

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

March 16, 2026

Council convened at 7:01 p.m. with Council President Thomas presiding.

Present: Councilman Ash-Shafii, Councilwoman Manica, Councilwoman Martin, and Council President Thomas. (4)

Absent: Council Pro Tem Robinson (1).

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

To approve the agenda with the addition of a single amendment to add the workshop item Ordinance amending the City of Highland Park Zoning Ordinance to Prohibit Immigration Detention, Holding, Processing, and Staging Facilities; providing definitions and providing for Enforcement to be added under City Council item VII b for it to be referred to planning, zoning and legal. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

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Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Support by Councilman Ash Shafii

To approve the proposed minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Regular meeting held March 2, 2026. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

BID OPENING:

V. 03-16-26

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

This is the time and place to open bids for Hot Patch Pothole repairs.

Three bids were received.

Spray Patch Mi	SJR Pavement Repair
1333 East 11 Mile Rd	22120 Ryan
Madison Heights, Mi 48071	Warren, MI 48091
Priced per street no total bid amount	Bid amount: \$392,350

Major Contracting Grp, Inc.
15700 Dale Street
Detroit, Mi 48223
Priced per street no total bid amount

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

Refer to administration for recommendation. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

FINANCE:

VI.a 03-16-26

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

The finance director submitted the audit for year ending June 30, 2025, from auditors Yeo & Yeo Carl Johnson gave a brief overview of the audit and answered councilmembers questions. This item was received and filed. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

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VI. b 03-16-26

Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

RESOLUTION TO ISSUE RFQ FOR AUDIT SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

WHEREAS, the Local Audit and Finance Division of the Department of Treasury has the responsibility of implementing the requirements of PA 2 of 1968, as amended (MCL 141.421 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the state treasurer is required to prescribe uniform accounting and reporting standards for all local units within the State of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of auditing and reporting requirements of PA 2 of 1968 is to maintain the confidence of all interested parties in the integrity of the record keeping and financial report of local units of government; and

WHEREAS, if a local unit has a population of 4,000 or more, an audit is required every year; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that a local unit has the option of selecting an independent certified public accountant or else the state treasurer must perform the audit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park chooses to select an independent certified public accountant to audit their financial records; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Highland Park that the Finance Director be allowed to issue an RFQ for audit services for the City of Highland Park. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

CITY COUNCIL

VII-a 03-16-26

Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii

Supported by Councilwoman Martin

To remove the following Resolution 2/17/26 – Publish before you Punish Moratorium on Enforcement of Ordinance prior to Publishing from the table. Yeas (3), Nays (1) Council President Thomas, Absent (1).

Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii

Supported by Councilwoman Martin

WHEREAS, the citizens of Highland Park Have the right to know and understand the laws and ordinances they are governed by in the city where they live and work.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Highland Park recognizes that transparency and accountability are important and essential for public trust.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Highland Park recognizes both a) the diligent work of the Mayor and the Administration in publishing many ordinances and b) the need for this work to continue for the good of the citizens of the city.

WHEREAS, many ordinances of the City do not have their full legal text readily available and are currently enforced through administrative processes (forms, applications, tickets, etc.) which denies citizens access and understanding of the enforced rules and regulations.

WHEREAS, the Handbook for Municipal Officials, 2024 edition (page 38), states that “Generally, to be bound by an ordinance, a person must have notice of an ordinance, or the reasonable opportunity to have had notice of it”

WHEREAS, the people of Michigan enacted the Home Rule City Act of Michigan, Act 279 of 1919, which states in Section 3, paragraph (k) “Printed copies of the law, code, or rule shall be kept in the office of the city clerk, available for inspection by, and distribution to, the public at all times. The publication shall contain a notice stating that a complete copy of the law, code, or rule is made available to the public at the office of the city clerk in compliance with state law requiring that records of public bodies be made available to the general public;” and in section 5, “Each city shall have power, whether provided in its charter or not, to codify, recodify and continue in code its municipal ordinances ... The ordinances adopting the code, as well as subsequent ordinances repealing, amending, continuing or adding to the code, shall be published as required by law.

WHEREAS, it is the duty of all the mayors to uphold the rights of citizens and ensure that ordinances are published and accessible.

WHEREAS, failure to publish ordinances publicly undermines due process, creates confusion, and risks the unlawful enforcement of regulations leading to unnecessary lawsuits.

