

# Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council 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 7:30 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, 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. Pledge of Allegiance**

## **IV. Approval of Minutes**

### **A. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council Held on September 29, 2025**

Councilmember Bruckman moved to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council Held on September 29, 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

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council Held on October 6, 2025

Councilmember Center moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council Held on October 6, 2025. Councilmember Bruckman seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, 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

V. **Approval of Warrant List**

A. Warrant List and Wire Transfers from September 26, 2025 to October 09, 2025.  
Councilmember Bruckman moved to approve the Warrant List. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, Presiding Officer Blumberg declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

VI. **Report of Mayor**

Presiding Officer Blumberg provided an opening statement regarding the hostages that were released from Gaza.

A. ***Proclamations***

October 2025 is the 80th Anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Presiding Officer Blumberg proclaimed October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Employment Specialist, Don Miner, presented information on the Center for Enriched Living programming, including the positive effects the Center has had on members of the community.

## **VII. Business from the Council**

Councilmember Center discussed Highland Park High School's homecoming and the Wolters Field scoreboard. He communicated concerns that have been expressed by members of the community as to the functionality of the scoreboard and the difficulties families are experiencing. He expressed interest in future discussions with the school district and future review of how the voiced concerns can be remedied.

## **VIII. Business from City Staff**

### **A. Neighborhood Meetings**

City Manager Neukirch provided information on two upcoming neighborhood meetings – meeting with School District 113 and neighbors surrounding Highland Park High School and Wolters Field, and a neighborhood and public meeting pertaining to the redevelopment of the Public Services Center and Fire Station #34.

### **B. 2026 Proposed Budget Department Staff Reports**

City Manager Neukirch provided information on the proposed 2026 Budget Department Staff reports, and summarized Councilmember highlights and recommendations that were shared in advance of the City Council

Councilmember Ross expressed a preference to use the term Master Plan, versus Comprehensive Plan, as it pertains to the plan update that will begin in 2025. She also indicated that she believes the City should be budgeting more for tree planting.

City Manager Neukirch noted that the total, proposed Forestry budget is \$1.4M. She referenced the budget workshop when the tree canopy map was highlighted citing laudable efforts in tree planting community wide, and cited that Highland Park has a larger tree canopy compared to neighboring communities. She welcomed policy feedback if there were specific areas where Councilmembers felt increased trees should be considered.

## **IX. Business from the Public (Individuals wishing to be heard regarding items not listed on this agenda)**

Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska provided an opening statement regarding Business from the Public.

Ken Temkin, Highland Park resident, voiced concerns as to how the Chicago area has changed. He expressed concern with ICE's actions and requested the City impose a ban on ICE federal actions in the community. Presiding Officer Blumberg invited Mr. Temkin to follow-up with the City Manager as this matter has been evaluated.

Renee Bova, Highland Park resident, discussed how her domestic violence problem has become a community problem.

## **X. Omnibus**

Councilmember Ross asked about the purchase of the Cot System and possible recalls.

Fire Chief Schrage provided information on the Cot system and indicated that what is being proposed to purchase is the industry standard within the area. He noted that the Cot System is currently in all of the City's ambulances and the system has been successful. He explained that staff is proposing to purchase the warranty as well to ensure the system is

maintained in the best way possible. He noted that this system will relieve injuries for the members of the Fire Department team.

Councilmember Bruckman moved to approve items 1 - 4 by omnibus vote consideration. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, Presiding Officer Blumberg declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

#### **Finance**

1. Approval of Water Rates Effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026

#### **Public Works**

2. *R127-2025* - A Resolution Waiving the Formal Bidding Requirements of the City's Purchasing Manual and Approving an Agreement with Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc., of Vernon Hills, Illinois, for Professional Surveying Services

#### **Community Development**

3. *O54-2025* - An Ordinance Granting Variances From Article XX of the Zoning Code (The Barn, 1900 First Street)

#### **Public Safety**

4. *R128-2025* - A Resolution Approving the Purchase of a Cot System from Stryker Corporation of Kalamazoo, Michigan

### **XI. Adjournment**

Councilmember Center moved to adjourn the City Council meeting. Councilmember Bruckman seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, Presiding Officer Blumberg declared the motion passed unanimously.

The City Council adjourned its meeting at 08:02 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Palbitska  
Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk