

**Enrolled Memorandum of the Meeting
Study Session/Meeting (In person)
Thirtieth Town Council of Highland
Monday, July 6, 2026**

The Thirtieth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in a study session on **Monday, July 6 2026**, at 7:30 o'clock P.M., in the regular place, the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.

****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 is your consent to be recorded and live streamed.**

***All Councilors were simultaneously seen and heard. Councilor George Georgeff, Councilor Doug Turich, Councilor Alex Robertson, Councilor Tom Black and Councilor Scheeringa all participated in person.**

Silent Roll Call: Councilors George Georgeff, Doug Turich, Alex Robertson, Tom Black and Philip Scheeringa were present in person as indicated. Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Herak was present to memorialize the proceedings. *A quorum was attained.*

Officials Present: IT Director Ed Dabrowski, Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra and Fire Chief Glenn Schlessner were in person.

x. Discussion: Appointments. None

Unless otherwise noted, all terms expire on the 1st Monday in January 2026 and or until a successor is appointed or qualified, not exceeding ninety (90) days.

• Statutory Boards and Commissions

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

• Regional Statutory Appointments

Home Rule Commissions or Boards

• Legislative Appointments

• Regional Statutory Appointments

• Home Rule Commissions or Boards

Place Holders should the Council decide to take up:

1. **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.*
(Note: Current Appointees are: Diane Barr-Roumbus, James Roumbus, Sandy McKnight, Al Simmons, Sandy Ray, Ben Tomera, and Desiree Biro, term ending 1st Monday January 2027).Term is for two (2) years.
- x. Discussion: Highland Democratic Precinct Organization wants to conduct a Food Give Away and voter registration on Saturday, August 1st from noon to 3:00 pm, at the Highland Municipal lot. They have been advised that they need to provide general liability insurance, with a \$1 million limit, endorsed to name the Town of Highland as an additional insured. A lease/rental agreement with a fee would be required. (an email was received, asking to be removed from the agenda)
- x. Discussion: Revised renewal lease documentation regarding the Town's property which has the Lamar Advertising sign structure on it.

Shawn Pettit said he received a copy of Highland's agenda and he saw that Lamar was under the placeholder category. He said he call the Clerk-Treasurer and asked if he could come tonight and speak to the Council. He was advised to come in. He said he was authorized today by TLC Properties, to go back to last year's offer as in 2026 TLC started a new easement program. 2026 easement program is for only \$480,000 but TLC said if he offered Highland \$600,000 last year, they'll honor the \$600,000 for the easement this year. There were no questions, so he asked the Council President to sign a letter of intent and email it back to him. He said once the letter of intent is signed, he'll start the process and order the survey. The letter will be added to tonight's plenary meeting.



July 6, 2026

Honorable George Georgeff
Town Council President
Town of Highland
3333 Ridge Road
Highland, IN 46322-2085

RE: Non-Binding Letter of Intent to Purchase a License - Lamar Lease #249-09825-01

Dear President Georgeff,

On this 6th day of July, 2026, this letter of intent represents the basic terms for an agreement that shall be considered non-binding whereby TLC Properties, LLC ("TLC") and the undersigned ("Seller") agree to enter into an agreement to be granted a License on the real property located at **West of 10024-42 Wicker Avenue (US 41), Highland, IN 46322 #45-07-32-281-008.000-026**, ("Property"), for a cash purchase price of **\$600,000.00**. TLC and Seller shall use their reasonable best efforts to close this transaction by **AUGUST 31, 2026**, subject to timely acceptance of this offer by Seller and TLC's completion of diligence.

This pending transaction is contingent upon TLC, in its sole discretion, being satisfied that the Property may be used for the construction, operations, and maintenance of an outdoor advertising structure and all applicable governmental permits to be obtained for said use. TLC must also be satisfied with the current title of the Property as evidenced by title search, and certified survey of the Property to be performed by TLC at its sole expense prior to closing. Should TLC determine that the Property does not suit its business needs for any reason whatsoever, the undersigned acknowledges that TLC will not move forward with the purchase and this Letter of Intent shall be null and void.

Nothing contained herein shall be binding on either party unless and until a Purchase Agreement has been fully executed by both parties. By counter signing this Letter of Intent, you are warranting that you are the fee simple owner of record of the Property. Please sign and date below if the above information meets your approval and outlines our understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Michael Pettit", written over a horizontal line.

Shawn Michael Pettit
Real Estate Manager, Northwest Indiana
Lamar Advertising Company
spettit@lamar.com

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Agreed to on this 6 day of July, 2026

By:

Seller Signature: Ben Geff

Print Name: GEORGE GEORGEFF

x. Discussion: Wheel Tax – Attorney Reed to provide drafts for discussion and adoption.

Attorney Reed began by passing out a copy of Ordinance 1853 and then explaining it to the Council. He said the current ordinance is based on our last round of discussions. He said the changes he made are relatively negligible on the effect on income generated. He then proceeded to pointed out some of the changes. He said they lowered the tax on recreational vehicles and trailers, as well as buses. He said there is a lot of exceptions like church bus, school bus, state and municipal-owned buses. He said he lowered the tax on passenger vehicles to \$25 and motorcycles to \$10. For trucks that do not exceed 11,000 lbs., he lowered the tax to \$25. He said there wouldn't be a tax on antique or classic cars.

Councilor Georgeff said he would like to see the wheel tax of \$40 be reduced on semi-trailers. He said he was talking the owner of Krooswyk, who said if Highland does charge \$40, he will register his semi-trailers in Schneider.

Attorney Reed said the \$40 is pretty standard with the neighboring communities but if it is important to a local business, we could reduce it down to \$20.

Councilor Black said he didn't see anything in there for disabled or handicapped plates.

Attorney Reed said he didn't put it in there because he couldn't get an accurate count on the number of vehicles in Highland with those plates. He said he could create an item 4 under exemptions and add handicapped plates or tags.

Councilor Robertson said we still need to generate enough funds to meet the match for the Community Crossing Grant. He asked Attorney Reed if two separate funds needed or be created, a surtax fund and a wheel tax fund?

Attorney Reed said he would have to research that.

Councilor Georgeff said he would like to see a sunset provision applied that if the matching grant program ever went away, then the wheel tax would sunset. He said maybe let it sunset two (2) years after the Community Crossing Grant ceased to exist.

Councilor Turich what a further explanation from Councilor Georgeff because what he thought George was saying that if the State does not require us to match in the future,

then the wheel tax will sunset. He wanted to know if that was it or if the state stopped giving matching funds?

Councilor Georgeff said if the State stopped giving us matching funds, he would want to sunset the wheel tax.

Councilor Turich said he wanted to be sure because he thought Councilor Georgeff was saying, if the State no longer required us to wheel tax in order to receive the Community Crossing Grant, he wanted the wheel tax to sunset.

Attorney Reed said if you go with the minimums and then review the numbers after the first year and the numbers aren't where you want to be, you may have to adjust the numbers. He then reviewed with the Council the changes discussed that evening. He said he will make the changes and then distribute the draft for the Council to review. With Councilors Georgeff and Scheeringa missing the next meeting, he said maybe we can move the adoption to the last meeting of July or the 1st meeting of August.

ORDINANCE No. 1853
of the
TOWN OF HIGHLAND, INDIANA

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CIVIL TOWN OF HIGHLAND MOTOR
VEHICLE EXCISE SURTAX AND CIVIL TOWN OF HIGHLAND WHEEL TAX**

WHEREAS, The legislative body of the Town of Highland, pursuant to Indiana Code §§36-1-2-9(5) and 36-5-2-2, is the Town Council; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of the years to come, due to significant State of Indiana legislative changes, the Town of Highland has and will continue to experience a substantial reduction in funding from the State of Indiana for use in maintaining Town roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the dramatic decrease in State funding, Town of Highland has and will continue to experience great difficulties in paying for the costs of properly maintaining the Town's roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, State statutes now allow towns with populations greater than 10,000 that are in a county that currently does not levy a county motor vehicle surtax tax and wheel tax the authority to impose a local motor vehicle excise surtax and wheel tax to serve as a local funding source to help cover the costs of maintaining county roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, The County of Lake, Indiana, does not currently levy a motor vehicle surtax or wheel tax and the Town of Highland has a population well in excess of 10,000 according to the U.S. Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, After due consideration, the Town of Highland Town Council believes that it is reasonable and necessary to adopt this Ordinance to establish the Town of Highland Motor Vehicle Excise Surtax and the Town of Highland Wheel Tax to generate additional monies to help cover the costs of maintaining Town of Highland roads and highways; now, therefore, be it

ORDAINED, By the Town of Highland Town Council in consideration of the above and foregoing, as follows:

1. Town of Highland hereby **ADOPTS AND IMPOSES** the motor vehicle excise surtax, which shall apply to the following vehicles:
 - (A) Passenger vehicles.
 - (B) Motorcycles.
 - (C) Trucks with a declared gross weight that does not exceed eleven thousand (11,000) pounds.
 - (D) Motor driven cycles.
2. The motor vehicle surtax to be imposed shall be at the following rates:
 - (A) Passenger vehicles: \$25.00 per vehicle
 - (B) Motorcycles: \$10.00 per motorcycle
 - (C) Trucks with a declared gross weight that does not exceed eleven thousand (11,000) pounds: \$25.00 per truck
 - (D) Motor driven cycles: \$10.00 per motor driven cycle.
3. Town of Highland further **ADOPTS AND IMPOSES** the municipal wheel tax, which shall apply to the following vehicles:
 - (A) Buses;
 - (B) Recreational vehicles;

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- (C) Trailers and semitrailers;
- (D) Tractors; and
- (E) Trucks

4. The following vehicles are exempt from the municipal wheel tax established by this Ordinance:
 - (A) Vehicles owned by the State of Indiana;
 - (B) Vehicles owned by a state agency of the State of Indiana;
 - (C) Vehicles owned by a political subdivision of the State of Indiana;
 - (D) Vehicles subject to the motor vehicle excise surtax imposed by this Ordinance; or
 - (E) Buses owned and operated by a religious or non-profit youth organization and used to haul persons to religious services or for the benefit of their members.
 - (F) Vehicles of any kind or nature with Antique or Historic license plates.
5. The wheel tax to be imposed shall be at the following rates:
 - (A) Buses: \$40.00 per bus.
 - (B) Recreational vehicles: \$20.00 per vehicle.
 - (C) Semitrailers: \$40.00 per semitrailer.
 - (D) Tractors: \$40.00 per tractor.
 - (E) Trailers: \$10.00 per trailer.
 - (F) Trucks: \$25.00 per truck.
6. The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall collect the municipal motor vehicle excise surtax and the municipal wheel tax by and through its established procedures on behalf of Town of Highland. The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall be entitled to assess a service fee for assisting Town of Highland in collection of these taxes.
7. The Highland Town Council shall review the rates hereby established for the Town of Highland Motor Vehicle Excise Surtax and the Town of Highland Wheel Tax within five (5) years from the date of passage.
8. Upon passage, the Auditor of Town of Highland is directed to send a copy of the final version of the Ordinance to the Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles 100 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, and Indiana 46204.

DULY ORDAINED and ADOPTED this ____ Day of July 2026, 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

George Georgeff, President (I.C. 3-5-2-10)

Attest:

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

- x. Discussion: E-Bikes & Scooters - Attorney Reed to provide drafts for discussion and adoption.

Attorney Reed began by saying this ordinance will definitely curtail the recklessness that we are currently seeing and is the work of several other municipal attorneys in surrounding communities. The towns wanted to be consistent so not to create a lot of confusion. He said he left the penalties open because Mark has already started a penalty clause ordinance for the Town as a whole.

Councilor Scheeringa said that since police have been clamping down, he noticed, at least in his neighborhood, things have calmed down a lot. He said he is seeing more kids wear helmets and is seeing more kids stop at stop signs and he's pretty sure that's due to seeing some of our police officers stopping and talking to these young kids on these things.

Councilor Turich felt that the parents are hearing about the accidents and are controlling their kids.

Attorney Reed says this ordinance lays out a really good framework but we'll only be able to tell over time and see how it works. He was certain that adjustments will have to be made down the road. He suggested just to introduce it and give everyone a chance to review it.

Councilor Turich said as he is reading through it, he's trying to determine where e-bikes and e-scooters are allowed and where they are prohibited.

Attorney Reed said they can go essentially, anywhere a bicycle can go, however, not on sidewalks. He said one big carve out included in the ordinance was made for the parks. If bicycles are allowed in the park, then e-bikes and e-scooter can go there unless the Highland Department of Parks and Recreation decides otherwise. They can vote to put a sign on this park or on that trail. The clause in the state statute is a municipality can eliminate any place it wants.

Councilor Turich asked about age restrictions.

Attorney Reed said Class 1 and 2 e-bikes can be driven by 15 or 16 years old. Class 3 e-bikes must be driven by 16 years or older and have a license.

Councilor Turich brought up the thought of allowing golf carts on the roadway. He said we allow e-bikes or e-scooters on our roadways but not golf carts. The general consensus of the Council was to get the e-bike and e-scooter ordinance in effect before visiting golf carts.

Councilor Scheeringa said he was opposed to allowing golf carts on the roads until he went to Country Fest in Griffith and saw all the golf carts. He said they all have to have

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safety lights, have to carry insurance, cannot be driven on any road with a 35 or higher miles per hour. He also viewed it as gaining additional revenue for the police department because the golf carts have to be registered.

Councilor Georgeff said he wanted to have a meeting with Traffic Safety to find out why they voted no to allow them on the Town's streets.

Councilor Turich asked if golf carts could be revisited in August?

Ordinance No. 1852
of the
TOWN of HIGHLAND, INDIANA

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HIGHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE, BY ADDING TO TITLE 10 VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, A NEW CHAPTER 10.50 TO BE STYLED ELECTRIC BICYCLES ("E-BIKES") AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS ("E-SCOOTERS"), ALL PURSUANT TO IC 36-1-3, IC 36-1-4, AND IC 36-8 ET SEQ.

WHEREAS, The Town of Highland is a local unit of general government governed by a Town Council, which is both the fiscal and legislative body of the Town; and

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; and

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

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-8-2-2 provides that municipalities may establish, maintain, and operate a police and law enforcement system to preserve public peace and order and may provide facilities and equipment for that system; and

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-9-2-7 provides that municipalities may regulate the use of public ways; and

WHEREAS, I.C. 9-21-1-2 provides that municipalities as a local authority may adopt by ordinance additional traffic regulations with respect to highways under the authority's jurisdiction, provided that an ordinance adopted under this subsection may not conflict with or duplicate a statute; and

WHEREAS, IC 9-21-1-3 further provides that municipalities as a local authority, with respect to private roads and highways under the authority's jurisdiction, in accordance with IC 9-21-1-2, and within the reasonable exercise of the police power, may regulate traffic by means of police officers or traffic control signals; and

WHEREAS, IC 9-21-11-13.1 further provides definitions and regulations for E-Bikes in accordance with IC 9-13-2-26.6, IC 9-13-2-26.7 and IC 9-13-2-26.8, classifying them as bicycles rather than motor vehicles, thereby exempting

them from licensing, financial responsibility, titles and registration while establishing a class level of electric bicycles, the top assisted speed of the electric bicycle, and requiring all electric bicycles shall comply with the bicycle equipment and manufacturing requirements adopted by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission; and

WHEREAS, IC 9-13-2-26.6 further defines a Class 1 electric bicycle as having an electric motor using 750 watts or less, a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph, and are pedal assist only. There is no throttle; and

WHEREAS, IC 9-13-2-26.7 further defines a Class 2 electric bicycle as having an electric motor using 750 watts or less, a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph, and are pedal assist and have a throttle so they can be ridden without pedaling; and

WHEREAS, IC 9-21-2-26.8 further defines a Class 3 electric bicycle as having an electric motor using 750 watts or less, a maximum assisted speed of 28 mph, and are pedal assist only. There is no throttle; and

WHEREAS, I.C. 36-8-2-4 A unit may regulate conduct, or use or possession of property, that might endanger the public health, safety, or welfare; 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; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council believes this action to be necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the Town, and in the public interest, consistent with the powers granted under IC 36-1-3 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council believes this action to be desirable to encourage responsible use of E-Bikes and E-Scooters while ensuring the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users of the Town's streets, bike paths, and public spaces; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council finds it necessary to adopt clear, consistent rules to ensure the safe integration of E-Bikes and E-Scooters into the Town's transportation network, to protect pedestrians and other users, and align with state law while allowing for local trail and path management; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Highland Town Council is to provide clear, consistent rules for the operation, parking, and enforcement of E-Bikes and E-Scooters to prevent conflicts, reduce accidents, and preserve the quality of life in the Highland neighborhoods, business districts, and parkland.

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

Section 1. That Highland Municipal Code be Amended by Adding to Title 10, Vehicles and Traffic a New Chapter 10.50 to be entitled Electric Bicycles ("E-Bikes") and Electric Scooters ("E-Scooters"), andand, which shall read as follows:

**CHAPTER 10.50: ELECTRIC BICYCLES (E-BIKES)
AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS (E-SCOOTERS)**

Sections:

Article I. General Provisions

10.50.010 Definitions and Interpretation
10.50.020 Classification and Equipment
10.50.030 Regulations for the Operation and Use of Electric Bicycles and Electric Scooters
10.50.040 Parking and Storage
10.50.050 Parental and Guardianship Responsibility
10.50.060 Violations
10.50.070 Enforcement and Penalty
10.50.080 Exception

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 10.50.010 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION.

(A) For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

(1) Electric Bicycle ("E-Bike"): A bicycle with fully operable pedals and an electric or mechanical motor of less than 750 watts. An E-Bike is not a moped or a motor driven cycle. E-Bikes are classified into three (3) classes:

- (a) Class 1 E-Bike: An E-Bike equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the operator is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the E-Bike reaches a maximum assisted speed of 20 miles per hour ("mph"). There is no throttle.
- (b) Class 2 E-Bike: An E-Bike equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the E-Bike with a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph, and are pedal assist and have a throttle so they can be ridden without pedaling.
- (c) Class 3 E-Bike: An E-Bike equipped with a motor that that provides assistance only when the operator is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the E-Bike reaches a maximum assisted speed of 28 miles per hour ("mph"). There is no throttle.
- (2) Electric Scooters ("E-Scooters"): A device weighing less than 100 pounds, that is equipped with 2 or 3 wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, that is powered by a motor, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the E-Scooter reaches a speed of 10 mph. Scooters with motors capable of sustained speeds exceeding 10 mph, without human assistance, shall not be considered an E-Scooter under this Ordinance and are prohibited from being operated upon public streets, parks, Multi-Use Paths, or Sidewalks in the Town of Highland, unless titled and registered as motor vehicles and operated appropriately pursuant to state law. An E-Scooter is specifically excluded from classification as a moped or a motor driven cycle.
- (3) Multi-Use Path, Shared-Use Path, Bike Trail, or Bike Path (Multi-Use Path):
A paved or unpaved designated pathway originally designed for shared use by bicycles, pedestrians, and other non-motorized users, excluding Sidewalks.
- (4) Sidewalk: The paved portion of a street right of way, or, in some cases a private or semi-private property area between the curb lines or the lateral lines of a designated roadway and the adjacent property lines, intended for pedestrian use and is typically less than 6' wide.
- (5) Street: The entire width between boundary lines of every roadway and/or public way maintained by the Town of Highland, State of Indiana, or Federal Government when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for vehicular travel.
- (6) Park: Any land owned or managed by the Highland Parks and Recreation Department.

(7) Prohibited Motorized Device: Any two- or three-wheeled device with a motor exceeding 750 watts, with or without fully operable pedals, capable of sustained speeds exceeding 28 mph without pedaling, including but not limited to motor-driven cycles and minibikes. Such devices are not considered E-Bikes or E-Scooters pursuant to this Chapter.

§ 10.50.020 CLASSIFICATION AND EQUIPMENT.

