

**Enrolled Minutes of the Thirty-second Regular or Special Meeting  
Special Meeting  
Twenty-Ninth Town Council of Highland  
Friday, February 12, 2021**

The Twenty-Ninth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met *electronically* in a special meeting on **Friday, February 12 2021** at 5:00 O'clock P.M., in the regular place, the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.\*

*\*Special note:* This special meeting was convened allowing members of the Town Council to participate electronically without being physically present, to be counted in the quorum and able to simultaneously listen and respond to matters taken up in the meeting, all pursuant to Governor Holcomb's Executive Orders 20-04 and 20-09, extended by Executive Order No. 21-03 allowing meetings to be convened pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-3.6 for the duration of the Corona Virus COVID 19 emergency. All members of the Town Council participated electronically with the Clerk-Treasurer participating as well. The electronic platform also allowed the public to observe and participate from on-line access.

*Silent Roll Call:* Councilors Tom Black, Mark Herak, Bernie Zemen, Mark Schocke and Roger Sheeman (electronically), were present as indicated The Clerk-Treasurer, Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings (electronically). A quorum was attained. The Clerk-Treasurer's daughter, Abigail Griffin, welcomed the three participants who were interviewed in the plenary meeting room supported by an iPad to access Zoom.

**Special Orders:**

*Interviews of prospective appointees*

1. The Town Council interviewed **Ms. Octavio Rolland**, (unstated) 3337 Duluth Street, who expressed interest in being appointed to the Town Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners. The Town Council and Ms. Rolland discussed her work history. They discussed the importance of diversity in town government. Ms. Rolland also expressed willingness to be considered for appointment to another board or commission. (Electronically)
2. The Town Council conducted an interview with **Mr. Michael Blejski**, 9335 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Highland, who discussed his interest in being reappointed to the Community Events Commission. (Electronically)

The Town Council and Mr. Blejski discussed the programing and events that might be desirable for the town.

3. The Town Council conducted an interview with **Ms. Kylee McLellan**, (D) 8737 Prairie Avenue, Highland, who expressed interest in continuing her existing service on the Park and Recreation Board. (Accessing via iPad at Town Hall)

Ms. McLellan discussed her interest in serving on the Park and Recreation Board, her children's interest in the parks and its programs as well her regular attendance at meetings of the board She discussed issues of interest regarding Brantwood Park.

4. The Town Council conducted an interview with **Mr. George Smith**, (R), 3221 O'Day Drive, Highland, who expressed interest in remaining on the Board of Waterworks Directors. (Accessing via iPad at Town Hall)

Mr. Smith offered a survey of his contributions and experiences as a member of the Board of Waterworks Directors. He also discussed his recent sale of his tax preparation business for which he continues to work as an employee. Mr. Smith responded to

questions regarding his service on the Board of Waterworks Directors, including discussing concerns about financing maintenance on the water infrastructure.

5. The Town Council conducted an interview with **Mr. Jason Tharp**, (D) 9343 Kennedy Avenue, Highland, who expressed interest in being appointed to the Board of Waterworks Directors. He currently serves on the Community Events Commission. (Accessing via iPad at Town Hall)

Mr. Tharp offered a brief narrative regarding his work background. Mr. Tharp also spoke about his ideas of public and community service and how they inform his desire to seek to serve on the Board of Waterworks Directors. Mr. Tharp responded to questions regarding his interest in the appointment and suggestions for ways to improve public engagement and communications. (Electronically)

6. The Town Council conducted an interview with **Ms. Theresa Knipe**, (unstated) 3420 Lincoln Street, Highland, who expressed interest in being appointed to the Economic Development Commission or the Board of Sanitary Commissioners. (Electronically)

Ms. Knipe discussed the basis of her interest in these two places of service. Ms. Knipe discussed her availability for meetings, forms of invoicing for utilities to be “paperless” and making payment solely electronic. Ms. Knipe indicated equal interest in serving on either board.

7. The Town Council conducted an interview with **Ms. Robin Salzeider**, 8926 Arbor Hill Drive, Highland who expressed interest in being appointed to the Park and Economic Development Commission. (Electronically)

Ms. Salzeider responded to questions regarding her family’s special charity and its works. Ms. Salzeider discussed her views regarding public economic development incentives and similar economic development tools.

8. The Town Council interviewed **Ms. Elizabeth Alakel**, 3048 100<sup>th</sup> Place, Highland who expressed interest in being reappointed to the Community Events Commission. (Electronically)

Ms. Alakel responded to questions regarding her service on the Community Events Commission. The questions included the merits of including a beer garden as part of the elements for Independence Day festival, and the various events that she believed were valued by residents including her desire to program more “family friendly” activities.

9. The Town Council interviewed **Mr. Joseph Grzymiski**, 3110 Farmer Drive, Highland who expressed interest continuing to serve as a member of the Highland Plan Commission and thereby as an appointee from the Plan Commission to the Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals. (Electronically)

Mr. Grzymiski offered a brief narrative regarding his work background. Mr. Grzymiski responded to questions regarding his basis for deciding rezoning matters and matters regarding public decision-making. Mr. Grzymiski responded to questions posed as zoning scenarios and offered some suggestions for improving the zoning and appeals processes.

10. The Town Council interviewed **Ms. Christine Gonzalez**, 9032 Pettit Drive, Highland who expressed interest in being re-appointed to the Community Events Commission. (Electronically)

Ms. Gonzalez offered a survey of her contributions and experiences as a member of the Community Events Commission. Ms. Gonzalez responded to questions regarding her aspirations for events programming and activities that could be provided by the Community Events Commission.

The discussion included the number of volunteers needed to operate the Independence Day Festival and the value of the Main Square Park.

11. The Town Council interviewed with **Mr. Doug Turich**, 9336 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Highland who expressed interest in being retained on the Plan Commission. (Electronically)

Mr. Turich offered a survey of his contributions and experiences as a member of the Plan Commission. Mr. Turich also discussed how to encourage citizen engagement, and ways that might encourage people to gather in the downtown. Mr. Turich discussed the opportunities that Highland might utilize to enhance the community. Mr. Turich responded to questions regarding his service on the Plan Commission.

*Scrivener's note: Under Indiana law, it is noted that party affiliation is a consideration certain boards and commissions except the following: Redevelopment Commission, Economic Development Commission, Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Events Commission, and Tree Advisory Board.*

There being no further interviews or business to come before the Town Council, the special meeting of the Town Council, of Friday, February 12, 2021, was adjourned at 8:09 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/ACPFIM/CMO  
Clerk-Treasurer