



CITY OF HIGHLAND HAVEN
510 Highland Drive, Suite A
Highland Haven, Texas 78654-8278
Telephone: 830-265-4366

AGENDA – BOARD OF ALDERMAN MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2025

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Highland Haven Community Center

1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum/Roll Call– Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Terry Nuss	☐ Present	☐ Absent
Aldersperson Don Hagans	☐ Present	☐ Absent
Aldersperson Bruce Robertson	☐ Present	☐ Absent
Aldersperson Lynn Smith	☐ Present	☐ Absent
Aldersperson Terry Smith	☐ Present	☐ Absent

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Recognize Visitors

4. Announcements, Proclamations or Presentations

5. Public Comment

(At this time, any person with business before the BOA not scheduled on the agenda may speak to the Board. No formal action can be taken on these items at this meeting. No discussion or deliberation can occur. Comments regarding specific agenda items should occur when the item is called.)

ACTION ITEMS

6. Consider Consent items:

The items listed are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Board of Aldermen and will be approved by one motion, there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda prior to a motion and vote. The item will be considered in its normal sequence of the regular agenda.

- a. Meeting Minutes for January 23, 2025

7. Discussion and/or Possible Action – Resolution #364 - Legislative Platform for 89th Texas State Legislative Session

DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS

8. Discussion of upcoming May Election deadlines:

- a. Candidate Filing Dates: January 15, 2025, through February 14, 2025
- b. Election Date: May 3, 2025
- c. Positions include 3 Aldermen positions. Incumbents Bruce Robertson, Lynn Smith, and Terry Smith.

9. Review Planning and Zoning Commission Recommendations to BOA

- a. Commercial Zoning Ordinance

10. Review assignments for the Planning and Zoning Commission

- a. Comprehensive Plan Review
- b. Review of current Planning and Zoning assignments

c. The next P&Z meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

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11. Legislative Updates –

- a. Residents willing to send letters to representatives
- b. Website Information
 - i. Links to bills
 - ii. Draft letters to representatives
- c. Capital Visit – February 27

12. Traffic Control –

13. Drainage Issues –

14. Review Water System –

- a. Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District
 - i. Pumping Permit
 - ii. Drought Status – Stage 4
 - iii. 15 % Mandatory Water Restrictions
- b. Maintenance and Operations Issues

15. Review Solid Waste Services –

16. Mayor's Report

17. Aldermen Comments

Next regular meeting – Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., Highland Haven Community Center.

Adjournment.

Posted January 31, 2025

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

I, JOSEPH ADAMS, CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING AGENDA HAS BEEN POSTED AT HIGHLAND HAVEN CITY HALL, 510 HIGHLAND DRIVE, SUITE A; HIGHLAND HAVEN, TX ON THE INDOOR AND OUTDOOR NOTICE BOARDS OF CITY HALL WHICH ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL TIMES AND THE CITY WEBSITE AT [WWW. HIGHLANDHAVENTX.COM](http://WWW.HIGHLANDHAVENTX.COM) ON JANUARY 31, 2025, BY 5:00 PM AND REMAINED SO POSTED FOR AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRECEDING THE SCHEDULED TIME OF SAID MEETING.



Joseph Adams

Joseph Adams, City Administrator

THIS MEETING SHALL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.001 ET SEQ. AT ANY TIME DURING THE MEETING THE BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION ON ANY OF THE ABOVE POSTED AGENDA ITEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SECTIONS 551.071 (Advice of Counsel), 551.072 (Real Property), 551.073 (Gifts or Donations), 551.074 (Personnel), 551.076 (Security), 551.087 (Economic Development) and/or 418.183 (Homeland Security).



CITY OF HIGHLAND HAVEN
510 Highland Drive, Suite A
Highland Haven, Texas 78654-8278
Telephone: 830-265-4366

MINUTES – BOARD OF ALDERMAN MEETING

DATE: Thursday, January 23, 2025

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Highland Haven Community Center

1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum/Roll Call– Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Terry Nuss	✓ Present	☐ Absent
Aldersperson Don Hagans	✓ Present	☐ Absent
Aldersperson Bruce Robertson	✓ Present	☐ Absent
Aldersperson Lynn Smith	✓ Present	☐ Absent
Aldersperson Terry Smith	✓ Present	☐ Absent

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Kelley led in the pledge of Allegiance.

3. Recognize Visitors

Visitors present were Richard Baum, Sarah Collard, Rick Hieb, Tammie Hieb, Peter MacKay, Sally MacKay, Debbie Dahlstrom, Marvin Filla, Kathy Filla, Sherry Hume, Theresa Smith & Jackie Garrow.

