a School District responsibility. Nevertheless, the SRO will intervene and take the student(s) who violate school rues to the principal where school discipline can be meted out.

2. The SRO shall exchange relevant information with school officials pursuant to federal law (FERPA at CFR 99.31(a)(5)(i); 34 CFR 99.38) and Indiana law IC 31-39-9-1; IC 31-39-4-1; IC31-37-4-3) and cooperate with the Juvenile Court and other agencies that are concerned with juvenile crime prevention.

3. The SRO shall serve as a resource person between school personnel and law enforcement to maintain maximum school safety and security for students, staff, and faculty.

4. The SRO shall serve as a member of the guidance team/administrators and school safety teams. The Resource Officer shall work with faculty, administrators, staff, and faculty.

5. The SRO shall assist administrators, upon request, in tasks such as investigating theft, break-ins, assault, vandalism, drug/alcohol use or possession, and other occurrences where police intervention is either required or beneficial.

6. The SRO shall assist with supervision and resolution of students, youth or adults who loiter around school facilities.

7. The SRO shall assist in communication with parents/guardians.

8. The SRO shall participate in ongoing efforts to acquaint parents, students, and school personnel with his/her responsibilities.

2. Authorizing the proper officer to publish legal notice of a public hearing:
A Public Hearing to consider additional appropriations in the amount of **$62,000.00** in the Redevelopment General Fund and **$15,000** in the Redevelopment Capital Fund. If approved, the public hearing will be held on July 14, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. O'clock in the Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland.

Councilor Robertson moved to authorize the proper officer to publish legal notice as indicated. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were three (3) affirmatives and 0 negatives. The motion passed. The proper officer was authorized to publish the notice as indicated.

Mark Herak

From: Maria Becerra
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 9:33 AM
To: Mark Herak
Cc: Alex Robertson; George Georgeff; Kendra Hernandez; Maria Becerra
Subject: Additional Appropriations needed

Mark,
The Redevelopment Commissioners **approved the price increase** for the Decorative Lighting.
additional appropriations needed.
Zone 3 is Kennedy to 4th Street on Jewett Street $24,536
Zone 4 is 4th Street to 5th Street on Jewett Street $37,309
Total **$61,845**

Also need **additional appropriations** for
7950 Kennedy property has Insurance, water & NIPSCO bills, and from time to time other upkeep maintenance costs. I know we will need the furnace check before winter so we don't have busted pipes.
Fund #4406-0000-31007 Redev. Cap Maintenance/repair. This fund is also used the Welcome sign and any decorative downtown pole issues.
If you could appropriate **$15,000** in this fund for the remainder of the year.

Maria Becerra
Director – Redevelopment Commission
Town of Highland
3333 Ridge Road
Highland, IN 46322

(219) 972-7598

https://highland.in.gov

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3. **Resolution No. 2025-22:** A Resolution Approving the Highland SS4A Implementation Grant Application and Authorizing and Directing the Town

Council President of the Town of Highland to affix his signature to and submit the Highland SS4A Implementation Grant Application.

Councilor Black moved for the passage and adoption of Resolution No. 2025-22 Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were three (3) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Resolution No. 2025-22 was passed and adopted upon the signature of the municipal executive.

TOWN of HIGHLAND
TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2025-22

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND SS4A IMPLEMENTATION GRANT APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZING and DIRECTING the TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT of the TOWN OF HIGHLAND TO AFFIX HIS SIGNATURE TO AND SUBMIT THE HIGHLAND SS4A IMPLEMENTATION GRANT APPLICATION.

Whereas, The life and health of all persons living and traveling within the Town of Highland are the Town's utmost priority; and

Whereas, Making streets safer for all people using all modes of transportation will encourage people to travel on foot, by bicycle, and by public transit, which supports a healthier, more active lifestyle;

Whereas, The Town of Highland submitted on July 5, 2023 a SS4A Grant Application (Safe Streets and Road for All) to the U.S Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and Office of Safety; and

Whereas, The U.S Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety, on October 30, 2023, awarded to the Town of Highland Federal Award No. 693JJ32440219 to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP); and

Whereas, The Town of Highland is devoted to reducing traffic fatalities and injuries by enacting a Safe Streets and Roads for all Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) ; and

Whereas, The Highland Town Council on March 23, 2025, by a vote of three (3) affirmatives and one (1) negative approved the Highland SS4A Comprehensive Safety Action Plan; and

Whereas, The Highland Town Council has decided to pursue implementation grant funding for improvements along the Kleinman Road corridor, extending from Clough Avenue south to 45th Street; and

Whereas, The Town of Highland is also seeking implementation grants for broader systemic improvements, including but not limited to installation of retroreflective signal backplates throughout the Town and upgrading existing lighting to LED; and

Whereas, The estimated cost for these improvements is approximately $7.85 million, which is inclusive of a 30% contingency; and

Whereas, As part of the SS4A implementation grant requirements, the Town must provide a local match of at least 20%, which equates to an estimated match of $1.57 million; and

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

Section 1. A copy of the That the Highland SS4A Implementation Grant Application, as prepared by American Structure Point, Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana is on file in the Office of the Redevelopment Commission; and

Section 2. The Town of Highland is seeking funding to implement projects and strategies identified in its Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan; and

Section 3. The estimated cost for these improvements is approximately $7.85 million, which is inclusive of a 30% contingency; and

Section 4. As part of the SS4A implementation grant requirements, the Town must provide a local match of at least 20%, which equates to an estimated match of $1.57 million; and

Section 4. The Highland Redevelopment Commission has signed off on the Highland SS4A Safety Action Plan (CSAP) and is recommending to the Highland Town Council to approve the Highland SS4K Safety Action Plan (CSAP) as prepared by American Structurepoint, Inc. of Indianapolis; and

Section 5. That the President of the Highland Town Council be authorized to execute the Plan with his signature on such documents as necessary as attested by the Clerk-Treasurer.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, this 23rd Day of June 2024. Having passed by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

George Georgeff, President (IC36-5-2-10)

Attest:

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

Town of Highland | SS4A Implementation Grant Application

Brief Narrative

The Town of Highland is seeking federal funding to implement projects and strategies identified in its Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), formally adopted in March 2025. The Action Plan was developed through a robust process grounded in data-driven analysis, community engagement, and an emphasis on safety for all street users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. The Town is committed to advancing initiatives that deliver the greatest impact on reducing roadway fatalities and serious injuries while fostering safer, more accessible, and more connected transportation networks.

The Town has decided to pursue implementation grant funding for improvements along the Kleinman Road corridor, extending from Clough Avenue to 45th Street. Within this corridor, the segment between Clough Avenue and 41st Lane ranks #3 among prioritized projects, with a weighted total score of 36 points. It is classified as a Tier 1 project, indicating a need for safety countermeasures to be implemented within the next five years (2025–2030). This ranking is based on an evaluation of crash data, public input, and environmental justice considerations. From 2019 to 2023, this segment experienced 75 crashes, including 5 incapacitating and 8 non-incapacitating incidents. The five most common types of collisions were rear-end, right-angle, run-off-road, left-turn, and same-direction sideswipe crashes. To address these safety concerns, several short-term and long-term countermeasures have been recommended. Short-term strategies include enhancing access management and improving crosswalk visibility. Long-term improvements involve adding sidewalks and upgrading roadway lighting.

1. Add a multi-use path on the west side of Kleinman Avenue,
2. Add sidewalks on the east side of Kleinman Avenue,
3. Install curb and gutter along the corridor for access management,
4. Improve traffic signals at Ridge Road & Kleinman Avenue and 45th Street & Ridge Road.

In addition to the Kleinman Road corridor project, the Town is also seeking implementation grants for broader systemic improvements, including the installation of retroreflective signal backplates throughout the Town and upgrading existing lighting to LED. The estimated cost for these improvements is approximately $7.85 million. As part of the SS4A implementation grant requirements, the Town must provide a local match of at least 20%, which equates to an estimated match of $1.57 million.

Highland SS4A Implementation Grant	
Description	**Estimate**
Site-specific Improvements	
Roadway Design & Construction - Excluding Utility Reloc & ROW	$ 5,000,000.00
Traffic Signal Modernization (Kleinman Ave & Ridge Rd, Kleinman Ave & 45th St)	$ 230,000.00
Systemic Improvements	
Lighting (Kennedy Ave, Cline Ave, Ridge Rd, 45th St, Main St)	$ 460,000.00
Signals (All Signals within Highland Jurisdiction)	$ 350,000.00
Add 30% Contingency	$ 1,812,000.00
Total Opinion of Construction Cost	**$ 7,852,000.00**
Town of Highland's 20% Match	**$ 1,570,400.00**

4. Authorize the proper officer to publish legal notice of a public hearing. Public hearing to considering additional appropriations in the amount of $9,800 in the Municipal Cumulative Street Fund to be held on July 14, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. O'clock in the Municipal Building, 3333 Road Highland.

   Councilor Robertson moved to authorize the proper officer to publish legal notice as indicated. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were three (3) affirmatives and 0 negatives. The motion passed. The proper officer was authorized to publish the notice as indicated.

5. **Transfer Resolution No. 2025-24**: An Exigent Resolution Providing For The Transfer Of Appropriation Balances From and Among Major Budget Classifications In the General Fund As Requested By The Proper Officer And Forwarded To The Town Council For Its Action Pursuant To IC 6-1.1-18-6.

   Councilor Black moved the passage and adoption of Appropriation Transfer Resolution No. 2025-24. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote of the elected officials, there were three (3) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Appropriation Transfer Resolution 2025-24 was adopted pending the signature of the municipal executive

TOWN OF HIGHLAND

APPROPRIATION TRANSFER
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-24

AN EXIGENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING for the TRANSFER of APPROPRIATION BALANCES from and AMONG MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATIONS to the GENERAL FUND as REQUESTED BY THE PROPER OFFICER AND FORWARDED to the TOWN COUNCIL for its ACTION PURSUANT TO IC 6-1.1-18-6.

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

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

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

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

General Fund:

Clerk-Treasurer

Reduce Account:	#1101-0004-310.04 Travel Expense	$700.00
	Total 300 Series Reductions	*$700.00*

General Fund:

Clerk-Treasurer

Increase Account:	#1101-0004-200.03 Miscellaneous Supplies	$700.00
	Total 200 Series Increase	*$700.00*

Total of All Fund Decreases:	**$700.00**
Total of All Fund Increases:	**$700.00**

DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED this 23rd Day of June 2025 by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of 3 in favor and 0 opposed.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of HIGLAND, INDIANA

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

Attest:

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

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 • Redevelopment Commission Member • Liaison to Building & Inspection Department*

In Councilor Turich' s absence, Councilor Georgeff acknowledged Building Commissioner Ken Mika who said the BZA has a meeting this coming Wednesday. He said there are two (2) things on the agenda. He said it is basically the board approving the Findings of Fact regarding two (2) petitioners from last month. They have new petitioner seeking a variance for a fence setback. He said he talked with the Idea Factory and they are going to put a small article in the upcoming Gazebo Express regarding Traditions and in particular the foundation. The remaining foundation has been removed and the owner is in the process of backfilling it with dirt. Once backfilled, the owner will seed it. The loose debris will be removed by the end of the week. At this time the owner does not have plans to rebuild, even though he submitted plans that were approved by the Plan Commission.

- **Councilor 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.*

Councilor Robertson began by saying it has been an honor to be Alex Brown's colleague, even though it was barely two (2) years and hopefully he will seem him not only at his retirement party but also on the pickle ball courts.

Councilor Robertson then acknowledge Fire Chief Mike Pipta who said that since the last meeting, they have had 13 calls of service. It's kind of slowed down a little bit. He said they did assist Schererville with a brush fire. Schererville was battling a structure fire when the brush fire call came in. He said he continues to work on 4th of July stuff like the parades and the fireworks and everything. He said he has a meeting tomorrow at 10:00 o'clock a.m. with the department heads to review safety protocol for the 4th of July. He said that the Nipsco trucks were finally on the scene of the accident that occurred at 4:00 o'clock a.m. A suspected drunk driver hit a telephone pole, across from the Public Works Facility knocking out power to many residents, including the Public Works Facility. He said hopefully the power will be restored by morning.

