

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

April 20, 2026

Council convened at 7:03 p.m. with Council Pro Tem Robinson presiding.

Present: Council Pro Tem Robinson, Councilwoman Manica, Councilman Ash-Shafii, Council President Thomas (4).

Absent: Councilwoman Martin (1).

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council President Thomas

To approve the agenda as presented. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent Martin (1).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council President Thomas

To approve the minutes of the March 16, 2026, In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting. Yeas (3), Nays Robinson (1), Absent Martin (1).

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Moved by Pro Tem Robinson
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

To approve the minutes of the April 6, 2026, In-Person and Virtual Workshop Meeting. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent Martin (1).

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Moved by Pro Tem Robinson
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

To approve the minutes of the April 6, 2026, In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting. Yeas (3), Nays Robinson (1), Absent Martin (1).

**BID OPENING
04-20-26 V**

Council President Thomas stated this was the place and time to open bid proposals for Financial Audit Services.

Two (2) bids were received.

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| Maner Costerisan | 2425 E. Grand River Suite 1 Lansing, MI 48912 | \$56,000 |
| AHP | 3252 Woodward Ave. Suite 150 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 | \$58,000 |

Moved by Council Pro Tem Robinson
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

To refer to the Finance Department for a recommendation. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent Martin (1).

TABLED ITEM
04-20-26 VI

The following item was tabled from the April 6, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Parade Permit Application from Parter Pride Foundation for May 16, 2026.

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council Pro Tem Robinson

To bring from the table. Yeas (3), Nays Ash-Shafii (1), Absent Martin (1).

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council Pro Tem Robinson

To approve the Parade Permit Application from Parker Pride Foundation for May 16, 2026. Yeas (3), Nays Ash-Shafii (1), Absent Martin (1).

ADMINISTRATION
04-20-26 VII

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES
FOR THE JOE LOUIS GREENWAY**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council Pro Tem Robinson

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (the “USFWS”) desires to partner with the City of Highland Park (the “Landowner”) to conduct wildlife management practices within the Joe Louis Greenway; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park (“City”) desires to join as a participant in the wildlife habitat improvement program and grants to the USFWS to complete the habitat improvement project for the Joe Louis Greenway; and

WHEREAS, the locations of this project are the right-of-way adjacent to the Joe Louis Greenway between Hamilton and Second; and

WHEREAS, IT WOULD BE A BENEFIT TO THE City to participate in this program offered by the USFWS; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City approves entering into the agreement with the USFWS and authorizes Mayor McDonald to sign the agreement on the City's behalf. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent Martin (1).

POLICE
04-20-26 VIII a

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK
AUTHORIZING THE HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT AN
APPLICATION FOR FUNDING UNDER THE STATE CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM
PHASE 5 GRANT**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported Council Pro Tem Robinson

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park recognizes its responsibility to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of its residents through effective and comprehensive public safety services; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Police Department has established a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to provide specialized response, de-escalation, and follow-up services for individuals experiencing behavioral health or mental health crises; and

WHEREAS, the continuation and enhancement of the Crisis Intervention Team is essential to improving public safety outcomes, reducing reliance on traditional enforcement mechanisms for mental-health-related incidents, and strengthening partnerships with community-based service providers; and

WHEREAS, the State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) Phase 5 grant, administered at the state level, offers financial assistance to local law enforcement agencies for crisis response initiatives, including training, equipment, personnel support, and program development; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Police Department seeks authorization from the City Council to apply for SCIP Phase 5 funding to sustain and advance the work of the Crisis Intervention Team; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that submission of said application is in the best interest of the City and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Highland Park that: The Highland Park Police Department is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and submit an application for funding under the State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) Phase 5 grant. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent Martin (1)

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04-20-26 VIII b

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED SPENDING REQUEST TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE TANYA MYERS-PHILLIPS FOR UPGRADES TO THE CITY TEMPORARY HOLDING FACILITY (JAIL)

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

WHEREAS, the City operates a jail/temporary holding facility used to detain individuals safely and securely while they await charging decisions from the County Prosecutor's Office; and

WHEREAS, the current holding facility is outdated, in need of significant structural and systems upgrades and may no longer meet modern standards for humane, safe, and secure temporary housing of detainees; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has determined that comprehensive improvements are required to ensure compliance with best practices, protect the wellbeing of detainees and staff, and maintain the City's legal responsibilities for custodial care; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the necessary facility upgrades exceeds the financial capacity of the Police Department and cannot be supported by the City's General Fund without negatively affecting essential municipal services; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Directed Spending program administered through the office of State Representative Tanya Myers Phillips provides an opportunity for cities to request federal assistance for critical public safety and facility infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS the proposed upgrades relate solely to improving conditions for individuals held temporarily while awaiting prosecutorial review and are not associated with immigration enforcement, immigration detention or any Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity; and

WHEREAS, securing external funding would allow the City to complete the necessary improvements without placing additional financial strain on local resources or the General Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the submission of a Congressional Directed Spending request to State Representative Tanya Myers-Phillips seeking funding for the renovation and modernization of the City's jail/temporary holding facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration and/or designees are authorized to prepare all required project documents, cost estimates, narratives, and certifications necessary to complete the submission. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent Martin (1).

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04-20-26 VIII c

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING
REQUEST TO CONGRESSMAN SHRI THANEDAR FOR POLICE RADIO SYSTEM
UPGRADES**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council Pro Tem Robinson

WHEREAS, The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) has mandated that all Criminal Justice Information Systems users convert to Encrypted Radio Communication and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has identified an urgent need to upgrade the radio system to ensure officer safety, improve emergency response capabilities, and maintain compliance with modern communication standards; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the radio system upgrade exceeds the financial capacity of the Police Department and the City's General Fund, and no existing budgeted resources are sufficient to cover the required expenditure; and

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives Community Project Funding program provides an opportunity for municipalities to request federal assistance for critical public safety infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Shri Thanedar's office is currently accepting Community Project Funding applications for the upcoming federal appropriations cycle; and

WHEREAS, securing federal funding would allow the City to undertake the required radio system upgrade without placing additional burden on the General Fund or reducing other essential public services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the submission of a Community Project Funding request to the Office of Congressman Thanedar for financial support to upgrade the Police Department's radio communication system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Administration and or designees are authorized to compile all required documentation, provide necessary project details, and complete all steps needed to submit the application. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent Martin (1).

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04-20-26 VIII d

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TWO-YEAR SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK AND LEXIPOL FOR GRANT SOLICITATION SERVICES**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Robinson
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park recognizes the importance of pursuing external grant funding to support public safety operations, enhance community services, and reduce financial strain on the City's general fund; and

WHEREAS, identifying, applying for, and managing grants are time-intensive functions requiring consistent monitoring, specialized expertise, and administrative capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Police Department faces limitations in financial resources and administrative staffing, reducing its ability to regularly and competitively pursue grant opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Lexipol provides professional grant services that include grant monitoring, opportunity identification, application preparation, and ongoing grant management support; and

WHEREAS, engaging Lexipol for these services would enable the Highland Park Police Department to be more proactive and aggressive in securing grant funding thereby strengthening departmental capabilities and benefiting the City as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the proposed cost for the service agreement is six thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$6,750.00) per year, for a two-year total of thirteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$13,500.00); and

WHEREAS, billing for these services will begin in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highland Park City Council hereby approves entering into a two-year service agreement with Lexipol for grant solicitation and management services at an annual cost of \$6,750.00, with billing commencing in FY27. Yeas (3), Nays Ash-Shafii (1), Absent Martin (1).

**WATER
04-20-26 IX a**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE FY2026
CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (CWSRF) SANITARY SEWER
REHABILITATION PROJECT**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilman Ash-Shafii

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the City of Highland Park Water Department to address sewer infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed and approved the FY2024 CWSRF Project Plan Application for the City of Highland Park, that included a multiple year plan between FY2024 through FY2028, as submitted to EGLE; and

WHEREAS, EGLE has approved and awarded \$3,000,000 in loan funding for the FY2026 CWSRF Project; and

WHEREAS, the approved scope of this project includes the replacement of approximately 1.58 lineal miles of combined sewer, 3.03 lineal miles of Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP) lining, and approximately 47 manhole and catch basin structure replacements; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Water Department Director that when the construction contract is awarded that construction would tentatively begin Summer of 2026; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Water Department Director, a position currently held by Damon Garrett, and Finance Department Director, a position currently held by Eleanor Williamson, are designated as authorized representatives for all activities associated with the project referenced above. Yeas (3), Nays Robinson (1), Absent Martin (1).

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04-20-26 IX b

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT FOR PURPOSES OF RECEIVING CONSTRUCTION BIDS FOR THE FY2026 CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (CWSRF) SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council President Thomas

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the City of Highland Park Water Department to address water main improvements as identified in Section 3.9 of the 2024 EGLE Administrative Compliance Agreement ACA-399-02-2024 (ACA); and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park is required under the administrative rules promulgated under the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended (Act 399) to meet additional requirements including water quality parameter monitoring, source water monitoring, corrosion control treatment, and public education, as well as being mandated to replace a higher percentage of lead service lines; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park received \$30 million from EGLE through a Water Distribution Grant; and

WHEREAS, EGLE has reviewed and approved the FY2026 Replacement Proposal under ACA Section 3.9; and

WHEREAS, the approved scope of this project includes the replacement of approximately 6.65 lineal miles of water main and approximately 198 service lines; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Water Department Director that when the construction contract is awarded that construction would tentatively begin Summer of 2026; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Highland Park City Water Department requests to publicly advertise the FY2026 Water Main and Service Line Replacement project for purposes of soliciting construction bids, after receipt EGLE permit anticipated May 2026. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent Martin (1).

PUBLIC WORKS
04-20-26 X

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CONTRACTS FOR POTHOLE REPAIRS

Moved by Council Pro Tem Robinson
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

To table to the May 4, 2026, Regular Meeting. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent Thomas (1).

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Thomas adjourned meeting at 8:14 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 20th day of April 2026 and that said minutes are available for public inspection at the address designated on the posted public notice.



Cidia Wicker-Brown, Deputy City Clerk