



City Administrator's Update

HIGHLAND HAVEN

June 6, 2025



Post-Legislative Update

Navigating New Legislation to Preserve Highland Haven's Charm

Dear Highland Haven Residents,

The 89th Texas Legislative Session ended June 2, 2025, with 1,258 bills and joint resolutions sent to Governor Abbott. City staff is reviewing these laws, and below we will focus on Senate Bill 785 (SB 785), effective September 1, 2025, which mandates allowing HUD-code manufactured homes in at least one residential zoning district, overriding any local rules we have that do not allow these in the community.

Our community survey showed strong support for preserving Highland Haven's aesthetic and local control, values which SB 785 challenges. Though we opposed this bill, we are committed to compliance while protecting our small-town charm. City staff, working with our city attorney, is urgently working on options within our zoning ordinances to meet the September 1 deadline. We are exploring options to designate a suitable zoning district and enforce strict siting and design standards to maintain our neighborhood's cohesive character.

SB 785 is not the only bill impacting our small city. Staff is diligently identifying all new laws that require action, ensuring full compliance while prioritizing our community's needs and character. We will keep you informed as we assess these changes.

We will engage residents through upcoming Board of Aldermen meetings to discuss these changes and other legislative impacts. Your input is vital. Stay informed via the City of Highland Haven Legislative Issues Page or contact City Hall with any questions. Thank you for helping preserve our community's unique character.

Stay informed, stay involved, and thank you for being an engaged part of our community!

City Administrator
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Swearing-In Ceremony

Continued Leadership and
Community Commitment

We are pleased to announce that on May 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., the City of Highland Haven held a Board of Aldermen meeting at City Hall to swear in three dedicated incumbents: Bruce Robertson, Lynn Smith, and Terry Smith. All three ran unopposed in the recent election, reflecting the community's trust in their leadership to guide our small town.

This ceremony marked the continuation of their service to preserve Highland Haven's unique character and address challenges like recent legislative changes and planning for our future.





Drainage Issues

Recent storms, delivering 2-4 inches of rain per hour, have impacted homes in our community due to stormwater drainage challenges. When Highland Haven was originally platted, homes were designed with drainage swales on the side of each property to channel water toward the lake. Over time, landscaping, fencing, and natural erosion have filled or altered many of these swales, reducing their effectiveness. Similarly, bar ditches along roads, especially under driveways, have become clogged, impeding water flow.

You can help by inspecting your property for blocked swales or bar ditches and clearing debris, sediment, or obstructions. Ensure swales remain open and sloped toward the lake, and check that bar ditches, particularly at driveway culverts, allow free water flow. Avoid adding fill or structures that block these drainage paths. Contact City Hall to report community-wide drainage concerns. Your efforts are vital to reducing flooding risks and protecting our neighborhood. Thank you for keeping Highland Haven resilient!

Next BOA Meeting

The next Board of Alderman meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday June 24 at the Community Center.

A copy of the agenda will be available online, as well as the packet.

Next P&Z Meeting

The next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday June 12 at the Community Center.

A copy of the agenda will be available online, as well as the packet.

Budget Talk

Ongoing Budget Development with the Board of Alderman



We've begun discussing the city's budget with the Board of Aldermen, and these discussions will continue at every Board meeting until the budget is adopted in August.

We encourage you to attend and share your input with the Board. We will be discussing the budget in depth at a workshop on June 24, doing our best to prepare our city for the future. Everyone is welcome at both the budget workshop at 5:30 p.m. and the regular Board meeting at 7 p.m.

We will explore all aspects of the budget working to ensure sustainable planning.

Join us at upcoming meetings to help shape Highland Haven's financial future!

Stay in the Loop & Reach Out!

We appreciate you taking the time to stay informed about what's happening in Highland Haven. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to chat about city matters, we're always happy to hear from you! Feel free to reach out, and we'll do our best to provide answers and keep you in the know.

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Stay engaged, stay involved, and thank you for being a part of what makes Highland Haven a great place to live!
