

**Minutes of a of a Regular Meeting of the  
Committee of the Whole of the City of Highland Park**

**Meeting Date:** October 20, 2025  
**Meeting Location:** City Hall - 1707 St Johns Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

**I. Call to Order**

At 5:30 PM, Presiding Officer Blumberg called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call:

**II. Roll Call**

**Present:** Presiding Officer Blumberg, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia (Remote), Lidawer (Remote)

**Absent:** Mayor Rotering

**Staff Present:** City Manager Neukirch, Director of Public Works Bannon, Community Development Director Fontane, Assistant City Manager Jason, Police Chief Jogmen, Finance Director McCaulou, Fire Chief Schrage, Commander Curran, Sergeant Soldano, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska

**Also Present:** Corporation Counsel Elrod

All Councilmembers present at City Hall were in consensus to allow Councilmembers Tapia and Lidawer to attend the meeting remotely.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Committee of the Whole on October 6, 2025

Councilmember Center moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Committee of the Whole on October 6, 2025. Councilmember Bruckman seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the Presiding Officer Blumberg declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Center
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Bruckman
<b>AYES:</b>	Presiding Officer Blumberg, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia, Lidawer
<b>NAYS:</b>	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Mayor Rotering

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Held on October 6, 2025

Councilmember Bruckman moved to approve the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Held on October 6, 2025. Councilmember Center seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, Presiding Officer Blumberg declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Bruckman
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Councilmember Center
<b>AYES:</b>	Presiding Officer Blumberg, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia, Lidawer
<b>NAYS:</b>	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Mayor Rotering

#### IV. Scheduled Business

##### A. E-bikes and E-Scooter Regulation Review

City Manager Neukirch provided an introduction to the conversation as it relates to e-bikes and e-scooters regulation review.

Sergeant Soldano, Chief Jogmen, Corporation Counsel Elrod, and City Manager Neukirch presented information on e-bikes and e-scooters. They presented information regarding amendments to Section 71.360 of the City Code, including a number of recommendations for policy consideration.

The Council, Corporation Counsel Elrod and staff discussed:

- If the operator of a pedal assist bike needs to pedal up to the maximum speed or if they can simply turn on the pedal assist feature; the increase of speed is gradual once engaged
- How these devices have precipitated the influx of accidents around Highland Park, the State and the Country
- Perceived reactions to the regulations that were implemented by Highland Park and how they may have been prohibitive in the beginning
- Benefits and complications of regulating the speed of these devices; hard to enforce speed with larger groups
- Concerns with allowing devices on bike trails and paths due to the smaller space and active pedestrians in the area
- Appreciate the work completed by the Police Department and collection of data that was provided in the presentation
- Citations that were issued were to those individuals with devices that would have exceeded 750 watts
- Prohibitions currently within the State statute
- Importance of updating and providing education as it relates to these types of devices and allowing individuals to come into compliance
- Most interactions between individuals and Police Officers were with those that were operating e-motos
- Enforcement challenges related to the difficulty with distinguishing between Class 1, 2, or 3 e-bikes through simple observation
- Signage that has already been implemented and will be updated if there are any changes requested to amend the Code, including increasing the “Share the Road” signage
- Enforcement should be more punitive in regards to e-moto devices; fine should be \$1,000 instead of \$100
- The juvenile age group presents a majority of the issues
- Ease or difficulties of modifying e-bikes

- Those operating these types of devices should know and understand the rules of the road; should continue to require a driver's license
- Highlighted prohibitions within neighboring communities
- Highland Park is a leader when it comes to being a walking and biking community
- Interest in the breakdown of residents and non-residents in regards to traffic stops
- Continued work with sister governments and community partners on educating the community and amplifying regulations
- Staff does not recommend regulating each class separately
- While establishing a speed limit is possible, it may not be affective and it will be difficult to enforce
- The City has used all communication modalities when the regulations were enacted and will continue to share regulations requesting that partners amplify the information, such as the park district, school districts, library and others.
- The importance of work done by the School Resource Officer
- The impact of staff's recommendations would allow for enforcement to become easier, along with being able to adjudicate violations more clearly
- The importance of continuing to review this topic as actions continue to change within other municipalities and at the State level

City Manager Neukirch reviewed direction provided by the Council. She noted that a majority of the Council support regulating Class 1, 2, and 3 together; a majority of the Council supports waiving the driver's license requirement; and a majority of the Council does not support speed limit restrictions. She voiced that there is a split decision as it relates to allowing or not allowing these devices on a bike trail or pathway. She explained that an ordinance will be drafted to reflect the amendments and information for the next available meeting, and information will be shared with the Mayor for her feedback.

At 7:02 PM, Presiding Officer Blumberg recessed the Committee of the Whole meeting.

At 8:05 PM, Presiding Officer Blumberg reconvened the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Present: Presiding Officer Blumberg, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia (Remote), Lidawer (Remote)

Absent: Mayor Rotering

Staff Present: City Manager Neukirch, Community Development Director Fontane, Assistant City Manager Jason, Police Chief Jogmen, Commander Curran, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Elrod

B. Discussion of Bicycle Parking and Connectivity Policy

Community Development Director Fontane presented information on bicycle parking and connectivity policy considerations and feedback was requested.

The Council and staff discussed:

- The presentation provided information that represented the likeness of a

Plan and Design Commission (“PDC”) agenda and a clear recap of the development that has taken place within the City

- How each development is different and the message from the Council, staff and the community has been received by the development companies
- Need to review the list of public benefits and possibly update the list to include the importance of bicycle parking and connectivity within the community

A majority of the Council were in favor of keeping the current policies, highlighting bike access and parking on the list of public benefits, and not making any further changes at this time.

City Manager Neukirch noted that the public benefit list will be reviewed and updated accordingly and then shared with the Council

**V. Adjournment**

Councilmember Bruckman moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, Presiding Officer Blumberg declared the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned its meeting at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Palbitska  
Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk