

Enrolled Minutes of the Sixty-Sixth Regular Meeting or Special Meeting
For the Thirtieth Highland Town Council Regular Plenary
Business Meeting (In person) Monday, July 6, 2026

The Thirtieth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its regular plenary session on Monday, July 6, 2026 at 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 Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak, was present to memorialize the proceedings. The meeting was opened with Councilor Tom Black reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and offering a prayer.

Roll Call: Present on roll call were Councilors George Georgeff, Doug Turich, Alex Robertson, Thomas Black and Philip Scheeringa were present. Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak was also present. A quorum was attained.

Additional Officials Present: Glenn Schlessner, Fire Chief; Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra; Ed Dabrowski, Director of Information Technology and John Reed, Attorney with JPR Legal Services were present. Building Commissioner Kenneth J. Mika; Park Director Mindi Ray; Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta and Public Works Director Mark Knesek 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 June 22, 2026 Plenary meeting were approved by general consent.

Special Orders: none

Comments from the Public or Visitors:

Lydia Shotts - Highland, said she wanted to voice her opinion on the wheel tax. She said you are decreasing the wheel tax on trailers and semis in Town and you see a lot of them in Town which should generate lots of revenue but not helping seniors or handicapped people. She said everything is increasing and by putting the wheel tax on my property taxes will only make my property taxes go higher, so discounting the wheel tax would be a help

to seniors. She said she is both handicapped and a senior. A lot of seniors can't go back to work but the Town is giving a discount to semis.

Councilor Georgeff responded that seniors are be exempted from the wheel tax and the wheel tax doesn't go on your property taxes but is an excise tax that appears when you go to renew your license plates.

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

2026
 TOWN OF HIGHLAND INJURIES FOR THE MONTH
JUNE

CASE	DATE	DEPARTMENT	DESCRIPTION	Record Only No Med Treatment	OSHA Recordable	Not OSHA Recordable	Filed with WC Insurance
	OF INJURY						
RO 8	6/1/26	Park	EE was in pressbox fell off step landing on hip			X	X
RO 9	6/23/26	Public Works	EE closing stuck truck gate lifting gate to release latch gate slammed back cutting finger	X		X	X

RO = Record Only

DEPT	2026		2026				
	INJURIES	YEAR TO	2025	RESTRICTED	LOST DAYS	RESTRICTED	LOST DAYS
	THIS MONTH	DATE	Total Injuries Last Year	DAYS THIS YEAR	THIS YEAR	DAYS 2025	2025
PARK & REC	1	2	1				7
FIRE							
POLICE		1	5	26	128	0	29
STREET	1	2	2		24		4
WATER SEWER			2				
Public Works		3			46		
REDV							
BUILDING		1	1				
TOTALS	2	9	11	26	198	0	40

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

Mark Herak

From: Denise Beck
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2026 1:24 PM
To: Mark Herak
Cc: Glenn Schlessner
Subject: June Fire Stats

June Stats

Previous: 272
Month: 78
Year total: 350

Denise Beck

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

Communications:

Movie in the Park, Friday, July 17, 2026, dusk at Main Square - Zootopia
Hazardous Waste Day, Saturday, July 25, 2026 at Public Works Facility
Highland Park & Recreation Musical in the Park – The 25th Annual Putnam
County Spelling Bee. Weekend of July 23rd to 25th - July 30th to August 1st
Main Street Restaurant Crawl July 28th
Rotary Club Annual Corn Roast – August 7th at Main Square

Appointments:

• **Statutory Boards and Commissions**

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

1. **Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC):** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. *(Note: The Town Council President announced that he was going to be taking over for Tom Black as the Town's NIRPC Representative)*

The Town Council President announced his appointment of *Councilman George Georgeff* to the Northwest Indian Regional Planning Commission, replacing Councilman Tom Black who has a scheduling conflict and can no longer attend the meetings..

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

Home Rule Boards and Commissions

Legislative Appointments

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

Home Rule Commissions

1. **Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council. Term: Two years ending 1 Jan 2027. *Currently only 8 of 17 appointed.*
2. **Traffic Safety Commission:**
(1) appointments to be made by the Town Council. **Term: 1 year.** *(Note: Currently Councilor Tom Black serves as the Town Council Representative. Due to a job change, he can no longer make the morning meetings.*

Councilor Scheeringa moved to appoint *Councilor George Georgeff* to the Traffic Safety Commission. Councilor Turich seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were

four (4) affirmatives, no negatives and one (1) abstention, with Councilors Georgeff, Turich, Robertson and Scheeringa voting in the affirmative and Councilor Black abstaining. The motion passed. George Georgeff was appointed.

Council President Georgeff announced Tom Black as the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, Liaison.

General Orders and Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Ratify the calling of the special meetings of Monday, July 6, 2026, pursuant to HMC Section 2.05.130(A)(4) and Section 2.05.130(F).