WHEREAS, the City Council has the affirmative responsibility to proactively implement and make legislative decisions for good government, public peace, health, safety, and prosperity for the citizens of Highland Park.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT

1. The Highland Park City Council requests that the mayor proactively provide monthly updates to the City Council and the Citizens at our regularly scheduled meetings regarding the progress or publishing ordinances, or summaries thereof, including the total number of ordinances of the City as well as the number or ordinances not yet published.
2. The Highland Park City Council requests that the mayor cease and desist all enforcement of ordinances that are not properly published and wait a customary 30 days after publishing for said enforcement to resume.
3. Publication shall continue to be done in a manner that is complete, searchable, printable, and clearly indexed by chapter and section on the City's official website (<https://www.highlandparkmi.gov/how-do-i/look-up/ordinances/>) and/or via Muni Code;
4. The City Council explicitly asserts the rights of Highland Park citizens to know the full content of any ordinance before it is enforced against them and thus encourages said citizens to present their tickets received without knowledge of the full ordinance to these regularly scheduled meetings.
5. The Council urges the mayor to recognize that full publication of ordinances as a prerequisite to enforcement is a duty to the citizens, and that continued enforcement of not-yet-published ordinances is an actionable failure of government accountability, a willful neglect of duty and a denial of transparency and a violation of citizens' rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Mayor and the City Clerk and made available on the city website immediately so citizens can be informed of this request for transparency.

To approve the above resolution. Yeas (2) Councilman Ash Shafii and Councilwoman Martin, Nays (2) Councilwoman Manica and Council President Thomas, Absent (1).

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Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Martin

To refer to the following ordinance to the Planning Department. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK ZONING ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT IMMIGRATION DETENTION HOLDING, PROCESSING, AND STAGING FACILITIES; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT

The Ordinance:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT

This Ordinance is adopted to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the City of Highland Park, and to ensure that no property in the City is used for immigration detention, civil immigration holding, processing, or staging activities inconsistent with City policy and land use intent.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO DEFINITIONS (CHAPTER 1230-DEFINITIONS)

The City of Highland Park Zoning Ordinance includes Chapter 1230, Rules of Construction and Organization and Definitions.

Chapter 1230.02 (Definitions) is hereby amended by adding the following definitions in alphabetical order:

A. CIVIL IMMIGRATION DETENTION FACILITY

A building, structure, premises, property, or portion thereof used for the confinement, detention, restraint, or custody of individuals for civil immigration enforcement purposes, including but not limited to detention pending immigration proceedings deportation, removal, or transfer.

B. CIVIL IMMIGRATION HOLDING FACILITY

Any use, facility, location, or portion of a building where individuals are held temporarily or otherwise restrained for civil immigration enforcement purposes, including “temporary holding,” “booking,” “intake,” “processing,” or “transport waiting”

C. IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ENTITY

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Border Patrol, and any agent, contractor, affiliate, or entity acting on behalf of such agencies for immigration enforcement operations.

D. IMMIGRATION PROCESSING FACILITY/STAGING AREA

Any facility, use, location, or portion of a building used for immigration enforcement activity including but not limited to; processing, booking, intake, transport coordination, deployment staging, interviewing, interrogation, administrative operations, or other activity supporting immigration detention or removal.

SECTION 3. PROHIBITED USES – ALL ZONING DISTRICTS (CHAPTER 1250)

Chapter 1250 of the Zoning Ordinance governs zoning districts and permitted/special uses.

A new subsection is hereby added to Chapter 1250.04 (permitted and Special Uses).

1250 PROHIBITED USES IMMIGRATION DETENTION AND HOLDING

1. Prohibited Citywide. The following uses are hereby declared prohibited within the City of Highland Park and shall not be permitted in any zoning district as a principal use, temporary use, special land use, conditional use, or by variance.

- a. Civil Immigration Detention Facility
- b. Civil Immigration Holding Facility.
- c. Immigration Processing Facility / Staging Area.

2. No Workaround Allowed. The prohibited uses listed above shall not be allowed under any other use classification, including but not limited to “office”, “warehouse”, “public safety”, “institutional”, “government services”, “transportation”, “temporary use”, or “essential services.”

3. Industrial/Warehouse Clarification. For avoidance of doubt, the prohibited uses in this section are not allowed in any district including industrial, warehouse, manufacturing, or transportation-related districts.

SECTION 4. LIMITED EXEMPTIONS (EXISTING LOCAL FACILITIES ONLY)

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prohibit:

- 1. The continued operation of the Highland Park Police Department holding facility, solely for lawful detention of individuals under local criminal jurisdiction; and
- 2. The continued operation of the existing juvenile justice detention center in the city, solely for the lawful juvenile justice detention purposes.

SECTION 5 FIREWALL -NO FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS FROM EXEMPT FACILITIES

Even where the limited exemptions in Section 4 apply:

- 1. No portion of either exempt facility may be used by an Immigration Enforcement Entity for any purpose, including but not limited to:

Civil immigration holding or detention
processing, staging, booking, interviews, interrogation
administrative operation or transport operations

- 2. No City approvals (including occupancy, business licensing, certificates, contracts, or agreements) shall be issued that allow prohibited immigration enforcement operations to occur from the exempt facilities.

SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT

- 1. Any use established or operated in violation of this Ordinance shall constitute a zoning violation subject to enforcement through all lawful remedies including but not limited to civil infraction, injunctive relief, or any remedy authorized by the City Code and state law.

- 2. The Zoning Administrator is hereby directed not to issue any permit, approval, or occupancy determined that would allow prohibited use under this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY

If any portion of this Ordinance is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict are repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall take effect after adoption and publication as required by law.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii

Supported by Councilwoman Manica

To adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. motion carried.