

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 8:34 A.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025.

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

I. Mayor Will C. Beecherl called the meeting to order at 8:34 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, 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. No items were suggested for a future meeting; however, Council Member Alan Friedman inquired if staff would follow up with the citizens who spoke during the public hearing at the Town Council Meeting. Tobin Maples, A.I.C.P., Town Administrator, confirmed that he spoke to one individual after the meeting and will contact the other.

B. Review and discuss proposed amendments to the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget. John Samford, C.P.A., Director of Finance, explained that since the FY 2024-25 budget was adopted on September 3, 2024, staff identified recommended amendments, including changes to revenues, appropriations, and inter-fund transfers. In the General Fund, proposed amendments include a \$276,000 increase for zoning consulting, a \$4 million transfer of surplus funds to the Capital Projects Fund, and minor adjustments for personnel and legal services, offset in part by increased sales tax revenue. The net result is a \$4 million decrease in the General Fund balance and a corresponding increase in the Capital Projects Fund. In the Utility Fund, \$144,000 in increased appropriations for water purchases and vehicle repairs is mostly offset by higher estimated water sales, resulting in a \$19,000 net decrease in fund balance. Insurance proceeds for the vehicle repairs were received in the prior year, minus the deductible. In the Building Maintenance & Investment Fund, about \$37,000 is proposed for unanticipated furniture and facility repairs, funded from the available balance. An additional \$19,000 in appropriations and \$8,000 in property rental revenue are proposed for final accounting of the Westside Court apartment operations. Overall, total resources are proposed to increase by approximately \$4.43 million, while total uses would rise by about \$4.5 million, resulting in a net decrease of roughly \$70,000 in available fund balances. In response to Council Member White, Mr. Samford confirmed

that operational expenditures are not outpacing capital allocations in the FY 2025-26 budget. Mayor Beecherl asked if there were any further questions, to which there were none.

IV. REPORTS

A. Review and discuss the 2025 Town of Highland Park Community Survey results. Chelsey Gordon, Director of Policy Development and Strategic Initiatives, stated that as part of its strategic planning process, the Town of Highland Park engaged ETC Institute to conduct a community survey in mid-2025 to gather resident input on long-term priorities affecting services such as public safety, parks, and community development. Jason Morado, Vice President and Director of Community Research with ETC Institute, presented a detailed review of the survey results and compared the results with nationwide results. The survey was distributed both by mail and online, promoted through various local channels, and received 487 responses, which is well above the target of 300. Results showed 99% resident satisfaction with life in Highland Park, with top concerns including traffic congestion, nearby urban development, and the loss of historic homes. Mayor Beecherl requested a review of the results comparing residents who have lived in the Town of Highland Park for a few years versus those who have lived in the Town for many years. Ms. Gordon confirmed that the requested data can be provided. She added that staff will be integrating the survey results into the strategic planning retreat.

Mayor Beecherl adjourned the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

APPROVED on the 16th day of September 2025.

APPROVED:

Will C. Beecherl
Mayor

ATTEST:



Joanna Mekeal
Town Secretary