- (1) E-Bikes operated within the Town of Highland shall comply with Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission standards and Class 1 E-Bikes, Class 2 E-Bikes, and Class 3 E-Bikes must bear a permanent visible label indicating its class, motor wattage, and top assisted speed. Modification of an E-Bike to exceed its classified speed or power limits shall result in reclassification or prohibition under this Ordinance.
- (2) E-Bikes and E-Scooters operated within the Town of Highland must be well-maintained and in good operating condition and must conform to the regulations consistent with the Indiana Vehicle Code governing their operation, be under directional, speed and stopping control at all times, including being equipped with:
 - a. Brakes that will adequately control and stop the movement of the device, and that at a minimum are capable of stopping the device within 30 feet from 15 mph on dry, level pavement; and
 - b. A front-facing white light and rear facing red reflector or light visible from 500 feet during hours of darkness, that is to say during the period from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise, or low visibility; and
 - c. For E-Bikes, reflective tires or wheel rims; and
 - d. For Class 3 E-Bikes, a functional speedometer.

§ 10.50.030 REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION AND USE OF ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC SCOOTERS.

General Rights and Duties: E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall have the same rights and duties as operators of traditional bicycles under Title 9 of the Indiana Vehicle Code, including yielding at stop signs, signaling turns, riding with traffic and operated on the right half of the street unless designated otherwise through signage and/or pavement markings and in single file.

1. Age Restrictions:

- a. E-Bike operators of Class 1 E-Bikes and Class 2 E-Bikes, must be at least fifteen (15) years of age and must be able to safely operate the device.
- b. Operators of Class 3 E-Bikes must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and be licensed to operate motor vehicles in the State of Indiana.
- c. E-Scooter operators must be at least eighteen (18) years of age, and must be able to safely operate the device.

2. Where E-Bikes and E-Scooters May Be Operated:

- a. Streets. E-Bikes and E-Scooters may be operated on any street or roadway where bicycles are permitted, subject to all traffic laws applicable to bicycles under the Indiana Vehicle Code and the Highland Municipal Code. However, E-Scooters may not be operated on a Roadways where the posted speed limit in excess of 35 mph.
- b. Bike Lanes. Class 1 E-Bikes, Class 2 E-Bikes, and E-Scooters are permitted in bicycle lanes within the Town of Highland. Class 3 E-Bikes are permitted in bicycle lanes only if the bicycle lane is designed for speeds up to 28 mph or local signage allows.
- c. Multi-Use Paths. E-Bikes, Class 1 E-Bikes, Class 2 E-Bikes, and E-Scooters are permitted on a Multi-Use Path unless prohibited or otherwise regulated by the Town of Highland or unless prohibited or otherwise regulated by another managing government authority such as the DNR, or the Highland Park and Recreation Department. Class 3 E-Bikes are prohibited on a Multi-Use Path unless explicitly authorized by the Town of Highland or by another managing government authority.
- d. Sidewalks. E-Bikes and E-Scooters shall not be operated on Sidewalks within the Town of Highland, except where expressly permitted by official Town of Highland signage or when necessary to enter or exit adjacent property. E-Bikes and E-Scooters, unless expressly permitted, shall be walked on the Sidewalks.
- e. Prohibited Areas. E-Bikes and E-Scooters are prohibited on sidewalks, and State Highways, or any area posted as off-limits to bicycles in the Town Highland. E-Scooters are also permitted throughout the entire park system wherever bicycles are allowed unless

otherwise prohibited therein by the posting of signs by the Highland Park and Recreation Department.