4. Announcements, Proclamations or Presentations

Recognize Lezley Baum, City Secretary

Lezley Baum was recognized for her service to the City of Highland Haven.

5. Public Comment

(At this time, any person with business before the BOA not scheduled on the agenda may speak to the Board. No formal action can be taken on these items at this meeting. No discussion or deliberation can occur. Comments regarding specific agenda items should occur when the item is called.)

No Public Comments

ACTION ITEMS

6. Consider Consent items:

The items listed are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Board of Aldermen and will be approved by one motion, there will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda prior to a motion and vote. The item will be considered in its normal sequence of the regular agenda.

- a. Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2025
- b. December 24 Financials
- c. December 24 Utility Report
- d. January 25 Sales Tax Report

Motion to approve consent agenda made by Terry Nuss, seconded by Terry Smith.

Vote 5-0

7. Discussion and/or Possible Action – Order of Election.

Motion to order May 3, 2025 general election made by Lynn Smith, seconded by Don Hagans.

Vote 5-0

8. Convene into Executive Session as per Texas Govt. Code §551.072 to discuss Real Property and Texas Govt. Code §551.074 to discuss personnel.

- a. Closed Session:

- i. Discuss real property matters.
- ii. Discuss Personnel – City Secretary

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The convened into executive session at 9:10 am.

- b. Open Session: Reconvene into open session.

The meeting was reconvened into open session at 9:45 am.

- 9. Discussion and/or Possible Action on Executive Session matters.
 - a. Real Property matters.
 - b. Personnel – City Secretary

Terry Smith made a motion to offer the City Secretary Position to Sarah Collard, seconded by Lynn Smith. Vote 5-0

DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS

- 10. Discussion of upcoming May Election deadlines:
 - a. Candidate Filing Dates: January 15, 2025, through February 14, 2025
 - b. Election Date: May 3, 2025
 - c. Positions include 3 Aldermen positions. Incumbents Bruce Robertson, Lynn Smith, and Terry Smith.
- 11. Review Planning and Zoning Commission Recommendations to BOA
 - a. Commercial Zoning Ordinance
- 12. Review assignments for the Planning and Zoning Commission
 - a. Comprehensive Plan Review
 - i. Community Survey
 - b. Review of current Planning and Zoning assignments
 - c. The next P&Z meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2025, at 6:00 pm.
- 13. Legislative Updates –
 - a. Resolution Legislative Platform
 - b. Proposed Legislation
- 14. Traffic Control –
- 15. Drainage Issues –
- 16. Water Storage Tank Project Report
 - a. Final Recap
- 17. Review Water System –
 - a. Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District
 - i. Pumping Permit
 - ii. Drought Status – Stage 4
 - iii. 15 % Mandatory Water Restrictions
 - b. Maintenance and Operations Issues
- 18. Review Solid Waste Services –
- 19. Mayor's Report
- 20. City Administrator Comments
- 21. Aldermen Comments

Next regular meeting – Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., Highland Haven Community Center.

Motion to adjourn made by Terry Smith, seconded by Bruce Robertson. Vote 5-0

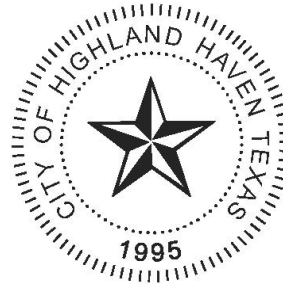
Adjournment.

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Olan Kelley, Mayor

Joseph Adams, City Administrator



CITY OF HIGHLAND HAVEN

RESOLUTION NO. 364

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND HAVEN, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 89TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Haven is a General Law Type A municipality operating under the laws of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Texas municipalities and counties have been empowered by the Texas Constitution and the Texas Legislature to promote public health, safety, and general welfare through the adoption of reasonable regulations; and

WHEREAS, the highest priority of the City of Highland Haven Board of Aldermen is to preserve its ability to govern effectively and efficiently in a manner responsive to its unique residents, community members, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen finds legislative involvement to be a legitimate exercise of its elected duties as the governing body serving those who live, work, visit, and own property in the city limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the City of Highland Haven ("Board of Aldermen") finds it to be in the public interest and necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare, that the city take positions on certain issues that may come before the 89th Texas Legislature in 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND HAVEN, TEXAS:

SECTION A. The City of Highland Haven Board of Aldermen Supports:

1. **Local Control:** Legislation that upholds local government authority and reinforces the ability of elected leaders to respond effectively to the needs of their community.
2. **Water Conservation:** Policies promoting sustainable water use, including stormwater harvesting, water sourcing, automatic meter reading software, and regulatory tools to manage water use during droughts. Support for native planting programs, smart water use initiatives, and funding partnerships with Texas A&M University for statewide programs. Advocate for public water systems to receive priority in groundwater district management and permitting, ensuring that

established, built-out communities have access to the water volumes necessary to meet their needs as originally platted.

3. **Infrastructure Funding:** Increased funding and legislative tools to aid in transportation, water, and sewer infrastructure projects, as well as enhanced collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation.
4. **Revenue Tools:** Legislation allowing alternative methods for publishing legal notices, eliminating reauthorization provisions for the street maintenance sales and use tax, and expanding its eligible uses.
5. **Pay-As-You-Go Financing:** Authorizing a dedicated property tax rate for capital expenditures, classified similarly to the debt service tax rate.
6. **Competitive Bidding Thresholds:** Raising the competitive bidding threshold to reflect increased costs faced by cities.
7. **Municipal Rights-of-Way Management:** Preservation of municipal authority over public rights-of-way and ensuring cities are adequately compensated for their use.
8. **Population Bracket Considerations:** Legislation recognizing the unique challenges faced by small cities with historically low tax rates, ensuring that mandates or restrictions designed for larger cities do not create unsustainable burdens on smaller municipalities like Highland Haven.

SECTION B. The City of Highland Haven Board of Aldermen Opposes:

1. **Erosion of Municipal Authority:** Any legislation that undermines local government authority, imposes unfunded mandates, or otherwise negatively impacts cities, especially legislation that:
 - Preempts municipal authority.
 - Imposes revenue or tax caps.
 - Erodes the ability of cities to issue debt.
 - Limits municipal control over development, including:
 - Annexation.
 - Eminent domain.
 - Zoning, including accessory dwelling units.
 - Regulatory takings.

- Building codes.
 - Tree preservation.
 - Short-term rentals.
 - Extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).
 - Manufactured housing.
 - Parkland dedication ordinances.
 - Impact fees.
 - Restricts municipal authority over rights-of-way management or compensation.
 - Limits cities' ability to communicate with legislators, either directly or through organizations like the Texas Municipal League.
2. **Preemption of Local Regulation:** Legislation that reduces local authority over density, zoning, permitting, inspections, or stormwater controls.
 3. **Election Requirements:** Mandating partisan elections for municipal offices.
 4. **Revenue Restrictions:** Expanding appraisal or revenue caps without thorough impact studies or alternative funding options.

SECTION C. Administration

1. **Communication with Legislators and State Leadership:** Direct City staff to provide copies of this Resolution to the State Senator for District 24, the State Representative for District 19, relevant legislative committee chairs, the Governor's Office, and the Texas Municipal League.
2. **Advocacy:** Authorize City officials to advocate for the positions expressed herein in compliance with applicable state and federal laws.

The meeting at which this Resolution was passed was open to the public, and public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this _____ of _____, 2025, by a vote of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Highland Haven, Texas.

SIGNED:

Mayor, City of Highland Haven

ATTEST:

City Administrator/Secretary

HIGHLAND HAVEN COMMUNITY SURVEY

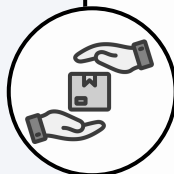
Surveys Sent

The survey was sent out on Monday January 13 to 339 resident emails and is open to receive responses until Friday February 28.



Received

As of Friday January 31, we have received 94 survey responses. Of those 94, 88 have been completed online using the link emailed out.



Comments

Of the surveys received so far, we have had over 210 comments on the topics and issues that were asked about.



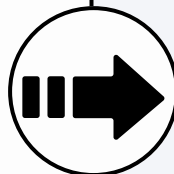
Presentation

At the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on Thursday February 13, an initial presentation of the survey results will be given.



Next Steps

We plan to post a link to the results of the survey at the conclusion, and use the results to host Town Hall conversations about topics that were brought up.



City of Highland Haven - Bills in 89th Texas Legislative Session

Forward

The City of Highland Haven is committed to ensuring the well-being, sustainability, and self-determination of our community. As the Texas Legislature convenes, it is imperative to articulate the city's stance on legislative priorities that will directly impact our residents, infrastructure, and local governance. The following issues, drawn from the city's soon-to-be adopted resolution, underscore our priorities and concerns:

1. **Local Control:** Our city values its ability to respond effectively to the unique needs of our community. We support legislation that respects and upholds local authority and oppose any effort to preempt municipal autonomy, including regulations affecting housing density, accessory dwelling units, zoning, and building permits. Highland Haven believes in preserving its character and making land-use decisions that reflect the will of its residents.
2. **Water Management:** As a community with limited groundwater resources, we advocate for policies and funding that promote sustainable water use and conservation, particularly during drought conditions. We support state funding for water infrastructure projects, innovative technologies, and partnerships to enhance our community's resilience.
3. **Tax and Revenue Policy:** Property tax caps and revenue restrictions disproportionately affect smaller municipalities with historically low tax rates like ours. We oppose measures that undermine our ability to fund essential services and advocate for revenue tools that allow cities to address local needs without burdensome mandates.
4. **Economic Development and Infrastructure:** We support increased funding for transportation, water, and sewer projects and favor raising competitive bidding thresholds to reflect the rising costs municipalities face. Legislative tools enabling "pay-as-you-go" financing for capital expenditures will help our city address infrastructure needs without unnecessary debt.
5. **Open Government and Elections:** The city remains committed to transparent governance but opposes partisan mandates on municipal elections, which could undermine local decision-making and community trust. Additionally, changes to public notice requirements should allow for modern alternatives to costly newspaper notices.
6. **Community Advocacy and Legislative Communication:**
Highland Haven strongly supports the ability of municipalities to communicate with legislators and engage in advocacy through organizations like the Texas Municipal League (TML). These organizations are invaluable in helping cities navigate the complexities of the legislative process, keeping us informed of developments at the Capitol, and ensuring that local governments have a collective voice.

Efforts to limit lobbying by cities and counties unfairly target local governments while allowing the state to fund its own lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C., and permitting private-sector lobbyists to operate without similar restrictions. This creates an uneven playing field where small cities like ours are left at a disadvantage, unable to effectively advocate for their needs or respond to legislative proposals that may have significant consequences for their operations.

Restricting taxpayer-funded advocacy undermines local governments' ability to protect their communities' interests, particularly when those interests may differ from state-level priorities. It is critical that cities retain the tools and partnerships necessary to engage with lawmakers on issues ranging from water infrastructure to tax policy, ensuring that the voices of local residents are heard and represented.

The legislative decisions made during this session will significantly affect our city's future. We urge lawmakers to consider the unique challenges faced by small, rural communities like Highland Haven and craft policies that respect local autonomy, promote sustainability, and ensure fair and equitable treatment for cities of all sizes.

This document serves as a guide to the key legislative priorities and positions of the City of Highland Haven as we engage with our state representatives and advocate for our community.

****A link to this full 20 page document will be on the website. The document includes a summary of all bills and links to view each of them.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

Highland Haven, TX [ZIP Code]

[Your Email]

[Date]

The Honorable [Legislator's Name]

[Legislator's Office Address]

[City, State, ZIP]

Subject: Support for Local Priorities in the 89th Texas Legislature

Dear [Senator/Representative] [Last Name],

I am writing to express my [support/opposition] for [Bill Number or Legislative Issue], which is currently under consideration in the Texas Legislature. As a resident of Highland Haven, I strongly believe this bill will [positively/negatively] impact our community by [briefly explain how—e.g., ensuring our local government can address community needs, protecting our water resources, maintaining financial stability, etc.].

The City of Highland Haven is a small, built-out community that values sustainability, responsible growth, and local decision-making. Our ability to manage water resources, fund critical infrastructure, and maintain our quality of life depends on legislation that recognizes the needs of cities like ours. Specifically, I urge you to:

- **Protect Local Control** by ensuring that municipalities can continue to regulate land use, housing density, and permitting based on the needs and desires of their residents.
- **Prioritize Public Water Systems** by guaranteeing that groundwater districts allocate resources fairly and account for the needs of established communities like Highland Haven, which rely on sustainable water management to serve residents.
- **Support Fair Revenue and Tax Policies** that do not disproportionately harm small cities with historically low tax rates, ensuring we can continue to provide essential services.
- **Preserve Municipal Advocacy Rights** so that small communities like ours can engage with lawmakers and advocate for policies that directly impact us.

The decisions made during this legislative session will shape the future of communities like Highland Haven. I urge you to consider the challenges faced by small municipalities and support legislation that empowers local governments to serve their residents effectively.

Thank you for your time and commitment to representing our community. I appreciate your consideration of these critical issues and would welcome the opportunity to discuss them further.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]