

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

May 5, 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 Councilwoman Manica

Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To approve the agenda as submitted. Yeas (3), Nays (1) Council Pro Tem Robinson, Absent (1) Councilwoman Martin.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

Supported Council President Thomas

To approve the proposed minutes from the In-Person and Virtual Workshop Meeting held April 21, 2025 with the following correction. Council President Thomas presiding at the meeting not Pro Tem Robinson. Yeas (2) Councilwoman Manica and Council President Thomas, Nays (2) Council Pro Tem Robinson and Councilman Ash Shafii, Absent (1) Councilwoman Martin.

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***Councilwoman Martin enter the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Moved by Councilwoman Manica .

Supported by Council President Thomas

To approve the proposed minutes from the In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting held April 21, 2025 with the following corrections.

1- Item VI-a vote should read Yeas (3), Councilwoman Manica, Councilwoman Martin and Council President Thomas, Nays (2) Councilman Ash Shafii and Council Pro Tem Robinson. Not (5) votes as shown.

2-Item VI-b Council only approved the sale of one vacant residential lot located at 69 Kendall Street not the other lots that are mentioned in the resolution. The last paragraph of the resolution does reflect the approval of one lot only located at 69 Kendall to Greater Philadelphia Tabernacle Church.

Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

PUBLIC HEARINGS

V-a 5-5-25

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To open the public hearing to receive comments regarding FY2025-2026 Water Department budget & rates. (7:31p.m.)

There was a lengthy discussion between citizens and council members. Charlene Turner Johnson, asked about meter sizes in residential homes, Robert Lodge, transparency, Karla Oliver, wholesale water and sewer prices, she stated the numbers don't add up. Lucy Frye, timeline for the master meter's completion. Crissy Durr, are we paying \$90,000 to the trust for water from GLWA? What do we make off residents when it comes to water and sewage?

****Council President Thomas and Councilman Ash Shafii step to the podium to speak as citizens.**

Councilman Ash Shafii spoke about the numbers and amount GWLA are charging the city got money from the state to pay off the bill so why are we still paying a high amount. Council President Thomas spoke regarding the rates due to the agreement.

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To close the public hearing. Motion carried hearing closed at 7:49 p.m. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

Per the GLWA agreement the city is required to hire an independent rate consultant to give information about the rates. Mark Beauchamp, Independent Consultant, Utility Financial Solution, LLC gave a presentation via zoom.

V-b 5-5-25

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To open the Public Hearing regarding the Proposed FY 2025-2026 General Operating budget (8:25 p.m.).

There was a discussion between citizens and council. Robert Lodge wants a budget by line item per department and transparency. Karla Oliver stated the city is wasting money. Yolanda Roland Muse would like to see development built into the council's budget, Sargent of arms, meetings are held hap hazardously.

Councilwoman Martin stated concerns regarding her CDAC expenditures.

Councilman Ash- Shafii stated he descend. Council Ash Shafii questioned the increase in the mayor's budget, co-mingling of funds between the police and DPW departments and money missing from his CDAC budget not authorized by him.

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council President Thomas

To close the Public Hearing at 8:42 p.m. motion carried. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (0).

- Council President Thomas didn't give a vote on the closing of the hearing.

ADMINISTRATION:

VI-5-5-25

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council President Thomas

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF AN RFP FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2018, the City entered into a contract with GFL Environmental USA for waste collection service; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Priority took over the GFL contract; and

WHEREAS the Priority contract expires on June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, DPW wishes to issue an RFP for waste collection services, including bulk goods and yard waste; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City approves issuing an RFP for waste collection services. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Council Pro-Tem Robinson, Absent (0).

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VI-b 5-5-25

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

Supported by Council President Thomas

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF RFP FOR STREET SWEEPING

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park has 7 miles of major roadways and 46 miles of local roadways; and

WHEREAS the appearance of the city is vital to the health, safety and well-being of the residents and the public at large; and

WHEREAS the appearance of the City will enhance future economic development prospects and the financial recovery of the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, removing debris from the streets allows for the free flow of water into the storm systems and prevents street flooding due to clogged drains; and

WHEREAS DPW wishes to issue an RFP because Progressive Sweeping contract expired at the end of 2023; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City authorizes DPW to issue an RFP for street sweeping. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Council Pro Tem Robinson, Absent (0).

WATER DEPARTMENT:

VII- 5-5-25

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTRACT AWARD TO BRICCO EXCAVATING, L.L.C.
FOR PHASES, I, II, III, AND IV, of 2024 WATER MAIN AND SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS the Water Department intends to conduct a Water Main and Service Line Replacement Program to continue rehabilitating the city's aging water distribution system infrastructure as required by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Administrative Compliance Agreement (ACA-399-02-2024; and

WHEREAS, EGLE has completed review of the program and approved the bidding documents for Phases I< II< III< and IV, funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) through the American Rescue Plan (ARP); and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2025, the City of Highland Park opened bids for the 2024 Water Main and Service Line Replacement Program; and

WHEREAS the 2024 Water Main and Service Line Replacement Program consists of four different phases; and

WHEREAS, the Water Department conducted interviews on April 17, 2025 with all the bidders for the purpose of clarifying the received bids; and

WHEREAS, the Water Department reviewed the proposal for compliance with references, project experience, project requirements, schedule, and the ability to provide the requested services for the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS the Water Department determined Bricco Excavating, L.L.C. was the most responsive bidder for the 2024 Water Main and Service Line Replacement Program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highland Park City Council approves the contract award to Bricco Excavating, L.L.C. for phases I, II, III, and IV in an amount not to exceed not to exceed \$15,585,416.00 contingent upon receipt of approved permit from EGLE, available funding and in accordance with the final contractual discussion related to said project. Yeas (3) Council President Thomas, Councilwoman Martin and Councilwoman Manica, Nays (2) Councilman Ash Shafii and Council Pro-Tem Robinson, Absent (0).

*Council Pro Tem Robinson excused herself from the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

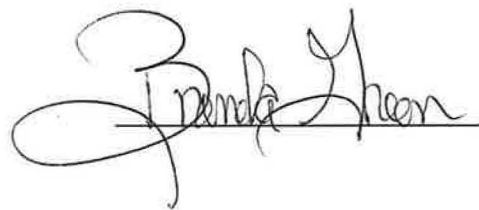
Moved by Councilwoman Manica

Supported by Councilwoman Martin

To adjourn; motion carried meeting adjourn at 9:36 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

I, hereby certify that the attached is a copy of the minutes of the Virtual & In-Person Regular Meeting held the 5th day of May 2025 and that said proposed minutes are available for public inspection at the address designated on the posted public notice.

 City Clerk