

**Enrolled Minutes of the Third Regular Meeting or Special Meeting  
For the Thirtieth Highland Town Council Regular Plenary  
Business Meeting (In person) Monday, February 12, 2024**

The Thirtieth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in its regular plenary session on Monday, February 12, 2024 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 an in person meeting and lived streamed to the Town of Highland Facebook. Facebook permits the public to observe and record the proceedings but allows no interaction between and among the Town Council and members of the public. The public is able to participate in person. Councilor George Georgeff, Councilor Doug Turich, Councilor Alex Robertson, Councilor Tom Black and Councilor Philip Scheeringa 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 Philip Scheeringa presided over the meeting. The Town Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak, was present to memorialize the proceedings. The meeting was opened with Councilor Doug Turich 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 George Georgeff, Doug Turich, Alex Robertson, Thomas Black, Philip Scheeringa were present. Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak was also present. A quorum was attained.

**Additional Officials Present:** Alex Brown, CPRP, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation; Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta; John Reed, Reed, Attorney with Abrahamson, Reed & Bilse; Kenneth J. Mika, Building Commissioner; Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra; Mike Pipta, Fire Chief; Ed Dabrowski, Director of Information Technology and Mark Knesek, Public Works Director 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 22, 2024 Plenary meeting were approved by general consent.

**Special Orders:** None

**Comments from the Public or Visitors:** None

**Communications:**

Town Hall and Offices will be closed Monday, February 19, 2024 in honor of President's Day.  
 Tuesday's Garbage and Recycling will not be affected by Monday's holiday and Tuesday's pick-up will be as normal.

**Staff Reports:** The following staff reports were received and filed.

**2024**  
 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
RO-1	1/4/24	Police	Suspect was driving forward as Ofc was reaching in to vehicle to restrain Suspect when she pulled away striking ofc's left shin w/the side of the vehicle	X		X	X
RO-2	1/8/24	Police	EE let dog out of cage from animal control bldg. once outside, dog was excited & jumped up dog's head hit EE jaw chipping front tooth	X		X	X

RO = Record Only

DEPT	2024		2023	2024			
	INJURIES	YEAR TO		RESTRICTED	LOST DAYS	RESTRICTED	LOST DAYS
	THIS MONTH	DATE	Total Injuries Last Year	DAYS THIS YEAR	THIS YEAR	DAYS 2023	2023
PARK & REC					31	8	219
FIRE			1				
POLICE	2	2	6			80	66
STREET WATER SEWER			1				
MAINTENANCE							
OTHER							
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>285</b>

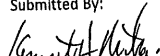
Effective January 1, 2002 OSHA changed the recordkeeping guidelines. We now count the number of days lost from the day after the injury until the employee returns to work. Weekends, holidays, vacation days or other days scheduled off are included in the lost days count to a maximum of 180 days

Building Report January, 2024

PERMIT TYPE	#	Res.	Comm.	Est. Cost	Fee Collected
Commercial Buildings	0			\$ -	\$ -
Comm. Additions/Remodel	2		2	\$ 119,000.00	\$ 2,415.00
Signs	1		1	\$ 750.00	\$ 108.00
Single Family	0				
Duplex/Condo	0				
Residential Additions	0				
Residential Remodeling	21	21		\$ 298,687.00	\$ 6,558.00
Concrete/Flatwork	1	1		\$ 13,300.00	\$ 322.50
Garages	0				
Sheds	0				
Decks & Porches	0				
Fences	3	3		\$ 74,475.00	\$ 1,512.00
Above/In ground pools	0				
Drain Tile/Waterproofing	2	2		\$ 15,541.00	\$ 447.00
Misc: Road Cut	2	2			\$ 297.00
<b>Total Building Permits</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$ 521,753.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,659.50</b>
<b>Electrical Permits</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,837.00</b>
<b>Mechanical Permits</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,962.00</b>
Plumbing Permits	5	5		\$ -	\$ 774.25
Water Meters	2		2	\$ -	\$ 796.55
Water taps	0			\$ -	
Sewer/Storm Taps	0			\$ -	
<b>Total Plumbing Permits</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,570.80</b>

January 2024 Code Enforcement: 78 Investigations, 25 Warnings and 5 Citations were issued.  
 Inspections done for the month of January 2024 were as follows: 14 Building Inspections,  
 21 Plumbing Inspections, 5 HVAC and 22 Electrical Inspections. There were 2 Electrical Exams given.

Submitted By:

  
 Kenneth J. Mika

**Mark Herak**

---

**From:** Denise Beck  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 8:21 AM  
**To:** Mark Herak; Chad Kinley  
**Subject:** January Fire Department Stats

Good Morning Mark and Chad,

January 2024 Stats

Types of Calls:	2024	YTD
General Alarms	19	19
Paid Still Alarms	31	31
Totals	50	50

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

1

**Appointments:**

• **Statutory Boards and Commissions**

*Executive Appointments (May be made in meeting or at another time)*

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

1. **Municipal Plan Commission** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. (Note: Currently held by Olga Briseno, (D) term ending 1<sup>st</sup> Monday January 2024. No more than two (2) of any party. Current composition is two (2) Republicans, one (1) Democrat. There can be no more than 2 of the same party.

2. **Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals:** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. This appointment only necessary if there is a change to the appointment on the Plan Commission. It must be a member of the Plan Commission and not the same one appointed by the Plan Commission. (*co-extensive with their plan commission term*)
3. **Waterworks Board of Directors:** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. (*Note: Formerly held by Curt Schroeder (D), term ending 1<sup>st</sup> Monday January 2025). Current composition of the board is two Republicans and two Democrats. No more than three of any one party under state law.*)

#### Home Rule Boards and Commissions

4. **Main Street Bureau Board of Directors.** Town Council President appointment. (1) Appointment. Town Council Representative must be a member of the Town Council. *Term co-extensive with term of appointee. (Note: Currently serving: vacant)*

The Town Council President as municipal executive announced the appointment of **Alex Robertson**, 2914 Highway Avenue, Highland. It was noted that the term is co-extensive with the councilor's term of office.

5. **Tree Board:** (2) appointments, to be made by the municipal executive, but requiring nomination from the Town Council. (*Positions currently held by Joan Roback and Bernie Zemen.*)
  - 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.*)
- **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 as municipal executive further announced the continuing appointment of **James W. Colias**, 2215 Ridgewood, Highland as *Chairperson of the Tree Board*. It was noted that the term is co-extensive with the member's term and at the pleasure of the Town Council President. The Town Council President wished to affirm the continuing appointment.

6. **Economic Development Commission.** (1) Appointment to be made by the municipal executive, but requiring nomination from the County Fiscal Body nominee. Term ends just before February 1<sup>st</sup>. (*This term does not expire until February 1, 2028.*)
  - a. Nomination by the County Fiscal Body
  - b. Appointment by executive.

Noting that the County Council had reported that it nominated Dave Beanblossom to the Highland Economic Development Commission, The Town Council President, acknowledged the nomination and announced the re-appointment of **David Beanblossom**, 2100 Cedar Lane, Highland, to another four year term on the Economic Development Commission.

LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

LAKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
2293 NORTH MAIN STREET  
CROWN POINT, INDIANA 46307  
219-755-3280  
FAX: 219-755-3283



LAKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
CROWN POINT, INDIANA



1ST DISTRICT  
DAVID HAMM

January 29, 2024

★

2ND DISTRICT  
GLORIUS L. LAY

Mr. Mark A. Herak  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Town Hall  
3333 Ridge Road  
Highland, IN 46322-3351

★

3RD DISTRICT  
CHARLIE BROWN

Dear Mr. Herak:

★

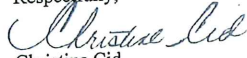
4TH DISTRICT  
PETE LINDEMULDER

The Lake County Council, at our January 9, 2024 meeting, reappointed Mr. David Beanblossom to the Highland Economic Development Commission for a four (4) year term.

★

If you have any questions regarding his reappointment, please contact our office at (219) 755-3280.

5TH DISTRICT  
CHRISTINE CID

Respectfully,  
  
Christine Cid  
President  
Lake County Council

★

6TH DISTRICT  
TED F. BILSKI

CC:cc  
cc: Mr. David Beanblossom

★

7TH DISTRICT  
RANDALL NIEMEYER

★

7. **Shared Ethics Advisory Commission.** (1) appointment to be made by Town Council President. (Note: Fill vacancy made by resignation of Rev. Tim Huizenga.) (Made pursuant to Article 5, Subdivision (A) of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Establishing the

*Shared Ethics Entity. Qualifications are to be persons who live work or hold property in the county. Further persons appointed must be of good character and not hold any positions within the local government.)*

### **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 13 of the 17 in place and serving. Currently serving are Rhonda Bloch, Teri Yovkovich, Renee Reinhart, Alex Robertson, Diane Barr-Roumbus, James Roumbus Sandy McKnight, Al Simmons, Ben Reinhart, Sandy Ray, Kathy Smailis, Ben Tomera and Laura Pilewski.*

Councilor Robertson moved the appointment of the following person to a new eleven month term, expiring on January 1, 2025 on the Main Street Board of Directors, seconded by Councilor Turich. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) and no negatives. The motion passed. The following person was appointed to the Main Street Board of Directors:

(1) Laura Pilewski, 9219 Grace Place, Highland

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

*Single year positions:* (9) appointments to be made by the Town Council. **Term: 1 year.** *There are currently 5 of the 9 in place and serving. (Note: Currently serving, Jack Rowe, Linda Carter, Rachael Carter, Kathy Burke and Olga Briseno )*

**General Orders and Unfinished Business:** None

### **New Business:**

1. Action to approve appointment or employment of full-time employee, pursuant to Section §3.03 of the Compensation and Benefits Ordinance. *Public Works Director recommends the following:*

The hiring of Austin Spears, to the full-time position of Utility Worker B in Public Works Department (Agency) at a rate of pay of \$16.66 per hour. This will not increase the full-time workforce greater than the authorized work force strength.

*\*\*the motion should be to approve the hiring of Austin Spears to the full-time position of Utility Worker B at the rate of pay of \$16.66 per hour and to authorize the Town Council to affix their signatures to the Personnel-Employment Notice*

Councilor Georgeff moved to approve the hiring of Austin Spears to the full-time position of Utility Worker B at \$16.66 per hour and to instruct the Town Council to affix their signatures to the Personnel-Employment Notice. Councilor Black seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed.

TOWN OF HIGHLAND  
 PERSONNEL-EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Name: Austin Spears Employee Payroll # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: 20647 Wood St Phone #: 219-789-1311  
 Department: Public Works Account #: water  
 Email address: aspears1771@gmail.com

**NEW HIRE** (Not currently on the payroll in any status) Date Effective: 2-13-24  
 Remind new hires they will need to show their original social security card when they complete their employment forms.  
 \*NEW HIRE PERSONNEL NOTICE MUST BE FILED WITH THE CLERK-TREASURER'S OFFICE  
 \*BEFORE EMPLOYEE STARTS WORKING/HIRE DATE!

For EEOC purposes, please indicate: Caucasian Black Hispanic Native American  
Multi-racial Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female

Job Title: Utility Wkr B Bi-weekly Salary/Hourly Rate: 16.66

Characterize the Employment:  
Full-Time Part-Time Summer Temporary/Seasonal: \_\_\_\_\_  
Minor (under age 18) Work Permit Received (Date Season Ends)

Full-Time Only:  
 This position succeeds: David Pry (If applicable)  
 The current workforce level is 2 as of the date of this notice.  
 This position will increase authorized full-time work force levels.

**PAY RATE CHANGE OR CHANGE IN STATUS** Date Effective: \_\_\_\_\_

Current:  
 Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Account: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Base Bi-weekly/Hourly Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ Longevity: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed:  
 Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Account: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Base Bi-weekly/Hourly Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ Longevity: \_\_\_\_\_  
 This position succeeds: \_\_\_\_\_

Characterize the Increase or Status Change:  
Merit Promotion Returning Summer Brevet/Acting Appt. Per Ordinance  
Administrative Leave (department head requesting must detail rationale on reverse of form)

**SEPARATION** Last Day Worked: \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Last Day: \_\_\_\_\_  
Resignation Discharge Retirement Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Details for Discharge may be found in personnel file of the department)

To be paid last direct deposit or payroll check (Detail on back of this page if necessary):

Vacation Pay: \_\_\_\_\_ Comp Pay: \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Day Pay: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Severance Pay: \_\_\_\_\_ Holiday Pay: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Pay Allowed: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 1-25-24

TOWN COUNCIL/BOARD OF JURISDICTION ACTION: APPROVED DISAPPROVED  
 (If applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- Action to ratify calling of the Executive Session for the purpose of conducting interviews and negotiations with Industrial or commercial prospects or agents of these prospects to HMC Section 2.05.130 (F) & (G), Section 2.05.070(B)(3) and IC 5-14-1.5-



6.1.(b)(2)(D). (Notice was issued according to IC 5-14-1.5 et seq. for an Executive Session held Monday, January 29, 2024 at 6:00 o'clock P.M.

*\*\* the motion should be to ratify and authorize the executive session as indicated.*

Councilor Black moved to ratify and authorize the Executive Session as indicated. Councilor Robertson seconded. Upon a roll call vote, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negative. The executive session was ratified and approved

- 3. Ordinance Number 1794:** An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 12.20 Article III, Section 12.20.220 and Section 12.20.230 of the Highland Municipal Code Regarding Modifying and Establishing Discharge Regulations for Sewers and Sewage Disposal Pursuant to IC 36-9-25 Et Sequitur.

Councilor Black introduced and moved for the consideration of Ordinance No. 1794 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Turich seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a unanimous vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The Ordinance could be considered at the same meeting of its introduction.

Councilor Black moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 1794 at the same meeting of its introduction. Councilor Turich seconded. Upon a roll call vote, a two-thirds vote being necessary, there were five (5) affirmatives and no (0) negatives. The motion passed. The ordinance was adopted upon the signature of the municipal executive at the same meeting of its introduction.

**ORDINANCE No. 1794**  
of the  
**TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA**

**An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 12.20 Article III, Section 12.20.220 and Section 12.20.230 of the Highland Municipal Code Regarding Modifying and Establishing Discharge Regulations for Sewers and Sewage Disposal Pursuant to IC 36-9-25 Et Sequitur.**

**Whereas,** IC 36-1-3-2 confers upon all local units the powers that they need for the effective operation of government as to local affairs;

**Whereas,** IC 36-1-3-6 (b)(1) prescribes that any such exercise of power shall be authorized through enactment of an ordinance passed by the legislative body; and

**Whereas,** The Town of Highland, is a Municipal Government which may pass and codify ordinances for the operation of the government, all pursuant to IC 36-1-4 and IC 36-1-5;

**Whereas,** The Sanitary District of Highland is governed by its Board of Sanitary Commissioners, pursuant to the provisions of IC 36-9-25 et seq; and

**Whereas,** IC 36-9-25-9 specifically provides that the Board of Sanitary Commissioners shall manage and control all works of the district and may purchase, acquire, construct, reconstruct, operate, repair and maintain all sewage works; and

