

**City of Highwood**  
**Minutes of the Strategic Planning Meeting**  
**February 1, 2022**

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Charles Pecaro at 6:00 pm. Council members Eric Falberg, Michael Fiore, James Hospodarsky, James Levi, Andy Peterson, and Brad Slavin were present. Also present were staff members Scott Coren, Chris Martin, Jaime Litjens and Police Chief David Wentz.

**Project Prioritization**

The Council discussed project prioritization over the next year. The Council made the following changes to the project prioritization:

- Increased funding for crack sealing from \$15,000 annually to \$40,000 annually
- Revise the park priorities to start including concepts to improve the Western Avenue Ballpark
- Break out City wayfinding signs from the overall parking recommendations as we may complete that separately and earlier than other projects.

Regarding secondary priorities, the Council expressed interest in emphasizing beautification opportunities. The Council discussed putting together some type of idea board to serve as a clearinghouse for some achievable concepts.

The Council discussed the temporary permissions provided to the Midwest Young Artists to extend their tent structure from the required 180 days. At this time the tent has been up for over 500 days; they will be required to remove it no later than May 15, 2022.

**Budget Review**

Staff reviewed the draft budget included in the Council's packet.

**Pension Unfunded Liabilities**

As part of the draft budget, Staff recommends applying some reserve funds to the unfunded liabilities in the pension funds. The Council agreed and directed Staff to bring back a resolution on this to a meeting before April 30<sup>th</sup> to ensure the funds are applied in this fiscal year.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business Alderman Falberg made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Alderman Peterson. The motion carried at 7:48 pm.