

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

July 7, 2025

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

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

Absent: None

A quorum being present, the Council was declared in session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Council Pro Tem Robinson

Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To amend agenda item 5b and add a 6th bullet point to read putting council packet minus close session online.

Council members and the IT department had a discussion regarding the process.

Councilman Ash Shafii withdrew his support for the motion no other support was offered the item failed for lack of support.

Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii

Supported by Councilwoman Manica

To approve the agenda with an amendment adding a resolution re: "Bishop Lewis E. Evans" as a secondary name for John R Street from McNichols to Ferris streets, to honor the contributions of Bishop Lewis E. Evans to the community of Highland Park. Yeas (3), Nays (2) Council Pro Tem Robinson and Councilwoman Martin, Absent (0).

Moved by Councilwoman Martin

Support by Councilwoman Manica

To approve the minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Regular meeting held June 16, 2025 with the correction of item VII-a the proposed budget amendments Councilman Ash Shafii voted No. The minutes show he voted yes.

Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0) with the correction.

ADMINISTRATION:

V-a 7-7-25

Moved by Council Pro Tem Robinson

Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To table the following resolution until July 21, 2025 Regular Meeting. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Councilwoman Manica, Absent (0).

RESOLUTION REGARDING CITY CREDIT CARD POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTION OF CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS

WHEREAS, in the last independent audit the City of Highland Park was advised by the auditor to consider implementing a policy and procedures for credit card use; and

WHEREAS acceptance of payments by financial transaction devices is hereby authorized; and

WHEREAS, PURSUANT TO mcl 129.223 (1) THE Finance Director and Treasurer will be jointly responsible for determining the types of financial transaction devices that may be accepted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the attached Credit Card Policy and Procedures for Collection of Credit/Debit Card Payments is hereby adopted.

V-b 7-7-25

Moved by Council Pro Tem Robinson

Supported by Councilwoman Manica

RESOLUTION TO ISSUE RFP FOR A NEW COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the city utilizes a communications system to handle all mass notifications and resident engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Administration is looking for a more efficient, comprehensive platform as the current system is no longer meeting the city's needs; and

WHEREAS, the following features would be desired in the new system to achieve the city's goals of improving communications with its residents and public at large:

- Emergency response capabilities (road closures, water main breaks, boil water advisories, police notifications)**
- Email and text messaging capabilities**

-A resident request feature (for potholes, overgrown yards, overflowing trash cans, etc.) that routes submissions to the appropriate department

- Social media integration for broader and faster outreach

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City approves issuing an RFP for a new communication system

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED to amend the resolution making the addition of council packets online be a part of the communication system request for quotes. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

VI – 7-7-25

Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii

Supported by Council Pro Tem Robinson

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK AND THE HIGHLAND PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT
AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 1999 PIERCE SABRE FIRETRUCK FROM THE SWARTZ CREEK
AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT TO REPLACE ENGINE 2, WHICH WAS TOTALED IN AN ACCIDENT**

WHEREAS the City of Highland Park and the Highland Park Fire Department are committed to maintaining a high standard of emergency response and public safety services for the residents and businesses of the city; and

WHEREAS Engine 2, a frontline apparatus in the Highland Park Fire Department’s fleet, was totaled in an accident and has not yet been replaced, resulting in a critical gap in operational capacity and;

WHEREAS, the Swartz Creek Are Fire Department has offered for sale one (1) 1999 Pierce Sabra Firetruck (the vehicle) in as-is condition for a total purchase price of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) reduced from the original asking price of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00); and

WHEREAS the acquisition of this vehicle is necessary to restore the Fire Department’s operational readiness and ensure the continued safety and protection of the community; and

WHEREAS an additional One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) is required to outfit the vehicle for active service;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED y the City Council of Highland Park that the City is authorized to purchase one (1) 1999 Pierce Sabre Firetruck and to outfit said firetruck for a total

expenditure of Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000.00) to be allocated from the Capital Improvement Funds. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

The following resolution was moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii.

RESOLUTION TO ADD "BISHOP LEWIS E. EVANS" AS A SECONDARY NAME FOR JOHN R STREET, FROM MCNICHOS TO FERRIS STREETS, TO HONOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BISHOP LEWIS E. EVANS TO THE COMMUNITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

WHEREAS, Bishop Lewis E. Evans. Th. Is the founding and Senior Pastor of Soul Harvest Ministries, established in May 1994 in Highland Park, Michigan, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost; and

WHEREAS, for over 30 years, Soul Harvest Ministries has been a pillar of the Highland Park Community; offering critical services such as food and clothing distribution, youth and senior programming, space for community events, and a consistent safe haven for all residents; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Evans also serves as the Presiding Prelate of the Soul-Winners Evangelism and Disciple-makers Interdenominational Fellowship (SEAD), a multid denominational network of churches founded in 1996 with a mission to train and engage believers in the ministry of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Evans commitment to spiritual leadership is rooted in both a lifelong calling and a profound academic foundation, including degrees from Detroit Bible College, California Graduate School of Theology, Ashland Theological Seminary, and culminating in a Doctor of Theology degree in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Evans has demonstrated decades of compassionate leadership, civic engagement, and unwavering love for people through his ongoing work with local, state, and federal partners to meet the needs of Highland Park residents; and

WHEREAS, he is also a devoted husband to Dr. Lynda Evans, a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, whose family continues his legacy of ministry, with his eldest daughter, Pastor Brenda, serving as Lead Pastor; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Evans is widely respected as visionary, a Pastor of Pastors, a powerful teacher of the Word, and a leader whose spiritual and academic gifts have impacted thousands both locally and nationally,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highland Park City Council hereby honors the lifelong service and legacy of Bishop Lewis E. Evans by designating "Bishop Lewis E. Evans Boulevard"

as the secondary name for John R Street, from McNichols (6-mile road) to Ferris Street, now and forever more; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appropriate signage reflecting this honorary designation be erected along the specified segment of John R Street in recognition of Bishop Evans enduring contributions to the spiritual, civic, and social wellbeing of the City of Highland Park.

THIS ITEM FAILED DUE TO A LACK OF SUPPORT

**** Council Pro Tem Robinson excused herself from the meeting at 9:00 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii

Supported by Councilwoman Manica

To adjourn the meeting; motion carried meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

I, hereby certify that the attached is a copy of the minutes of the Virtual & In-Person Regular Meeting held the 7th day of July 2025 and that said proposed minutes are available for public inspection at the address designated on the posted public notice.

 City Clerk