4. Administrative Authority: The Metropolitan Police Chief or his or her designee or the Traffic Safety Commission may authorize the posting of regulations restricting E-Bike and E-Scooter use on certain Multi-Use Paths and on Sidewalks within the Town of Highland when deemed necessary, in the sole discretion of the Metropolitan Police Chief or his or her designee or the Traffic Safety, for public safety, preservation of property, or consistency with adopted Town plans.
5. Speed Limits:
 - a. E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall not exceed a maximum speed of twenty (20) miles per hour unless otherwise posted;
 - b. On Multi-Use Paths, E-Bikes and E-Scooters shall not exceed a maximum speed of fifteen (15) miles per hour;
 - c. When approaching crosswalks, intersections or areas with high pedestrian traffic, E-Bike and E-Scooter operators must reduce their speed to a safe and reasonable level;
 - d. E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall obey all applicable traffic laws, signals, signs and markings; and not exceed a maximum speed of twenty (20) miles per hour unless otherwise posted.
 - e. E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians at all times and shall pass pedestrians at a safe distance, providing a minimum of three (3) feet of clearance, and must wait until it is safe to pass, even if the 3-foot clearance cannot be achieved; and
 - f. When approaching pedestrians, E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall provide an audible warning (e.g., bell, horn, voice)
 - g. When emerging from an alley, driveway, path or building, upon approaching a sidewalk or the sidewalk area extending across any alleyway, E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians approaching on said sidewalk or sidewalk area; and
 - h. When entering a street, E-Bike and E-Scooter operators shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on said street; and

6. E-Motor and/or Prohibited Devices as defined in Chapter 10.25.030 are prohibited from being operated on or in public streets (see exception, below), parks, Multi-Use Paths, or Sidewalks in the Town of Highland, but may be operated on public streets and roadways if property titled and registered as motor vehicles and operated appropriately pursuant to Indiana State Law.
7. Helmet Requirement: All E-Bike and E-Scooter operators and passengers under the age of sixteen (16) must wear a properly fitted and fastened Motorcycle helmet. They are encouraged to wear an ANSI, SNELL, or CPSC approved helmet when operating or riding E-Bikes or E-Scooters.

§ 10.50.040 PARKING AND STORAGE:

1. E-Bikes and E-Scooters may be parked in bicycle racks or designated bicycle parking areas and in such a manner that does not obstruct sidewalks, pedestrian pathways, vehicular traffic or building entrances; and
2. No E-Bike or E-Scooter shall be parked in a manner that obstructs access for persons with disabilities or who fall under the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility, or emergency access routes; and
3. No E-Bike or E-Scooter shall be parked against windows or benches or in a manner that damages public or private property; and
4. E-Bike or E-Scooter operators shall not use locking devices or attachments that damage public or private property; and

§ 10.50.050 PARENTAL AND GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITY:

1. Parents and guardians of minors are responsible for the appropriate operation of E-Bikes, E-Scooters, and E-Motors or Prohibited Motorized Devices owned by said parents and guardians or owned by minors under their direct control.
2. Any violation of this Ordinance committed by a minor under the direct control of, or with the consent of, their parent or guardian will subject said parent or guardian to a violation of this Ordinance and the penalties provided herein.
3. The Town of Highland through the Metropolitan Police Department shall have the discretion and authority to impound E-Bikes, E-Scooters, E-Motors or Prohibited Motorized Devices, or other devices regulated under this Ordinance for non-compliance with this Ordinance. When such a device so impounded is owned by a minor, the Town of Highland shall have the discretion and authority to release such impounded device to the minor's parent or guardian.

4. The owner of an impounded E-Bike, E-Scooter, E-Motor or Prohibited Motorized Device or a parent or legal guardian if the E-Bike, E-Scooter or E-Motor or other Prohibited Motorized Device is operated by a minor, shall be responsible for all towing, impoundment and storage fees.

§ 10.50.060 VIOLATIONS.

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following violations are prohibited in the Town of Highland:

1. Operating an E-Motor or Prohibited Motorized Device, modified E-Bike, or modified E-Scooter on public property; and
2. Irregular or reckless or sudden or erratic movement of operations of an E-Bike or E-Scooter, including disobeying traffic regulations and weaving through traffic, so as to endanger their own safety, others, or property; and
3. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter while wearing headphones or otherwise obstructing the operators hearing; and
4. Operators of an E-Bike or E-Scooter must not use cell phones or other electronic devices while operating the device unless using hands-free device; and
5. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter while impaired, including under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and
6. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter equipped with a siren or oscillating red and blue lights; and
7. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter while attached, by person or device, tow rope, hand grip or otherwise to any other vehicle being operated on a public right-of-way; and
8. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter while carrying any package, bundle, or article that prevents the operator from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars;
9. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter to transport more than one passenger at a time, or operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter to transport a passenger if the device is not designed and equipped for multiple riders;
10. Operating an E-Bike or E-Scooter while obstructing or failing to yield to pedestrians; and
11. Tampering with or removing the class label on an E-Bike or E-Scooter or operating an E-Bike without a label clearly identifying the accurate E-Bike class.

