



# City Administrator's Update

HIGHLAND HAVEN

February 27, 2026



## Shaping Our City: Budget, Planning, & Election Notes

Your Feedback Matters - Staying Engaged This Spring

Dear Highland Haven Residents,

As we move into the warmer days of early spring, I wanted to provide a quick update on a few key city initiatives and an important reminder about the upcoming primary election.

### **Budget Discussions**

Starting with the March 3 Board of Aldermen meeting, we will begin incorporating dedicated budget discussions into every regular Board meeting. These sessions will continue through the summer until the Board adopts the fiscal year budget, anticipated sometime in August (around 12 total meetings). This structured approach provides an excellent opportunity for the Board to gather and consider public input as we shape the city's financial priorities for the coming year. Your thoughts and suggestions on spending, services, and projects are always valuable—please feel free to attend any or all of these meetings or reach out directly with your ideas.

### **Comprehensive Plan Progress**

Our Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) continues to make strong progress on updating the City's Comprehensive Plan. The feedback we received from residents during the four town halls was incredibly helpful and has directly informed the direction of this important document. We aim to have a draft ready for the Board's review by summertime, with the goal of final adoption before the end of the current fiscal year on **September 30**. This plan will guide our community's growth, development, and quality of life for years to come. Thank you again to everyone who participated in the town halls—your input truly makes a difference.

### **A Note on the March 3 Primary Election Propositions**

As a small legislative reminder, when you head to the polls for the March 3 primary election (whether voting in the Republican or Democratic primary), please take a moment to review and vote on the party propositions listed on the ballot. These are non-binding advisory questions—meaning they do not change state law directly—but they help guide party platforms and signal priorities to lawmakers as they prepare for the 2027 Texas Legislative Session, which convenes in January 2027.

In addition to interim charges from the Lieutenant Governor and other leaders, the results of these propositions (10 on the Republican ballot and 13 on the Democratic ballot, covering topics like taxes, healthcare, education, immigration, and more) will influence what issues receive focus when new legislation is developed. Your voice matters not only in choosing candidates but also in these surveys of public sentiment.

I encourage everyone to stay informed about the propositions (you can find details through official party websites, VoteTexas.gov, or your county election office), cast your vote thoughtfully, and continue communicating directly with your state representatives in the months ahead. Their offices welcome constituent input as the session approaches.

If you have any questions about the budget process, Comprehensive Plan, election matters, or anything else city-related, don't hesitate to contact me—I'm here to help!

As always, stay informed, stay involved, and stay warm this weekend!

City Administrator  
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## Next BOA Meeting

The Board of Aldermen will have their next regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday March 3, **at City Hall**.

A copy of the agendas will be available online, as well as the packets.

## Next P&Z Meeting

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

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

# Budget Preparation Timeline

We're preparing the City's next fiscal year budget (Oct. 1, 2026 – Sept. 30, 2027) using a clear, phased approach: starting with the General Fund (core operations funded largely by property taxes), then the Water Fund, Solid Waste Fund, and finally tying everything together into a balanced whole.

This fund-by-fund process keeps discussions focused and efficient, complies with state law, and prioritizes:

- Stable, city-controlled revenues (like property taxes and transfers) to cover essentials first
- Conservative estimates (e.g., water charges based on lowest recent usage year)
- Fixed/mandated costs before variable/operational items

**Public input is welcome and encouraged at every step—attend meetings, workshops, or reach out anytime!**

**Key Meeting Dates & Focus** (All at 7 p.m. unless noted; workshops at 5 p.m.)

- March 3: Introduce budget calendar, format, key dates, and tax concepts
- March 17: Review current-year budget; approve any needed adjustments
- **April — General Fund**
  - April 7: Present draft (revenues, expenses, new projects)
  - April 21: 5 p.m. Workshop to refine; 7 p.m. updated draft + public input
- **May — Water Fund**
  - May 5: Present draft (charges, expenses, transfers, possible rate changes, projects)
  - May 19: 5 p.m. Workshop to refine; 7 p.m. updated draft + public input
- **June — Solid Waste Fund & Full Balanced Budget**
  - June 2: Present full draft (including Solid Waste options, updated funds, tax/levy scenarios)
  - June 16: 5 p.m. Workshop to refine; 7 p.m. updated full draft + public input; finalize for filing
- **July — Filing & Final Prep**
  - July 7: Review filed proposed budget (adjustments limited after filing)
  - July 21: Final tweaks, set public hearing dates, more public feedback
- **August — Adoption**
  - August 4: Public hearing on budget and tax rate; possible adoption
  - August 18: Backup date for hearings/adoption if needed

We aim to file the proposed budget with the City Secretary in early July and adopt by mid-August (targeting our August 4 or 18 meeting) to meet state deadlines, including the certified appraisal roll around July 25 and required public notices/hearings.

Your ideas help shape priorities for services, projects, and rates—please join us at these meetings or contact me with thoughts!

## 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!