

MINUTES OF A STUDY SESSION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS, HELD AT TOWN HALL, 4700 DREXEL DRIVE, HIGHLAND PARK, TX, 75205, AT 8:48 A.M. ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025.

Mayor Will C. Beecherl, Mayor Pro Tem Don Snell, and Council Members Lydia Novakov and Leland White attended the meeting. Council Members Alan Friedman and Marc Myers were absent.

I. Mayor Will C. Beecherl called the meeting to order at 8:48 a.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Beecherl asked if anyone wished to address the Town Council about any item listed on the agenda and explained that the Town Council may not discuss or make decisions on items not listed on the agenda. Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker unless otherwise required by law. Items suggested for action may be placed on a future agenda at the Town Council's discretion. There was no comment.

III. FUTURE AGENDA DISCUSSION

A. Review and discuss the establishment of four all-way stop intersections. Lori Chapin, Director of Engineering, stated that the intersection of Lomo Alto Drive at Fairway Avenue was reviewed following resident concerns about visibility, vehicle speed, and traffic volume. A traffic study by Kimley-Horn found increased volumes and speeds on Lomo Alto Drive but likely low volumes on Fairway Avenue due to its short configuration and limited connectivity. An all-way stop at this location was not warranted. Ms. Chapin instead recommended an all-way stop one block north at Westway Avenue and Lomo Alto Drive, due to the high volumes of traffic along Westway Avenue. The intersection of Lomo Alto Drive at South Versailles Avenue was also evaluated in response to a resident's concern about speeding. Town staff did not recommend an all-way stop at this location due to its proximity to two existing all-way stops. Additionally, the two recorded incidents at this location were not attributed to excessive speeding. Mayor Pro Tem Don Snell requested that staff continue to monitor this intersection for the potential installation of an all-way stop in the future. The intersection of Roland Avenue at Edmondson Avenue was evaluated at the request of several residents who expressed concerns about speeding and limited site distance. Town staff recommend installing an all-way stop at this location due to the potential for speeding, its adjacency to Fairfax Park, the added benefit of traffic calming, and lingering site-distance concerns. Lastly, the intersection at Westway Avenue at LaSalle Avenue was reviewed following several resident requests related to traffic volume, speeding, and children playing in the area. Town staff recommended an all-way stop due to high traffic volumes, instances of vehicles exceeding 30 MPH, additional traffic calming, and consistency through the corridor. The Town Council directed staff to prepare an ordinance for all staff-recommended all-way stop installations.

B. Review, discuss, and consider the opportunity for a Town Council Member to request an item to be placed on a future Town Council meeting agenda. Mayor Beecherl asked if any Town Council Member would like to request that an item be placed on a future Town Council study

session agenda for discussion or consideration. Council Member Lydia Novakov requested that staff explore options for signage displaying the names of Town parks.

IV. REPORTS

A. Review and discuss the proposed addition to the Department of Public Safety Uniform Policy. Chuck McGinnis, Director of the Department of Public Safety ("DPS"), explained the proposed amendment to the department's uniform policy would permit police officers to wear cowboy hats as an optional part of their duty uniform. The change is supported by more than 80% of officers, as indicated in a recent internal survey, and is intended to improve comfort, sun protection, morale, and community engagement while maintaining a professional appearance. Chief McGinnis noted that cowboy hats are widely perceived as approachable and personable, which can enhance public interaction and provide greater protection from the sun compared to standard patrol caps. He added that the policy would establish specific standards for style, material, and color to ensure uniformity, allowing straw hats in the summer and felt hats in the winter, and include a list of approved manufacturers with DPS specifications on file so retailers could readily fulfill officers' requests. Wearing cowboy hats would be optional and subject to command staff discretion, with officers responsible for purchasing their own hats. The Town Council expressed positive feedback on the proposal.

B. Review and discuss the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Combined Operating and Capital Budget. John Samford, Director of Finance, stated that the purpose of this agenda item is to provide an opportunity for staff to receive comments from the Town Council relating to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Combined Operating and Capital Budget (the "FY 2026 Budget") process and any items the Town Council would like the staff to consider, study, or incorporate into the FY 2026 Budget. Mr. Samford noted possible adjustments to the proposed budget may be made pending the results of the ongoing compensation and benefits study being conducted for the Town. The Mayor and Town Council Members discussed various items and allocations within the proposed budget.

CLOSED SESSION

- A. In accordance with the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.072 – REAL ESTATE – the Town Council will convene into closed session to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.*
- B. In accordance with the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Section 551.074 – PERSONNEL MATTERS – the Town Council will convene into closed session to deliberate the appointment, employment, and duties of the Assistant Town Administrator.*

Mayor Beecherl recessed the study session at 9:24 a.m. and convened in a closed session at 9:24 a.m. Mayor Beecherl ended the closed session at 9:51 a.m. and reconvened the study session in open session at 9:51 a.m. No final action, decision, or vote was taken during the closed session.

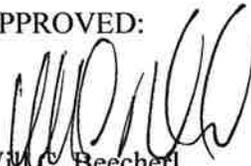
OPEN SESSION

A. Pursuant to Section 551.102 of the Texas Government Code, the final action, decision, or vote regarding Closed Session Item A. and B. above shall be made, if any. No motion was made.

Mayor Beecherl adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

APPROVED on the 19th day of August 2025.

APPROVED:



Will C. Beecherl
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sofia Tarango
Administrative Assistant