

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
HIGHLAND PARK**

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**MEETING DATE:** April 13, 2026

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

**I. Call to Order**

At 7:31 PM, Mayor Rotering called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call:

**II. Roll Call**

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

**Absent:** Councilmember Blumberg

**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, Assistant City Manager Taub, Commander Curran, Communications Manager Bennett, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska, Management Analyst Smith

**Also Present:** Corporation Counsel Elrod

**III. Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Rescheduled Regular Consolidated Meeting of the City Council Held on March 30, 2026

Councilmember Lidawer moved to approve the Minutes of the Rescheduled Regular Consolidated Meeting of the City Council Held on March 30, 2026. Councilmember Bruckman seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

**V. Approval of Warrant List**

- A. Warrant List and Wire Transfers from March 20, 2026 to April 02, 2026  
Councilmember Tapia moved to approve the Warrant List. Councilmember Lidawer seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

**VI. Report of Mayor**

Mayor Rotering noted that item 2 on the omnibus agenda was being removed from consideration.

A. **Appointments**

Kristi McCaulou, Police Pension Board Reappointment, 5/12/2026 - 5/11/2028

Mayor Rotering sought consensus from the Council regarding the appointment of Finance Director McCaulou to the Police Pension Board with a term of 5/12/2026 - 5/11/2028.

The Council was in consensus.

B. **Proclamations**

In Support of Tree City USA / Arbor Day Programs

Mayor Rotering proclaimed support for the City's award of Tree City USA and noted Arbor Day will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 19 - 25, 2026

Mayor Rotering proclaimed April 19-25, 2026 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

C. **Other Business**

Volunteer Appreciation Week

Mayor Rotering recognized the week of April 20, 2026, as Volunteer Appreciation Week. She provided information on the upcoming Highland Park Awards that is taking place on Thursday, April 23, 2026.

April is Blue Kids Month

Mayor Rotering noted April as Blue Kids Month.

Officer Seynos provided more information on this initiative and presented information in English and Spanish.

**VII. Business from the Council**

- A. Transportation Advisory Group Report - Councilmember Lidawer  
Councilmember Lidawer provided an update on the work of the Transportation Advisory Group.
- B. Zoning Board of Appeals Report - Councilmember Center  
Councilmember Center provided an update on the work of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**VIII. Business from City Staff**

- A. Fire Department Strategic Plan Report, 2026-2028  
City Manager Neukirch introduced the Fire Department Strategic Plan and introduced Fire Chief Schrage and Management Analyst Cheryl Smith.

Fire Chief Schrage provided highlights of the Fire Department's strategic plan for 2026–2028.

The Council, City Manager Neukirch and Chief Schrage discussed the increase in calls over the last 10 years, technology and potential use of AI, and community feedback.

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

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

There was no Business from the Public.

**X. Omnibus**

Councilmember Tapia moved to approve item 1 by omnibus vote consideration. Councilmember Lidawer seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

Administration

1. Adoption of a Resolution (R48-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution entering into an Exterior Improvement Grant for Viaggio Highland Park Inc. d/b/a Nico Restaurant (581 Roger Williams)”.

**XI. Closed Session**

Councilmember Lidawer moved the Council to close its meeting to the public, pursuant to the following cited section of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)), for the purposes of, (i) probable litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)); and (ii) lease of property (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6)). Councilmember Tapia seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:14 PM, the Council recessed the public portion of the meeting to meet in Closed Session.

At 8:45 PM, Mayor Rotering reconvened the open session of the City Council meeting.

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

**Absent:** Councilmember Blumberg

**Staff Present:** City Manager Neukirch, Public Works Director Bannon, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska

**Also Present:** Corporation Counsel Elrod

**XII. Adjournment**

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

The City Council adjourned its meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Palbitska  
Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk