

**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 March 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*
- *Legislative Appointments*
- *Regional Statutory Appointments*

*Home Rule Commissions or Boards*

*The Town of Highland acknowledges its responsibility to comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to assist individuals with disabilities who require special services (i.e. sign interpretative services, alternative audio/visual devices, etc.) for participation in or access to Municipal sponsored public programs, services and or meetings, the Town of Highland requests that individuals make requests for these services forty-eight (48) hours ahead of the scheduled program, service and or meeting. To make arrangements, contact the ADA Coordinator for the Town of Highland at (219) 972-7595.*

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.

Regional Statutory Commissions or Boards

Home Rule Commissions

- x. Discussion: Fire Department Request

Place Holders should the Council decide to take up:

- 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: 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.
- x. Discussion: Resolution clarifying the Town's commitment to lawful cooperation with law enforcement agencies and responsible use of Town property. Ordinance No. 1810-A:
- x. Discussion: Wheel Tax
- x. Discussion: E-Bikes & Scooters

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x. Discussion: Food & Beverage Tax

x. Discussion: The Short Session ended on Friday with the only substantive change to SB1 is:

- HB 1210 delays the implementation of the new LIT system to 2029 (with adoption in 2028). All cities and towns now have the option to opt into the county-wide municipal services rate. The first LIT adoption lasts three years and is adopted annually thereafter, with a minimum rate adopted automatically to cover 125% of outstanding debt coverage requirements. There is also additional flexibility in the distribution of the Fire/EMS rate, as well as a new formula for distributing the county-wide municipal services rate, which guarantees each city and town in the formula a share of that rate equal to 150% of that unit's share of the county population.
- It also sets up Municipal Unit Strategic Taskforces (MUST) in each county, where county and city leaders will meet to plan their county-wide LIT strategy and send a non-binding report regarding distributions for each county to the General Assembly next year. This will provide a forum to discuss challenges and solutions for the new LIT system in each county and inform the conversation on further reforms next session.

The Council discussed waiting until the short session had ended to see if there were any major changes to SB1 and if there weren't, asking each department head to reduce their adopted budget by 2%.

## **Plenary Business Meeting of Monday March 23, 2026**

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