

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

May 4, 2026

Council convened at 7:15 p.m. with Council President Thomas presiding.

Present: Councilman Ash-Shafii, Councilwoman Manica, and Council President Thomas. (3)

Absent: Council Pro Tem Robinson and Councilwoman Martin (2).

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To approve the agenda as submitted. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2).

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Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Support by Councilman Ash Shafii

To approve the proposed minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Workshop meeting held April 20, 2026. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2).

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Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To approve the proposed minute of the In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting held April 20, 2026. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2).

**TABLED ITEM FROM APRIL 20, 2026.**

**V. 05-4-26**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To remove the resolution for approving contract for pothole repairs. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2)

Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

**RESOLUTION FOR APPROVE CONTRACTS FOR POTHOLE REPAIRS**

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2026, the City approved a resolution allowing DPW to issue an RFP to solicit bids for pothole repairs; and

WHEREAS, three bids were submitted (see attached); and

WHEREAS, one bid was using the traditional method of pothole repair using hot/cold patch and two bids were using the lower cost, alternate methods; and

WHEREAS, based on the significantly lower cost of alternate methods, City Engineering went to Farmington Hills to investigate these methods and made the following recommendation:

“Based on our review and assessment it would be recommended to proceed with the previous cold patching method until additional information can be established for these applications cases. We also think that based on what was observed in the field, if this method is selected there would need to be certain criteria set in place for the application process (i.e. Warranty after work and possibly include street sweeping for loose gravel etc.) It may be worth recommending performing this application on one or two streets that would be a good candidate for this method to evaluate for future bidding purposes and;

WHEREAS, DPW is asking for approval to issue a contract to Major Contracting to repair potholes using hot/cold patch as Act 51 funds become available; and

WHEREAS, DPW is also asking for \$15,000 to explore the use of alternate methods for lesser road repairs based on DPW and Engineering mutually selecting locations and monitoring results; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE City of Highland Park that DPW be allowed to issue a contract to Major Contracting to repair potholes using hot/cold patch as ACT 51 funds become available and to approve using up to \$15,000 of Act 51 funds to explore alternate methods for lesser road repairs. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2)

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**COUNCIL:**

**VI. a 5-4-26**

The following communication was read into the record.

Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Supported by Council President Thomas

An Ordinance to amend the Highland Park City Code, Part Two “Administration code” Title Eight “Boards, Commission, Committees and Authorities<” and adding Chapter 289 “Youth Council”, which shall serve as a conduit between the City of Highland Park government and its younger constituents.

WHEREAS, THE City of Highland Park wishes to enact a local Ordinance creating a Youth Council;  
and

WHEREAS, the Charter for the City of Highland Park provides that Council has the authority to enact all ordinances they deem necessary for the safety, order and good government of the City and the general welfare of the inhabitants;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK ORDAINS:

Section 1 Chapter 289 Youth Council is hereby adopted;

Chapter 289 YOUTH COUNCIL

(a) Established

There is established a city Youth Council, whose mission is to serve as a conduit between the local government and its younger constituents. Voice will be given to teenagers to bring all issues to the forefront. Conversely, the youth council will bring the government's voice to teenagers, showing all the opportunities to enrich the teenagers of the city. Bringing youth and the government together gives both more power to better the community

(b) Authority; duties

The Youth Council is charged with the authority and responsibility of making recommendations to the city concerning the needs and concerns of youth and the community and the appropriate means by which public and private agencies in cooperation with volunteer efforts may address such needs and concerns. All programs and activities will be sent to the City Council for approval. The Youth Council is a subcommittee of City Council and takes directions from and answers to City Council.

The duties of the Youth Council may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. To act as a conduit between the City Council and the city's youth population.
2. Communicate the priorities of the youth population of the city's to the city government.
3. Develop a program to foster greater civic engagement of the city's youth population on.
4. Advise the City government on strategies to make the city more attractive to youth.
5. Advise the City government on strategies to address issues of concern to the youth population.
6. Raise funds for programs that advance the mission of Youth Council and to foster public/private partnerships to support youth issues. Mechanisms for funding may include but are not limited to crowdfunding, grants and gifts from corporations, foundations and individual donors.
7. To provide an annual State of Highland Park Youth report to the City Council and administration to inform the general citizenry of the activities of youth council.

(c ) Members, appointment

The Youth Council shall consist of 5 (?) members who shall be selected from individuals aged 13-24 who reside in the City of Highland Park. Members shall be appointed by the mayor subject to the

approval of a majority vote of the members of City Council (or a certain number of members picked by the mayor and a number by City Council.)

(d) Terms of office

Members of the Youth Council shall hold office for a one-year term and until their successors are appointed and qualified, however, members may serve for more than one term. Appointments shall be made to coincide with the academic calendar to facilitate optimal student involvement.

(e) Organization: meetings

1. Youth Council shall conduct the election of a chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary. A member shall not be eligible to serve more than two successive terms as chairperson. The chairperson shall preside at all meetings but shall have no other duties not in common with other members. The Youth Council may create and fill other offices as it deems necessary.

2. Youth Council shall meet regularly as necessary to conduct business and shall keep a record of its resolutions, transactions, findings and determinations. Three unexcused absences during a term shall subject a member to removal from office in the sole discretion of the mayor. The Youth Council may appoint high school students as associate members to serve on committees advising it on various matters. Associate members may participate in all discussions but shall not have a vote.

THIS ORDINANCE WAS VOTED TO BE PLACE IN A WORKSHOP MEETING ON May 18, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.  
Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2).

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**VI.b 5-4-26**

Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii

Supported by Councilwoman Manica

RESOLUTION ADDING "BISHOP EVANS WAY" 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

WHEREAS, Bishop Lewis E. Evans is the founding and Senior Pastor of Soul Harvest Ministries, established in the City of Highland Par, Michigan in 1994; and

WHEREAS, for over thirty 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 has served Highland Park residents for decades through his spiritual leadership, community service, and dedicated ministry; and

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

WHEREAS, Bishop Evans is widely respected as a visionary, a Pastor of Pastors, a powerful teacher of the Word; and a leader whose spiritual and academic gifts have impacted thousand's both locally and notionally; and

WHEREAS, is appropriate for the City of Highland Park to honor individuals whose service, leadership, and dedication have significantly contributed to the growth, stability, and spirit of its community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Highland Park hereby recognizes and honors Bishop Lewis E. Evans for his thirty-two years of faithful service, leadership, and commitment to the residents of the City of Highland Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the lifelong service and legacy of Bishop Lewis E. Evans be honored by designating "Bishop Evans Way" as the secondary name for John R street, from McNichols to Ferris Street; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is authorized to take all necessary action to install appropriate signage recognizing this honorary street designation. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2).

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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

**VII-a 5-4-26**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

Supported by Council President Thomas

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF HIGHLAND PARK RESIENT ANTHONY ASKEW TO THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park has established a Historic District Commission with the purpose to safeguard the heritage of the City by preserving the districts in the City which reflect elements of cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history, stabilize and improve property values in such districts, foster civic beauty, strengthen the local economy, and promote the use of Historic Districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the residents of the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Historic District Ordinance, the Commission is to consist of seven (7) members who shall be residents of the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Historic District Ordinance, initially three (3) members shall be appointed for a term of one year (1) year, two (2) members shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, and two (2) members shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. After one initial term of appointment each term shall be for a period of three (3) years; and

WHEREAS ANTHONY ASKEW's term on the Historic District Commission expired on June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS Mayor McDonald respectfully requests that City Council approve the re-appointment Anthony Askew to the Historic District Commission; and

NOW THERE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Highland Park hereby appoint Anthony Askew to the City of Highland Park Historic District Commission for a term of three (3) years commencing May 4, 2026 and expiring on May 4, 2029. Yeas (2) Nays (1) Councilman Ash Shafii, Absent (2).