**Whereas,** The Town of Highland, is a municipality located in Lake County which operates a Department of Public Sanitation, which has been continuously governed by the provisions of IC 36-9-25 et seq. at least since 1970; and,

**Whereas,** The Board of Sanitary Commissioners hearing conducted on January 16, 2024 passed and adopted its Resolution No. 2024-4 recommending desirable and necessary changes to modify Chapter 12.20, Article III, Section 12.20.220 and Section 12.20.230 of the Highland Municipal Code related to the discharge of certain wastes into the sewage works and recommends to the Town Council for it favor and action; and,

**Whereas,** The Town Council of the Town of Highland is in receipt of Resolution No. 2024 - 4 adopted January 16, 2024 by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, which makes desirable and necessary changes to Chapter 12.20 of the Highland Municipal Code relating to Discharge Regulations for Sewers and Sewage Disposal, which supports its management of the sewage works as well as the stormwater and watercourses of the Town of Highland, to be effective provided the Town Council as the legislative body approves; and,

**Whereas,** The Board of Sanitary Commissioners, has requested that the Town Council of the Town of Highland as the legislative body favor approve and adopt these recommended modifications of Chapter 12.20 as it relates to discharge regulations for sewers pursuant to IC 36-9-25-11 and thereby put them into force and effect; and,

**Whereas,** The Town of Highland, through its Town Council now wishes to still further perfect its own organization as well as that of the Department of Public Sanitation and make certain amendments to the ordinance establishing and governing the rates and charges of the Sanitary District pursuant to IC 36-9-25-11; and

**Whereas,** the Town Council now desires to favor the recommendations for amendment to the Highland Municipal Code as recommended by the board of Sanitary Commissioners for Chapter 12.20 by making these amendments as commended,

**Now, Therefore,** Be it hereby ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

**Section 1.** That Section 12.20, Article III, Section 12.20.220 and Section 12.20.230 of the Highland Municipal Code be hereby amended by repealing in its entirety that section and replacing it with a new section to be numbered as Section 12.20, Article III,

Section 12.20.220 and Section 12.20.230, which shall read as follows:

**Chapter 12.20**  
**SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

**Article III. Discharge Regulations**

**12.20.220 Certain harmful wastes totally prohibited.**

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters or wastes to any public sewers:

(A) Any gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel oil, or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid or gas; and

(B) Any waters or wastes containing toxic or poisonous solids, liquids, or gases in sufficient quantity, either singly or by interaction with other wastes, to injure or interfere with any sewage treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals, create a public nuisance, or create any hazard in the receiving waters of the sewage treatment plant; and

(C) Any waters or wastes having a pH lower than 5.0, greater than 9.5, or having corrosive properties capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment, and personnel of the sewage works; and

(D) Solid or viscous substances in quantities or of such size capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers, or other interference with the proper operation of the sewage works such as, but not limited to, ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar, plastics, wood, unground garbage, whole blood, paunch manure, hair and fleshings, entrails and paper dishes, cups, milk containers, and the like, either whole or ground by garbage grinders.

**12.20.230 Discharges superintendent may regulate or prohibit.**

(A) The admission into the public sewers of any waters or wastes having:

- (1) A five-day biochemical oxygen demand greater than 220 milligrams per liter by weight; or
- (2) Containing more than 260 milligrams per liter by weight of suspended solids; or
- (3) Containing any quantity of substances having the characteristics described in subsection (C) of this section; or
- (4) An average daily flow greater than five percent of the average daily sewage flow of the district;

shall be subject to the review and approval of the superintendent.

(B)(1) Where necessary in the opinion of the superintendent, the owner shall provide at his expense such preliminary treatment as may be necessary to:

- (a) Reduce the biochemical oxygen demand to 220 milligrams per liter and the suspended solids to 260 milligrams per liter by weight; or
- (b) Reduce objectionable characteristics or constituents to within the maximum limits provided in subsection (C) of this section; or
- (c) Control the quantities and rates of discharge of such waters or wastes.

(2) Plans, specifications and any other pertinent information relating to proposed preliminary treatment facilities shall be submitted for the approval of the superintendent and of the Stream Pollution Control Board of the state, and no construction of such facilities shall be commenced until said approval is obtained in writing.

(C) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged the following described substances, materials, waters or wastes except if it appears likely in the opinion of the superintendent that such wastes will not harm either the sewers, sewage treatment process or equipment, nor have an adverse effect on the receiving stream, nor can otherwise endanger life, limb, or public property nor constitute a nuisance. In forming his opinion as to the acceptability of these wastes, the superintendent will give consideration to such factors as the quantities of subject wastes in relation to flows and velocities in the sewers, materials of construction of the sewers, nature of the sewage treatment process, capacity of the sewage treatment plant, degree of treatability of wastes in the sewage treatment plant and other pertinent factors. Included, but not limited to, the substances not acceptable are the following:

- (1) Any liquid or vapor having a temperature higher than 150 degrees Fahrenheit, 65 degrees centigrade.
- (2) Any garbage that has not been properly shredded. The installation and operation of any garbage grinder (other than in a residence) may be subject to the review and approval of the superintendent.
- (3) Any waters or wastes containing strong acid iron pickling wastes, or concentrated plating solutions whether neutralized or not.
- (4) Any waters or wastes exceeding the following maximum allowable limits: 2.0 mg/l of boron, 10.0 mg/l of chromium (hexavalent), 25.0 mg/l of chromium (trivalent), 5.0 mg/l of copper, 10.0 mg/l of cyanide, 50 mg/l of iron fez, 0.5 mg/l of lead, 10.0 mg/l of nickel, 100 mg/l of oil and grease, and the like (hexane solubles), temperature not over 150 degrees Fahrenheit (65 degrees centigrade), free acids and alkalis pH between 5.0 and 9.5, 10.0 mg/l of zinc, 2.0 mg/l of cadmium, and 30.0 mg/l of chlorine demand.
- (5) Any waters or wastes containing phenols or other taste- or odor-producing substances after treatment of the composite sewage, in such concentrations exceeding limits which may be established by the superintendent as necessary to meet the requirements of the state, federal or other public agencies of jurisdiction for such discharge to the respective waters.

- (6) Any radioactive wastes or isotopes of such half-life or concentration as may exceed limits established by the superintendent in compliance with applicable state or federal regulations.
- (7) Any waters or wastes having a pH less than 5.0 or in excess of 9.5.
- (8) Materials which exert or cause:
- (a) Unusual concentration of inert, suspended solids (such as, but not limited to, fuller's earth, lime slurries and lime residues) or of dissolved solids (such as, but not limited to, sodium chloride and sodium sulfate).
- (b) Excessive discoloration (such as, but not limited to, dye wastes and vegetable tanning solutions).
- (c) Unusual BOD, chemical oxygen demand, or chlorine requirements in such quantities as to constitute a significant load on the sewage treatment plant.
- (d) Unusual volume of flow or concentration of wastes constituting "slugs" as defined herein.
- (9) Waters or wastes containing substances which are not amenable to treatment or reduction by the sewage treatment processes employed, or are amenable to treatment only to such degree that the sewage treatment plant effluent cannot meet the requirements of other agencies having jurisdiction over discharge to the receiving waters.
- (D) All measurements, tests and analyses of the characteristics of waters and wastes to which reference is made in this section shall be determined in accordance with Standard Methods.
- (E) If any waters or wastes are discharged, or are proposed to be discharged, to the public sewers, which waters contain the substances or possess the characteristics enumerated in subsection (C) of this section, and which in the judgment of the superintendent may have a deleterious effect upon the sewage works, processes, equipment or receiving waters, or which otherwise create a hazard to life or constitute a public nuisance, the superintendent shall:
- (1) Require new industries or industries with significant increase in discharges to submit information on wastewater characteristics and obtain prior approval for discharges;
- (2) Require other methods of disposal; and/or
- (3) Require pretreatment to an acceptable condition for discharge to the public sewers; and/or
- (4) Require control over the quantities and rates of discharge; and/or
- (5) Require facilities to prevent accidental discharge of any unacceptable wastes; and
- (6) Require payment to cover the added cost of handling and treating the wastes not covered by sewer charges under the provisions of this chapter and all ordinances amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, and any fines, penalties or damages assessed against the district for discharge of such wastes.

**Section 2.** The provisions of this Ordinance amending the municipal code shall become and be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and

adoption upon its signature by the executive in the manner prescribed by IC 36-5-2-10(a), provided as follows:

Introduced and Filed on the 12th day of February 2024. Consideration on same day or at same meeting of introduction sustained a vote of \_\_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_\_ opposed, pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8

**DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED** this 12<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2024 by the Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana, having been passed by a vote of \_\_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_\_ opposed.

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

Philip Scheeringa, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

Attest:

Mark Herak, Clerk-Treasurer (IC 33-16-4-1; IC 36-5-6-5)

4. **Meeting cancellation.** Action regarding cancellation of Town Council study session meeting of Monday, February 12, 2024 owing to the President Day Holiday, all pursuant to Section 2.05.130(D) of the Highland Municipal Code.

The Council did not take action on this matter.

5. Approval of the letter from Director Michelle Fajman of the Lake County Board of Elections and Registration to use the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road as a polling place for the May 7<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> elections.

*\*\*the motion should be to approve the letter from the Lake County Board of Elections and Registration to use the Municipal Building as a polling place for the May 7<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> elections and to authorize the Council President to affix his signature to the letter.*

Councilor Turich moved to approve the letter from the Lake County Board of Elections and Registration to use the Highland Municipal Building as a polling place for the May 7<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> elections and to authorize the Council President to affix his signature to the letter. Councilor Georgeff seconded. Upon a roll call vote of the elected officials present, there were five (5) affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed.



LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

January 29, 2024

RE: Polling Place Usage Primary and General Election

Thank you for allowing us to use your facility in the past. We would once again like to request usage for the Primary and General Elections to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, and November 5, 2024.

We are asking you to approve the request and confirm that our contact information is correct. If the information is incorrect, please update accordingly. The emergency contact should be for a person who has keys to the building and can provide information if needed, as to when and where to deliver the machines. All machines are to be kept in a secure location, to avoid any tampering. Please be sure that the machines are available for the poll workers on the Monday before the election. The facility will need to be open on Tuesday Election Day at 5:00 a.m. You can return the portion below in the self-addressed envelope or you can fax it to 219-755-3801 or email it to [fajmamr@lakecountvin.org](mailto:fajmamr@lakecountvin.org).

Thank you in advance for allowing us to use your facility on Election Day.

Sincerely,

Michelle R. Fajman  
Director Lake County Board of Elections and Registration  
219-755-3819

Location has been approved \_\_\_\_\_  
Denied/Only private locations can be Denied \_\_\_\_\_  
IC 3-11-8-4 School buildings, fire stations, and all other public buildings shall be made available without charge to a county for holding an election.

INFORMATION IS CORRECT: YES \_\_\_\_\_ OR NO \_\_\_\_\_  
HL 11 HIGHLAND TOWN HALL  
3333 RIDGE RD HIGHLAND IN 46322  
219-838-1080 Email: [mknesek@highland.in.gov](mailto:mknesek@highland.in.gov)  
Emergency Contact: Mark Knesek 219-689-6664

Special Instructions \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Government Center • 2293 North Main Street • Rm. A-205 • Crown Point, IN 46307-1854  
Phone (219) 755-3795 • Fax (219) 755-3801

**Comments from the Town Council:**  
*(Good of the order)*

- **Councilor George Georgeff:** *Chamber of Commerce; • Liaison to the Board of Water Works • Co-Chair Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commission • Redevelopment Commission Member*

Councilor Georgeff began by acknowledging Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta who went over the January crime statistics:

January 2024 Stats

0 Rapes / Sex Offenses

2 Robberies

1 associated with a retail theft – female out of Chicago walked into Meijer and started destroying a glass sales case filled with Apple electronics and left the store with over \$3000 in merchandise. Our officers caught up to her as she was entering her vehicle. Taser deployed.

1 victim came into town to allegedly sell a cell phone to an alleged resident. Was robbed by the buyer. Victim no longer co-operating

1 Burglary – business – clothing store on Kennedy – hammer used to break out glass

1 Attempted burglary – Smoke shop on N. Kennedy – tried prying open front door

19 Domestic disturbances – 4 arrests

3 Vehicles fled from our officers. All chases terminated due to traffic and other concerns

13 Shopliftings – 8 total arrests

4 Auto thefts – 2 from businesses and 2 from apartment complexes

431 traffic violations issued

511 traffic violation warnings issued

700 calls for service

80 accidents handled (3 with injury)

11 DUI's

47 non certified candidates applied – testing this Friday Feb 16

He commented that this Friday at the Lincoln Center, they will be conducting the written and agility test of the 47 candidates. Considering the number of candidates in the past he said, this number is outstanding.



• **Councilor Doug Turich:** *Park and Recreation Board Liaison • Liaison and Plan Commission Member • Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals Liaison • Redevelopment Commission Member*

Councilor Turich began by recognizing the invaluable contributions of Black Americans throughout history and reaffirm our commitment to promoting equality, justice and inclusion within our community.

Councilor Turich then acknowledged Alex Brown, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation who began by saying there are a lot of projects going on right now but he spoke on the Brantwood Park and in particular the playground equipment. As of today, the Park Department does not have the okay from Nipsco. He said, the gas people gave their okay but then the transmission people wanted the playground equipment moved and turned and the swings put in a different place. They now have to go back and get approval from the gas people because we're moving all the poles. We're still working on it and we've been at it five (5) months now. We also want to resurface the tennis courts at Brantwood and put in 6 pickle ball courts at Meadows. We want to go to bid this month on the tennis courts at Brantwood but we're waiting for approval from Nipsco. We're probably still going to go to bid. We just can't award a contract until we get approval from from Nipsco. They hired an architect to review all of the concession stands and come back with a proposal to make all the concession stands ADA accessible. We did this a few years ago and there still needs to be some Ada modifications on those concession stands that were built in the 1980's. The Park Board hired Nies Engineering to do some engineering for the land the Park Department owns by Shepard Park. There was concern that the lands are in wetlands. They are hiring a wetlands expert to perform an analysis to see if there's any delineation we can do if the land is in wetlands. He commented briefly on the Hawk signal at the bike trail and Kennedy Avenue. He said we thought that might get delayed due to some environmental concerns but INDOT and the Federal Highway Administration put it on the fast track because the project deals with safety. The project is back on track and scheduled for a November 2024 bid letting. He said this is the last weekend for youth basketball. He said sign-ups have begun for the middle school basketball. Tickets are on sale for the Daddy Daughter dance.

Councilor Turich asked Alex about the holiday decorations at Main Square?

Alex said the topic is on the agenda at this Thursday's Park Board meeting. The question still remains whether to replace or add onto.

Councilor Turich then acknowledged Ken Mika, Building Commissioner who said work on the self-storage units on Osborne has begun. They have done quite a bit with excavating. He said he has been dealing with the architects on Cardinal Campus and in particular the boutique hotel. The developer has picked a general contractor and the goal is to get started sometime this month. Work on the Italian Restaurant is progressing on the exterior. Caliber Collision, which is located in the same complex as the Antique Mall, should be receiving an occupancy within the next week. He said there is still one opening on the Plan Commission. He said do to vacations or illness, the last 2 BZA meetings had to be cancelled because of a lack of quorum. The next meeting will be the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month. There are two (2) items on

the agenda. One references a fence set back requirement and the other with the additional square footage for an accessory structure for a garage.

Councilor Turich then asked Public Works Director Mark Knesek about a call he received from a resident concerning about a telephone pole and exposed wires. Public Works Director Knesek explained that the pole was knocked down by an uninsured motorist and public works doesn't have the funds to replace so it was capped off at the base. Mr. Knesek said he will have Midwestern look at it again but it poses no threat to the public. The Public Works Director added he would like to replace all of the lights on Kennedy, 45<sup>th</sup> and Ridge Road with LED's. He estimated the pay back in around 7 years. He then asked the public works director how someone signs up for the sidewalk replacement program. The public works director explained the process. He gave Councilor Turich the phone number at the public works garage to call.

• **Councilor Alex Robertson:** *Sanitary Board Liaison • Redevelopment Commission Member • Council of Community Events Commission Liaison • Public Works Liaison • Liaison to Main Street Bureau • Liaison to the Tree Board • Liaison to the Highland Neighbor for Sustainability.*

Councilor Robertson began by asking Public Works Director Knesek to explain why the fireworks had to be moved from Homestead Park. Mark Knesek began by explaining that the construction is part of the sanitary super sewer overflow media plan. It entails adding 3,189 feet of sewer pipe at a cost of \$11.6 million dollars. Ninety-two parkway trees will be removed and replaced with better parkway trees. At the end of this month, public works is gonna be going door to door talking to the residents who will be losing trees. Most of them are silver maples that are aged and they're not in the greatest shape. We plan on putting some better parkway trees. The project's gonna start out with a 60 inch pipe in Homestead Park and at a depth of 30 foot for the first piece. There will be a huge hole with stack shoring. Typically, the contractor will install one piece a day. These pieces are probably 18 foot long. The project would proceed through Homestead Park and then diagonally on Parrish. The project will go south from Parrish to Duluth. At Duluth, the diameter of the pipe changes to 42 inches. Once on Parrish, several water lines will have to be rerouted. Valves will be installed on the water main ends. At Grace it will end up head east and around at the half-way point the diameter will change from 42" to 24" and the eventually 18 inches. The project will eventually go to 81<sup>st</sup> and then onto Johnston for about 50 feet. As you can see, there is a lot of work involved in this project and the ground is going to be all dug up. Even with the ground be compacted, there is going to be some settling. The ground will be seeded and hopefully the seed will take so next year, the ball field at Sharp Athletic Complex can be used. Once that phase is completed, the next phase starts which is to build a new pump station. So even when phase 1 is completed, there will still be heavy equipment and material on site. Mr. Knesek said he hopes the project will begin March 4<sup>th</sup>. Once the project is completed in 2036, all of the pump stations will be eliminated and no more maintenance.

Councilor Robertson said because of safety concerns of using Homestead (uneven ground, equipment and material on the ground) to shoot off the fireworks, the HCCE is evaluating other locations.

Councilor Black asked if he could ask the Public Works Director about the recent insert in the utility bill and why the decision was made?

Mr. Knesek began that several other communities have done the same. Basically, Highland's is a copy of Merriville's. He said the old method wasn't fair as residents who did not receive a utility bills because they owned a vacant lot and weren't be charged a storm water fee or their property that wasn't classified properly. It wasn't fair that Meijer's should be paying the same storm water fee as that of Diary Queen. Now, everyone will be paying a storm water bill via their tax bills which will be administered by the County and come out twice a year.

Councilor Black then asked how it work for non-profits who currently don't receive a tax bill.

Mr. Knesek said that a property tax bill will be generated for every parcel in the Town of Highland, even if its only for the storm water fee. Letters will be sent to those properties who normally don't receive a property tax bill of the changes being implemented and not to throw away their property tax bill. He said those who have a mortgage, it will still go to your bank. Parcel owners like Nipsco or the railroads who weren't paying a storm water fee will now be assessed a fee.

Councilor Robertson then asked if either Sandy McKnight or Linda Carter would like to add anything. Linda Carter said things are moving along pretty quickly. We have one spot left for a band as someone just kind of pulled out. They got a job in Canada and they don't know if he's gonna make it or not. We're gonna fill that. She said the group is moving along, getting everything ready for the presentation on March the 4th. She said they are working with Alpine Amusement on a new contract. The current contract expired at the end of 2023. She said they will present the new contract at the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. She said letters are being composed and will be sent to owners of property to see if they can use their property again this year.

- **Councilor Tom Black:** *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 • Liaison Traffic Safety*

Councilor Black said he will be attending meetings this week at NIRPC, the Lake County Solid Waste Management Board and Shared Ethics. He said he'll have a report at the next public meeting. He then asked Fire Chief Mike Pipta on the status of the Safe Haven Baby Box. He asked if there was any word on an installation date or construction status?

Chief Pipta said he had nothing to report but would reach to them and get an answer.

• **Town Council President Philip Scheeringa:** *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 Member • Co-Chair Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commission • Fire Department Liaison • Information Communications and Technology Department Liaison • Building and Inspection Department Liaison.*

Councilor Scheeringa began by acknowledging Fire Chief Mike Pipta who reviewed the fire stats for the month of January (found under staff reports above). For the month of January, we did 50 calls. One of them was out in Merriville where we helped with a very large apartment complex fire. We were there most of the evening. We also assisted Munster with a mutual aid for a multi-story facility. He said they should have a quote from Fire Services to install all new equipment on the new ladder truck. The new counsel came in for the Durango and hopefully it will be installed within the next two (2) weeks so that unit can be of service. Once that happens, they will start removing the equipment from the pick-up truck and suburban. He also added, that it possible that the Tahoe will be delivered at the beginning of March.

Councilor Scheeringa then acknowledged IT Director, Ed Dabrowski , who said he had a short report. There were no major issues with any of the Town hardware. IT calls for service were normal. There was a regional type outage at AT&T, who has been experiencing a lot of problems with their fiber network. He is finishing up installing wireless network equipment for public works. When he finishes, he begin installing wireless network on the new fire equipment. Much of the fire department IT equipment is the older style, the hand me down type of equipment. He said lastly, he has been working with Glenn Cox on installing new surveillance equipment at Main Square.

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

#### **Comments from Visitors or Residents:**

Tom Sandrick, Highland, was asking about the status of Traditions?

Ken Mika, Building Commission said he had met with the general contractor for the project and per his conversation, the kitchen equipment is being removed and the building is being torn down. A new, 1 story building, with no apartment will be built in its place. The new building will require several variances and will have to go before the BZA.

Jeff Rosignol, Highland said his first question was probably for the IT Director. He said he was putting in a surveillance system in his store and he was wondering if there was any way his system could tap into or loop into or click into the system downtown?

IT Director Ed Dabrowski said he would look into and get back to him.

Mr. Rosignol then asked about the sidewalk in front of his business which dropped about 2" and he almost had an accident in front of his business. That person came into his

business complaining. He wanted to know who was responsible. He directed his question toward the public works director. Mark said he would send one of his guys out there to look at it and see if it's the Town's responsibility which we'll fix or the business owners, who will have to fix it.

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

**Payment of Accounts Payable Vouchers.** There being no further comments from visitors or residents, Councilor Black moved to allow the vendors accounts payable vouchers as filed on the pending accounts payable docket, covering the period **January 24, 2024 through February 13, 2024.** Councilor Robertson 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.

Accounts payable vouchers January 24, 2024 February 13, 2024 in the amount of **\$2,151,831.45.**

**General Fund, \$999,953.31; MVH Fund, \$115,153.40; LR&S, \$13,750.05; LAW Enforcement Continuing Education Training and Supply Fund, \$5,403.20; Public Safety Income Tax, \$45,280.52; Information and Communications Technology Fund, \$31,334.68; Traffic Violations, \$500.00; MCCD, \$137,900.60; Solid Waste, \$790.54; Gasoline, \$19,036.00; Police Pension, \$69,543.74; Insurance Premium, \$713,185.50;**

Payroll Docket for payday of January 26, 2024 by fund:

General, \$310,780.83

Payroll Docket for payday of January 26, 2024:

Office of Clerk-Treasurer, \$16,485.20; Building and Inspection Department, \$10,690.22; Metropolitan Police Department, \$130,426.23; Public Works Department (Agency), \$93,641.14; Fire Department, \$2,388.24 and Information and Technology Department, \$4,201.45;  
Total Payroll: \$257,832.48.

Payroll Docket for payday of January 31, 2024 by fund:

Total Payroll by fund: \$84,401.66.

Payroll Docket for payday of January 31, 2024:

Boards & Commissions. \$11,048.12; Police Pension, \$69,436.09;

Total Payroll: \$80,484.21.

Fire Department Quarterly

Payroll Docket for payday of January 26, 2024 by fund:

Total Payroll by Fund: \$48,913.12

Payroll Docket for payday of January 26, 2024:

TOTAL PAYROLL: \$45,437.16

Payroll Docket for payday of February 8, 2024 by fund:

General, \$324,089.73

Payroll Docket for payday of February 8, 2024:

Office of Clerk-Treasurer, \$16,318.38; Building and Inspection Department, \$11,311.05; Metropolitan Police Department, \$156,608.94; Public Works Department (Agency), \$82,921.18; Fire Department, \$2,137.04 and Information and Technology Department, \$4,201.45; Total Payroll: \$273,498.04.

Payroll Docket for payday of December 1, 2023 by fund:

General, \$286,275.09

Payroll Docket for payday of December 1, 2023:

Office of Clerk-Treasurer, \$16,284.49; Building and Inspection Department, \$10,065.41; Metropolitan Police Department, \$126,709.90; Public Works Department (Agency), \$78,993.78; Fire Department, \$1,963.16 and Information and Technology Department, \$4,009.55; Total Payroll: \$238,026.29.

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 12, 2024, adjourned at 7:25 o'clock p.m.

Mark Herak  
Clerk-Treasurer

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting of February 26, 2024.