

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL
February 2, 2026**

Council convened at 7:06 p.m. with Council President Thomas presiding.

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

Absent: (0).

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Council Pro Tem Robinson
Supported by Councilman Ash-Shafii

To approve the minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Regular meeting held January 20, 2026.
Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**VETO
02-02-26 V**

The following veto was received from Mayor McDonald.

At their meeting on January 20, 2026, the Highland Park City Council passed a Resolution requesting the Mayor take action regarding the online publication of ordinances. The Resolution was "walked on" and not provided to the law department to review prior to the Council meeting.

The Highland Park City Council is hereby on notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Mayor under "Charter Section 6-3 Veto of Council Action," I am vetoing this Council action for the following reasons:

- 1) The City Attorney's office was not provided with a written copy of the Resolution prior to the meeting so they were unable to review and approve as to form, as is their obligation to review "written instruments which are submitted by the City Council...in matters of legal nature relating to the affairs of the City" under Charter Section 7-5(6).

- 2) Under Paragraph 4 of the NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED clause, the Resolution states that a failure by the Mayor to comply with its terms would be a "violation of citizens rights". Not only is this an untrue statement, but this threat is a violation of Charter Section 5-4 "Restrictions on City Council", subsection 'c' which sets forth that City Council shall not "give orders to or request any service of any officer ..., either publicly or privately."
- 3) Under Paragraph 5 of the NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED clause, there is a false assertion that ordinances are being withheld from the public, when they are already available online via the MuniCode website. In fact, I have long advocated for updated publication of ordinances through the MuniCode site.

This veto hereby suspends the operation of the above-referenced Council action which shall have no legal effect unless the City Council shall, at the next regular meeting, vote to adopt the Council action by the affirmative vote of four (4) of its members.

****No Action, Veto Stands****

ADMINISTRATION

02-02-26 VI

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT APPLICATION(S) FOR 2026 STATE OF MICHIGAN FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED CITIES, VILLAGES, OR TOWNSHIPS (FDCVT) GRANT

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is providing \$2.5M in 2026 in grants to financially distressed cities, villages, or townships (FDCVT) to fund specific projects or services that move the city, village, or township toward financial stability; and

WHEREAS, Highland Park qualifies for the subject grant; and

WHEREAS, Highland Park has been successful in past applications, receiving grants for a police vehicle, blue light project, ADA front entrance to City Hall, solar lights, stand-by generator for the Recreation Center, and two heavy-duty pickup trucks with snowplows and salt spreaders; and

WHEREAS, over the past couple of years, the city has received quotes to replace and/or upgrade the original boilers that were installed in 1951 (see attached); and

WHEREAS, Highland Park will request funding to refurbish one or both boilers in City Hall as they have been down multiple times but the cost to replace them would be cost prohibitive; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City approves applying for the 2026 FDCVT grant. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Robinson, Absent (0).

PUBLIC WORKS

02-02-26 VII

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL TO ISSUE RFP FOR POTHOLE REPAIRS

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Moved by Council Pro Tem Robinson

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

WHEREAS, there are a significant number of potholes that jeopardize the health and well-being of the residents and the public at large and that may cause damage to vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the poor condition of roadways in Highland Park may negatively impact future investment prospects in the city as well; and

WHEREAS, DPW currently does not have the manpower nor equipment to adequately repair potholes to the required level; and

WHEREAS, DPW is requesting permission to issue an RFP to solicit bids from reputable contractors to patch potholes on roads located within the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the number of pothole repairs will be dependent upon the availability of Act 51 funds; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Highland Park that DPW be allowed to issue an RFP to solicit bids for pothole repairs. Yes (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilwoman Martin

To adjourn the meeting, meeting adjourned at 7:56 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 2nd day of February 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