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**VII. b 5-4-26**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Supported by Council President Thomas

To table the resolution approving the appointment of Highland Park residents Regan Woods, Shakira Dancy and Joseph Graham to the City of Highland Park Historic District Commission until their terms are received. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2).

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**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:**

**VIII. 5-4-26**

Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii  
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE 2026 SAFE STREETS FOR ALL (SS4A) IMPLEMENTATION GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) BY THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK CITY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, THE City of Highland Park was awarded a 2022 Safe Street and Roads for All Planning Grant which was used to produce the FY 2022 Safe Streets & Roads for All Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. This Action Plan was approved and adopted by the City Council on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025; and

WHEREAS, The Safe Streets and Roads for All Implementation Grant was developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation to improve roadway safety by significantly reducing or eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries through the implementation of Action Plans focused on all users, including pedestrians; bicyclists, public transportation, personal conveyance, and micromobility users; motorists, and commercial vehicle operators; and

WHEREAS, the grant will assist Highland Park with the implementation of the short-term road infrastructure plans outlined in the Action Plan. \$1 billion is available with a maximum grant award of \$25,000.00 and awarded floor of \$2,500.000 per applicant; and

WHEREAS the City of Highland Park will be required to provide a 20% match of the awarded grant amount; and

WHEREAS, The City of Highland Park Engineering Department intends on applying for \$2,500,000 and distributing the city match requirement over multiple fiscal years during 2–5-year grant period; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineering Department will utilize the awarded grant funds to implement eligible projects from the City’s Action Plan for improving transportation safety on city roads; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Highland Park City Council APPROVE the submission of the Safe Streets for ALL Implementation Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Transportation by May 26, 2026. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2)

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**WATER DEPARTMENT:**

**IX. a 5-4-26**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Supported by Council President Thomas

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK FOR AN INFLOW/INFILTRATION ANALYSIS**

WHEREAS, Treasury will reimburse the City of Highland Park up to \$199,830.00 for costs related to inflow/infiltration analysis; and

WHEREAS, project scope includes cleaning and CCTV of sewer lines, I/I study of the sewer system, replacement of broken pipe, lining of sewer pipe, and manhole structure replacements; and

WHEREAS, the first phase of this project will focus on Drainage District 4, EGLE has previously approved this district for sewer improvements due to high inflow and infiltration observed in metered data; and

WHEREAS, the next phase (s) of this project will focus on Drainage District 11, Drainage District 12, and the remainder of the city; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IE RESOLVED that the MOU by and between the Michigan Department of Treasury and City of Highland Park for an inflow/infiltration analysis of the combined sewer system is hereby accepted. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2).

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**IX. b 5-4-26**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica  
Supported by Council President Thomas

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE WATER DEPARTMENT’S 9/50 AMNESTY PROGRAM-FY2025 WATER DEPARTMENT DELINQUENT ACCOUNT BALANCES FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND TAX-EXEMPT CUSTOMERS**

WHEREAS, It is imperative that each property owner utilize the water and sewer infrastructure pay their fair share of operating costs of the system; and

WHEREAS, the Water Department ran a similar Amnesty Program in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Water Department has been working with customers over the last few years to bring all properties into compliance with ordinances; and

WHEREAS, all properties will be continued to be invoiced timely in agreement with the regular water billing process and customers shall be expected to pay timely their past and current invoices until the amnesty period; and

WHEREAS, THE Amnesty Program will run from May 5, 2026 to May 15, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Water Department has communicated with the Assessor and the Assessor with the County Treasurer as required in Chapter 9 of the Highland Park City Charter procedure of transferring delinquent accounts to tax rolls; and

WHEREAS the Water Department will communicate with all Water Department customers with outstanding account balances regarding the 9/50 Amnesty Program; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, a list of accounts with outstanding balances (s) owed to the Water Department prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 will be offered 50% amnesty. All outstanding balances incurred prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2025 as of May 15<sup>th</sup> 2026 will be sent to Assessing to be transferred to the Summer Tax Bills for residential, industrial and commercial customers. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2).

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Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii  
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

