

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR RESCHEDULED CONSOLIDATED COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK**

MEETING DATE: March 30, 2026

MEETING LOCATION: Public Services Building, 1150 Half Day Road and
City Hall, 1707 St Johns Avenue

I. Call to Order

At 4:34 PM, Mayor Rotering called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call:

II. Roll Call

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

Absent: Councilmembers Center, Tapia

Staff Present: City Manager Neukirch, Director of Public Works Bannon, Community Development Director Fontane, Finance Director McCaulou, Fire Chief Schrage, Deputy Director of Public Works O'Neill, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska

III. Tour of Public Services Center and Fire Station #34

The Council and Staff conducted a tour of the Public Services Building and Station #34. They analyzed the working environments at each location and what next steps could be for the project.

At 6:02 PM, Mayor Rotering recessed the Committee of the Whole meeting.

At 6:30 PM, Mayor Rotering reconvened the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Present: Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Center (arrived at 7:23 PM), 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, Finance Director McCaulou, Fire Chief Schrage, Assistant City Manager Taub, Deputy Finance Director Lukasik, Police Commander Roberts, Communications Manager Bennett, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Elrod

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Held on February 23, 2026 and Approval of the Minutes of the Joint Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole and Historic Preservation Commission Held on March 9, 2026

Councilmember Lidawer moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Held on February 23, 2026 and the Minutes of the Joint Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole and Historic Preservation Commission Held on March 9, 2026. Councilmember Bruckman seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

V. Scheduled Business

- A. Review of the Capital Improvement Plan, with emphasis on the Public Services Center and Fire Station #34 Project and associated budget and financing options.

City Manager Neukirch informed the public that the City Council completed a tour of the Public Services Building and Fire Station #34.

City Manager Neukirch, Public Works Director Bannon and Finance Director McCaulou presented an overview of the Capital Improvement Plan, with an emphasis on the Public Services Center & Fire Station #34 project and associated budget and financing options.

The Council and staff discussed the use of the City's reserve funds, Public Safety Pension contributions, debt scenarios, budget considerations that include property tax, home rules sales tax, pensions and other fee/license tax considerations. They discussed the direction the Council would be interested in moving forward in regard to the Route 41 Pedestrian Bridge. A majority of the Council was interested in moving forward with the rehabilitation plan for the Route 41 Pedestrian Bridge.

Mayor Rotering noted that further discussion can be had in regard to other revenue options and the \$40M infrastructure investment in preparation for the May 18th Committee of the Whole Budget Workshop.

VI. Adjournment

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

The Committee of the Whole adjourned its meeting at 07:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Palbitska
Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk