

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

MEETING DATE: May 27, 2026

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:

II. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Center (arrived at 5:37PM)
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, Assistant City Manager Taub, Commander Curran, Communications Manager Bennett, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska, Business Development Manager Elder

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Elrod, Assistant Corporation Counsel Martinez, Williams Architects (Andy Dogan, Marc Rohde)

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Rescheduled Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Held on May 11, 2026

B. Approval of the Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Held on May 18, 2026

Councilmember Lidawer moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Rescheduled Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Held on May 11, 2026 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Held on May 18, 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

IV. Scheduled Business

A. Planning and Options for Redevelopment and Renovation of the City's Public Services Center and Fire Station #34 (PSC/FS)

City Manager Neukirch introduced the presentation.

Andy Dogan, Williams Architects, presented information regarding the planning and options for redevelopment and renovation of the City's Public Services Center and Fire Station #34 (PSC/FS).

City Manager Neukirch outlined staff's recommendations as it relates to next steps, including the importance of allocating funds for the pedestrian bridge as a separate project discussed previously.

The Council, Mr. Dogan and staff discussed the necessity of an enclosed garage large enough to accommodate the fleet and the amount of square footage that would require, the impact of relocating the Fire Station with regard to the traffic signal at Summit Avenue, phasing the construction for both the PSC and FS, timelines, how the budgeted numbers presented include an escalation into the next year, and the number of bays that are necessary for the Fire Station.

After the robust conversation, the Council was in favor of moving forward with budgeting for the construction of the Fire Station, along with dollars being allocated to the pedestrian bridge. It was noted that while construction of a new Public Services building is paused at this time, staff will come back before the Council to discuss next steps to plan and phase out the construction of the PSC as part of CIP planning.

B. Discussion of Highland Park Property Owner Association Housing Policy Position Paper

City Manager Neukirch introduced the presentation. She noted that staff would be providing recommendations and seeking feedback from the Council.

Community Development Director Fontane presented information regarding the Highland Park Property Owner Association Housing Policy Position Paper and the information relating to the City's experiences and policies.

Mayor Rotering voiced appreciation for the work completed by the Property Owners Association and Community Partners for Affordable Housing. She referenced the proposed Build Act and current changes being discussed by the Senate that may be forthcoming. She stated that there is a lot that needs to be discussed as it relates to this topic and the Council would like to be able to give it the time it needs. She explained that this topic will be discussed further at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.

V. Adjournment

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

The Committee of the Whole adjourned its meeting at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Palbitska
Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk