

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

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**MEETING DATE:** May 27, 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, 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, Management Analyst Cherry

**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 May 11, 2026

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Meeting of the City Council Held on May 11, 2026

Councilmember Lidawer moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council Held on May 11, 2026, and the Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Meeting of the City Council Held on May 11, 2026. Councilmember Blumberg seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (7 - 0).

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

**V. Approval of Warrant List**

A. Warrant List and Wire Transfers from May 01, 2026 to May 15, 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 (7 - 0).

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

## VI. Report of Mayor

Mayor Rotering noted that Item D under Other Business will be postponed to the June 29, 2026 City Council meeting at the request of the applicant. She stated that members of the community can provide comments during Business from the Public but the item will not be discussed tonight.

### A. Proclamations

#### Recognizing June 2026 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month

Mayor Rotering proclaimed June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

#### Recognizing June as Immigrant Heritage Month

Mayor Rotering proclaimed June as Immigrant Heritage Month.

Alexander Vayser, North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic, shared information about the important work that is being done.

### B. Other Business

#### Cancer Survivor Beauty & Support Day on June 2, 2026

Mayor Rotering noted the first Tuesday in June will be recognized as Cancer Survivor Beauty and Support Day.

Barbara Paget, Highland Park resident and event creator, shared information on this program and provided information as to how individuals can locate participating businesses.

#### June is Gun Violence Awareness Month #Wear Orange

Mayor Rotering noted that June is Gun Violence Awareness Month in memory of high school student Hadiya Pendleton, who was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago in 2013. She recognized June 4th as National SAFE Gun Storage Day and June 21st marks National ASK Day, an initiative of the Brady Campaign to End Gun Violence.

Susan Mason, Deerfield/Highland Park Moms Demand Action, provided comments.

#### Recognizing Responsibility in Firearms Legislation (RIFL) Act

Mayor Rotering noted that the first item on the omnibus agenda is a resolution of a statewide legislative initiative, The Responsibility in Firearm Legislation Act, known as RIFL Act. She noted that the resolution formalizes the City's support for this action to hold gun manufacturers financially liable for gun violence by requiring them to pay fees based on the public health costs of injuries, to take effect January 1, 2028, through a no-fault compensation program for victims.

Beach and Boating Safety

Mayor Rotering noted that Water Safety Month serves as a reminder of how important it is to practice water safety when swimming, boating, and enjoying our beaches, pools, and other water activities. She voiced support of the City's colleagues of the Park District of Highland Park's water safety campaign.

**VII. Business from the Council**

There was none.

**VIII. Business from City Staff**

City Manager Neukirch highlighted items on the omnibus agenda.

**A. Overview of Leaf Blower Regulations**

City Manager Neukirch introduced the presentation of Leaf Blower Regulations.

Management Analyst Cherry provided an overview of Leaf Blower Regulations and staff's recommendation for future consideration.

Councilmember Lidawer suggested the current ban be extended until September 30, 2027; City Manager Neukirch and Councilmember Lidawer discussed the staff recommendation which includes a report and recommendation to the City Council in the first quarter of 2027, following the consultant evaluation.

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

Renee Bova, Highland Park resident, spoke about how democrats need a boss.

**X. Omnibus**

Councilmember Lidawer provided comments on item 8.

Councilmember Tapia moved to approve items 1-9 by omnibus vote consideration.

Councilmember Blumberg seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (7 - 0).

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

Administration

1. Adoption of a Resolution (R61-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, "A Resolution in Support of The Responsibility in Firearm Legislation (RIFL) Act (HB 3320/SB 2279)".
2. Adoption of a Resolution (R62-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, "A Resolution entering into an Exterior Improvement Grant for Magic Vision LLC (d/b/a Highland Bar & Kitchen)".

3. Adoption of a Resolution (R63-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution entering into an Exterior Improvement Grant for Twinkle Twinkle Little North LLC (d/b/a Twinkle Twinkle Little One)”.
4. Adoption of a Resolution (R64-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution entering into an Exterior Improvement Grant for Taylor Reese, LTD (d/b/a Taylor Reese Salon)”.
5. Adoption of a Resolution (R65-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution entering into an Exterior Improvement Grant for Legend of Time Inc. (d/b/a Legend of Time)”.

#### Public Works

6. Adoption of a Resolution (R66-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving Award of the First Street Parking Garage Repair Project Contract to Golf Acquisition Group, LLC., of Hammond, Indiana”.
7. Adoption of a Resolution (R67-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving the Award of the Lead Service Line Replacement Project (Phase II) Contract to Trine Construction Corporation of St. Charles, Illinois”.
8. Adoption of a Resolution (R68-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving a Local Public Agency Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for the Sheridan Road Sidewalk Project”.
9. Adoption of a Resolution (R69-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving the Award of the Hydrant Flushing Contract to M.E. Simpson Company, Inc. of Valparaiso, Indiana”.

### **XI. Other Business**

#### Administration

- A. Adoption of a Resolution (R70-2026) titled, “A Resolution Ratifying a Minor Amendment to Planned Development for 418 Sheridan Road (Ravinia Festival Association)”.
- B. Adoption of a Resolution (R71-2026) titled, “A Resolution Approving a Special License Agreement with Ravinia Festival Association”.  
The Council discussed the terms of the license agreement in relation to a review period.

Jim Schmidt, Ravinia Festival, provided information in relation to the proposed work that will be conducted for the pathway.

The Council, Mr. Schmidt and City Manager Neukirch discussed the material of the path; the limestone gravel of the Green Bay Trail will remain. They discussed notification and education regarding the work that will be conducted.

A majority of the Council was interested in maintaining the 23-year term for the license agreement.

The Council discussed improved lighting for the path and it was noted that the capital project which is outside of the license area could be re-visited as part of the capital budget.

Councilmember Blumberg moved to approve items A and B. Councilmember Tapia seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 1).

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| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Councilmember Blumberg                                                 |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Councilmember Tapia                                                    |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia, Blumberg |
| <b>NAYS:</b>     | Councilmember Lidawer                                                  |

#### Public Works

- C. Adoption of an Ordinance (O21-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the Acquisition of Temporary Construction Easements Through Condemnation for the Judson Avenue Bridge Project”.  
City Manager Neukirch provided information as it relates to the acquisition of temporary construction easements.

Larry and Laura Saret, Highland Park residents, voiced concerns with the City's process as it relates to obtaining a temporary construction easement for the Judson Avenue Bridge Project.

Ms. Saret read into the record comments that were provided by Beth Mendez, Highland Park resident that would also be impacted by the temporary construction easement for the Judson Avenue Bridge Project.

Councilmember Blumberg moved to approve an Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the Acquisition of Temporary Construction Easements Through Condemnation for the Judson Avenue Bridge Project. Councilmember Tapia seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (7 - 0).

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

#### Community Development

- D. Consideration of a Special Use Permit in the Nature of a Preliminary and Final Planned Development with Modifications from City Code; and a Plat of Re-Subdivision, with Variances from City Code (147 Central Ave.)

It was noted that this item was postponed to the June 29, 2026 City Council meeting at the request of the applicant.

## **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 Bruckman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:25 PM, the Council recessed the public portion of the meeting to meet in Closed Session.

At 8:47 PM, Mayor Roterling reconvened the open session of the City Council meeting.

Present: Mayor Roterling, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia, Lidawer, Blumberg

Absent: None

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

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Elrod, Assistant Corporation Counsel Martinez

## **XIII. 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 8:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Palbitska  
Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk