

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

MEETING DATE: April 27, 2026

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

I. Call to Order

At 7:30 PM, Mayor Rotering called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call:

II. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Bruckman, Ross, Tapia, Lidawer (remote), Blumberg

Absent: Councilmember Center

Staff Present: City Manager Neukirch, Director of Public Works Bannon, Community Development Director Fontane, Assistant City Manager Jason, Finance Director McCaulou, Assistant City Manager Taub, Commander Curran, Communications Manager Bennett, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Elrod

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council Held on April 13, 2026

Councilmember Blumberg moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council Held on April 13, 2026. Councilmember Tapia seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Meeting of the City Council on April 13, 2026

Councilmember Blumberg moved to approve the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Meeting of the City Council Held on April 13, 2026. Councilmember Bruckman seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

V. Approval of Warrant List

1. Warrant List and Wire Transfers from April 03, 2026 to April 16, 2026.
Councilmember Tapia moved to approve the Warrant List. Councilmember Blumberg seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

VI. Report of Mayor

1. **Proclamations**

May is Jewish American Heritage Month

Mayor Rotering proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month.

Highland Park Public Library Executive Director Smith accepted the proclamation and provided information on Jewish American Heritage activities being provided by the Library.

May is Highland Park Bike Month

Mayor Rotering proclaimed May as Highland Park Bike Month and recognized Transportation Advisory Group Chair Elliot Rossen and Advisor Christopher Nelson.

Christopher Johnson accepted the proclamation and provided remarks.

May is Building Safety Month

Mayor Rotering proclaimed May as Building Safety month.

Community Development Director Fontane accepted the proclamation.

2. **Other Business**

International Compost Awareness Week is May 3 to May 9, 2026

Mayor Rotering reported that the first week in May is International Compost Awareness week and provided information on activities being held throughout the week.

Recognition of Student Commissioners Graduating Class of 2026

Mayor Rotering recognized the Student Commissioner Graduating Class of 2026.

VII. Business from the Council

1. Business & Economic Development Advisory Group - Councilmember Bruckman
Councilmember Bruckman provided information on the projects and efforts of the Business and Economic Development Advisory Group.
2. Sustainability Advisory Group - Councilmember Blumberg
Councilmember Blumberg provided an update on the projects and efforts of the Sustainability Advisory Group.

VIII. Business from City Staff

1. 2026 Major Projects Workplan - Q1 Report
City Manager Neukirch provided highlights of tonight's omnibus agenda and an update on the 2026 Major Projects Workplan.

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 remarks for Business from the Public.

Peter Mordini, Highland Park resident, provided comments as it relates to Albion.

City Manager Neukirch noted that the City will continue to remain in contact with Mr. Mordini.

X. Omnibus

Mayor Rotering removed item 8 from omnibus vote consideration.

Councilmember Tapia moved to approve items 1-7 by omnibus vote consideration. Councilmember Blumberg seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

Administration

1. Adoption of an Ordinance (O16-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “An Ordinance Amending the Intergovernmental Agreement Establishing the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, Illinois”.
2. Adoption of a Resolution (R49-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Entering Into a Food & Beverage Interior Improvement Grant for Katy The Butcher LLC (1954 First Street)”.
3. Adoption of a Resolution (R50-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Entering into an Exterior Improvement Grant for Lake Cook/Skokie LLC d/b/a Rmarts Shell North Shore (10 Skokie Valley Road)”.
4. Adoption of a Resolution (R51-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution entering into an Exterior Improvement Grant for Gemini Designs LLC (1316 Old Skokie Road)”.

Public Works

5. Adoption of a Resolution (R52-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving the Award of the 2026 Snow Hauling Program Contract to D&A Enterprises, Inc., of Highland Park, Illinois”.
6. Adoption of a Resolution (R53-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Rejecting the Bids Received for a Contract for the Lead Service Line Replacement (Phase II) Project”.

Community Development

7. Adoption of a Resolution (R54-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving Agreements for Property Management, Operation, and Maintenance Services for the Peers Housing Association, the Ravinia Housing Association, and the Sunset Wood Association”.

XI. Items Removed From Omnibus Vote Consideration

8. Adoption of a Resolution (R55-2026) titled, “A Resolution Approving a Public Right-of-Way Use License Agreement Between the City of Highland Park and Ezee Fiber Texas, LLC for Installation of Fiber Optic Communications Facilities”.

The Council and Garner Duncan, Telecommunications & Government Affairs Executive with Ezee Fiber, discussed the location of traffic control cabinets, noise and decibel levels, removal of the traffic control cabinets if technology were to change and whose responsibility it is to repair the right-of-way.

Councilmember Blumberg moved to approve a Resolution Approving a Public Right-of-Way Use License Agreement Between the City of Highland Park and Ezee Fiber Texas, LLC for Installation of Fiber Optic Communications Facilities.

Councilmember Tapia seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

XII. Other Business

- A. Adoption of an Ordinance (O17-2026) titled, “An Ordinance Designating the Property at 273 Sheridan Road a Local Landmark”.

Community Development Director presented information on the designation of a local landmark for the property at 273 Sheridan Road. He noted this would be the 79th local landmark within the City.

The Council voiced their appreciation for the voluntary landmark.

Councilmember Blumberg moved to approve an Ordinance Designating the Property at 273 Sheridan Road a Local Landmark. Councilmember Tapia seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

XIII. Closed Session

Councilmember Blumberg 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) personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)); and ii) pending litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)). Councilmember Lidawer seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:20 PM, the Council recessed the public portion of the meeting to meet in Closed Session.

At 9:09 PM, Mayor Rotering reconvened the open session of the City Council meeting.

Present: Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Bruckman, Ross, Tapia, Lidawer (remote), Blumberg

Absent: Councilmember Center

Staff Present: City Manager Neukirch, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Elrod

XIV. Adjournment

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

The City Council adjourned its meeting at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Palbitska
Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk