

**Enrolled Minutes of the Sixty-First Regular Meeting or Special Meeting
For the Thirtieth Highland Town Council Regular Plenary
Business Meeting (In person) Monday, April 27, 2026**

The Thirtieth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its regular plenary session on Monday, April 27, 2026 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 George Georgeff 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, Doug Turich, Alex Robertson, Thomas Black and Councilor Philip Scheeringa were present. Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak was also present. A quorum was attained.

Additional Officials Present: Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta; Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra; Glenn Schlessler, Fire Chief; Ed Dabrowski, Director of Information Technology, Kenneth J. Mika, Building Commissioner; Kim Webb, Assistant Public Works and Attorney John Reed with JPR Legal Services were present. Mark Knesek, Public Works Director 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 April 13, 2026 Plenary meeting were approved by general consent.

Special Orders:

1. Executive Proclamation: A Proclamation of the Municipal Executive Endorsing and Supporting the Observance of Police Appreciation Week (May 10 - 16, 2026) in the Town of Highland.

- (a) Reading and Execution of Proclamation.
- (b) Action by the Town Council President

The Town Council President approved the proclamation by his signature:

TOWN of HIGHLAND
PROCLAMATION OF THE TOWN EXECUTIVE

A PROCLAMATION ENDORSING and SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE of POLICE APPRECIATION WEEK
(MAY 10 - 16, 2026) in the TOWN of HIGHLAND

WHEREAS, The Highland Metropolitan Police Department provides a vital Public Service by enforcing laws, promoting order and performing other acts in support of public safety; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Metropolitan Police Department engage in thousands of hours of specialized training to enhance their specialized skills; and

WHEREAS, The people of Highland, Indiana benefit daily from the knowledge and skills of all of these highly trained individuals; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to recognize the value and importance of the Highland Metropolitan Police Department by designating a week in which the community may express its appreciation to the members of the Highland Metropolitan Police Department through a Police Appreciation Week; and

WHEREAS, The designation of a Police Appreciation Week will additionally serve to educate the people of Highland, Indiana about the various ways these public servants affect our lives each day;

NOW THEREFORE, I, George Georgeff, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the President of the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, do now hereby proclaim the week of May 10 - 16, 2026 as Police Appreciation Week;

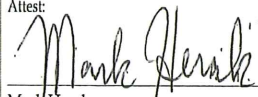
FURTHER, on behalf of the members of the Town Council and the Clerk-Treasurer, I extend appreciation to the members of Highland's Metropolitan Police Department for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to this community which they cooperatively serve and protect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my signature and cause the corporate seal of the municipality to be affixed, this 27th day of April, 2026.

Town of Highland, Indiana
By its Town Council President:

George Georgeff

Attest:



Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer



2. **Consideration of Proposed Additional Appropriations:** (controlled and non-controlled funds): Proposed Additional Appropriations in Excess of the 2026 Budget for the Commercial Corridor Allocation Fund in the amount of \$1,561,000.00.

(a) **Proofs of Publication: Gateway**

(a) Public Hearing.

(b) Action on **Appropriation Enactment No. 2026-06:**

An Enactment Appropriating Additional Moneys in Excess of the Annual Budget for the **Commercial Corridor Allocation Fund**, all pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18, and I.C. 36-5-3-5

**requires 2 readings if the Council desires to pass it on the first night*

Councilor Black introduced and moved for the consideration of Appropriation Enactment No. 2026-06 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 enactment could be considered at the same meeting of its introduction.

Councilor Black moved for the passage adoption of Appropriation Enactment No. 2026-06 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 negatives. The motion passed. The enactment was passed and adopted upon the signature of the municipal executive at the same meeting of its introduction.