Council Robertson acknowledged Public Works Director Mark Knesek who said he is hoping the power would be up and running tonight, else he would have to go into work tomorrow at 5:30 o'clock a.m to open the doors, as he is the only one with a master key. He'll turn the generator on, so the overhead doors can open to allow the trucks out and turn the gas pumps on. He said only two (2) offices have power but even with power those offices were over 85 degrees. He said he almost got run over as with Kennedy Avenue blocked, a resident tried cutting through the garage stone road to get to Kennedy Avenue. He commended Officer Hinkle on directing traffic. He said even if we don't get the Safe Streets for All Grant, I would hope the Council would consider changing out street lights on Ridge Road and Kennedy Avenue from sodium vapor to LED. He said the payback was seven (7) or eight (8) years. LED lighting will definitely cut down on maintenance costs. He said he concerns with the fireworks being stored in the pod at the Public Works Garage. He said with temperature climbing above 95 degrees, the temperature inside the pod has to be over the heating point to ignite the fireworks and we all know what will happen if that does happen. He said he would like to get rid of them soon. Maybe the Mad Bomber can use them for the 4th of July fireworks display.

- **Councilor 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*

Councilor Black offered his congratulations to Alex Brown. He said he's been participating in meetings for nearly 20 years now and Alex is the only Park Director he's ever known. He said Alex got a lot of pushback on the renovation of Lincoln Center, much was false information but it didn't faze Alex, as he just held his ground and has made that project a success. Room rentals, exercise classes and fitness center. He also took the time to welcome Tim Diamond. He said the Council is here to help you whenever you

need help. He thought we all share the same goal and that is to make Highland's park the best in the region.

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

TOWN OF HIGHLAND'S REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Maria Becerra, Director June 23rd 2025

Safe Street for All

"Safe Streets for All"- Implementation Grant will be submitted this week, this is a National Grant it is a very competitive grant. The estimated Federal dollars requested will be $10,803,200, with a local match of 2,700,800, it is an 80/20 local match. This grant is offered through the U.S. Dept of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration.
The project will be to make major improvementS on Kleinman (Ridge Rd. to 45th St.). Kleinman Improvement to provide, sidewalk, sewer/water lines, bike path. This grant request also includes for Town wide traffic signal improvements, LED lighting on Kennedy, Cline, Kleinman, Ridge Road and 45th Street.
There is now a dedicated web link on the Town's page, which has the plan posted and will have updates on this endeavor as we move forward in making the Town of Highland's street safer for all.

Comprehensive Plan – Public Outreach at the 4th of July Main Square there will be an informational booth available for the public, we encourage everyone to stop by and give us your input on this important planning process for the Town's future.

DOWNTOWN HIGHLAND INITIATIVES

- **Commercial Grant** – The Redevelopment Commission approved a Commercial grant to a business that has been in the Town of Highland since 1941, Fagen Miller Funeral home on Highway Ave. They will be making improvements on the exterior and the interior.
- **Decorative Lighting** – Jewett from Kennedy to 5th will be installed this summer.
- **Main Street Bureau** – will be hosting 2 Big Restaurant Crawls August 26th and one on October 28th with a Halloween theme, which was very successful last year. Highway from Kennedy to 5th will be closed off for the events.
- **The Community Garden** is still very active and is being overseen by the Highland Neighbors for Sustainability Group.

GATEWAY CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Indianapolis Commercial Property** (Ultra)– Owner is negotiating with a developer it looks promising.
- **Indianapolis - Redevelopment owned 6 acres** Adjacent/south of the old Coach USA – The Redevelopment Commission will have the owner of the abutting parcel, make a presentation of development plans.
- **7950 Kennedy -** This property owned by Redevelopment is listed on the Town's website for possible lease or development. The office building has 2,400 sq ft. with 0.448 acre of vacant land.
- **North Kennedy –** some ongoing negotiations have been held in executive sessions.

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

In Councilor Scheeringa's absence, Councilor Georgeff acknowledged Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta who gave the following report:.

Town Council Meeting Notes for 06/23/2025 – Police Department – 06/09/2025 thru 06/23/2025

0 Burglaries / Robberies / Rapes / Auto Thefts

4 Assaults - 0 Arrests made

Responded to 25 Domestic Disturbance calls - 3 arrests made.

40 Accidents handled (3 personal injury) –

Incident this morning that caused lane closures on north Kennedy Avenue - 43 Female Chicago resident left the roadway and struck NIPSCO pole resulting in a power outage. 2 year old child in car was uninjured and released to a relative. Driver was injured and transported to the hospital. Being investigated as a possible DUI.

