**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**
**HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL**
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026**

Mayor Hemann called the Regular Session to order at 6:30pm. Council members Klaus, Sloan, Bellm and Napper were present. Others in attendance were City Attorney Trent Carriger, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Heimburger, Koehnemann, Ohren, Wilken, and Widman, Fire Chief Straub, City Staff Jordan Bauer and Mike Russell, Deputy City Clerk Flake, City Clerk Bellm, Treasurer Nicolaides, and 5 citizens.

## MINUTES

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2026 Regular Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilman Klaus made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2026 Executive Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

## PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

*Optimist Christmas Tree Lot – Special Event Application* – Chris Flake, representing the Highland Optimist, requested use of space on the Square for the annual Christmas Tree Lot sales. Setup will begin November 12, with tree sales beginning November 27. Mayor Hemann stated I think the trailer has been wrapped already. Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve the use of the Square for the Optimist Christmas Tree Lot per the Special Event Application as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Comments and Requests of Council:

Councilwoman Sloan expressed the representation by the businesses for Treats on The Streets on Friday was an awesome event.

Councilman Napper reported a citizen approached him about placing trash receptacles along Iberg Road, someplace south of the fire station. There isn't any along the path until you get to the park. He noted there is no pedestrian crossing at the railroad tracks by the Highland Diner and then one is needed out by Steve Schmitt.

Councilman Napper asked if a letter could be written, by the City, to the gas station owners in Highland regarding gas prices. I know the City does not control that. However, people intentionally leave town to get gas and while in other communities they are shopping there rather than shopping in Highland.

Staff Reports:

Public Works Director Joe Gillespie reported a public meeting was held earlier this evening for the Sidewalks and Trails Master Plan. Approximately 50-60 people attended to discuss various things with representatives of Oates Associates that were here. It went very well.

## NEW BUSINESS

Award Bid # E-08-26, for Purchase of One 3-Phase 225 kVA Transformer – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bid # E-08-26, for purchase of one 3-Phase 225 kVA Transformer to WESCO, in the amount of $20,085.00, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid # PW-09-26, for Water Treatment Plant Filter Media Change – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to award Bid # PW-09-26, for Water Treatment Plant Filter Media Change to Haier Plumbing and Heating, Inc., of Okawville, Illinois, in the amount of $165,000.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-124/RESOLUTION Accepting IMLRMA Renewal of Property, Casualty, and Worker's Compensation Insurance Coverage for 2027 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-124/RESOLUTION #26-11-3316 accepting IMLRMA Renewal of Property, Casualty, and Worker's Compensation Insurance Coverage for 2027 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Mayor Hemann stated, if I read this correctly, this is a 1.3% increase in premium. Good job! Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-125/ORDINANCE Declaring Personal Property of the City of Highland, Illinois, Surplus and Authorizing Its Sale and/or Disposal, Including Fourteen (14) Kenwood Handheld Radios – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-125/ORDINANCE #3474 declaring personal property of the City of Highland, Illinois, surplus and authorizing its sale and/or disposal, including fourteen (14) Kenwood Handheld Radios as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Mayor Hemann noted new radios are needed for use with Madison County's Starcom. Public Safety Director Carole Widman confirmed these will not work with that. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-126/RESOLUTION Authorizing the Mayor and/or City Manager to Apply for a Non-Binding Grant with National Fitness Campaign and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-126/RESOLUTION #26-11-3317 authorizing the mayor and/or city manager to apply for a non-binding grant with National Fitness Campaign and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Councilwoman Sloan expressed this is pretty exciting. Director Laura Wilken responded yes. They already like our preliminary answers. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-127/RESOLUTION Authorizing City Attorney's Office to Intervene in Case Before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-127/RESOLUTION #26-11-3318 authorizing City Attorney's Office to intervene in case before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. City Attorney Trent Carriger explained, recently the State of Illinois started listing out the parcel numbers. The City of Highland will only intervene on commercial properties assessed at over $100,000. We work with the school district to protect the individual taxpayers. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-128/RESOLUTION Waiving Customary Bidding Procedures for Purchase of New 2028 Freightliner M2106 Dump Truck and Body Equipment for Street and Alley Division – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-128/RESOLUTION #26-11-3319 waiving customary bidding procedures for purchase of new 2028 Freightliner M2106 Dump Truck and body equipment for Street and Alley Division from Truck Centers, Inc. in Troy, Illinois, for $186,200.00 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Mayor Hemann pointed out we are very familiar with this process, as we have done other purchases through this process this year. Director Gillespie reported this is through Sourcewell. This purchase is in our extended five-year plan. This will be in the 2027-2028 budget year. We need to start now to get delivery in 2027-2028 fiscal year. Councilman Klaus inquired if we wait the costs go up. Director Gillespie replied yes, we have been told that mid-November or December the cost will go up. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-129/RESOLUTION Establishing the Permanent Street Name of a Public Street Within the City of Highland, Madison County, Illinois – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-129/RESOLUTION #26-11-3320 establishing the permanent street name of a public street within the City of Highland, Madison County, Illinois as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Councilwoman Sloan expressed I like the name Market Street. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-130/RESOLUTION Authorizing the City of Highland to Enter Into A Letter of Understanding with the Illinois Department of Transportation for Road Work to be Performed on State Route 160 From U.S. Hwy. 40 to Silver Lake Rd. – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-130/RESOLUTION #26-11-3321 authorizing the City of Highland to enter into a Letter of Understanding with the Illinois Department of Transportation for road work to be performed on State Route 160 From U.S. Hwy. 40 to Silver Lake Rd. as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Mayor Hemann noted this is a substantial amount of roadwork. It is very much needed. Councilman Napper stated it would be nice to get some crossings. Mayor Hemann pointed out this area has some. This area is from Troxler, by the school, going north. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-131/RESOLUTION Approving Plans and Specifications for FAP Route 692 (IL 160), Section 86RS-2 Madison County, Illinois – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-131/RESOLUTION #26-11-3322 approving plans and specifications for FAP Route 692 (IL 160), Section 86RS-2 Madison County, Illinois as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-132/RESOLUTION Authorizing the City of Highland to Enter Into an Agreement With the Illinois Department of Transportation for Road Work to be Performed on State Route 160 From Lemon Street to Deal Street – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-132/RESOLUTION #26-11-3323 authorizing the City of Highland to enter into an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for road work to be performed on State Route 160 from Lemon Street to Deal Street as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Councilwoman Sloan pointed out, once again, this is paid for by IDOT. Director Gillespie reported the state pays 100% for the travel lanes. We pay 50% on the parking lanes. Right now, that figure for the City comes to approximately $56,810.00. I estimate an early spring start and late spring finish. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-133/RESOLUTION Authorizing the City of Highland to Appropriate Funds For The Improvement of State Route 160 From Lemon Street to Deal Street – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #26-133/RESOLUTION #26-11-3324 authorizing the City of Highland to appropriate funds for the improvement of State Route 160 from Lemon Street to Deal Street as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Klaus. Director Gillespie explained this is for our obligation of $56,810.00. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #26-134/RESOLUTION Approving the Plans and Specifications Relative for FAP Route 690 (IL 160), Section 41X-RS-2 in Madison County, Illinois – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #26-134/RESOLUTION #26-11-3325 approving the plans and specifications relative for FAP Route 690 (IL 160), Section 41X-RS-2 in Madison County, Illinois as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

## REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1325 for Oct. 17, 2026 through Oct. 30, 2026 – Councilman Klaus made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1325 for October 17, 2026 through October 30, 2026 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Klaus, Sloan, Bellm, and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.

Kevin B. Heman, Mayor Barbara Bellm, City Clerk