MINUTES OF THE CONSOLIDATED MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

MEETING DATE: June 29, 2026

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

I. Call to Order

At 7:35 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

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Elrod, Assistant Corporation Counsel Martinez, Assistant Corporation Counsel Butcher

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

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

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

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

V. Approval of Warrant List

A. Warrant List and Wire Transfers from May 15, 2026 to June 18, 2026.
Councilmember Tapia 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 Tapia
SECONDER:	Councilmember Bruckman
AYES:	Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia, Lidawer
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Councilmember Blumberg

VI. Report of Mayor

A. Other Business

"Tree of Life" Mosaic Dedication
Mayor Rotering highlighted the dedication of the "Tree of Life" Mosaic that is displayed at the top of the stairs in City Hall. She noted that the mosaic was designed by artist Etty Hasack from the Chicago Mosaic School and created in part by community members at last year's Remembrance ceremony.

Celebration of Juneteenth
Mayor Rotering highlighted the celebration of Juneteenth at the City's Taste of Highland Park event that took place on Friday, June 19, 2026.

Recognition of 2026 Distinguished Budget Award from GFOA
Mayor Rotering noted that for the 23rd year, the Government Finance Officers Association ("GFOA") recognized the City with the Distinguished Budget Presentation award, along with the special recognition for Strategic Goals & Strategies and Budget Process, both new awards this year. She explained that these new awards are only awarded when all three reviewers provide the highest possible score in a category. She recognized City Manager Neukirch, Finance Director McCaulou, the Finance Team and Department Directors for this outstanding achievement.

VII. Business from the Council

There was none.

VIII. Business from City Staff

City Manager Neukirch provided highlights of the discussions that took place at the Committee of the Whole meeting. She highlighted items on tonight's omnibus agenda.

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

David Rosenstein, new owner of Norton's Restaurant, introduced himself and his team as the new owners and operators of Norton's Restaurant. He graciously noted that Norton's belongs to the Highland Park community and his team looks forward to continuing to operate in that fashion. He voiced his appreciation for all the work conducted by City staff and the ease of the process with staff's guidance.

X. Omnibus

Councilmember Lidawer provided comments on item 1 on the omnibus agenda.

Councilmember Center provided comments on item 7 on the omnibus agenda.

Councilmember Tapia moved to approve items 1-15 by omnibus vote consideration. Councilmember Lidawer seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

Administration

1. Adoption of a Resolution (R72-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Ratifying the Execution of an Additional Services Agreement and Authorizing the Commencement of Phase 2 of Services for the Place of Remembrance”.

2. Adoption of an Ordinance (O22-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “An Ordinance Amending Sections 95.001, 102.002, and 102.003 of “The Highland Park Code of 1968,” as amended, Regarding the Use of Leaf Blowers”.

3. Adoption of a Resolution (R73-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Holiday Outdoor Decor”.

4. Adoption of a Resolution (R74-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution entering into an Exterior Improvement Grant for Reich Family Kitchens LLC d/b/a Terry's Toffee (1853 Second Street)”.

5. Adoption of a Resolution (R75-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving the Renewal of a Concession Agreement with Complimentary Café Co Founders 2, LLC for the Highland Park Metra Station”.

Finance

6. Adoption of an Ordinance (O23-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “An Ordinance Declaring Certain Property Owned by the City of Highland Park to be Surplus”.

7. Acceptance of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2025

Public Works

8. Adoption of a Resolution (R76-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving Award of the Cross Connection Control Program Management Services Contract with Aqua Backflow of Elgin, Illinois”.

9. Adoption of a Resolution (R77-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving Award of the 2026 Street Repair Program to Builders Paving, LLC, of Hillside, Illinois”.

Community Development

10. Adoption of an Ordinance (O24-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “An Ordinance Rezoning Property from the R1 Country Estate Residential District to the R6 Medium Density Residential District (1047 Livingston Street)”.

11. Adoption of a Resolution (R78-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving a Settlement Agreement and covenant Not to sue Relating to 1850 Green Bay Road (Albion)”.

Public Safety

12. Adoption of a Resolution (R79-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental with the Board of Education of Township High School District No. 113 for Reciprocal Reporting, Digital Image Access, and School Resource Officer”.

13. Adoption of a Resolution (R80-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with TrueNorth Educational Cooperative 804 For Reciprocal Reporting of Student Criminal Offenses and Security Camera Access”.

14. Adoption of a Resolution (R81-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Ratifying a Grant Agreement with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the Highland Park Uncrewed Aerial Program”.

15. Adoption of a Resolution (R82-2026) by omnibus vote consideration titled, “A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Among the Member Agencies of the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory for Forensic Services”.

XI. Other Business

Community Development

B. 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.)
Councilmember Lidawer moved to continue this item to the August 17, 2026 City Council meeting. Councilmember Tapia seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

Administration

A. Adoption of a Resolution (R83-2026) titled, "A Resolution Initiating the Submission of a Public Question to Establish Term Limits for the Elected Offices of Mayor and Councilmember".
City Manager Neukirch provided an introduction for this topic.

Corporation Counsel Elrod noted that the resolution has been amended from what was in the packet and stated that the vote should reflect an approval as amended.

Mayor Rotering highlighted discussion points that were discussed at the preceding Committee of the Whole Meeting tonight.

Councilmembers provided statements regarding term limits.

Councilmember Lidawer moved to approve as amended a Resolution Initiating the Submission of a Public Question to Establish Term Limits for the Elected Offices of Mayor and Councilmember. Councilmember Tapia seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

Community Development

C. Adoption of a Resolution (R84-2026) titled, “A Resolution Approving a Plat of Subdivision (0 Meadow Ln.)”.
Mayor Rotering noted that all members of the Council reviewed the information in the packet and a presentation was not needed at this time.

Councilmember Lidawer moved to approve a Resolution Approving a Plat of Subdivision (0 Meadow Ln). Councilmember Bruckman seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (6 - 0).

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

Jack Strom, Highland Park resident, requested a review of the location of the curb cuts and exits from the lots. He asked for consideration of directing traffic to exit on the interior of Meadow Lane instead of Thornwood Lane because there are a number of homeowners that have children or grandchildren. He explained that the area has a cul-de-sac and increasing traffic on Thornwood Lane could cause safety concerns.

Mayor Rotering and City Manager Neukirch noted that Community Development staff would follow up with Mr. Strom to discuss his request.

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 8:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Palbitska
Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk