

**Enrolled Minutes of the Eighty-Seventh Regular Meeting or Special Meeting
For the Twenty-Ninth Highland Town Council
Regular Plenary Business Meeting (Electronic/In person Hybrid)
Monday, February 13, 2023**

The Twenty-Ninth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its regular plenary session on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6:30 O'clock P.M. in the regular place, the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.

*This meeting was convened as both an in person and an electronic meeting. Some persons were participating remotely on a Zoom platform that allowed for real time interaction, and supported the public's ability to observe and record the proceedings. People were able to participate in person and remotely. When the agenda item provided for public comment, this was supported as well. Councilor Zemen, Councilor Toya Smith, Councilor Tom Black, Councilor Schocke, Councilor Roger Sheeman all participated in person.

Pursuant to HMC Section 2.05.130(A)(2), the Town Council considered and reviewed the agenda in an informal proceeding in the plenary meeting room before the president called the meeting to order.

The Town Council President Tom Black presided. The Town Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak, was present to memorialize the proceedings. The meeting was opened with Councilor Bernie Zemen reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and offering a prayer.

Roll Call: Present on roll call were Councilors Bernie Zemen, Toya Smith, Mark J. Schocke, Thomas Black and Roger Sheeman were present. Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak was also present. A quorum was attained.

Additional Officials Present: Alex Brown, CPRP, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation was remote. John Reed, Attorney with Abrahamson, Reed & Bilsse, Mark Knesek, Public Works Director, former Metropolitan Police Chief Pete Hojnicky; newly appointed Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta; Edward Dabrowski, Director of Information Technology; Maria Becerra, Redevelopment Director; William R. Timmer, Jr., CFOD, Fire Chief and Kenneth J. Mika, Building Commissioner were present.

Guests: Theresa Badovich (remotely) and Robin Carlascio (remotely) of the Idea Factory were also present.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings: The minutes of the January 23, 2023 Plenary meeting were approved by general consent.

Special Orders:

1. **Ceremony: Administration of Oath of Office for Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph J. Potesta.** Chief Ralph J. Potesta was appointed the 16th Metropolitan Police Chief by the

Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners at its meeting of January 12, 2023, to be effective February 13, 2023.

- (a) Administration of Oath. The Clerk-Treasurer conducted the oath administration, with the Chief swearing his oath of office.
- (b) Joint Presentation of Badge by Metropolitan Police Commission Chair and Town Council President. Metropolitan Police Commission Chairman Steve Jurczak and Town Council President Tom Black jointly presented Chief Potesta with his badge of office.

Newly sworn, Chief Potesta recognized his family and friends who were present in the hall.

2. Presentation of a Plaque to Chief Peter T. Hojnicky by the Metropolitan Police Commission, in recognition of his service to the Town of Highland, Indiana serving as the Fifteenth Metropolitan Police Chief, serving from February 25, 2002 through February 6, 2022.

Metropolitan Police Chief. Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation to Peter T. Hojnicky. Metropolitan Police Commission Chairman presented a plaque of appreciation for his service as Metropolitan Police Chief and read the following inscription.

With great honor and recognition,
the people of Highland and the
Highland Metropolitan Police Commission,
present this special
Expression of Appreciation to

Peter T. Hojnicky, Chief of Police

In recognition of 37 year of service.
our 15th Police Chief and
longest serving, 21 years 2/16/ 2002 to 2/06/2023.
As a leader, your selfless dedication and
constant efforts have changed countless lives.
Your tireless work ethic and professionalism
Has set the tone for the rest of the department.
May we all live up to your example.
You will always have a home here.
May God's blessings be with you as you start the
next chapter of your life..

Presented on the 13th Day of February 2023 in the Town of Highland, Lake County,
Indiana, by the Highland Metropolitan Police Commission.

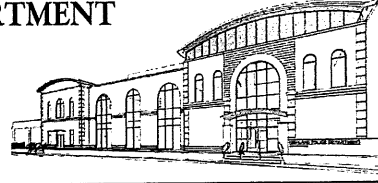
Chief Hojnicky then read a prepared statement.



HIGHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

3315 RIDGE ROAD
HIGHLAND, IN 46322-2097
(219) 838-3184

PETER T. HOJNICKI, CHIEF OF POLICE



February 6, 2023

Dear Council President Tom Black
And Counselors
Bernie Zemen, Toya Smith, Mark Schocke, & Roger Sheeman

I'd like to personally thank each of you for allowing me to serve as your Chief of Police. It has been an honor and a pleasure working with you over these last three years. With that same gratitude, I'd also like to thank the many Councils (Republican, Democrat and Independent) I had the pleasure of serving before you. I'm also grateful to Clerk Treasurer Mark Herak, although new to his post, his efforts and energy as Clerk Treasurer has allowed each department, and especially the Police Department to grow and prosper in many ways in a very short period of time. I also wish to express my appreciativeness to the former and current members of the Highland Metropolitan Police Commission for their guidance, input, and support. They truly have the best interest of the Police Department and citizens of Highland at heart. I'm also grateful to the many residents, businesses, spiritual and civic organizations that supported our endeavors and often times showed their support by their many contributions of time, talent, and provisions. Highland is truly special, and I'd like to think what fostered this relationship is that the friendships and kindness went both ways...

I'd also like to recognize my wife Linda for her endless support throughout my 38 year law enforcement career, with nearly 21 as Chief of Police. None of it would have been possible without her. Finally, I thank God for the many blessings bestowed along the way...nothing in my life could have materialized without him! God answered many, many prayers under my watch for the safety of our men and women in blue.

We've experienced several successes during my tenure, to include some of the lowest crime rates Highland has experienced in the last 50+ years! However, I was only the facilitator for the team's efforts. I've had the opportunity to work alongside individuals much more talented than myself. Administrators like Commander John Banasiak, Commander Ralph Potesta, and former Commander George Georgeff, along with Administrative Assistant LuAnn Stirling and Support Services Administrator Ken Balon, as well as many gifted Supervisors, Officers, Civilian Staff and Volunteers who are the ones to credit for making our dreams a reality. We employ some of the best and brightest individuals in the law enforcement arena.

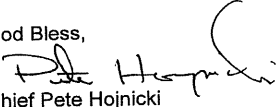
I'd also like to thank Chief Vince Balbo of the Lake County Sheriff's Department, of whom I was fortunate to work alongside for a decade while assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration and still look to for guidance and friendship. Whether he realizes it or not- he played a huge role in who I am today.

And finally...Assistant Chief Pat Vassar. A colleague, confidant, mentor, committed to not just the Police Department but the entire town, whose wisdom, talents, and ethics are above reproach. His faith, fearlessness, and friendship are something I will always admire and cherish. I couldn't have nor would I have wanted to do this job without him.

Also, special thanks for sharing their law enforcement insights to former Chief's Jim Turoci and Paul Gard ...they may be gone but not forgotten. And all those that I have worked alongside throughout my career. From bosses to co-workers, young and old, I always found something positive in nearly everyone I ever worked with. Whether you realize it or not, I learned something from you...and throughout my career have mirrored these qualities I admired. I'm humbled to have been a part of so many winning teams, so thank you for letting me be a part of them!

It's hard to say goodbye to what's been my home for the last three and a half decades...but my leaving creates even greater opportunities for the department. Rest assured, I'm leaving knowing full well both my replacement and those in key positions will move the department forward by leaps and bounds! God Bless them all and those employees who serve the town in their respective positions along with the Council, Commissions, Boards, and Volunteers! Highland residents are fortunate to have individuals of this caliber committed to serving them! Best Wishes along with my most sincere appreciation.

God Bless,


Chief Pete Hojnicky

3. **Consideration of Proposed Additional Appropriations:** *(controlled funds)* Proposed Additional Appropriations in Excess of the 2023 Budget in the **Redevelopment Capital Fund** in the amount of \$50,200.00 and the **Municipal Cumulative Street Fund** in the amount of \$40,000.
 - (a) Attorney verification of Proofs of Publication: The TIMES 25th January 2023.
 - (b) **Public Hearing.**

Councilor Sheeman asked the Clerk-Treasurer to explain what funds were involved and what the proposed usage of the funds.

The Clerk-Treasurer explained there were 2 parts of the request for additional appropriation. The 1st was \$40,000 for the sidewalk replacement program and this was made by Public Works Director, Mark Knesek. The additional appropriation would be placed in the Municipal Cumulative Street Fund and to be used for the Town's portion of the sidewalk replacement program. The Town removes the sidewalk but the resident is responsible for replacing the sidewalk. The next portion was requested by Redevelopment Director, Maria Becerra. It was \$50,200 and would be placed in the Redevelopment Capital Fund. It was to be used for the tree trimming for the trees around the Depot and the welcome to Highland sign which was \$13,200 and the balance was to purchase and install Wayfinding signs. Essentially, we're taking cash on hand and appropriating (permission to spend to the various accounts.)

Larry Kondrat, Highland, spoke in favor of the sidewalk replacement program as he participated in it last year. He then questioned the need for the Wayfinding Signs. He said the Town appropriated roughly \$100,000 for Wayfinding signs a few years ago. Are the signs to let people know when they arrived in Downtown Highland.

Councilor Black responded that once in Downtown Highland it is to help you locate a particular business. You may not know there is a coffee shop in Downtown Highland but after looking at the sign, you'll know there is one there.

Councilor Sheeman said the signs would be similar to the signs he has seen in Lake Station or Valparaiso.

Councilor Smith then asked Building Commissioner Ken Mika if he had seen the list of the proposed locations of the Wayfinding Signs and did the locations meet with his approval.

Building Commissioner Mika said he and Public Works Director Mark Knesek met with Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra as they had some concerns in reference to particular locations. They worked through the list with Maria, clarifying which location which could not be mounted to the ground but would have to be mounted on an existing pole.

Councilor Schocke then brought out his cell-phone and asked Sirri to give him a coffee shop near-by. Within a few seconds, he was provided an answer. He said everyone has a cell phone now and rather than spending thousands of dollars on wayfinding signs, let them simply pull out their phones and ask, just as Councilor Schocke did.

Councilor Black asked if there were any other comments and hearing none, he closed the public hearing and put it to a motion.

(c) Action on **Proposed Appropriation Enactment No. 2023-04**: An Enactment Appropriating Additional Moneys in Excess of the Annual Budget for the **Redevelopment Capital Fund** and the **Municipal Cumulative Street Fund**, all pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18, and I.C. 36-5-3-5.

Councilor Zeman introduced and moved for the consideration of Appropriation Enactment No. 2023-04 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Sheeman seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary, there were three (3) affirmatives and two (2) negatives, with Councilors Zeman, Sheeman and Black voting in the affirmative and Councilors Smith and Schocke voting in the negative. The motion pass but failed to pass by unanimous consent. The enactment could not be considered at the same meeting of its introduction.

***** Proof of Publication *****

State of Indiana)
) ss:
Lake County)

Personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for said county and state, the undersigned Nicole Muscarì who, being duly sworn, says that She/he is Legal Clerk of the Northwest Indiana Times newspaper of general circulation printed and published in the English language in the Town of Munster in state and county afore-said, and that the printed matter attached hereto is a true copy, which was duly published in said paper for 1 time(s), the date(s) of publication being as follows: Jan 25, 2023

TOWN OF HIGHLAND, CLERK TREASURER - LEGALS
CHAD, ACCTS PAYABLE
3333 RIDGE ROAD
HIGHLAND IN 46322

ORDER NUMBER 109915

The undersigned further states that the Northwest Indiana Times newspaper maintains an Internet website, which is located at www.nwi.com website and that a copy of the above referenced printed matter was posted on such website on the date(s) of publication set forth above.

Nicole Muscarì, Legal Clerk

By: [Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25 day of Jan, 2023

[Signature]
Notary Public

My commission expires: 

Section: Legals
Category: 198 Legal - Lake County
PUBLISHED ON: 01/25/2023

TOTAL AD COST: 131.07
FILED ON: 1/25/2023

***** Proof of Publication *****

**TOWN OF HIGHLAND
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL
APPROPRIATIONS**

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, that the Town Council of said Municipality in said Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, at 6:30 p.m. on the 13th day of February 2023, will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year in the following funds:

Municipal Cumulative Street Fund	
Acct. 4431-0000-44010 Sidewalk Replacement	\$ 40,000.00
Total 400 Series:	\$ 40,000.00
Redevelopment Capital Fund	
Acct. 4406-0000-42001 Redevelopment Capital Wayfinding Signs	\$ 36,700.00
Acct. 4406-0000-31019 Landscape Services	\$ 13,500.00
Total 400 Series:	\$ 50,200.00
TOTAL for the FUND:	\$ 50,200.00

Funds to support these additional appropriations in the Municipal Cumulative Street Fund and in the Redevelopment Capital Fund shall be supported by miscellaneous revenue, unreserved unobligated fund balance on deposit to the credit of the fund.

Taxpayers appearing at such meeting shall have a right to be heard thereon. Taxpayers are asked to contact the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer at (219) 838-1080 to provide an email address to allow the Zoom platform information to be provided as the meeting is still being conducted as an Electronic/In Person Hybrid. You may also write to the Office of the Clerk Treasurer if you have concerns. The additional appropriations, as finally made, will be filed with the Department of Local Government Finance, for its review. The Department of Local Government Finance shall make a written determination of the sufficiency of funds within fifteen days of receipt of a certified copy of the action taken.

TOWN COUNCIL of HIGHLAND
Tom Black, President

By: Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer
1/25 - 109915

HSPAXLP

ATTACH COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT HERE

Prescribed by State Board of Accounts General Form No. 99P (Rev. 2009)

Town of Highland, Clerk
 (Governmental Unit) Treasurer
 Lake County, Indiana To: The Times Media Company
 601-45th Avenue, Munster, IN 46321

PUBLISHER'S CLAIM

LINE COUNT
 Display Master (Must not exceed two actual lines, neither of which shall total more than four solid lines of the type in which the body of the advertisement is set) -- number of equivalent lines
 Head -- number of lines
 Body -- number of lines
 Tail -- number of lines
 Total number of lines in notice

COMPUTATION OF CHARGES
 .01 lines, 3 columns wide equals 241 equivalent lines at .5041 - 1 line
 cents per line \$ 131.05
 Additional charges for notices containing rule or tabular work (50 per cent of above amount)
 Charge for extra proofs of publication (\$1.00 for each proof in excess of two)
 TOTAL AMOUNT OF CLAIM \$ 131.05

DATA FOR COMPUTING COST
 Width of single column in picas 9p4 Size of type 7.0 point. 109915
 Number of insertions 1

Pursuant to the provisions and penalties of IC 5-11-10-1, I hereby certify that the foregoing account is just and correct, that the amount claimed is legally due, after allowing all just credits, and that no part of the same has been paid.

I also certify that the printed matter attached hereto is a true copy, of the same column width and type size, which was duly published in said paper (1) times. The dates of publication being as follows:

.....
 Jan 25, 2023

Additionally, the statement checked below is true and correct:
 Newspaper does not have a Web site.
 Newspaper has a Web site and this public notice was posted on the same day as it was published in the newspaper.
 Newspaper has a Web site, but due to technical problem or error, public notice was posted on
 Newspaper has a Web site but refuses to post the public notice.

Date Jan 30, 2023
 Nicole L. Muscaro
 Title: Legal Clerk
 By: [Signature]

**Town of Highland
 Appropriation Enactment
 Enactment No. 2023-04**

AN ENACTMENT APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONIES IN EXCESS OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET for the REDEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FUND, ALL PURSUANT TO I.C. 6-1.1-18, and I.C. 36-5-3-5.

WHEREAS, Following a public hearing advertised pursuant to I.C. 5-3-1, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was

appropriated in the annual budget for the **Redevelopment Capital Fund** and the **Municipal Cumulative Street Fund**;

WHEREAS, It has been determined that such additional appropriations as may be approved by this enactment, will not increase the levies set under I.C. 6-1.1-17, all pursuant to I.C. 36-5-3-5;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That for the expenses of said municipality, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the **Redevelopment Capital Fund** herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

REDEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FUND

Acct. No. 4406-0000-31019 Landscape Services	\$13,500.00
<i>Total 300 Series:</i>	\$13,500.00
Acct. No. 4406-0000-42001 Wayfinding Signs	\$36,700.00
<i>Total 400 Series:</i>	\$36,700.00
Fund Total:	\$50,200.00

Section 2. That for the expenses of said municipality, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the **Municipal Cumulative Street Fund** herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

MUNICIPAL CUMULATIVE STREET FUND

Acct. No. 4431-0000-44010 Sidewalk Replacement	\$40,000.00
<i>Total 400 Series:</i>	\$40,000.00
Fund Total:	\$40,000.00

Section 3. That the Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized and instructed to inform the Department of Local Government Finance of this action and that these monies be made available for expenditure pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-18.

Section 4. That in satisfaction and for the purposes of the provisions set out in I.C. 36-5-2-9.6, I.C. 36-5-3-5, I.C. 36-5-4-2, this enactment shall be deemed properly filed

and introduced before the Town Council at a regular or special meeting, properly called and convened pursuant to I.C. 5-1.5-14 *et seq.*

Introduced and Filed on the 13th Day of February 2023. Consideration on the same day or at same meeting of introduction was not sought pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
HIGHLAND, INDIANA

Tom Black, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

ATTEST:

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer (IC 33-42-4-1; IC 36-5-6-5)

Comments from the Public or Visitors:

Larry Kondrat, Highland, began by asking the Council to quit messing around with the Idea Factory and the beer garden and bands. Make-a-decision and move on. Stick with it and quit changing your mind. The Idea Factory has been doing the Gazebo for years and now you're going month.

Councilor Black responded that the contract does allow for month to month as the Council wanted to see some improvements. Once we meet with the Idea Factory at next Monday's study session and we can come to some agreement, hopefully we'll be able to proceed with a final decision.

Larry responded, these people have a business to run. They don't have time to mess around with you. Either sign the contract extension or tell them to take a hike so they can secure other business.

Connie Wachala, Highland asked the Council to vote in favor of the contract for the Idea Factory. She said, I'm in favor of the Gazebo Express, staying as it is, a monthly newsletter that comes with the Utility Bill. There's no added expense for mailing it along with the Utility Bill. It is very professional done. Everyone reads it because it contains useful information. It's the one thing people read when they open their water bills. First, you notice the huge water rate increase. Then you see that extortion late fee that punishes those who are struggling financially. She cited some examples about piano lessons being offered at Lincoln Center, the Town's property taxes are going down in 2023. It's not broke, so don't fix it. It's a small fraction of the Town's budget. They asked for an increase but remember you also gave yourselves an increase. They deserve to be treated respectfully. Sign the contract extension.

Councilor Black asked if there were any other comments. Hearing none, he closed comments from the public and began reading communications.

Communications: None

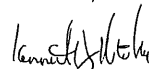
Staff Reports:

Building Report January, 2023

PERMIT TYPE	#	Res.	Comm.	Est. Cost	Fee Collected
Commercial Buildings	0			\$ -	\$ -
Comm. Additions/Remodel	6		6	\$ 405,381.00	\$ 8,053.50
Signs	5		5	\$ 14,488.00	\$ 1,275.00
Single Family	1	1		\$ 490,000.00	\$ 8,428.50
Duplex/Condo	0				
Residential Additions	0				
Residential Remodeling	26	26		\$ 510,519.00	\$ 10,401.00
Garages	1	1		\$ 11,298.00	\$ 487.50
Sheds	0				
Decks & Porches	0				
Fences	0				
Above/in ground pools	0				
Drain Tile/Waterproofing	4	4		\$ 38,183.00	\$ 1,026.00
Misc: Cell Twr. (1); Road Cuts (3)	4	3	1	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 1,531.50
Total Building Permits	47	35	12	\$ 1,477,869.00	\$ 31,203.00
Electrical Permits	15	10	5	\$ -	\$ 2,046.00
Mechanical Permits	21	19	2	\$ -	\$ 2,469.00
Plumbing Permits	7	6	1	\$ -	\$ 1,468.35
Water Meters	2	2		\$ -	\$ 585.00
Water taps	1	1		\$ -	\$ 200.00
Sewer/Storm Taps	2	2		\$ -	\$ 600.00
Total Plumbing Permits	12	11	1	\$ -	\$ 2,853.35

January 2023 Code Enforcement: 49 Investigations and 6 Citations were issued & 0 Warnings were given. Inspections done for the month of January 2023 were as follows: 12 Building Inspections, 16 Plumbing Inspections, 7 HVAC and 15 Electrical Inspections. There was 1 Electrical Exam given.

Submitted By:


 Kenneth J. Milka

Mark Herak

From: Denise Beck
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 11:18 AM
To: Mark Herak; Chad Kinley
Subject: January Fire Department Stats

Good Morning Mark and Chad,

Types of Calls	Jan 2023	YTD
General Alarms	11	11
Paid Still Alarms	18	18
Total calls in 2023	29	29

Denise Beck
Highland Fire Department
2901 Highway Ave.
Highland, IN 46322
(219)-923-9876

2023
 TOWN OF HIGHLAND INJURIES FOR THE MONTH
JANUARY

CASE	DATE OF INJURY	DEPARTMENT	DESCRIPTION	Record Only	OSHA	Not OSHA	Filed with
				No Med Treatment	Recordable	Recordable	WC Insurance
			No Injuries for the month				

RO = Record Only

DEPT	2023		previous year	2023		previous year	
	INJURIES	YEAR TO	TOTAL	RESTRICTED	LOST DAYS	RESTRICTED	LOST DAYS
	THIS MONTH	DATE	2022	DAYS THIS YEAR	THIS YEAR	DAYS 2022	2022
PARK & REC			3		31		25
FIRE							
POLICE			7				67
STREET			1				44
WATER			1				
SEWER							
MAINTENANCE			5				77
OTHER							
TOTALS	0	0	17	0	31	0	213

Effective January 1, 2002 OSHA changed the recordkeeping guidelines. We now count the number of days lost from the day after the injury until the employee returns to work. Weekends, holidays, vacation days or other days scheduled off are included in the lost days count to a maximum of 180 days

Appointments:

- **Statutory Boards and Commissions**

- *Executive Appointments*

1. Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals: (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. *(Note: Currently held by Susan Murovic.)*

The Town Council President, as municipal executive, announced the re-appointment of Susan Murovic, 9214 Grace Street, Highland, Indiana, 46322.

2. **Economic Development Commission.** (1) Appointment to be made by the municipal executive, but requiring nomination from the Town Council. Term ends just before February 1st. (*Currently the position is vacant*)
 - a. Nomination by the Town Council. (*The council would pass a motion to nominate.*)
 - b. Appointment by executive. (*If nominee is acceptable, the Town Council President may appoint.*)

The Town Council President, as municipal executive, said he would delay this appointment until a later date.

Home Rule Boards and Commissions

3. • **Tree Board Chairperson.** The Town Council President also appoints the Chairperson to be selected from the membership of the board. (See HMC Section 8.25.030 (C)) (*Currently held by James Colias.*)

The Town Council President indicated that he would delay action on the appointment of a Tree Board Chair until he conferred with the Tree Board members.

Legislative Appointments

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

Home Rule Commissions

1. **Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council. Term: Two years ending 1 Jan 2025. *There are currently 6 of the 17 in place and serving. Currently serving are Rhonda Bloch, Teri Yovkovich, Renee Reinhart, Alex Robertson, Diane Barr-Roumbus, James Roumbus.*

Councilor Zemen moved the appointment of the following person to a new two-year terms on the Main Street Board of Directors, seconded by Councilor Sheeman. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The following person was appointed to the Main Street Board of Directors:

(1) Sandy McKnight, 3237 Ridge Road, Highland;

3. **Community Events Commission** *Multi-year positions:* (4) appointments to be made by the Town Council. **Term: 4 years.** (*Note: Currently vacant*)

Single year positions: (8) appointments to be made by the Town Council. Term: 1 year. (Note: Currently serving, Jack Rowe)

Councilor Zemen moved to appoint the following individuals: Carol Parker, Maria Armagast, Michelle Coon, Linda Carter and Rachael Carter to the Community Events Commission. Councilor Schocke seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The following persons were appointed to single year term on the Community Events Commission.

Carol Parker, 9506 Hook Street, Highland, IN
Maria Armagast, 19654 Burnham Avenue, Lynwood, IL
Michelle Coon, 3231 Garfield Avenue, Highland, IN
Linda Carter, 2047 44th Street, Highland, IN
Rachael Carter, 2047 44th Street, Highland, IN

- 4. Traffic Safety Commission: (5) appointments**, which must be comprised of 1 representative from the Fire Department, (1) representative from the Public Works Department (Agency), (1) member from the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners, and (2) members from the Police Department. Also note, HMC Chapter 10.45 provides that the Police Chief serves as Chief of the Commission regardless of being a member of the commission. *(Currently serving, William Timmer, CFO, Fire Department Representative; Vacant* (owing to retirement) Public Works Department (Agency) representative; Steve Jurczak, Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners representative; Commander John Banasiak, Police Department representative; and Chief Peter T. Hojnicky, Police Department representative.)*

The Town Council President, as municipal executive, said he would delay this appointment until a later date.

General Orders and Unfinished Business:

1. Works Board Order No. 2023-01 An Order Authorizing and Approving An Extension of the Agreement between The Idea Factory and the Town of Highland to perform Professional Communications and Media Design and Development services for the Municipality for a Term of One Month, with an Option to Renew and Extend.

Councilor Schocke moved the passage and adoption of Works Board No. 2023-01. Councilor Sheeman seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Works Board Order No. 2023-01 was adopted.

The Town of Highland
Board of Works
Order of the Works Board No. 2023-01

AN ORDER AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE IDEA FACTORY AND THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND TO PERFORM PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY FOR A TERM OF ONE MONTH, WITH OPTION TO RENEW AND EXTEND

Whereas, The Town of Highland, through its Town Council, which is the Works Board of the Municipality has heretofore determined that a need exists to provide greater information to the public regarding the operations and services of the municipality;

Whereas, The Town has heretofore determined that a need exists to engage professional communications and media design and development services to assist and support the provision of greater information to the public regarding the operations and services of the municipality;

Whereas, Robin A. Carlascio and Theresa K. Badovich, d.b.a. The *Idea Factory*, a media development and design, communication consulting alliance, has proposed to provide professional editorial services to assist and support the provision of greater information to the public regarding the operations and services of the municipality through the development and promulgation of a municipal newsletter;

Whereas, As purchasing agency, the Town Council may purchase services using any procedure it considers appropriate, pursuant to IC 5-22-6-1; and

Whereas, The Highland Municipal Code provides that, the Town Council may make all contracts for professional services on the basis of competence and qualifications for the type of services to be performed, and negotiate compensation that the public agency determines to be reasonable, pursuant to Section 3.05.090; and

Whereas, There are now or will soon be sufficient and available appropriations balances on hand to support the payments for these services under the agreement, pursuant to IC 5-22-17-3(e); and

Whereas, The Town of Highland, through its Town Council acting as the Works Board now desires to accept and approve the agreement for services as herein described.

Now Therefore be it Ordered by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana;

Section 1. That the agreement (incorporated by reference and made a part of this Order) between **Robin A. Carlascio** and **Theresa K. Badovich** doing business as the **Idea Factory**, and the Town of Highland, provide professional editorial services to assist and support the provision of greater information to the public regarding the operations and services of the municipality through the development

and promulgation of a municipal newsletter for the period beginning *1 March 2023 through to 31 March 2023* as described herein is hereby approved, adopted and ratified in each and every respect;

Section 2. That the charges under the agreement for the services, in the amount of \$1,969.46 per issue, or \$492.36 per page, which include publishing and coordinating a monthly newsletter to be distributed as an insert in the monthly utility invoice and other related services; stock images or illustrations at \$52 per image or illustration, custom photography or graphics at \$104 per image or graphic, and website maintenance/updates and services in the amount of \$140.78 per week, Web hosting in the amount of \$25.99 per month and Web security in the amount of \$130 per month are found to be reasonable and fair, all pursuant to IC 5-22-6-1 and Section 3.05.090 of the municipal code;

Section 3. That the charges under the terms of the agreement for all the services, will be paid to *The Idea Factory*, after presentation of an invoice for services, following their delivery;

Section 4. That the Town Council President be authorized to execute this agreement under the terms of this order with his signature as attested thereto by the Clerk-Treasurer;

Section 5. That the Town Council President must approve a preliminary edition of the newsletter at least two weeks prior to publication.

Be it so Ordered.

DULY, PASSED, ADOPTED and ORDERED by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, acting as the Works Board, this 13th day of February 2023 having passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

**WORKS BOARD of the TOWN of
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

Tom Black, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

Attest:

Mark Herak,
Clerk-Treasurer (IC 33-42-4-1; IC 36-5-6-5)

AGREEMENT

This Transitional Agreement made and entered into this 13th day of February 2023, by and between the *TOWN OF HIGHLAND, BY AND THROUGH ITS TOWN COUNCIL*

(hereinafter referred to as the "Town"), and **ROBIN CARLASCIO and THERESA BADOVICH d/b/a THE IDEA FACTORY** (hereinafter referred to as "Idea Factory").

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, The Town is interested engaging the services of Idea Factory for publishing and coordinating a monthly newsletter (Gazebo Express) to be distributed throughout the Town; and

WHEREAS, Idea Factory is interested in entering into such an agreement and engaging its services to publish and coordinate a monthly newsletter within the Town; and

WHEREAS, The parties wish to reduce their agreement to writing;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, it is agreed as follows:

1. Idea Factory agrees to publish and coordinate a monthly newsletter (Gazebo Express) to be distributed in the Town of Highland.
2. The term of this Agreement shall be for one (1) month beginning **March 1, 2023**, through **March 31, 2023**. This Agreement may be extended or renewed by the Town of Highland from month to month or for a longer term based upon approval of the renewal term by the Town.
3. Idea Factory shall be paid for its services rendered pursuant to this Agreement, the sum of \$1,946.46 per issue or \$492.36 per page stock images or illustrations at \$52 per image or illustration, custom photography or graphics at \$104 per image or graphic, as well as the website maintenance/update fees of \$140.78 per week, Web hosting fees of \$25.99 per month, Web security fees of \$130.00 per month. The weekly and monthly fees shall be payable to The Idea Factory at its business address, **1 Courthouse Square, Suite 207, Crown Point, Indiana 46307**.
4. This Agreement may be cancelled by either party upon such party providing the other party thirty (30) days written notice.
5. In the event the Town's appropriations are insufficient to pay the expenses of this Agreement, and upon thirty (30) days written notice being given by the Town to Idea Factory, this Agreement shall become null and void.
6. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Indiana and shall be binding upon the parties' heirs, legal representatives, successors, and assigns.
7. That the Town Council President must approve a preliminary edition of the newsletter at least two weeks prior to publication.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been entered into between the parties this 13th day February 2023.

TOWN OF HIGHLAND

THE IDEA FACTORY

By: _____
Tom Black, President

Robin Carlascio

Attest: _____
Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

Theresa Badovich

This instrument prepared by: Rhett L. Tauber, Esq.
Tauber Westland & Bennett P.C.
1415 Eagle Ridge Drive
Scherverville, Indiana 46375
(219) 865-8400

New Business:

- 1. Proposed Ordinance No. 1780:** An Ordinance to Make a Technical Updating Amendment to the Current Code of Ordinances for the Town of Highland, Particularly Amending Section 4.00 Hours of Work and Compensation Policies, All Pursuant to I.C. 36-5-6 ET SEQ.

Councilor Zemen introduced and moved for the consideration of Proposed Ordinance No. 1780 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Smith seconded.

Discussion:

Councilor Sheeman commented that there are a lot of employees who have worked in this Town for a long time in other departments and we don't offer them a residency bonus. I understand the importance of the need to up our game in the Police Department. But again, we just passed the 2023 budget and were spending more money that was not budgeted.

Councilor Schocke said the proposed change wouldn't be till 2024.

Councilor Sheeman said he still questions it. I don't know how it's gonna affect other employees. I know that Public Works Director Mark Knesek has asked that his department be covered by this ordinance as well. He feels that his employees are worth it and they do a lot of work and work crazy hours. They are in the trenches repairing water breaks. We have to consider the big picture. We just approved take home cars for everyone to increase retention and aid in recruitment. I would prefer that we study this further before approving it.

Councilor Black said it is definitely something to consider including Public Works within the Ordinance but he has a question of funding. He said the workers in the garage are often the 1st line of defense, when the Town needs snow removal so the 1st responders can use the roads or fix a water break. We need to find out how to fund before adding Public Works.

Councilor Schocke said he thought it was actually a good idea to compensate police officers for living in our Town. It's really difficult to retain police officers, not in Highland but nationwide so anything we can do to encourage more officers to stay in Highland the better. So, I'm in favor of it.

Councilor Sheeman said we have increased our force over the time since this Council was elected. We just did some interviews of which some are certified officers. It is always best to hire certified officers as it saves on the training expenses.

Assistant Chief Vassar strongly encouraged the Council to pass Ordinance 1780 and look at Public Works separately later. He reminded the Council that Ordinance 1780 won't take effect until 2024.

The Clerk-Treasurer explained why the Chief was asking for adoption now when in fact the Ordinance won't take effect until 2024. If passed now, the Chief would put that benefit in the recruitment literature so potential candidates will know the Town offers such a benefit.

Councilor Black asked if there was any further discussion and hearing none, he asked the Clerk-Treasurer to call the roll on the motion to consider Ordinance 1780 in the same meeting as its introduction. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary, there were four (4) affirmatives and one (1) negatives, with Councilors Zemen, Smith, Schocke and Black voting in the affirmative and Councilor Sheeman voting in the negative. The motion passed but failed to pass by unanimous consent. The enactment could not be considered at the same meeting of its introduction.

ORDINANCE No. 1780
of the
TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE A TECHNICAL UPDATING AMENDMENT TO THE CURRENT CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND, PARTICULARLY AMENDING SECTION 4.00 HOURS OF WORK AND COMPENSATION POLICES, ALL PURSUANT TO IC 36-5-6 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, Title 36, Article 1, Chapter 5 of the Indiana Code provides that the legislative body of a unit shall codify, revise, rearrange, or compile the ordinances of the unit into a complete, simplified code excluding formal parts of the ordinances;

WHEREAS, The legislative body of this unit, the Town of Highland, is the Town Council, pursuant to IC 36-1-2-9(5) and IC 36-5-2-2;

WHEREAS, The present general and permanent ordinances of the Town of Highland, formally codified in 2012, need technical and substantive modifications not confined to any particular Title, Article or Chapter but nevertheless desirable to further improve and perfect the Code; and,

WHEREAS, The Town Council, is persuaded that it is necessary and desirable to adopt the several technical and substantive modifications necessary to carry out this requirement and to further improve and perfect the Code,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

Section 1. That the Highland Municipal Employee Handbook of the Compensation and Benefit Ordinance, be hereby amended by adding Section 4.03.13, which shall read as follows:

4.03.13 Residency Stipend pay for Officers residing in the Town of Highland. Effective January 1, 2024, a Highland Police Officer who is a resident of the Town of Highland will receive \$200.00 a month for each complete month that they are a resident of the Town of Highland or a maximum of \$2400.00 in a calendar year. In order to qualify for this stipend, the Officer needs to provide a copy of his/her Homestead Exemption or a copy of their current lease accompanied by a sworn statement of residency. Officers will be paid in one (1) lump sum, up to \$2400.00, in January of the following year. If an Officer moves out of the Town of Highland or leaves their employment with the Town of the Highland prior to the conclusion of the calendar year they will not be entitled to any residency stipend.

Section 2. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be effective from and after January 1, 2024.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall be effective from and after its passage and adoption, as evidenced by the signature of the Town Council President and attested thereto by the Clerk-Treasurer, all pursuant to IC 36-5-2-10 and IC 36-5-2-10.2.

Introduced and Filed on the 13th day of February 2023. Consideration on same day or at same meeting of introduction was not sought pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

**TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

Tom Black, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

Attest:

Mark Herak,
Clerk-Treasurer (IC 33-42-4-1; IC 36-5-6-5; IC 36-5-2-10.2)

- 2. Proposed Ordinance No. 1774-A:** An Ordinance to AN ORDINANCE to AMEND ORDINANCE No. 1774 to ESTABLISH THE WAGE and SALARY RATES of the ELECTED OFFICERS, the NON-ELECTED OFFICERS, and the EMPLOYEES of the TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA PARTICULARLY REGARDING CHANGE to the STAFFING AUTHORITY of the METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT as it pertains to the authorized strength of the Metropolitan Police Chief.

Councilor Schocke moved to amend the agenda to add proposed Ordinance No. 1774-A. Councilor Smith seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary to amend the agenda, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Ordinance No. 1774-A was added to agenda.

Councilor Schocke introduced and moved for the consideration of Proposed Ordinance No. 1774-A at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Sheeman seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Ordinance No. 1774-A could be considered at the same meeting of its introduction.

Councilor Schocke moved for the passage of Ordinance No. 1774-A at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Sheeman seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a two-thirds vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. Ordinance 1774-A was passed and adopted upon the signature of the municipal executive at the same meeting of its introduction

ORDINANCE No. 1774-A
of the
TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA

AN ORDINANCE to AMEND ORDINANCE No. 1774-A to ESTABLISH THE WAGE and SALARY RATES of the ELECTED OFFICERS, the NON-ELECTED OFFICERS, and the EMPLOYEES of the TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA PARTICULARLY REGARDING CHANGE to the STAFFING AUTHORITY of the METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT as it pertains to the authorized strength of the Metropolitan Police Chief.

WHEREAS, Title 36, Article 1 Chapter 4 of the Indiana Code confers certain general corporate powers on the several units of government in Indiana;

WHEREAS, Section fifteen of that chapter specifically provides that a unit of government may fix the level of compensation of its officers and employees;

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-5-3-2 provides in pertinent part that the town legislative body shall provide reasonable compensation for the other town officers and employees;

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-5-3-2(b), further provides that the Town Legislative body shall, by ordinance fix the compensation of its own members and the Town Clerk-Treasurer;

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-5-3-2(c) still further provides that the compensation of an elected town officer may not be changed in the year for which it is fixed, nor may it be reduced below the amount fixed for the previous year;

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Highland, as the Town Legislative body, now desires to amend the ordinance that was adopted to fix the compensation of its elected officers, appointed officers and employees of the Town for the year 2023 and thereafter as amended;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, that the Staffing Authority of the Metropolitan Police Department is modified and fixed, pursuant to the provisions indicated herein and as follows:

Section 1. That Section 10 (A) of Ordinance No. 1774 be amended by repealing Section 10 (A) of that Ordinance in its entirety and replacing with the following section, which shall be numbered as Section 10 (A) and read as follows:

Section 10. *Metropolitan Police Department.* That subject to the provisions of this ordinance, the salary and wages for the non-elected officers and employees of the Town of Highland are hereby fixed for its Metropolitan Police Department as follows:

	Starting Rate	Incumbent Rate
(A) Chief of the Department* (2) (biweekly)	\$ 3,599.02	\$ 3,859.93

* *Once the accrued vacation days, personal business days, comp time hours and unpaid holiday leave are exhausted concerning the contract of Chief of Police Peter Hojnicky, the authorized number of Metropolitan Police Chiefs will revert back to one (1). Severance, if any, cannot be used to extend time. The same must be paid out as contracted.*

Section 2. That all portions of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed and are of no further force nor effect;

Section 3. That except where otherwise noted herein, other compensation and benefits matters not expressly provided herein for salaried and hourly employees and the Clerk-Treasurer shall be as set forth in the Compensation and Benefits Ordinance, commonly called the Employee Handbook as amended from time to time;

Section 4. (A) That an emergency exists for the immediate taking effect of this Ordinance which, shall become effective and shall remain in full force and effect from and *after the date of its passage and adoption* pursuant to any constrains currently in force in Ordinance No. 1774 and until its repeal or amendment by subsequent enactment;

(B) That the Clerk-Treasurer shall have authority to implement the provisions of this ordinance pursuant to the authority expressly set forth in IC 36-5-6-6 (a) (3) & (4).

Introduced and Filed 13th day of February 2023. Consideration on same day or at same meeting of introduction sustained a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed and was considered pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this 13th Day of February 2023, by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

**TOWN COUNCIL of the TOWN of
HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

Tom Black, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

Attest:

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer (IC 33-42-4-1; IC 36-5-6-5; IC 36-5-2-10.2)

Comments from the Town Council:

(Good of the order)

- **Councilor Bernie Zemen:** *Liaison to the Board of Water Works Directors • Liaison and Plan Commission Member • Liaison to the Tree Board • Liaison to the Highland Neighbors for Sustainability.*

Councilor Zemen began by saying the Tree Board will be meet this Thursday at 6:30, here in the Town Hall and he hopes to get it resolved whether the Highland High School student appointed to the Tree Board will be serving. Since he was on vacation last week when the Water Board met, he asked Water Board Member Larry Kondrat if he would comment on last week's meeting and whether the transport fee has been resolved. Larry said the consultant had proposed to the Water Board of Directors a rate, which was acceptable to them and they in turn instructed Attorney Tweedle to present that rate to Town of Dyer.

Councilor Toya Smith: • *Sanitary Board Liaison • Public Works Liaison • Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals Liaison • Liaison to the Building and Inspections.*

Councilor Smith began by acknowledging Ken Mika, Building Commissioner who said the BZA will be meeting this Wednesday. There is one item on their docket and that's a Finding of Fact. The BZA voted to send to the Town Council an unfavorable recommendation for a mix use variance for the property commonly known as the tri-state bus depot. The address is 8144 Indianapolis Blvd. They are proposing a mixed use, with a portion of the property proposed as retail and a portion as climate control personal storage. The personal storage is not a permitted use in that zoning

She then acknowledged Public Works Director Mark Knesek who said he had no report.

Councilor Mark Schocke: • *Park and Recreation Board Liaison • Council of Community Events Commission Liaison • Liaison to Main Street Bureau .*

Councilor Schocke acknowledge Park Superintendent, Alex Brown who said work has begun on installing the solar lights on the trail. All of the holes are already in and awaiting the installation of the poles. He met with the residents of the Brantwood and Markley neighborhoods to pick out the proposed playground equipment for their parks. Both neighborhoods were very solid in their selections. The Park Board will be approving both purchases this Thursday's public meeting of the Park Board. He said this is the last week of youth basketball and it's hard to believe it is already over. He

complimented Councilor Schocke on spending 2 hours each week, teaching the kids the basics of basketball.

- **Councilor Roger Sheeman:** *Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners Liaison • Fire Department, Liaison • Chamber of Commerce Liaison • • Information Communications and Technology Department Liaison.*

Councilor Sheeman began by acknowledging Pat Vassar, Assistant Metropolitan Police Chief who said they are taking applications until this Friday. Filing closes at 8 am. Testing should begin the following week. He said any interested party should go on line for an application or visit the Police Department's website and if they have any questions to reach out to Commander Banasiak.

He said Bill Timmer, Fire Chief was called away on a fire call. He then proceeded to talk about the Central Fire Station. The station was built in 1957 and has been around a long time. It really hasn't been touched up in year. Attending meetings over there, I was wondering if the Council would consider appropriating money to help spiff it up a little bit and make it look better. The building needs a good cleaning. The firemen are dedicated to cleaning it up and throwing things out. A lot of stuff has accumulated over the years. Assistant Chief Ken said he would get a dumpster to throw things out. There's a lot of clean up to do and I talked to the officers and they are all willing to clean it up.

The Clerk-Treasurer said that \$250,000 was placed in the 2023 budget for renovations to Central Station.

Building Commissioner Mika said that very little of the existing building which at one time housed the police and fire stations and served as the Town Hall exists.. The new addition was built in 1970, basically the same year as the current Town Hall.

Councilor Sheeman then went back to the topic of the Council of Community Events and who was going to handle what. I think all of you have seen the numerous emails within the last couple of days or weeks and even in today about the HCCE desire to handle everything. I think they make a good argument to the fact that they did hire all the bands and ran the beer garden for the Fall Festival, although it wasn't as successful as we would have liked it to be. I think we should give them the opportunity to run the whole 4th of July. They accomplished what we asked by bringing in more volunteers into the group, so they have more people to work it. I'd be willing to work the beer garden for one night and give up my other duties if that's what it takes. I know its not on the agenda but I think we need to come to some kind of firm decision about what we're going to do. I see no reason why they can't do it. They've done it before. The templates are already in place. He said he would like to increase the bond of the beer garden which currently is \$10,000 as the amount of money handled by the beer garden far exceeds \$10,000. I would like to see it increased to \$25,000. I have a copy of the ordinance here and it clearly states that the duty of the HCCE is to coordinate these types of events including a beer garden.

Councilor Black thanked Councilor Sheeman for his comments but the decision of the majority of the Council is to let Mr. Herak continue to coordinate and run the beer garden.

Councilor Sheeman said that Mr. Herak didn't say anything about his willingness to work with the HCCE in the selection of bands or the coordination of the beer garden. I just don't understand the reasoning why we don't want to let them do it. If you could give me a solid reason why we wouldn't let them do them.

Councilor Black said he just did. He said the beer garden ran smoothly under the control of Mr. Herak. We just swore in a new police chief and this is not the time to rock the boat.

Councilor Sheeman said Assistant Chief Vassar and Commander Banasiak are still here. Former Chief Hojnicky is only a phone call away. The department has nothing to do with the hiring of bands. Why don't we just give them the opportunity.

- **Town Council President Tom Black:** *Town Executive (I.C. 36-1-2-5-(4); I.C. 36-5-2-2; I.C. 36-5-2-7); • Board of Trustees of the Police Pension Fund, Chair (By Law) • Budget Committee Chairman • Redevelopment Commission Liaison and Member • Member of the Lake County Solid Waste Management District Board • Member of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIPRC) • Shared Ethics Representative.*

Councilor Black began by offering congratulations to the Highland High Schools varsity women and men's bowling team who won State in bowling.

He then acknowledged Redevelopment Director, Maria Becerra who commented that she really didn't have too much to report. She said there is a Redevelopment Commission study session tomorrow and a lot of initiatives will be discussed. At the next meeting, I will have more to discuss. She had a meeting with the Main Street Bureau last week and the general consensus was to bring back the Farmers Market so they will be business coordinating that. They also want to bring back the essay contest as that have been pretty successful.

That concluded comments from the Council and President Black then turned it over to comments from visitor's or residents, reminding them to limit it to 2 minutes.

Comments from Visitors or Residents:

Luanne Jurczak, Highland, began by saying she served on the Highland School Board for sixteen (16) years and wanted to respond to Mr. Sheeman's comments regarding paying a police officer a stipend to live in Highland. She is in favor of it because if you think about safety and safety in our schools is even a bigger topic than it ever has been before. I want to thank the rest of the Council for seeing that this topic is important and for voting yes.

Jack Rowe, Highland, began by touching on the Council's decision regarding the HCCE running the entire festival. We've done everything that was asked to us. We were asked to get more people in which we did. I know it was great last year. I'm not knocking anything that Mr. Herak did at all. He did a great job with it. I was there several nights but without actually knowing and giving us a shot to do it, how are we gonna prove ourselves to begin with. In order to become trustworthy, you have to be trusted. I think that we've proven that by just loading up with the people that we needed to make this a success. These guys work very hard and I'm very new to this. In the small time that I spent with these guys, I can see how much it means to them and how they want to make this a successful thing. They refuse to let it fail and are really adamant about making it succeed. It's hard to fathom how we can make-a-decision that one person is capable of doing what 10 or 11 can do, especially, with all of the other jobs that require his responsibility and time. We have a committee because it requires many hands and eyes. It can only be more successful with more hands and eyes.

Linda Carter, Highland, began by saying she agreed with Jack. I've been the one that's been sending the emails. We did everything you asked of us. It is stated in the ordinance that the HCCE is to plan and coordinate such events as the beer garden. If you take this away from us and give it to another person, obviously that's your right, however, I feel your failing the Town by not letting the HCCE try. We can do this. We have the people. We have the experience. We have the bands already lined up. We have a beer vendor ready to go. We just need the commitment from you guys to trust us to put on this event. I've done it for 2 years and in 2 years it's been successful. Why can't we have a shot to do the beer garden and the bands? I don't think that's asking too much. The police have nothing to do with hiring the bands in the beer garden. Mr. Herak has done it the past but we're asking the Council to let the HCCE hire the bands and manage the beer garden. If Mr. Herak is hiring the bands and managing the beer garden, what are we going to do.

Councilor Black responded that we would like you to provide the operations. The people to manage the ticket booth.

Linda said we want to do both. Are we that dumb that we can't do both. We are dedicated volunteers. To be honest with you, the Council's decision sounds like a political move because elections are coming up. It sounds like a political move to promote someone and I just don't think that's fair. We've proved to you guys time and time again that we can do this. We've got a big enough group. We've got the people with qualifications to do this and I think we should be given the chance to do this, to show you that we can do this. If we fail, then we fail. But I don't think we're going to fail. I know we're going to make it successful and it's going to be good.

Larry Kondrat, Highland, said fellas and ma'am, make-a-decision. Just be done with it. Mr. Herak has been running it for two (2) years and it's been successful. You didn't have any complaints or problems. The Fall Festival wasn't all that successful. It's not really a political thing, either. Mr. Herak has been elected before, a whole bunch of times, actually, continuously. It's less than a political thing. He took it over when there was none. The previous HCCE was kind of screwing around and decided that they didn't want to run or have a beer garden. They didn't want anything to do with it. They weren't going to set

foot in it. Mr. Herak took the bull by the horns and made it work. No one can argue that it wasn't successful. He said he is also in favor of paying the cops the extra \$200 a month for living in Highland. I'm not in favor of giving the cops \$10,000 to relocate to Highland. \$200 a month to keep the cops in Highland is a good thing.

Connie Wachala, Highland displayed a post card that showed the great American Rail/Trail which runs right through Highland. We have a great bike trail. Last Wednesday, my husband and I were at the Rain Garden at the new municipal lot and the bike trail. A couple road passed on their bikes and stopped at Kennedy Avenue for the traffic. Their bikes were laden with camping gear. While they were waiting for traffic to clear, my husband and I asked where they were from. They said they were from Poland. They started biking in the Netherlands and through France and over the mountains to Spain. They stopped in New York and went through Niagara Falls and crossed into Canada, through British Columbia and back in the United States. They were hoping to get to Detroit by night. At the same time, there was another bicyclist who came from the other direction. As he crossed Kennedy he saw us talking with the other cyclist and stopped to talk. He had started in Ohio and was bicycling to Seattle and I thought this really is the crossroads of America. My point is that there are people coming from all across the country, really the world and these signs on Kennedy Avenue might help and then they wouldn't think about opening up their phones and asking Siri to find out where there is a coffee shop. Maybe they would see those signs and maybe they weren't really at the point of stopping but seeing those signs decided to stop now as opposed to later. The wayfinding signs are

Councilor Black asked if there were any other comments. Hearing none, he closed comments from the public and brought it back to the Council. He then entered a motion to pay claims.

Payment of Accounts Payable Vouchers. There being no further comments from visitors or residents, Councilor Zemen moved to allow the vendors accounts payable vouchers as filed on the pending accounts payable docket, covering the period **January 25, 2023 through February 14, 2023**. Councilor Schocke seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The accounts payable vouchers for the vendor docket were allowed, payments allowed in advance were ratified, the payroll dockets listed were ratified and for all remaining invoices, the Clerk-Treasurer was authorized to make payment.

Vendors Accounts Payable Docket:

General Fund, \$922,800.41; MVH Fund, \$89,293.72; Special Events, \$439.98; LR&S Fund, \$8,092.64; LAW Enforcement Continuing Education, Training and Supply Fund, \$3,406.61; Information and Communications Technology Fund, \$31,653.06; Donations, \$95.90; Solid Waste, \$20,607.34; MCCD, \$6,374.30; Police Pension, \$68,329.58; Gasoline Fund, \$26,456.40; Insurance Premium, \$638,426.62; Public Safety Income Tax Fund; \$21,497.00

Total: \$1,837,473.56.

PAYROLL DOCKET FOR PAYDAY OF JANUARY 27, 2023 BY FUND:

FIRE DEPARTMENT (QUARTERLY), \$36,533.69

PAYROLL DOCKET FOR PAYDAY OF JANUARY 27, 2023:

FIRE DEPARTMENT (QUARTERLY), \$33,937.39

PAYROLL DOCKET FOR PAYDAY OF JANUARY 27, 2023 BY FUND:

POLICE PENSION & BOARDS & COMMISSIONS, \$79,304.46

PAYROLL DOCKET FOR PAYDAY OF JANUARY 27, 2023:

POLICE PENSION, \$68,221.93

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS, \$10,750.70

PAYROLL DOCKET FOR PAYDAY OF JANUARY 27, 2023 BY FUND:

GENERAL, \$286,258.63

PAYROLL DOCKET FOR PAYDAY OF JANUARY 27, 2023:

OFFICE OF CLERK-TREASURER, \$15,791.30 BUILDING AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT, \$10,183.33; METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, \$129,368.56; PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (AGENCY), \$74,817.72; FIRE DEPARTMENT, \$5,036.25 AND INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT, \$4,005.55; TOTAL PAYROLL: \$239,202.71.

PAYROLL DOCKET FOR PAYDAY OF FEBRUARY 10, 2023 BY FUND:

TOTAL PAYROLL BY FUND: \$295,580.08.

PAYROLL DOCKET FOR PAYDAY OF FEBRUARY 10, 2023:

OFFICE OF CLERK-TREASURER, \$14,996.70 BUILDING AND INSPECTION DEPARTMENT, \$10,718.83; METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, \$134,947.45; PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (AGENCY), \$78,555.64; FIRE DEPARTMENT, \$5,036.25 AND INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT, \$4,005.55; TOTAL PAYROLL: \$248,170.42.

Adjournment of Plenary Meeting. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA, THE TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT DECLARED THE REGULAR PLENARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022, ADJOURNED AT 7:31 O'CLOCK P.M.

Mark Herak
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting of February 27, 2023.