4 DUI arrests made

Fraud – Had one of our Veterans organizations get hit with a popular NIPSCO scam. Member who handles NIPSCO payments for the organization received text messages from a subject indicating that he worked for NIPSCO and said that the organization was behind on their bill for close to $1,000. Caller told the member to purchase gift cards from Walmart to pay the bill. Member went to Walmart where an alert cashier informed him that he was being scammed. No loss at this time. This same scam has occurred with residents. Never pay ANY bill using gift cards.

Resident received a text message, followed by a phone call, from a subject who identified himself as being from Chase Bank. Caller informed our resident that there was an attempt on her account to make fraudulent charges and he convinced her that she need to withdraw all of her funds out of her account. Caller informed our resident that there was a new "Virtual Card" on her account that she could deposit the funds into. Caller proceeded to deposit over $2,500 onto this "Virtual Card" and when she later tried to access it, all the money was gone. Chase later informed her that she had been scammed. Total loss $2,552.00

Handled 2 Retail Thefts – 1 arrest made – Loss ranges from $10.00 up to $1,000.00.

Suspects from: A group of 4 juveniles – 1 from Remington IN (staying with Highland residents), 1 from Hammond, and one from Highland. One adult from Hammond

Rash of vehicles broken into last week – 5 cars entered – 2 vehicles had no theft.

Items stolen include: golf clubs / a wallet / cash / a handgun

No park graffiti reported – Officer still doing evening patrols

Rash of ATM break-ins last week – several banks throughout the County. Appears same suspects – appears key was used – one of our banks had their ATM accessed but no theft. Our detectives are working with area detectives to identify suspects. Good video obtained.

"No Kings" protest last week occurred with only minor issues – no arrests made.

Social Wkr Started Today

In Councilor Scheeringa's absence, Councilor Georgeff acknowledged IT Director Ed Dabrowski who said he had no report but would answer any questions anyone might have.

- **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*

Councilor Georgeff commented on the passing of long-time business entrepreneur and former owner of the Town Club, Dan Bogusz who passed away on June 15, 2025. He then congratulated Alex Brown on his retirement, having served as the Town of Highland's Superintendent of Parks and Recreation for 25 years. Councilor Georgeff said he was on the Council when they hired Alex and he once again on the Council when Alex retires. He asked Alex if he's like to say a few words.

Alex began by saying that he has been with the Town for 28 years and with the Council having two (2) meetings a month, he attended roughly 672 Town Council Meetings. He said, even if he missed twenty (20), which he doubted, he attended well over 650 Town Council Meetings. He said he figured out last Thursday which was his last Park Board Meeting and that was well over 300 regular Park board Meetings. He thanked all the Town Councils over the years. He said another irony was that when he was hired, Carolyn Turich was on the Park Board at that time and was one of the Park Board Members who hired him and now her son is on the Town Council. He said he definitely wanted to thank the Clerk-Treasurers for all their support for the Park Department and everything they have done for us. He said there was only two (2) Clerk-Treasurers in his 28 at Highland. He said there were only two (2) Town Attorneys during his 28 years, Rhett Tauber and John Reed. He thanked them for all of their guidance. He said he couldn't not say anything about working with the Department Heads. He said they had very little turnover in his 28 years. He said he worked with two (2) Public Works Directors, John Bach and Mark Knesek. He said he worked with two (2) Fire Chiefs, Bill Timmer and Mike Pipta. There was only one (1) Building Commissioner during his 28 years and that was Ken Mika. He figured he worked with four Police Chiefs, starting with Larry Woods, then Joe Kwasny, then Pete Hojnicki and now Ralph Potesta. He thanked them for their assistance and support. Not having a town manager, people don't understand how well we worked together. The department heads have always served as town manager together, so just thanks for all their support and everything else. He said he told a long story at the Park Board Meeting last Thursday night about how he fell into working in parks and recreation, so he won't tell that one but he told another quick story about he happened to end up in Highland. He said he was working at the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District for 10 years. That Park District had won 3 gold medal awards as the best Park District in the country. He said there was no room for advancement when he was there 28 years ago and he had an opportunity to come here as the recreation director. He went into his boss, Greg Meyer, a very well respected man. He said he told Greg, he thought he was gonna go take a recreation director job over in Highland, Indiana. Greg, a very gruff man, pumped the table and he says don't go to Indiana. Parks and Recreation are not important in Indiana which means you're not important. He told Greg he would just go out there for a few years, get the experience and he'll come back and work in Illinois. He said he needed to get the experience and they he'd come back. Alex said what he didn't count on was his family falling in love with Highland. That was not part of the plan. He said he grew up in Homewood and his wife in South Holland. Highland reminded them both of how their communities used to be. He said they quickly made friends, quickly joined a church, their kids got involved in youth sports and loved

the schools. 28 year later and he is still here. Thanks to Highland for a great place to live and to raise a family. He then introduced Tim Diamond as his replacement. The Park Board hired him and he started the 16th of June.

Tim thanked Alex, who he said was a big influence not only to him but the entire region. Alex helped him when he got on the park board in Griffith. He was a novice and had a lot of questions and he was very helpful.

The Clerk-Treasurer pointed out two (2) of the many accomplishments of Alex, the renovation of the Lincoln Center and the bike trail. He also said Alex was very good to work with when it came to the budget, not to mention that over 45% of the park budget is generated through programs and fees.

Councilor Georgeff asked Derek Snyder, a principle of Nies Engineering and the engineering firm who oversaw the construction of the fence, if he would stay around after the meeting, as Councilor Georgeff and Councilor Black walked the fence today and had many questions regarding the workmanship. Derek said he would stay around after the meeting to answer questions but reminded the Council that a final walk through isn't happening until Wednesday morning at 9:00 o'clock a.m. and at that time a punch list would be created. He said he was asked to look at the cost worksheet for Kleinman Road as prepared by American Structurepoint. He said when you roll in the costs for the roadway lighting and traffic signal backplates, the engineering construction costs., all together it seems reasonable.

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:

Jeff Rosignol, Highland, brought up the Air BnB near his house. He said he has been here on numerous occasions and I'm here to get an update. I know the last time I was here, Attorney Reed you said you were working on it. At that time, you said you were extremely busy.

Attorney Reed said our town code is nebulously defined. He said the question is still an open question is a lot of communities and some of those communities have had their ordinances challenged in the courts. The question evolves around the idea of short term rental and can you take away that property right from a property owner? There are a few cases pending in various circuits. He said he kind of wants to see how those come out before we make any changes to our code. He said there is a difference between covenants that are voluntary, like no rentals in a condominium development versus involuntary.

Mr. Rosignol said he thought if there wasn't a clear definition in Highland's code regarding short term, it would then relate to how the state defines short term.

Attorney Reed said that might work under home rule law but he would rather see what other communities are doing and waiting to see what the circuit courts rule.

Jeff then said it was brought to his attention that during last years 4th of July celebration, there was a lot of drinking going on by members of the Highland staff, with the vendors supplying the alcohol. This was a know fact by many people that work for the Town of Highland. Obviously, it is an insurance problem if something should happen. He said some vendors felt forced to give staffers food and drinks. He then recited various codes from the Town's ethics ordinance.

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 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 June 11, 2025 through June 24, 2025 and the payroll dockets . Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were three (3) 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 were ratified and for all remaining invoices, the Clerk-Treasurer was authorized to make payment.

Accounts payable June 11, 2025 to June 24, 2025, in the amount of **$456,459.44**

General Fund, $247,387.70; **MVH Fund**, $25,549.78; **LAW Enforcement Continuing Education Training and Supply Fund,** $11,750.20; **Public Safety Income,** $9,796.00; **MCCD**, $138,329.16; **ICT Fund**, $23,646.60

Payroll Docket for payday of June 13,2025 by fund:

General, $333,357.98

Payroll Docket for payday of June 13, 2025:

Office of Clerk-Treasurer, $15,213.79; Building and Inspection Department, $11,037.97; Metropolitan Police Department, $160,832.71; Public Works Department (Agency), $85,123.32; Fire Department, $2,348.40; and Information and Technology Department, $4,354.35.

Total Payroll: $278,910.54

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, June 23, 2025, adjourned at 7:15 o'clock p.m.

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting of July 14, 2025.