

CITY OF HIGHLAND HEIGHTS
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2026
Approved: June 16, 2026

On Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Meyers called the regular Council meeting to order at 176 Johns Hill Road.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Gregory Meyers. Councilmembers Deborah Ball, Gary Chinn, Patricia Hayley, Rene Heinrich, Jesse Hockenbury. A quorum was present.

Councilmember Absent: Councilmember John Braun.

Staff Present: City Administrator, Michael Giffen; Police Chief, Bill Birkenhauer; City Clerk/Treasurer, Jeanne Pettit; Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Fornash; Public Works Director, Steve Lehman; Attorney, Michelle Eviston.

Minutes for Approval

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2026.** These minutes were previously emailed to the Mayor, Council Members, and City Staff for review.
- **Action Taken:** Member Chinn made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular council meeting held May 5, 2026. Seconded by Member Heinrich. Discussion: None. Yes: 5, No: 0, Abstain: 0. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.

Correspondence: None

Scheduled Guests: None

Staff Reports

- City Administrator – Michael Giffen
 - Councilmember Hockenbury exited the council chamber at 7:03 p.m.
 - **Ordinance – Second Reading**
 - **Ordinance 02-2026:** An ordinance adopting the City of Highland Heights, Kentucky annual budget for the fiscal year 7/1/2026 through 6/30/2027 by estimating revenues and resource and appropriating funds for the operation of city government.
 - **Action Taken:** Member Heinrich made a motion to approve ordinance 02-2026 adopting the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget. Seconded by Member Ball. Discussion: None.
 - **Roll Call:** Councilmember Ball, yes; Hayley, yes; Chinn, yes; Heinrich, yes. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.
 - **Ordinance – First Reading**
 - **Ordinance 03-2026:** An ordinance amending the City of Highland Heights, Kentucky annual budget for the fiscal year 7/1/2025-6/30/2026, by estimating revenues and resources and appropriating funds for the operation of city government.
 - Councilmember Hockenbury re-entered the meeting at 7:12 p.m.
- Police Chief – Bill Birkenhauer
 - Michael Dickhaus was hired this month to fill the vacant position.
 - Discussion of vacation checks and recent car break-ins.

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- City Clerk/Treasurer – Jeanne Pettit
- Code Enforcement Officer – Dave Fornash
- Public Works Director – Steve Lehman
 - **Action Taken:** Member Heinrich made a motion to accept the Morton Salt bid for \$126.84 per ton. Seconded by Member Chinn. Discussion: None. Yes: 5, No: 0, Abstain: 0. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.
- Attorney – Michelle Eviston
 - **Action Taken:** Member Heinrich made a motion to read ordinance 01-2026 in summary. Seconded by Member Hockenbury. Discussion: None. Yes: 5, No: 0, Abstain: 0. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.
 - **Ordinance – Second Reading**
 - **Ordinance 01-2026:** An ordinance updating the official Zoning Map for Highland Heights to rezone approximately 11.4 acres at Sunset and University Drive from Residential One-E (R-1E) Zone and Institutional (INST) Zone to Residential Three (R-3) Zone with the adjacent rights-of-way.
 - **Action Taken:** Member Chinn made a motion to approve ordinance 01-2026 rezoning approximately 11.4 acres at Sunset and University Drive from Residential One-E (R-1E) Zone and Institutional (INST) Zone to Residential Three (R-3) Zone with the adjacent rights-of-way. Seconded by Member Ball. Discussion: None.
 - **Roll Call:** Councilmember Chinn, yes; Ball, yes; Heinrich, yes; Hockenbury, yes; Hayley, yes. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.
 - **Municipal Order**
 - **Municipal Order 10-2026:** A municipal order declaring city-owned property as surplus and authorizing the Mayor to dispose of city property.
 - **Action Taken:** Member Heinrich made a motion to accept municipal order 10-2026 as amended. Seconded by Member Ball. Discussion: None. Yes: 5, No: 0, Abstain: 0. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.

Unfinished Business

- Investment Policy – Member Heinrich will meet with staff to finalize the policy and then bring it to council for approval at the June 16 meeting.

New Business

- Member Heinrich expressed concern about Member Hockenbury's participation in council meetings.
- She is concerned about his stance against the police department due to the sexual misconduct charge against him, which occurred in Highland Heights.
- Member Heinrich is concerned with balancing Member Hockenbury's right of innocent until proven guilty with support of the police department.
- Member Heinrich requested Member Hockenbury voluntarily not participate in Council until his criminal case is resolved.

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- Member Hockenbury stated either you believe in innocent until proven guilty or you don't.
- He requested Member Heinrich to provide a comment, motion, or amendment showing he does not support law enforcement in Highland Heights.
- Member Hockenbury indicated there were budget discussions at the last council meeting and none of these concerns were raised then.
- He stated that Member Heinrich found she was in a contested election prior to the meeting.
- Member Hockenbury stated he is doing his duty to vote on things that are in the best interest of the citizens.
- He indicated he would need time to consider whether or not to participate in future council meetings.
- Member Heinrich stated that it didn't occur to her, until after the last council meeting, there could be a conflict of interest with the budget.
- She indicated she asked about council's options in this situation well before yesterday, when people were signing up to run for council.
- Member Ball said it would be a good idea for Member Hockenbury to think about not participating in council and provide an answer before the next council meeting.
- Member Chinn stated he agreed with Members Heinrich and Ball.
- Member Heinrich stated that generally, in these types of situations, a person is put on leave until charges are resolved. This is not an option for an elected official. An elected official must voluntarily choose to not participate in council.

Citizens to Address Council:

- Bonnie Pickett – Regency Court – requests removal of barriers on Alexandria Way to improve traffic flow and improve congestion on surrounding streets; provide easier access for residents, emergency services, and visitors; support local businesses by increasing accessibility; and restore convenience for the community while maintaining public safety. Ms. Pickett requested a timeline for reopening the roadway. She presented council with a petition of 63 signatures requesting the barriers be removed. She mentioned that one person blew out 2 tires on the barriers and residents with larger trucks have difficulty making turns onto Robinson Road.
- Sandy Hunley – Honeytree Lane – Ms. Hunley believes that creating a boulevard on Alexandria Way has been part of the comprehensive plan for many years but, as a person who rides her bike on Alexandria Way, she believes the road is too narrow for the islands.
- Bob McSorley – Sunset Drive – requested temporary speed humps on his section of Sunset Drive. He stated that people are walking strollers, dogs, etc. and have to hop out of the street and onto the grass to avoid traffic since there are no sidewalks. Additionally, motorists are not going the 20-mph speed limit. Mr. McSorley also requested an update on construction at the intersection of Sunset and 27. Mr. Giffen explained that the state just finished environmental assessment work and is entering Phase 2 looking at utilities and rights-of-way. Construction will likely occur in late 2027.

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- Braden White – LINKnky – today is his last meeting. He expressed his thanks to the residents and council. Mr. White is transitioning to City Beat as a reporter. He introduced Brooke as the city's new reporter with LINKnky.

Adjournment

- **Action Taken:** Member Chinn made a motion to adjourn the June 2, 2026 council meeting. Seconded by Member Hayley. Discussion: None. Yes: 5, No: 0, Abstain: 0. Mayor Meyers declared the motion passed.

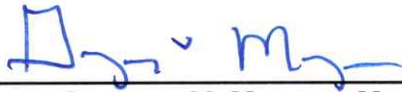
Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

Submitted by:



Jeanne M. Pettit, City Clerk/Treasurer

Signed:



Gregory V. Meyers, Mayor