§ 10.50.070 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY:

1. Violations of this Section shall be enforced by the Highland Metropolitan Police Department and the Highland Code Enforcement.
2. Any person, entity or organization who shall violate any provisions of this chapter shall be fined in the amount set forth in the designated schedule as a payable offense subject to admission before the Violations Clerk or Ordinance Violation Bureau in the amount set forth in Highland Municipal Code, Chapter 9, §9.85.060.
3. The Highland Metropolitan Police Department and the Highland Code Enforcement shall have the discretion and authority to impound E-Bikes and E-Scooters or other devices regulated under this Section for repeated offenses or when it is determined to be appropriate to ensure compliance with this Ordinance.
4. The owner of an impounded E-Bike, E-Scooter, E-Motor or Prohibited Motorized Device or a parent or legal guardian if the E-Bike, E-Scooter or E-Motor or other Prohibited Motorized Device is operated by a minor, shall be responsible for all towing, impoundment and storage fees.
5. An impounded E-Bike, E-Scooter, E-Motor or Prohibited Motorized Device unclaimed within three (3) months of impoundment may be disposed by Highland Metropolitan Police Department.

AND/OR

If such persons, entity or organization shall violate any provisions of this chapter, in the amounts which shall be processed before the Violations Clerk or Ordinance Violation Bureau in the amounts set forth set forth in Highland Municipal Code, Chapter 9, §9.85.060:

§ 10.50.080 EXCEPTION:

This Ordinance shall not apply to:

1. Authorized public safety personnel operating E-Bikes or E-Scooters in the course of their duties; and
2. Mobility devices as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act where necessary to provide a reasonable accommodation.

Section 2. That the Highland Municipal Code Chapter 9, §9.85.060 be applicable to violations of this new Chapter 10.050.010 et. seq.

Memorandum of Meeting
Monday, July 6, 2026

Section 3. That should a court find any provision of this ordinance to be unlawful or unenforceable, those provisions not so found shall continue to be in full force and effect;

Section 4. That any patrol services activity described or contemplated under this ordinance which may have taken place before the passage and adoption of this ordinance, including the fees for services collected in consequence of the activity and deposited in the proper fund of the Town of Highland is hereby ratified, authorized and approved, pursuant to IC 36-1-4-16;

Section 5. Whereas an emergency exists for the immediate taking effect of this Ordinance, it shall become and be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and adoption evidenced by the executive's signature in the manner prescribed by IC 36-5-2-10(a).

Introduced and Filed on the 6th day of July 2026. Consideration on same evening of introduction was considered, pursuant to IC 36-5-2-9.8.

DULY ORDAINED AND ADOPTED this 6th Day of July 2026, 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

George Georgeff, President (IC 36-5-2-10)

Attest:

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

- x. Discussion: Food & Beverage Tax – only thing required at this point is to determine what the revenue generated will be applied too

Attorney Reed said he had nothing further prepared at this time as he was concentrating on the Wheel Tax ordinance and the E-Bikes and Scooters ordinance.

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: Proposed Ordinance No. 1839 – Violations Bureau Payable Fines
- x. Discussion: Determination of the type, location and the number of chargers for the recently purchased EV vehicles

No new updates.

- x. Discussion: Town of Highland – Vehicle use Policy
No new updates.
- x. Discussion: Credit Card Policy
- x. Discussion: Creation of a fire inspector position
- x. Discussion: Fire Code Overhaul

Plenary Business Meeting of Monday July 13, 2026

- Minutes of the Meeting of Monday, July 6, 2026.
- Accounts Payable Voucher
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