

**Enrolled Memorandum of the Meeting
Study Session/Meeting (In person)
Thirtieth Town Council of Highland
Monday, August 24, 2026**

The Thirtieth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in a study session on **Monday, August 24, 2026**, at 8:00 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 Schlessler, Metropolitan Police Ralph Potesta 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: Metropolitan Police Chief Ralph Potesta regarding reciprocity. With the adoption of the Wheel Tax, Councilor Georgeff asked Chief Potesta to attend the study session to discuss reciprocity.

Chief Potesta told the Council that not much has changed since Councilor Georgeff was a police officer and may have even got worse. He said the county prosecutor's office placed a moratorium on writing tickets for out of state plates. He said, Highland's officers can still write tickets but the prosecutor's office will not prosecute. He relayed the story of Officer Orth who became the Code Enforcement Officer. One of his priorities was to go into the neighborhoods and write tickets for out of state plates. The prosecutor's office said he could write them but they would be thrown out.

Councilor Georgeff said the same happened when he was on the force. He said they would do blitzes and write warnings and then come back a second time and if they didn't have Indiana plates, they were written tickets. The prosecutor's office wouldn't prosecute.

Attorney Reed said the prosecutor's office is exercising caution because state law requires the owner of the vehicle to receive back pay if they can prove how long they lived there and had a valid lease.

The Council felt they should do another blitz of the apartment complexes in Highland and if the prosecutor's office refuses to honor the tickets or prosecute, then an article should be written in the gazette advising the residents. They felt it wasn't right for Highland residents to pay the wheel tax and those with Illinois plates are exempted because of the prosecutor's office reluctance to prosecute. It wouldn't look good for the prosecutor's office that they advised the Highland police not to enforce the law. Make the prosecutor's office the bad guy. Advise the public how many tickets were written and how many the prosecutor's office failed to prosecute.

x. Discussion: Approving the Agreement between Ben Tomera and the Town of Highland

The Clerk-Treasurer informed the Council that he has no means to pay Ben Tomera, who has been serving as the Media Manager for the Town of Highland. The Council asked the Clerk-Treasurer how should they proceed. He advised that Mr. Tomera needed to submit a contract, which needed to be reviewed by the Town Attorney and approved by the Council. The Clerk-Treasurer would prepare the Works Board Order to be adopted

at the same meeting. The Clerk-Treasurer said he will pay him out of the General Fund under the Board of Public Works.

x. Discussion: E-Bikes & Scooters - Attorney Reed to provide revised draft based upon the Council discussion of August 24 and forward to the Council for review.

Attorney Reed said in light of the recent disaster, he wants to make some changes to the ordinance before adoption by the Council.

Plenary Business Meeting of Monday September 14, 2026

- Minutes of the Meeting of Monday, August 24, 2026.
- Accounts Payable Voucher
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