Councilor Scheeringa moved to ratify the special meetings held on Monday, July 6, 2026, at 7:30 o'clock p.m. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmative, no negatives. The motion passed. The meeting was ratified.

TOWN of HIGHLAND
HIGHLAND MUNICIPAL BUILDING • 3333 RIDGE ROAD • HIGHLAND, INDIANA 46322
PHONE: (219) 838-1080 FAX: (219) 972-5097

OFFICE of the TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026
TO: AREA MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC

RE: NOTICE OF CHANGE OF MEETING TIMES

THE HIGHLAND TOWN COUNCIL WILL MEET IN STUDY SESSION ON MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026 AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE HIGHLAND MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 3333 RIDGE ROAD, HIGHLAND, INDIANA.

THE HIGHLAND TOWN COUNCIL WILL THEN MEET IN PLENARY BUSINESS MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY SESSION MEETING. THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HIGHLAND MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 3333 RIDGE ROAD, HIGHLAND, INDIANA 46322.

THESE MEETING CHANGES ARE POSSIBLE OWING TO A SCHEDULING CONFLICT WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE HIGHLAND TOWN COUNCIL.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED AND AUTHORIZED TO ATTEND, OBSERVE AND RECORD THESE MEETINGS OF THE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.

HIGHLAND TOWN COUNCIL
George Georgeff, President

BY: OFFICE of the HIGHLAND CLERK-TREASURER

(IC 5-14-1.5-5).

2. Works Board Order No. 2026-18: An Order of the Works Board granting a temporary easement/authorization to coordinate the work to construct a dual 20-inch water supply line replacement project, located between the south side of the Little Calumet River and the Bradley Pump Station.

Councilor Black moved the passage and adoption of Works Board Order No. 2026-18. Councilor Turich 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.

**The Town of Highland
Board of Works
Order of the Works Board No. 2026-18**

AN ORDER OF THE WORKS BOARD granting a temporary easement/authorization to coordinate the work to construct a dual 20-inch water supply line replacement project, located between the south side of the Little Calumet River and the Bradley Pump Station

Whereas, The Water Works District of Highland (WW District), through its Board of Directors pursuant to IC 8-1.5-4 and IC 36-1-12, has determined the need to replace the existing dual 20-inch water supply lines between the south side of the Little Calumet River and the Bradley Pump Station, in order to improve water flow and water quality; and

Whereas, The Board of Directors of the Water Board and the Redevelopment Commission have agreed to share in the construction costs and engineering services necessary to complete the work; and

Whereas, The Town Council of Highland acknowledges the need of such a project in order to improve water flow and water quality to the residents of the Town Highland and has determined that it would be in the best interest of the project to grant a temporary easement/authorization to coordinate the work of the project, a dual 20-inch water supply line replacement project, located between the south side of the Little Calumet River and the Bradley Pump Station; and

Whereas, The Town of Highland, through its Town Council, which is the Works Board of the Municipality pursuant to I.C. 36-1-2-24(3) has heretofore determined that granting a temporary easement/authorization to coordinate the work to construct a dual 20-inch water supply line replacement project, located between the south side of the Little Calumet River and the Bradley Pump Station in order to improve water flow and water quality is in the best interest of the residents of Highland, and

Whereas, The Town of Highland, through its Board of Works now desires to accept and approve the granting of a temporary easement/authorization to coordinate the work to construct a dual 20-inch water supply line replacement project, proposal for services as herein described.

Whereas, The Town Council acting as the Works Board Authorizes, Accepts and Approves the Temporary Conveyance and Transfer of a Certain Parcel of Land and/or its Improvements to the Redevelopment Department and Water Works District Board in Consequence of the of the joint Water Works Board and Redevelopment Department Dual 20-inch Water Supply Line Replacement Project, located between the South Side of the Little Calumet River and the Bradley Pump Station; and

Now Therefore Be it hereby Ordered by the Board of Works of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana;

Section 1. That the necessary temporary easement/authorization or jurisdiction granted is hereby ratified for such period of time as is necessary to execute the project, pursuant to IC 36-1-4-16 and not to exceed 120 days as which time it will returned to the jurisdiction of the Town of Highland; and

Section 2. That those improvements of public way and other infrastructure improved or installed in consequence of the dual 20-inch water supply lines between the south side of the Little Calumet River and the Bradley Pump Station project described herein, once accepted and become property of the Highland Water Works District, not inclusive of *the parking lot and any other improvements not intended for the project*, all according to governing law.

Section 3. That the Town of Highland, through its Town Council, reserves the right to terminate conveyance and transfer for this project at any time for any reason or for no reason.

Section 4. Should the project exceed the 120 days allotted in Section 1, the Highland Water Work District must re-seek permission from the Town Council. Specific consent will not be withheld unreasonable.

Be it so Ordered.

DULY, PASSED, ADOPTED and ORDERED by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, acting as the Works Board, this 6th day of July 2026 having passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

**WORKS BOARD of the TOWN of
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

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

Attest:

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

3. Ordinance No. 1852: E-Bikes/E-Scooters

Councilor Black introduced and filed Pproposed Ordinance 1852. There was no further action.

Ordinance No. 1852
of the
TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HIGHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE, BY ADDING TO TITLE 10 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, A NEW CHAPTER 10.50 TO BE STYLED ELECTRIC BICYCLES ("E-BIKES") AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS ("E-SCOOTERS"), ALL PURSUANT TO IC 36-1-3, IC 36-1-4, AND IC 36-8 ET SEQ.

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

WHEREAS, IC 36-1-3-2 confers upon all local units the powers that they need for the effective operation of government as to local affairs; and

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

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-8-2-2 provides that municipalities may establish, maintain, and operate a police and law enforcement system to preserve public peace and order and may provide facilities and equipment for that system; and

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-9-2-7 provides that municipalities may regulate the use of public ways; and

WHEREAS, I.C. 9-21-1-2 provides that municipalities as a local authority may adopt by ordinance additional traffic regulations with respect to highways under the authority's jurisdiction, provided that an ordinance adopted under this subsection may not conflict with or duplicate a statute; and

WHEREAS, IC 9-21-1-3 further provides that municipalities as a local authority, with respect to private roads and highways under the authority's jurisdiction, in accordance with IC 9-21-1-2, and within the reasonable exercise of the police power, may regulate traffic by means of police officers or traffic control signals; and

WHEREAS, IC 9-21-11-13.1 further provides definitions and regulations for E-Bikes in accordance with IC 9-13-2-26.6, IC 9-13-2-26.7 and IC 9-13-2-26.8, classifying them as bicycles rather than motor vehicles, thereby exempting

them from licensing, financial responsibility, titles and registration while establishing a class level of electric bicycles, the top assisted speed of the electric bicycle, and requiring all electric bicycles shall comply with the bicycle equipment and manufacturing requirements adopted by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission; and

WHEREAS, IC 9-13-2-26.6 further defines a Class 1 electric bicycle as having an electric motor using 750 watts or less, a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph, and are pedal assist only. There is no throttle; and

WHEREAS, IC 9-13-2-26.7 further defines a Class 2 electric bicycle as having an electric motor using 750 watts or less, a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph, and are pedal assist and have a throttle so they can be ridden without pedaling; and

WHEREAS, IC 9-21-2-26.8 further defines a Class 3 electric bicycle as having an electric motor using 750 watts or less, a maximum assisted speed of 28 mph, and are pedal assist only. There is no throttle; and

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-8-2-4 A unit may regulate conduct, or use or possession of property, that might endanger the public health, safety, or welfare; and

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

WHEREAS, The Town Council believes this action to be necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the Town, and in the public interest, consistent with the powers granted under IC 36-1-3 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council believes this action to be desirable to encourage responsible use of E-Bikes and E-Scooters while ensuring the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users of the Town's streets, bike paths, and public spaces; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council finds it necessary to adopt clear, consistent rules to ensure the safe integration of E-Bikes and E-Scooters into the Town's transportation network, to protect pedestrians and other users, and align with state law while allowing for local trail and path management; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Highland Town Council is to provide clear, consistent rules for the operation, parking, and enforcement of E-Bikes and E-Scooters to prevent conflicts, reduce accidents, and preserve the quality of life in the Highland neighborhoods, business districts, and parkland.

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

Section 1. That Highland Municipal Code be Amended by Adding to Title 10, Vehicles and Traffic a New Chapter 10.50 to be entitled Electric Bicycles ("E-Bikes") and Electric Scooters ("E-Scooters"), andand, which shall read as follows:

**CHAPTER 10.50: ELECTRIC BICYCLES (E-BIKES)
AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS (E-SCOOTERS)**

Sections:

Article I. General Provisions

10.50.010 Definitions and Interpretation
10.50.020 Classification and Equipment
10.50.030 Regulations for the Operation and Use of Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters
10.50.040 Parking and Storage
10.50.050 Parental and Guardianship Responsibility
10.50.060 Violations
10.50.070 Enforcement and Penalty
10.50.080 Exception

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 10.50.010 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION.

(A) For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

(1) Electric Bicycle ("E-Bike"): A bicycle with fully operable pedals and an electric or mechanical motor of less than 750 watts. An E-Bike is not a moped or a motor driven cycle. E-Bikes are classified into three (3) classes:

- (a) Class 1 E-Bike: An E-Bike equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the operator is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the E-Bike reaches a maximum assisted speed of 20 miles per hour ("mph"). There is no throttle.
- (b) Class 2 E-Bike: An E-Bike equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the E-Bike with a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph, and are pedal assist and have a throttle so they can be ridden without pedaling.
- (c) Class 3 E-Bike: An E-Bike equipped with a motor that that provides assistance only when the operator is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the E-Bike reaches a maximum assisted speed of 28 miles per hour ("mph"). There is no throttle.
- (2) Electric Scooters ("E-Scooters"): A device weighing less than 100 pounds, that is equipped with 2 or 3 wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, that is powered by a motor, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the E-Scooter reaches a speed of 10 mph. Scooters with motors capable of sustained speeds exceeding 10 mph, without human assistance, shall not be considered an E-Scooter under this Ordinance and are prohibited from being operated upon public streets, parks, Multi-Use Paths, or Sidewalks in the Town of Highland, unless titled and registered as motor vehicles and operated appropriately pursuant to state law. An E-Scooter is specifically excluded from classification as a moped or a motor driven cycle.
- (3) Multi-Use Path, Shared-Use Path, Bike Trail, or Bike Path (Multi-Use Path):
A paved or unpaved designated pathway originally designed for shared use by bicycles, pedestrians, and other non-motorized users, excluding Sidewalks.
- (4) Sidewalk: The paved portion of a street right of way, or, in some cases a private or semi-private property area between the curb lines or the lateral lines of a designated roadway and the adjacent property lines, intended for pedestrian use and is typically less than 6' wide.
- (5) Street: The entire width between boundary lines of every roadway and/or public way maintained by the Town of Highland, State of Indiana, or Federal Government when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for vehicular travel.
- (6) Park: Any land owned or managed by the Highland Parks and Recreation Department.

(7) Prohibited Motorized Device: Any two- or three-wheeled device with a motor exceeding 750 watts, with or without fully operable pedals, capable of sustained speeds exceeding 28 mph without pedaling, including but not limited to motor-driven cycles and minibikes. Such devices are not considered E-Bikes or E-Scooters pursuant to this Chapter.

§ 10.50.020 CLASSIFICATION AND EQUIPMENT.

- (1) E-Bikes operated within the Town of Highland shall comply with Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission standards and Class 1 E-Bikes, Class 2 E-Bikes, and Class 3 E-Bikes must bear a permanent visible label indicating its class, motor wattage, and top assisted speed. Modification of an E-Bike to exceed its classified speed or power limits shall result in reclassification or prohibition under this Ordinance.
- (2) E-Bikes and E-Scooters operated within the Town of Highland must be well-maintained and in good operating condition and must conform to the regulations consistent with the Indiana Vehicle Code governing their operation, be under directional, speed and stopping control at all times, including being equipped with:
 - a. Brakes that will adequately control and stop the movement of the device, and that at a minimum are capable of stopping the device within 30 feet from 15 mph on dry, level pavement; and
 - b. A front-facing white light and rear facing red reflector or light visible from 500 feet during hours of darkness, that is to say during the period from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise, or low visibility; and
 - c. For E-Bikes, reflective tires or wheel rims; and
 - d. For Class 3 E-Bikes, a functional speedometer.

§ 10.50.030 REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION AND USE OF ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS.

General Rights and Duties: E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall have the same rights and duties as operators of traditional bicycles under Title 9 of the Indiana Vehicle Code, including yielding at stop signs, signaling turns, riding with traffic and operated on the right half of the street unless designated otherwise through signage and/or pavement markings and in single file.

1. Age Restrictions:

- a. E-Bike operators of Class 1 E-Bikes and Class 2 E-Bikes, must be at least fifteen (15) years of age and must be able to safely operate the device.
- b. Operators of Class 3 E-Bikes must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and be licensed to operate motor vehicles in the State of Indiana.
- c. E-Scooter operators must be at least eighteen (18) years of age, and must be able to safely operate the device.

2. Where E-Bikes and E-Scooters May Be Operated:

- a. Streets. E-Bikes and E-Scooters may be operated on any street or roadway where bicycles are permitted, subject to all traffic laws applicable to bicycles under the Indiana Vehicle Code and the Highland Municipal Code. However, E-Scooters may not be operated on a Roadways where the posted speed limit in excess of 35 mph.
- b. Bike Lanes. Class 1 E-Bikes, Class 2 E-Bikes, and E-Scooters are permitted in bicycle lanes within the Town of Highland. Class 3 E-Bikes are permitted in bicycle lanes only if the bicycle lane is designed for speeds up to 28 mph or local signage allows.
- c. Multi-Use Paths. E-Bikes, Class 1 E-Bikes, Class 2 E-Bikes, and E-Scooters are permitted on a Multi-Use Path unless prohibited or otherwise regulated by the Town of Highland or unless prohibited or otherwise regulated by another managing government authority such as the DNR, or the Highland Park and Recreation Department. Class 3 E-Bikes are prohibited on a Multi-Use Path unless explicitly authorized by the Town of Highland or by another managing government authority.
- d. Sidewalks. E-Bikes and E-Scooters shall not be operated on Sidewalks within the Town of Highland, except where expressly permitted by official Town of Highland signage or when necessary to enter or exit adjacent property. E-Bikes and E-Scooters, unless expressly permitted, shall be walked on the Sidewalks.
- e. Prohibited Areas. E-Bikes and E-Scooters are prohibited on sidewalks, and State Highways, or any area posted as off-limits to bicycles in the Town Highland. E-Scooters are also permitted throughout the entire park system wherever bicycles are allowed unless

otherwise prohibited therein by the posting of signs by the Highland Park and Recreation Department.

4. Administrative Authority: The Metropolitan Police Chief or his or her designee or the Traffic Safety Commission may authorize the posting of regulations restricting E-Bike and E-Scooter use on certain Multi-Use Paths and on Sidewalks within the Town of Highland when deemed necessary, in the sole discretion of the Metropolitan Police Chief or his or her designee or the Traffic Safety, for public safety, preservation of property, or consistency with adopted Town plans.
5. Speed Limits:
 - a. E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall not exceed a maximum speed of twenty (20) miles per hour unless otherwise posted;
 - b. On Multi-Use Paths, E-Bikes and E-Scooters shall not exceed a maximum speed of fifteen (15) miles per hour;
 - c. When approaching crosswalks, intersections or areas with high pedestrian traffic, E-Bike and E-Scooter operators must reduce their speed to a safe and reasonable level;
 - d. E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall obey all applicable traffic laws, signals, signs and markings; and not exceed a maximum speed of twenty (20) miles per hour unless otherwise posted.
 - e. E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians at all times and shall pass pedestrians at a safe distance, providing a minimum of three (3) feet of clearance, and must wait until it is safe to pass, even if the 3-foot clearance cannot be achieved; and
 - f. When approaching pedestrians, E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall provide an audible warning (e.g., bell, horn, voice)
 - g. When emerging from an alley, driveway, path or building, upon approaching a sidewalk or the sidewalk area extending across any alleyway, E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians approaching on said sidewalk or sidewalk area; and
 - h. When entering a street, E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on said street; and

6. E-Motor and/or Prohibited Devices as defined in Chapter 10.25.030 are prohibited from being operated on or in public streets (see exception, below), parks, Multi-Use Paths, or Sidewalks in the Town of Highland, but may be operated on public streets and roadways if property titled and registered as motor vehicles and operated appropriately pursuant to Indiana State Law.
7. Helmet Requirement: All E-Bike and E-Scooter operators and passengers under the age of sixteen (16) must wear a properly fitted and fastened Motorcycle helmet. They are encouraged to wear an ANSI, SNELL, or CPSC approved helmet when operating or riding E-Bikes or E-Scooters.

§ 10.50.040 PARKING AND STORAGE:

1. E-Bikes and E-Scooters may be parked in bicycle racks or designated bicycle parking areas and in such a manner that does not obstruct sidewalks, pedestrian pathways, vehicular traffic or building entrances; and
2. No E-Bike or E-Scooter shall be parked in a manner that obstructs access for persons with disabilities or who fall under the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility, or emergency access routes; and
3. No E-Bike or E-Scooter shall be parked against windows or benches or in a manner that damages public or private property; and
4. E-Bike or E-Scooter operators shall not use locking devices or attachments that damage public or private property; and

§ 10.50.050 PARENTAL AND GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITY:

1. Parents and guardians of minors are responsible for the appropriate operation of E-Bikes, E-Scooters, and E-Motors or Prohibited Motorized Devices owned by said parents and guardians or owned by minors under their direct control.
2. Any violation of this Ordinance committed by a minor under the direct control of, or with the consent of, their parent or guardian will subject said parent or guardian to a violation of this Ordinance and the penalties provided herein.
3. The Town of Highland through the Metropolitan Police Department shall have the discretion and authority to impound E-Bikes, E-Scooters, E-Motors or Prohibited Motorized Devices, or other devices regulated under this Ordinance for non-compliance with this Ordinance. When such a device so impounded is owned by a minor, the Town of Highland shall have the discretion and authority to release such impounded device to the minor's parent or guardian.

4. The owner of an impounded E-Bike, E-Scooter, E-Motor or Prohibited Motorized Device or a parent or legal guardian if the E-Bike, E-Scooter or E-Motor or other Prohibited Motorized Device is operated by a minor, shall be responsible for all towing, impoundment and storage fees.

§ 10.50.060 VIOLATIONS.