**Town of Highland
Appropriation Enactment
Enactment No. 2026-06**

AN ENACTMENT APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONIES IN EXCESS OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET for the COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR ALLOCATION 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 **Commercial Corridor Allocation 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 **Commercial Corridor Allocation Fund** herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

Commercial Corridor Allocation Fund

Acct. No. 4447-0000-39026 Demolition \$61,000.00

Total 300 Series: \$61,000.00

Acct. No. 4447-0000-43095 Acquisition of Parcel \$1,500,000.00

Total 400 Series: \$1,500,000.00

Fund Total: \$1,561,000.00

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 27th day of April 2026. 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 April 2026, 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)

Comments from the Public or Visitors: None

Staff Reports: nothing filed.

Communications:

Restaurant Crawl – April 28, 2026 4:00 o'clock p.m. to 8:00 o'clock pm.
Spring Fling Craft Fair, Saturday May 2, 2026
2026 National Assoc. of Letter Carriers, Stamp out Hunger – May 9th
Police Appreciation Week 2026 – May 10th -16th.
Spring Clean-up, Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Memorial Day Ceremony– May 25th – Main Square – 10:00 o'clock a.m.
Highland Community Garage Sales – May 29th & 30th from 8:00 to 2:00
Highland Fire Depart Pancake Breakfast – May 30th Central Fire Station
Shred Day, Saturday, June 20, 2026, Highland Public Works Facility
Hazardous Waste Day, Saturday, July 25, 2026 at Public Works Facility

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

4. **Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council.
Term: Two years ending 1 Jan 2027. *Currently only 8 of 17 appointed.*

General Orders and Unfinished Business: none

New Business:

1. Authorize the proper officer to publish legal notice of a public hearing. If approved, the public hearing to consider the additional appropriations in the amount of \$700,000 in the Commercial Corridor Allocation Fund, in the amount of \$62,482.82 in the Police Pension Fund, in the amount of \$30,000.00 in the Redevelopment General Fund, in the amount of \$2,400 in the General Fund to be held on May 11, 2026 at 6:30 P.M. O'clock in the Municipal Building, 3333 Road Highland.

Councilor Scheeringa moved to authorize the proper officer to publish legal notice as indicated. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The proper officer was authorized to publish the notice as indicated

**TOWN OF HIGHLAND
 NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, that the Town Council of said Municipality in said Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, at 6:30 p.m. on the 11th day of May 2026, will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year in the following funds:

Commercial Corridor Allocation Fund		
4447-0000-43095	Acquisition of Parcel	\$ 700,000.00
<i>Total for 400 Series:</i>		<i>\$ 700,000.00</i>
Total for the Fund: \$700,000.00		
Police Pension Fund		
8802-0000-11205	Police Pension Retired Policemen Benefits	\$ 23,956.54
8802-0000-11206	Police Pension Dependent Benefits	\$ 38,526.28
<i>Total for 100 Series:</i>		<i>\$ 62,482.82</i>
Total for the Fund: \$62,482.82		
Redevelopment General Fund		
2216-0000-31023	Downtown Streetscape Repair	\$ 30,000.00
<i>Total for 300 Series:</i>		<i>\$ 30,000.00</i>
Total for the Fund: \$30,000.00		
General Fund		
1101-0009-35001	Electric	\$ 2,400.00
<i>Total for 300 Series:</i>		<i>\$ 2,400.00</i>
Total for the Fund: \$2,400.00		

Funds to support these additional appropriations in the Commercial Corridor Allocation Fund, Police Pension Fund, Redevelopment General Fund and General Fund shall be supported by miscellaneous revenue, unreserved unobligated fund balance on deposit to the credit of the fund.

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

TOWN COUNCIL of HIGHLAND
 George Georgeff, President

By: Mark Herak
 Clerk-Treasurer

2. Resolution No. 2026-08: 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 Robertson moved the passage and adoption of Resolution No. 2026-08. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) Affirmatives, no negatives. The motion passed. The resolution was adopted pending the signatures of the Council.

TOWN of HIGHLAND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2026-08

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 NEW 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 transits, 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), making the Town eligible to apply for the new grant; 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 has decided to pursue implementation grant funding by resubmitting a modified plan along the Kleinman Road corridor, extending from Clough Avenue south to 45th Street, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000,000; 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 \$9,396,000 million, which is inclusive of a 20% 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 \$2,386,800; 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 \$9,396,000, which is inclusive of a 20% 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 \$2,386,000; 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 27th Day of April 2026. Having passed by a vote of 5 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

3. Proposed Ordinance No. 1849: An Ordinance Amending The Parking Schedules Of Chapter 10.35 Of The Highland Municipal Code For The Town Of Highland, Indiana, Repealing All Ordinances And Cconflicts Therewith And Declaring An Emergency.

Councilor Black introduced and moved for the consideration of Proposed Ordinance No. 1849 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The enactment could be considered at the same meeting of its introduction.

Councilor Black moved for the passage adoption of Ordinance No. 1849 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Robertson 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. 1849
of the
TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PARKING SCHEDULES OF
CHAPTER 10.35 OF THE HIGHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE FOR THE
TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA, REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES
AND CONFLICT THEREWITH AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Highland is the municipal legislative body of the unit; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of time various Ordinances, Codes, and Procedures of the Town of Highland must be amended; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of time various practices, policies, and procedures must be updated; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council is interested in amending the Parking Schedules in Chapter 10.35 of the Highland Municipal Code to protect the public

health, safety and welfare in all traffic safety programs to meet local needs, among others things; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to amend the Parking Schedules set forth in Chapter 10.35 of the Highland Municipal Code in order to insure public health, safety and welfare insofar as they are affected by traffic laws and traffic safety education within the Town of Highland, Indiana, and to provide that vehicle operators that do not comply with these provisions shall be penalized to provide a minimum level of health and safety as required herein; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to amend Chapter 10.35 of the Highland Municipal Code as set forth below.

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

Chapter 10.35

PARKING SCHEDULES

1. Section 10.35.100 Schedule IX – Parking without special permit display prohibited is amended by adding the following locations:
 - From 2116/2117 Azalea Drive east to Prairie Avenue on the south side of the street, extending west to 2000/2001 Azalea Drive and east to Southmoor Drive on the north side of the street.
 - From 2116/2117 44th east to Prairie Avenue on both the north and south sides of the street extending to 2012/2017 44th Street.
 - From 9321 Southmoor Drive on the east side of the street to Hart Road extending north to 9201/ 9204 Southmoor Drive.
 - From 9320/9321 Waymond on both the east and west sides of the street to Hart extending north to 9201/9202 Waymond Avenue.

Introduced and filed on the 27th day of April, 2026. Consideration on the same day or at the same meeting of introduction sustained by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed, pursuant to I.C. 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this 27th day of April, 2026, 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)

4. Appropriation and Cash Transfer Resolution No. 2026-07: An Exigent Resolution providing for the Transfer of Appropriation and Cash Balances from and Among Major Budget Classifications to the Community Crossings Grant Fund as Requested by the Proper Officer and Forwarded to the Town Council for its Action Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-18-63.

Councilor Scheeringa Robertson moved the passage and adoption of Appropriation and Cash Transfer Resolution 2026-07. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The order was adopted pending the signature of the Municipal Executive.

TOWN OF HIGHLAND
APPROPRIATION TRANSFER RESOLUTION
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-07

AN EXIGENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING for the TRANSFER of APPROPRIATION and CASH BALANCES from and AMONG MAJOR BUDGET CLASSIFICATIONS to the COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANT 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 Community Crossing Grant 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 it has been shown that certain existing unobligated appropriations of the **LR&S Fund and the CREDIT ECON Dev. 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:

LR&S Fund

Reduce Account: #2202-0000-390.09 LR&S Constr. St-Tran. Out	<u>\$261,104.55</u>
<i>Total 300 Series Reductions</i>	\$261,100.55

CREDIT ECON DEV INCOME TAX FUND

Reduce Account: #4436-0000-471.18 CREDIT Res. -Tran. Out	<u>\$550,000.00</u>
<i>Total 400 Series Reductions</i>	\$550,000.00

Community Crossing Grant Fund

Increase Account: #2405-0000-399.98 Transfer (Revenue Acct.)	<u>\$811,104.55</u>
<i>Total 300 Series Increases</i>	\$811,104.55

Total of All Fund Decreases:	\$811,104.55
Total of All Fund Increases:	\$811,104.55

DULY RESOLVED and ADOPTED this 27th Day of April 2026 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)

Comments from the Town Council:

(Good of the order)

- **Councilor Doug Turich:** *Metropolitan Police Commission • 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:

4/27/26 HIGHLAND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING / BUILDING DEPARTMENT REPORT

- BZA / No Report.
- PC / Will have a Study Session on 5/6. The plan is to make sure the prepared draft of the Comprehensive Plan is ready to proceed to Public Meeting in May.
- Building – Work is proceeding at a good pace on the Buddy Bear Car Wash 3828 Ridge Rd. The pre-cast walls have been set for the main building. Site work is continuing on the Smiles By Gentle Dental clinic complex at 2648 45th St.
- Demolition of the structures at the previous speedway station has occurred, and the contractor is continuing on restoring the site to accommodate as green space.
- Update on the pedestrian / bike bridge between Munster & Highland. The main bridge sections have been set, and the contractors are currently working on framing the approach ramps to the main bridge sections.
- Code Enforcement / Mr. Mika reminded residents that it is that time of year again where grass needs to be maintained. Technically anything over 10 " is in violation, violators are given a warning, and have 5 days to rectify the issue or the violator is subject to citation.

Ken Mika
Town of Highland
Building Commissioner / Zoning Administrator

Councilor Turich then acknowledged Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta, who gave the following report:

Town Council Meeting Notes for 04/27/2026 – Police Department – 04/13/2026 thru 04/27/2026 – Past 2 weeks

0 – Burglaries / Robberies / Rapes / Auto Thefts / Vehicles Broken Into

4 Assaults – 0 Arrests
Responded to 9 Domestic Disturbances – 2 Arrests

4 DUI arrests made
46 accidents handled – 6 of those involved personal injury

10 Retail Thefts
8 arrests
No Highland residents involved – 4 suspects from Illinois – 4 Suspects from IN - Laporte/S.Bend/Griffith
Losses ranged from \$140 to \$1,000

3 Males from Chicago arrested for stealing \$2-3,000 worth of empty plastic crates from one of our gas stations. They did this on 3 separate occasions. Business owner ended up placing an air tag on one of the crates and during the 3rd theft, the suspects were caught and charged.

3 Highland juveniles were trespassed after they got in to the vacant Ultra Foods building. They indicated that they entered through an unsecure door. Nothing stolen or damaged.

0 – Illegal Narcotics Overdoses – seems to have subsided for the time being

Scams of note:

Another resident mailed a personal check through the Highland Post Office and it was intercepted by unknown individual(s). Check written for \$2,781...changed and cashed for \$6,200.

Resident observed used vehicle for sale on a co-workers FaceBook page. Resident informed the co-worker she was interested in purchasing 3 of the vehicles. The "co-worker" informed our resident through messaging that it was her "uncle" that was actually selling the vehicles so she provided our resident with the "uncles" contact information. A deal was made and our resident ended up doing a wire transfer of \$9,500 to the "uncle". Later discovered that the co-worker FaceBook had been hacked and the co-worker was unaware that fraudulent activity was occurring on her account. Victims from other jurisdictions who know the co-worker have also reported losing money. No suspects at this time.

Complaints of reckless E-Scooters / E-Bikes / Mini-bikes starting to roll in.

2 officers out on Workmans Comp. Currently are 2 officers short of what we are budgeted for.

Inspection / Memorial Service for fallen officers May 9th Sheppard Park. Inspection 8am. Service 9am.

Messages

From: BRIAN ORTH (HIPD) **To:** RALPH POTESTA; BRIAN ORTH
Subject: APRIL STATS IN CODE / FOR COUNCIL MEETING IF YOU NEED THEM
RALPH - APRIL 2026 STATS
FIRST WEEK OF APRIL ON VACATION - 16 DAYS OF WORK INCLUDING TODAY

15 SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS

10 PARKING COMPLAINTS W/ 1 CITATION ISSUED

14 ABANDONED / JUNK VEHICLES TAGGED

103 ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS TAKEN

151 TOTAL CASES HANDLED

BRIAN

• **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 called upon Assistant Public Works Director Kim Webb who was filling in for Public Works Director Mark Knesek who was on vacation. Kim said they had several calls of trees down blocking the streets or roadways caused by the afternoon storm that passed through Highland. She said crews were out till around 6 o'clock p.m., clearing the down limbs. She then commented on the water break at Delaware and Ridge. She felt it was caused by the boring crew. Her concern was that the break happened Friday night but the boring crew never notified anyone. The leak wasn't reported until Saturday evening by a neighbor who said there was a large water puddle in front of their house. She contacted the boring company and sent them pictures. She plans on invoicing them for the public works crew time.

Councilor Robertson then acknowledged Fire Chief Glenn Schlessler who said the tornado sirens are working, as far as, they can tell. After the last storm, they had no issues or complaints. He said they are still trying to correct the electrical issues at Central. Once they finish, they will start cleaning, sorting and organizing South Station.

• **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 acknowledged Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra who gave the following report:

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE APRIL 27, 2026

Redevelopment Commercial Corridors

Kennedy Ave.

- **Acquisition of Property - 8436 Kennedy (abandoned gas station)**
 - Demolition is in the progress; the structure is down. Contractor did run into some large concrete footings.
 - Redevelopment Commission will be reviewing resident input on the future use.
- **Acquisition of Property - 2655 Garfield**
 - Contract signed - Appraisal performed, Phase I report is in. Phase II in progress with additional borings and testing. Title Commitment done, survey has been received, asbestos inspection performed and came back fine.
 - Anticipated closing date June 1, 2025.
- **Acquisition of Property several North Kennedy (close to downtown) parcels**
 - Appraisals performed there are ongoing negotiations with owners

Indianapolis Blvd.

- **Redevelopment 8113 – 8200 Indianapolis (6 acres) Town owned parcels**
 - Owner seeking to redevelop property (old bus station) along with the Redevelopment parcels. Owner preparing a Planned Unit Development
- **Redevelopment of the 8401 Indianapolis Parcel (old Ultra parcel)**
 - Attorney Reed is handling this parcel.

Revision of Outdated Plans & Development of New Plans

- **Safety Action Plan Federally Funded the Notice of Funding for Implementation Grant is open**
 - Plan completed use as a Guide for Street Safety Improvements, the U.S. Dept of Transportation has issued the notice of funding availability for Implementation funds, application is due May 26th. The Town will be submitting for the Grant to make Improvements to Kleinman and Town wide traffic signal improvements.
- **Roadway Safety Audit**
 - NIRPC - awarded a Grant for Kennedy & 45th, updates will be provided once received.

- **Comprehensive Master Plan Updating from 2006**
 - Final draft to be reviewed by the Planning Commission on 5-6 to be followed by a Public Hearing and recommendations to the Town Council approval of Final Plan.
- **Redevelopment Plan – Commercial Corridors North Kennedy & North Indianapolis**
 - Final plan may be presented at the Redevelopment Plenary Meeting in May or June.

New and Ongoing Programs

- **New Homeownership Program - First Responders and Municipal Employees**
 - Launched 2026
- **Commercial Property Grants Program**
 - Commission will be considering for approval the revision the current program – 2026 at tonight's Plenary meeting Initial draft under review

Redevelopment Commission's Annual Report has been presented the Town Council last month.

- **Downtown Improvements & Main Street**
 - Decorative Lighting Jewett (Kennedy to 5th) power related issues have been addressed. The contractor of the decorative lights will be onsite this Wednesday to trouble shoot any equipment issues.

Restaurant Crawl Tomorrow, Tuesday 4-28, with the \$7.00 specials

Retail Crawl Downtown June 13th

This is opened to any businesses in Highland who would like to participate, please contact our office for details.

3 Big Restaurant Crawls Events are planned with Music and Craft Vendors, the dates are the last Tuesday's in August, September, & October. So, August 25th, September 29th and the Halloween Theme Crawl is October 27th. We are looking for Craft Vendors check town Main Street facebook page for details.

Highland Neighbors for Sustainability

Please check their webpage on the Town's website.

They meet monthly every third Tuesday at 6:30 at Greenwich downtown.

Time to grow some veggies, the Community Garden Downtown is always in need of volunteers, please check the webpage for more information. They are planning to have a veg plant give away this year.

• **Councilor Philip Scheeringa:** • *Park Board Liaison* • *Information Communications and Technology Department Liaison* • *Redevelopment Commission Member*

Councilor Scheeringa read from notes prepared by Park Director Trever Kinley and Recreation Director Alyce Van Drunen. Trever and Alyce wanted to thank everyone who volunteered for Park Clean-up Day, particularly Mike Pipta, who helped cook the hamburgers and hot dogs. They said softball leagues begin next Sunday. The Senior Social meeting is tomorrow, Tuesday, April 28th at the Lincoln Center. The Spring Craft Show is May 2nd, from 9 to 3 p.m. at the Lincoln Center and the community wide garage sale is Saturday, May 16th from 9 o'clock a.m. to 2 o'clock p.m. The Memorial Day Ceremony is Monday, May 25th, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at Main Square. The main square playground should be completed at the end of this week or beginning of next week, weather permitting. The summer help (outside) will start in two (2) weeks. The regular park crews are finishing installing mulch at all the playgrounds. The new fountain was installed at the Meadows Pond. Councilor Scheeringa said if you haven't gone there at night, it's very pretty and cool.

Councilor Scheeringa then acknowledged IT Director Ed Dabrowski who said they've entered week seven (7) of the BS&A cloud move and the last two (2) weeks have been peaceful. The number of calls to BS&A for tech support are down so from that aspect things are moving along really good. He said this week will be the third payroll cycle and finished the second meter read. He said he anticipates year-end issues. He said he was assured by BS&A that they will provide tech support.

Councilor Turich asked if BS&A couldn't run a mock closure to see if issues arrive?

Ed said Pure Illumination is gonna be out tomorrow to work on the controllers. Ed said he is still having a little bit of a problem with a ground fault protector but it's looking like it might be the equipment on one of the transformers. He reminded everyone to make sure you update your smartphones, on a regular basis to make sure you have the latest version of operating systems. He said it's amazing when you look at the world today, people value they're smartphones more than they're wallets. If you don't regularly update your operating systems, you will be susceptible to data breaches. Bad people are snooping and they're seeing your stuff and gaining access to your stuff.

• **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 said he and several Water Board members and Public Works Director Knesek, attended a Water Board Conference in Indianapolis. He said one of the things they learned was the fact that we're going to have to start documenting the lead pipes that we have in town. He said there is a new, more stringent reporting system. When the new vector

truck arrives, the older one will be used exclusively for assisting in locating lead lines. He said this past Saturday, he read the Arbor Day Proclamation. The Tree Board planted a tree to thank Richard Underkofler, who retired from the Tree Board at the end of 2025 and is moving to South Carolina.

That concluded comments from the Council and Vice President Turich 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 said he wanted to get a clarification on something. He thought he already knew the answer. He asked if the employees of the Town of Highland report to the Town Council?

Councilor Georgeff said not all of them. Some employees report to boards or commissions.

Jeff responded, they may respond to a board or commission which is appointed by the Town Council, so in essence they reports to the Town Council. Everything rolls up?

Councilor Georgeff reiterated that the Police Commission has the authority for the operation of the police department and the Park Board has authority for the parks.

Mr. Rosignol then asked if everyone takes an oath, an oath that they will uphold the constitution of the United States.

Councilor Georgeff advised that the Town Council and various board and commissions take the oath but hourly employees and supervisors do not.

Mr. Rosignol said some smartass dropped a bag of doggy crap next to his Trevor DeVries sign in his front yard. He said he's got the person on his ring phone. He then asked the Clerk-Treasurer for some clarification. He said under the powers and duties of the Clerk-Treasurer, his office receives and cares for all of the Town money and pay out money in the form of claims. He asked if the Clerk-Treasurer manages the finances and accounts for the Town and make investments.

The Clerk-Treasurer responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Rosignol said he will be turning in a FOIA request, asking to see the various bank statements going back to 2020.

Caroline Dotson, Highland said she has been communicating with Councilor Turich. She is here tonight to find out what are the next steps she has to take to get speed bumps on her street. She didn't know if she needed a petition and if the Town had a standard form she needed to use because she wants to get started. She said she heard earlier of recreational vehicles driving on the streets. She said she lives on a block where many of her neighbor's kids have them. She said when the weather is permitting and now with summer, it is an

everyday occurrence for hours on end, these kids ripping up and down the street. We can hear them blocks over ripping up and down the street. She said just the other day, they were driving up and down the street, near Grand, then up the bike trail to Indianapolis Boulevard. She said the other day, one of them almost got, hit by a car. The driver was backing out of the driveway, paying attention as they were backing out and one of those kids came flying by, not paying attention and disregarding the backing up vehicle. She said all her neighbors are talking how annoying and dangerous these vehicles have become. She said she doesn't know about the fines for the Town but this situation really needs to get taken care of. She said during the Chief's report he said some citations had been written. She said obviously, the citations didn't help to deter them. She said her neighborhood is changing as more and more young couples are moving in and they have toddlers.

Councilor Turich advised the Council that this is the same street or neighborhood that the gentleman who appeared before the Council a couple of weeks ago, complaining about the same situation. He told the Chief that he knows the police department is working on it but its not working and were not seeing any changes or the changes we would expect. He said we really need to circle back and figure out what can be done. He said these gas-powered vehicles are not street legal.

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 Robertson moved to allow the vendors accounts payable vouchers as filed on the pending accounts payable docket, covering the period April 15, 2026 through April 28, 2026, and the payroll dockets with the exception of the Fire Department Quarterly payroll. 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 were ratified with the exception of the Fire Department Quarterly payroll and for all remaining invoices, the Clerk-Treasurer was authorized to make payment.

Councilor Robertson then moved to approve the Fire Department Quarterly payroll for the payroll docket payday by fund of April 15, 2026 and the payroll docket for payday of April 28, 2026. Councilor Scheeringa 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.

Accounts payable voucher April 15,2026 to April 28, 2026, in the amount of **\$658,328.83**

General Fund, \$445,312.35; MVH Fund, \$21,736.28; LAW Enforcement Continuing Education Training and Supply Fund, \$510.00; Public Safety Income, \$39,459.25; MCCD, \$50,602.15; ICT Fund, \$30,309.80; Police Pension, \$69,914.01; Insurance Premium, \$484.99

Payroll Docket for payday of April 17, 2026 by fund:
General, \$341,605.06

Payroll Docket for payday of April 17, 2026:

Office of Clerk-Treasurer, \$15,998.56; Building and Inspection Department, \$11,390.25; Metropolitan Police Department, \$156,034.11; Public Works Department (Agency), \$80,792.54; Fire Department, \$6,320.47 and Information and Technology Department, \$4,441.37

Total Payroll: \$274,977.33

Payroll Docket for payday of April 30, 2026 by fund:

Total Payroll by fund: \$84,975.34

Payroll Docket for payday of April 30, 2025:

Boards & Commissions. \$14,141.04; Police Pension, \$69,752.53

Total Payroll: \$83,893.57

Fire Department Quarterly:

Payroll Docket for payday of April 17, 2026, by fund:

Total Payroll by fund: \$75,348.55

Payroll Docket for payday of April 17, 2026:

Fire Department Quarterly. \$69,994.00

Total Payroll: \$ 69,994.00

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, April 27, 2026, adjourned at 7:25 o'clock p.m.

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting of May 11, 2026.