

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

MEETING DATE: May 11, 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, Lidawer, Blumberg

Absent: Councilmember Tapia

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, Assistant Corporation Counsel Martinez

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council Held on April 27, 2026

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Meeting of the City Council on April 27, 2026

Councilmember Lidawer moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council Held on April 27, 2026 and the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Meeting of the City Council on April 27, 2026. Councilmember Blumberg seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

V. Approval of Warrant List

A. Warrant List and Wire Transfers from April 17, 2026 to April 30, 2026.

Councilmember Blumberg moved to approve the Warrant List. Councilmember Bruckman seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

VI. Report of Mayor

A. Proclamations

May is Historic Preservation Month

Mayor Roterling proclaimed May as Historic Preservation Month.

In Support of Monarch Butterflies

Mayor Roterling proclaimed the City's commitment to the Mayors' Monarch Pledge.

B. Other Business

2026 Historic Preservation Award Winners

Mayor Roterling introduced the 2026 Historic Preservation Award Winners.

Community Development Director Fontane gave a presentation highlighting work done at 818 Hill Street and Ravinia Elementary School, the 2026 Historic Preservation Award Winners.

Art Kessler, NSSD 112 Board President, provided comments regarding the work that was completed.

Tom Hiller, owner of 818 Hill Street, thanked the community for their support and the work completed by Planner Markle.

May is Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Mayor Roterling recognized May as Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

VII. Business from the Council

A. Human Relations Advisory Group Report - Councilmember Lidawer

Councilmember Lidawer provided an update on the work that has been completed by the Human Relations Advisory Group.

B. Historic Preservation Commission Report - Councilmember Blumberg

Councilmember Blumberg provided an update on the work that has been completed by the Historic Preservation Commission.

VIII. Business from City Staff

City Manager Neukirch provided information regarding upcoming public meetings. She highlighted items on the omnibus agenda and noted that items B & C under Other Business are to be postponed to a future meeting based on recommended amendments from Ravinia Festival. She provided an update as it relates to 445 Central Avenue.

City Manager Neukirch provided an update regarding the status of the tenets of the amended redevelopment agreement for 445 Central Avenue. Discussion ensued with Council on the efforts by ownership to lease the site.

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 for Business from the Public.

Frank Sam Rice, Highland Park resident, voiced concerns regarding recurring problems he is experiencing at his residence; seeking assistance from the City.

Manager Neukirch provided further background and actions the City has taken to address Mr. Rice's concerns.

Renee Bova, Highland Park resident, discussed concerns with interference in her personal affairs and her desire to move out of Highland Park.

X. Omnibus

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

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

Administration

1. Adoption of a Resolution (R56-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving a Policy Concerning Electronic Attendance at Meetings”.

Finance

2. Adoption of a Resolution (R57-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Waiving the Formal Bidding Requirements of the City’s Purchasing Manual and Approving the Purchase of AirTable Licenses from AirTable.com of San Francisco, CA”.
3. Adoption of a Resolution (R58-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving a Contract with Dell Marketing, L.P., of Round Rock Texas for the Purchase of Notebook and Desktop Computers”.

4. Adoption of a Resolution (R59-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Waiving the Formal Bidding Requirements of the City’s Purchasing Manual and Approving the Purchase of Phone Services from Infobip Voice, Inc., of Jersey City, New Jersey”.
5. Adoption of an Ordinance (O18-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “An Ordinance Amending the Annual Budget of the City of Highland Park, County of Lake, State of Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026 related to Projects and Expenditures in Multiple Funds”.

Public Works

6. Adoption of a Resolution (R60-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving Award of the Rock Salt Purchase Contract to Compass Minerals America Inc., of Overland Park, Kansas”.
7. Adoption of an Ordinance (O19-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “An Ordinance Approving the Disposal of a Surplus Vehicle and Award Purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet Equinox EV Through the Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperative”.

XI. Other Business

- A. Adoption of an Ordinance (O20-2026) titled, “An Ordinance Designating the Property at 670 De Tamble Avenue a Local Landmark”
Councilmember Lidawer moved to approve an Ordinance Designating the Property at 670 De Tamble Avenue a Local Landmark. Councilmember Blumberg seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

- B. A Resolution Ratifying a Minor Amendment to Planned Development for 418 Sheridan Road
Councilmember Lidawer moved to postpone a Resolution Ratifying a Minor Amendment to the Planned Development for 418 Sheridan Road to the May 27, 2026 City Council meeting. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

- C. A Resolution Approving a Special License Agreement with Ravinia Festival Association
Staff recommended this item be postponed to the May 27, 2026 City Council meeting.

The Council was in consensus to postpone.

XII. 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) litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)). Councilmember Lidawer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:22 PM, the Council recessed the public portion of the meeting to meet in Closed Session.

At 9:01 PM, Mayor Rotering reconvened the open session of the City Council meeting.

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

Absent: Councilmember Tapia

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

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Elrod, Assistant Corporation Counsel Martinez

XIII. Adjournment

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

The City Council adjourned its meeting at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Palbitska
Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk