

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

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2025

MEETING LOCATION: City Hall 1707 St Johns Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

I. Call to Order

At 5:30 PM, Mayor Rotering called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call:

Present: Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia, Lidawer, Blumberg

Absent: None

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, Communications Manager Bennett, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska, Marketing Coordinator Larson

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Elrod

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Held on October 20, 2025

Councilmember Blumberg moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Held on October 20, 2025. Councilmember Center seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion passed.

MOVER:	Councilmember Blumberg
SECONDER:	Councilmember Center
AYES:	Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia, Lidawer, Blumberg
NAYS:	None

III. Scheduled Business

A. 2026 City-Sponsored Events

City Manager Neukirch provided opening comments as it relates to the presentation for 2026 City-Sponsored Events.

Assistant City Manager Jason and Marketing Coordinator Larson presented a high level overview about the 2026 slate of events and provided follow-up information that was requested by the Council.

The Council and staff discussed Council's previous request to consider updating the slate of 2026 events to include World Music Fest and Oktoberfest as City produced stand-alone events. They discussed third parties that have requested financial or in-kind sponsorship by the City to include Arts on Sheridan, Port Clinton Art Festival and the Randolph Market Vintage Shindig.

City Manager Neukirch noted that a majority of the Council was interested in incorporating World Music Fest into other programming, specifically theming the Port Clinton Friday Night Concert series per staff recommendation, having the City produce Oktoberfest with strong support for the event to be held in the Ravinia Business District, provide an in-kind contribution up to \$5,000 to Arts on Sheridan and Port Clinton Art Festival, and not offering an in-kind contribution for the Randolph Street Market Vintage Shindig.

B. Review Spring Clean-Up Program

City Manager Neukirch and ACM Jason provided comments regarding the annual Spring Clean-Up Program.

The Council and staff discussed whether or not to continue offering Spring Clean-Up in 2026.

A majority of the Council were in favor of continuing to offer the program in 2026.

VI. Adjournment

Councilmember Lidawer moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. Councilmember Tapia seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, Mayor Rotering declared the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned its meeting at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Palbitska
Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk