

**Topics Tentatively Scheduled for Study Session Discussion  
and  
Topics Requested for Action at Future Business Meetings of the  
Thirtieth Town Council of Highland**

**This meeting will be convened as an in person meeting.**

Topic: Town of Highland, IN - Town Council Study Session

Time: Immediately following the adjournment of the February 9, 2026 plenary meeting

*This meeting contributes to Agenda building for the plenary meeting. Please, also be aware of the running enrolled list of matters that are likely for the plenary meeting, subject to review by the municipal executive. By practice and local ordinance, study sessions are distinguished from plenary (regular business) meetings of the Town Council "as they shall be conducted with less formality and with no votes or final actions of a dispositive nature unless provided otherwise by proper notice, pursuant to IC [5-14-1.5](#) et seq." (Confer HMC Section 2.05.130(3))*

\*\*Pursuant to Enrolled House Bill 1167, this meeting is convened as an in person meeting and live 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. If you are in the audience and unwilling to be recorded and live streamed, we ask you to depart the meeting now, otherwise your continued presence in the meeting is your consent to be recorded and live streamed.

**x. Discussion: 2026 Appointments:**

*Executive Appointments*

• *Statutory Boards and Commissions*

**Home Rule Boards and Commissions**

- 1. 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 is Alex Robertson)*

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2. **Tree Board.** (2) Appointments to be nominated by the Town Council but appointed by the Town Council President. *(Note: Currently held by James Colias and Ron Jackowski, term ending 1<sup>st</sup> Monday January 2026) Term is for three (3) years James Colias(asked not to be reappointed); Ron Jackowski)*
  - 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 who asked not to be reappointed.)*

Tree Board – 2 – No party affiliation required (3 year appointment)

James Colias (has requested not to be reappointed)

Executive Appointment

Ron Jackowski

Executive Appointment

Applications received:

Noel Zemaitis

Teresa Lekan

David Taylor

- *Legislative Appointments*

- *Regional Statutory Appointments*

*Home Rule Commissions or Boards*

1. **Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council. *(Note: Current Appointees are: Diane Barr-Roumbus, James Roumbus, Sandy McKnight, Al Simmons, Sandy Ray, Ben Tomera, and Desiree Biro, term ending 1<sup>st</sup> Monday January 2027). Term is for two (2) years.*

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1. **Municipal Plan Commission** (Note: Appointees may be elected or appointed official or employees of the Town. **No action necessary** as incumbents continue to serve unless the legislative body acts to change. Currently serving: Morgan Wright (municipal employee); Bernie Zemen (appointed official, he is a member of the Water Board); Doug Turich (elected official). The term of office of a member (who is appointed from the membership of a legislative body, a public board or commission or as an employee) is co-extensive with the member's term of office on that body, board, or council, or term of employment, unless the appointing authority appoints, at its first regular meeting in any year, another to serve as its representative. (Pursuant to IC 36-7-4-217)

2. **Park and Recreation Board.** (2) appointments to be made by the Town Council. (Note: Current appointee is Omar Torres (R), term ending 1<sup>st</sup> Monday January 2026) Term is for four (4) years. Nick Russo (D), term ending 1<sup>st</sup> Monday January 2027). (Current composition is 2 democrats and 2 republicans. Not more than 2 members may be of the same party.)

Park Board – 1 – R, 1-D

Omar Torres (R) – 4 year term

Legislative Appointment

Nick Russo (D) – term expires 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in 2027

Legislative Appointment

Letter received for reappointment:

Omar Torres

Applications received:

Jeff Minard - R

Jennifer Gooldy – D

James Wedryk – D

Deborah Trevino – D

Noel Zemaitis – party not filled in

4. **Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners.** (1) appointment to be made by the Town Council. (Note: Current appointee is Terry Krooswyk (D), term ending 1<sup>st</sup> Monday January 2026). Term is for three (3) years. (Current composition for these five citizen positions is three democrats and two republicans)

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Police Commission – 1 – D – (3 year appointment)

Terry Krooswyk (D) – 3 year term  
Legislative Appointment

Letter received for reappointment:  
Terry Krooswyk

Applications received:  
Michael Berry – D  
Deborah Trevino – D  
Noel Zemaitis – party not filled in

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

5. **Lake County Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors.** (1) No action necessary unless a change is desired. (Note: Currently serving Tom Black) Must be a member of the Town Council. Term is co-extensive with term on council unless legislative body acts otherwise.

Home Rule Commissions

Town Council. Term: Two years ending 1 Jan 2027. *Currently only 8 of 17 appointed.*

**Main Street Bureau Board:** (17) appointments to be made by the Town Council. Term: Two years ending 1 Jan 2027. *Currently only 8 of 17 appointed.*

Tree Board – 2 – No party affiliation required (3 year appointment)

James Colias  
Executive Appointment

Ron Jackowski  
Executive Appointment

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Applications received:

Noel Zemaitis

Teresa Lekan

David Taylor

- x. **Discussion: Proposed Ordinance No. 1845:** An Ordinance to Amend the Compensation, Benefits and Personnel Program of the Municipality, to be known as the Compensation and Benefits Ordinance commonly known as the Employee Handbook, particularly creating a Residency Stipend Provision in the Public Works Department (Agency) and the Parks and Recreation Department. (placeholder)
  
- x. **Discussion: Proposed Ordinance No. 1842-A:** An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 1842 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 creating a Residency Provision in the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department (Agency). (placeholder)
  
- x. **Discussion: Works Board Order No. 2026-02:** 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 the balance of 2026.
  
- x. **Discussion: Consent Agendas (used in Merrillville & Fishers):** still requires a motion to adopt and seconded. Any Councilor can ask that any item on the Consent Agenda be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the regular agenda. A consent agenda groups routine, non-controversial items (like meeting minutes, standard reports, or routine appointments) into a single package, allowing them to be approved with one collective motion and vote.

If approved, the municipal code would have to be changed to read something like this:

*Consent agenda/calendar.*

- a. The president, in consultation with the other elected officials, shall place matters on the consent agenda which have been:
  - 1. Previously discussed by the council, or
  - 2. Based on the information delivered to members of the council by administration

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that can be reviewed by a council member without further explanation, or

3. Are so routine or technical in nature that passage is likely, or as directed by the town council.
  - b. Items on the consent agenda shall be presented in writing and do not have to be read.
  - c. The president of the council may read the items on the consent agenda, including the titles of any proclamation or resolutions contained therein.
  - d. The proper council motion on the consent agenda shall be substantially as follows:  
"I move for adoption of the consent agenda." This motion shall have the effect of moving to adopt all items on the consent agenda. Since adoption of any item on the consent agenda implies unanimous consent, any member of the council shall have the right to remove any item from the consent agenda. If any matter is withdrawn, the presiding officer shall place the item at an appropriate place on the agenda for current or a future meeting.
- x. Discussion: Ordinance No. 1823-A: An Ordinance to amend the current code of Ordinances for the Town of Highland, revising and making technical corrections or clarifications Particularly to Chapter 3.15 of the Municipal Code Regarding responsible and responsive bidders, All Pursuant to IC 36-1-4 and IC 36-1-5 et seq.
- x. Discussion: Ordinance No. 1810-A: An Ordinance to Amend the Compensation, Benefits and Personnel Program of the Municipality, to be known as the Compensation and Benefits Ordinance Commonly known as the Employee Handbook, Pursuant to IC 36-1-3 and other Relevant Statutes. (increasing the clothing allowance for active and participating members of the Highland Fire Department).
- x. Discussion: Public Works Director Mark Knesek to discuss the challenges his department experienced with Leaf Collection in 2025 and his plans to pick-up the remaining leaves and his plans to improve for 2026.
- x. Discussion: Public Works Director Mark Knesek to discuss the straightening of the south end of Kennedy Avenue.

## Plenary Business Meeting of Monday February 23, 2026

- Minutes of the Meeting of Monday, February 9, 2026.
- Accounts Payable Voucher
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