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following violations are prohibited in the Town of Highland:

1. Operating an E-Motor or Prohibited Motorized Device, modified E-Bike, or modified E-Scooter on public property; and
2. Irregular or reckless or sudden or erratic movement of operations of an E-Bike or E-Scooter, including disobeying traffic regulations and weaving through traffic, so as to endanger their own safety, others, or property; and
3. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter while wearing headphones or otherwise obstructing the operators hearing; and
4. Operators of an E-Bike or E-Scooter must not use cell phones or other electronic devices while operating the device unless using hands-free device; and
5. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter while impaired, including under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and
6. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter equipped with a siren or oscillating red and blue lights; and
7. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter while attached, by person or device, tow rope, hand grip or otherwise to any other vehicle being operated on a public right-of-way; and
8. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter while carrying any package, bundle, or article that prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars;
9. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter to transport more than one passenger at a time, or operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter to transport a passenger if the device is not designed and equipped for multiple riders;
10. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter while obstructing or failing to yield to pedestrians; and
11. Tampering with or removing the class label on an E-Bike or E-Scooter or operating an E-Bike without a label clearly identifying the accurate E-Bike class.

§ 10.50.070 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY:

1. Violations of this Section shall be enforced by the Highland Metropolitan Police Department and the Highland Code Enforcement.
2. Any person, entity or organization who shall violate any provisions of this chapter shall be fined in the amount set forth in the designated schedule as a payable offense subject to admission before the Violations Clerk or Ordinance Violation Bureau in the amount set forth in Highland Municipal Code, Chapter 9, §9.85.060.
3. The Highland Metropolitan Police Department and the Highland Code Enforcement shall have the discretion and authority to impound E-Bikes and E-Scooters or other devices regulated under this Section for repeated offenses or when it is determined to be appropriate to ensure compliance with this Ordinance.
4. The owner of an impounded E-Bike, E-Scooter, E-Motor or Prohibited Motorized Device or a parent or legal guardian if the E-Bike, E-Scooter or E-Motor or other Prohibited Motorized Device is operated by a minor, shall be responsible for all towing, impoundment and storage fees.
5. An impounded E-Bike, E-Scooter, E-Motor or Prohibited Motorized Device unclaimed within three (3) months of impoundment may be disposed by Highland Metropolitan Police Department.

AND/OR

If such persons, entity or organization shall violate any provisions of this chapter, in the amounts which shall be processed before the Violations Clerk or Ordinance Violation Bureau in the amounts set forth set forth in Highland Municipal Code, Chapter 9, §9.85.060:

§ 10.50.080 EXCEPTION:

This Ordinance shall not apply to:

1. Authorized public safety personnel operating E-Bikes or E-Scooters in the course of their duties; and
2. Mobility devices as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act where necessary to provide a reasonable accommodation.

Section 2. That the Highland Municipal Code Chapter 9, §9.85.060 be applicable to violations of this new Chapter 10.050.010 et. seq.

Section 3. That should a court find any provision of this ordinance to be unlawful or unenforceable, those provisions not so found shall continue to be in full force and effect;

Section 4. That any patrol services activity described or contemplated under this ordinance which may have taken place before the passage and adoption of this ordinance, including the fees for services collected in consequence of the activity and deposited in the proper fund of the Town of Highland is hereby ratified, authorized and approved, pursuant to IC 36-1-4-16;

Section 5. Whereas an emergency exists for the immediate taking effect of this Ordinance, it shall become and be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and adoption evidenced by the executive's signature in the manner prescribed by IC 36-5-2-10(a).

Introduced and Filed on the 6th day of July 2026. Consideration on same evening of introduction was considered, pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED AND ADOPTED this 6th Day of July 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of ____ in favor and ____ opposed.

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

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

Attest:

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

4. Ordinance No. 1853: Wheel Tax

Councilor Scheeringa introduced and filed Pproposed Ordinance 1853 with the amendments. There was no further action.

**ORDINANCE No. 1853
of the
TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CIVIL TOWN OF HIGHLAND MOTOR
VEHICLE EXCISE SURTAX AND CIVIL TOWN OF HIGHLAND WHEEL TAX**

WHEREAS, The legislative body of the Town of Highland, pursuant to Indiana Code §§36-1-2-9(5) and 36-5-2-2, is the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of the years to come, due to significant State of Indiana legislative changes, the Town of Highland has and will continue to experience a substantial reduction in funding from the State of Indiana for use in maintaining Town roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the dramatic decrease in State funding, Town of Highland has and will continue to experience great difficulties in paying for the costs of properly maintaining the Town's roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, State statues now allow towns with populations greater than 10,000 that are in a county that currently does not levy a county motor vehicle surtax tax and wheel tax the authority to impose a local motor vehicle excise surtax and wheel tax to serve as a local funding source to help cover the costs of maintaining county roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, The County of Lake, Indiana, does not currently levy a motor vehicle surtax or wheel tax and the Town of Highland has a population well in excess of 10,000 according to the U.S. Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, After due consideration, the Town of Highland Town Council believes that it is reasonable and necessary to adopt this Ordinance to establish the Town of Highland Motor Vehicle Excise Surtax and the Town of Highland Wheel Tax to generate additional monies to help cover the costs of maintaining Town of Highland roads and highways; now, therefore, be it

ORDAINED, By the Town of Highland Town Council in consideration of the above and foregoing, as follows:

1. Town of Highland hereby **ADOPTS AND IMPOSES** the motor vehicle excise surtax, which shall apply to the following vehicles:
 - (A) Passenger vehicles.
 - (B) Motorcycles.
 - (C) Trucks with a declared gross weight that does not exceed eleven thousand (11,000) pounds.
 - (D) Motor driven cycles.
2. The motor vehicle surtax to be imposed shall be at the following rates:
 - (A) Passenger vehicles: \$25.00 per vehicle
 - (B) Motorcycles: \$10.00 per motorcycle
 - (C) Trucks with a declared gross weight that does not exceed eleven thousand (11,000) pounds: \$25.00 per truck
 - (D) Motor driven cycles: \$10.00 per motor driven cycle.
3. Town of Highland further **ADOPTS AND IMPOSES** the municipal wheel tax, which shall apply to the following vehicles:
 - (A) Buses;
 - (B) Recreational vehicles;

- (C) Trailers and semitrailers;
 - (D) Tractors; and
 - (E) Trucks
4. The following vehicles are exempt from the municipal wheel tax established by this Ordinance:
- (A) Vehicles owned by the State of Indiana;
 - (B) Vehicles owned by a state agency of the State of Indiana;
 - (C) Vehicles owned by a political subdivision of the State of Indiana;
 - (D) Vehicles subject to the motor vehicle excise surtax imposed by this Ordinance; or
 - (E) Buses owned and operated by a religious or non-profit youth organization and used to haul persons to religious services or for the benefit of their members.
 - (F) Vehicles of any kind or nature with Antique or Historic license plates.
5. The wheel tax to be imposed shall be at the following rates:
- (A) Buses: \$40.00 per bus.
 - (B) Recreational vehicles: \$20.00 per vehicle.
 - (C) Semitrailers: \$40.00 per semitrailer.
 - (D) Tractors: \$40.00 per tractor.
 - (E) Trailers: \$10.00 per trailer.
 - (F) Trucks: \$25.00 per truck.
6. The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall collect the municipal motor vehicle excise surtax and the municipal wheel tax by and through its established procedures on behalf of Town of Highland. The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall be entitled to assess a service fee for assisting Town of Highland in collection of these taxes.
7. The Highland Town Council shall review the rates hereby established for the Town of Highland Motor Vehicle Excise Surtax and the Town of Highland Wheel Tax within five (5) years from the date of passage.
8. Upon passage, the Auditor of Town of Highland is directed to send a copy of the final version of the Ordinance to the Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles 100 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, and Indiana 46204.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this ____ Day of July 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of ___ in favor and ___ opposed.

TOWN COUNCIL of the Town of
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

George Georgeff, President (I.C. 3-5-2-10)

Attest:

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer (I.C. 33-42-4-1; I.C. 36-5-6-5; 36-5-2-10.2)

5. Lamar Non-Binding Letter of Intent

Amend the Agenda:

Councilor Black moved to amend the agenda and add the Lamar Non-Binding Letter of Intent. 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 Agenda was amended.

Councilor Black moved to instruct the Council President to affix his signature to Lamar Non-Binding Letter of Intent. Councilor Scheeringa seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a two-thirds vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no (0) negatives. The motion passed.



July 6, 2026

Honorable George Georgeff
Town Council President
Town of Highland
3333 Ridge Road
Highland, IN 46322-2085

RE: Non-Binding Letter of Intent to Purchase a License - Lamar Lease #249-09825-01

Dear President Georgeff,

On this 6th day of July, 2026, this letter of intent represents the basic terms for an agreement that shall be considered non-binding whereby TLC Properties, LLC ("TLC") and the undersigned ("Seller") agree to enter into an agreement to be granted a License on the real property located at **West of 10024-42 Wicker Avenue (US 41), Highland, IN 46322 #45-07-32-281-008.000-026**, ("Property"), for a cash purchase price of **\$600,000.00**. TLC and Seller shall use their reasonable best efforts to close this transaction by **AUGUST 31, 2026**, subject to timely acceptance of this offer by Seller and TLC's completion of diligence.

This pending transaction is contingent upon TLC, in its sole discretion, being satisfied that the Property may be used for the construction, operations, and maintenance of an outdoor advertising structure and all applicable governmental permits to be obtained for said use. TLC must also be satisfied with the current title of the Property as evidenced by title search, and certified survey of the Property to be performed by TLC at its sole expense prior to closing. Should TLC determine that the Property does not suit its business needs for any reason whatsoever, the undersigned acknowledges that TLC will not move forward with the purchase and this Letter of Intent shall be null and void.

Nothing contained herein shall be binding on either party unless and until a Purchase Agreement has been fully executed by both parties. By counter signing this Letter of Intent, you are warranting that you are the fee simple owner of record of the Property. Please sign and date below if the above information meets your approval and outlines our understanding.

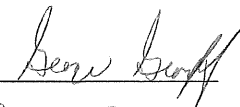
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Michael Pettit".

Shawn Michael Pettit
Real Estate Manager, Northwest Indiana
Lamar Advertising Company
spettit@lamar.com

Agreed to on this 6 day of July, 2026

By:

Seller Signature: 

Print Name: GEORGE GEORGEFF

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 echoed Councilor Georgeff's earlier comments that there was great collaboration between the departments and the leadership this weekend and the safety of the public was definitely top of mind. He said he appreciated everybody's efforts. Thank you.

- **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.*

Councilor Robertson said he feels we should stop blowing money off in the air, especially if we're looking for creative ways to save some money. He said he would also get rid of the drones. Stop wasting money.

- **Councilor Tom Black:** *Redevelopment Commission Liaison and Member • Member of the Lake County Solid Waste Management District Board • Regional Planning Commission (NIPRC) • Shared Ethics Representative • Liaison Traffic Safety • Liaison to the Sanitary Board*

Councilor Black, also echoed the sentiments of the others, thanking everyone that helped put on the festival, the Council of Community Events, the public works employees who were out there and also those who attended the festival and cooperated with our officials when they needed to evacuate the park due to severe weather.

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

Councilor Scheeringa said it was a crazy weekend. He said there was great collaboration amongst the department heads and Town leaders. He said it was fabulous. He said it was awesome, and there was great communication and everybody responded pretty well, very well actually. He said it was a little dicey but we weathered the storm and we did the best we could making the best of a bad situation. He said the one thing we can't control is weather. He said as for the fireworks incident, accidents happen. He said he loves fireworks. He said the fireworks contract was negotiated with the Town but the Town turned it over to the Parks Department. He said the decision should rest with them. He said he wanted to give a shout out to one person, who is less than 30 days of being hired for the job, she has been through massive storms, having the Red Cross using Lincoln Center, the

crazy weather this weekend during the 4th of July Festival and then the incident with the fireworks and that would be the new park superintendent Mindi Ray.

• **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 • Member of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIPRC)*

Councilor Georgeff commented on the weather during the festival and fireworks mishap at Sharp Athletic. He was glad there was no injuries. He said regarding the mishap with the fireworks on the 5th, he said he thinks it best if we revisit the fireworks issue and maybe go back to the drones.

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: none

Councilor Georgeff asked if there were any other comments. Hearing none, he closed comments from the public and brought it back to the Council. He then asked for a motion to pay claims.

Payment of Accounts Payable Vouchers. There being no further comments from visitors or residents, Councilor Scheeringa moved to allow the vendors accounts payable vouchers as filed on the pending accounts payable docket, covering the period June 24, 2026 through July 7, 2026. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The accounts payable vouchers for the vendor docket were allowed, payments allowed in advance were ratified, the payroll dockets were ratified, and for all remaining invoices, the Clerk-Treasurer was authorized to make payment.

Accounts payable vouchers June 24,2026 – July 7,2026 in the amount of **\$790,484.80**

General Fund, \$39,922.72; Law Enforce Con't Ed, \$34.69; Public Safety Income, \$32,049.44; MCCD, \$3,363.00; Sewage Operating, \$19,718.82; ICT Fund, \$4,506.13; 2026 General Obligation, \$690,890.00

Payroll Docket for payday of June 26,2026 by fund:
General, \$374,094.36

Payroll Docket for payday of June 26, 2026:

Office of Clerk-Treasurer, \$17,831.85; Building and Inspection Department, \$11,984.23
Metropolitan Police Department, \$169,661.75; Public Works Department (Agency),
\$91,481.68 Fire Department, \$6,954.07 and Information and Technology Department,
\$4,441.37.

Total Payroll: \$302,354.98

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

Total Payroll by fund: \$86,056.06

Payroll Docket for payday of June 30, 2025:

Boards & Commissions. \$14,141.04; Police Pension, \$70,833.28

Total Payroll: \$84,974.32

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
22, 2026, adjourned at 7:07 o'clock p.m.

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting of July 13, 2026.