

**PROPOSED MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL**

**AUGUST 4, 2025**

Council convened at 7:00 p.m. with Council President Thomas presiding.

Present: Council Pro Tem Robinson, Councilwoman Manica, Councilwoman Martin, Councilman Ash-Shafii, Council President Thomas (5).

Absent:, (0).

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Supported by Council President Thomas

To approve the agenda with the removal of the resolution to approve Special Land Use for 14001 Woodward (Tequila Downs). Yeas (3) Thomas, Robinson and Manica, Nays (2) Martin and Ash-Shafii, Absent (0).

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Supported by Council President Thomas

To approve the minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Workshop meeting held July 21, 2025. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Supported by Council President Thomas

To approve the minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Regular meeting held July 21, 2025. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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Moved by Council Pro Tem Robinson  
Supported by Councilman Ash-Shafii

To approve the minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Special meeting held July 24, 2025. Yeas (3) Robinson, Martin and Ash-Shafii, Nays (2) Thomas and Manica, Absent (0).

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\* Councilwoman Martin left the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Supported by Council President Thomas

To take a 3-minute recess, meeting recessed at 7:51 p.m.

\* Councilwoman Martin returned to the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

**VETO**  
**08-04-25 V**

The following communication was received from Mayor McDonald.

At the City Council meeting on July 21, 2025, Council passed a verbal motion during the "Council Comment" portion of the agenda to terminate the building and planning services of McKenna Associates, Inc. This Resolution did not appear on the meeting agenda and there was no motion brought forth by Council to either place that item on the agenda or to suspend the rules and add it after the agenda was approved.

The Council is hereby on notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Mayor under Charter Section 6-3: I am vetoing the Motion for the following reasons:

- 1) The City Attorney's office was not provided with a written copy of a Resolution, so they were unable to approve it as to form.
- 2) The Resolution would leave the city without the Michigan State Law Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA) requirement to have a Building/Permit department including planning services, code enforcement etc. jeopardizing the health, safety and welfare of Highland Park citizens.
- 3) Moreover, the Mayor is responsible for the efficient administration of all departments of City government. Therefore, the Mayor is duty-bound by Charter Section 7-3 (10) to veto the proposed elimination of this entire department of City government.

This Veto hereby suspends the operation of the above-referenced Motion which shall have no legal effect unless the City Council shall, at the next regular meeting, vote to adopt this Resolution by the affirmative vote of four (4) of its members.

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii  
Supported by Councilwoman Martin

To override the Mayor's veto. Yeas (3) Robinson, Martin and Ash-Shafii, Nays (2) Thomas and Manica, Absent (0).

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\* Councilman Ash-Shafii left the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

## **RECREATION**

### **08-04-25 VI a**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

#### **RESOLUTION TO ISSUE RFP FOR THE WAYNE COUNTY IGA GRANT PROJECT**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

Supported by Council President Thomas

**WHEREAS**, on April 17, 2023, the City approved a resolution to enter into a contract with the Charter County of Wayne to cooperatively fund the purchase and installation of a play structure; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has awarded Highland Park \$50,000 for a recreational project; and

**WHEREAS**, this project was delayed in order to incorporate the project into the Spark Grant design; and

**WHEREAS**, funds must be spent by the end of September 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administration is requesting approval to issue an RFP; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that City approves issuing an RFP for the Wayne County IGA Grant Project. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Ash-Shafii.

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### **08-04-25 VI b**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

#### **RESOLUTION TO ISSUE TWO RFPS FOR THE CMF/DNR GRANT**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

Supported by Council President Thomas

**WHEREAS**, on August 19, 2024, the City approved a resolution to accept the \$982,700 CMF/DNR Spark Grant award for enhancements to Ives Field; and

**WHEREAS**, the Spark Grant is a partnership between the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that was established to revitalize public recreation opportunities in Michigan communities hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, as of July 2024, \$24.2 million has been awarded to 29 communities across Michigan through the CMF/DNR Spark Grant partnership with the City of Highland Park receiving \$982,700; and

**WHEREAS**, Highland Park was awarded funds for: 1) a pickleball court, 2) two ballfields & backstops, 3) a playscape, and 4) sidewalks; and

**WHEREAS**, the SmithGroup was hired as Prime Professional to create the design and bid documents for the project; and

**WHEREAS**, two separate bid documents (one for the playscape and one for the rest of the project) will be submitted to CMF at the end of July for final approval; and

**WHEREAS**, once approved (30-60 days), RFPs must be published to begin the contract process with an extremely tight timeline to have all money obligated (signed contracts) before December 31, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, to help streamline the process, the Administration is asking for approval now to issue RFPs as soon as the bid documents have been approved by CMF; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City approves issuing two RFPs for Spark Grant improvements – one for a playscape and one for the rest of the project. Yeas (3), Nays (1) Robinson, Absent (1) Ash-Shafii.

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**SENIOR  
08-04-25 VII**

The following resolution was for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE HIGHLAND PARK SENIOR DEPARTMENT TO  
REQUEST AND ACCEPT TRAINING FUNDS FROM THE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN  
REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE TO STRENGTHEN CAPACITY THROUGH POWERFUL  
TOOL FOR CAREGIVERS TRAINING**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Robinson  
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

**WHEREAS**, the Highland Park Senior Department continues to prioritize the needs for senior citizens and their caregivers throughout the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Michigan Regional Collaborative (SRC) offers training funding opportunities to enhance the delivery of senior services and increase caregiver support capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Senior Department seeks to strengthen its ability to support caregivers by sending the Senior Coordinator to a specialized training titled Powerful Tools for Caregivers, scheduled August 11-15, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant request aligns with the City's goals to improve health, independence, and quality of life for its aging population.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Highland Park City Council hereby authorizes the Highland Park Senior Department to request and accept training funding from the Southeast Michigan Regional Collaborative (SRC), with the amount of the award being \$1,500.00, to support the Senior Coordinator's participation in the Powerful Tools for Caregivers training from August 11-15, 2025; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Highland Park authorizes the execution of any necessary documents to apply for, receive, and administer said funds in compliance with training requirements. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Ash-Shafii.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

To adjourn the meeting, meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

### **CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the attached is a copy of the minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting held the 4<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025 and that said minutes are available for public inspection at the address designated on the posted public notice.



Cidia Wicker-Brown, Deputy City Clerk