

**CITY OF EAST HELENA
PUBLIC HEARING & COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
July 5, 2016 7PM**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Kit Johnson, Judy Leland, Don Dahl, and Mike Misowic

EXCUSED/ABSENT: City Judge Loveless, Fire Chief Troy Maness

PRESENT FROM CITY: Mayor James Schell, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Clerk Treasurer Gena Berry, Public Works Director St. Clair, Police Chief Dale Aschim, Fire Deputy Chief Shayne Foster

OTHERS PRESENT: Sally Nyland, Myrna Verbanac, Jeremy Fadness of WWC, Charles Lindstrom, Mike Davis of Kirby, Brad Koenig of RPA, Peter Callahan of Helena 911

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Schell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Dahl.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sally Nyland commented on her approval of putting a notice about property owners being responsible for weed removal on the utility bill cards.

PUBLIC HEARING: Variance to Allow Construction of a Building Addition to the East Helena Fire Station. No written comments were received. Myrna Verbanac spoke in favor of the addition to the fire station. Scott St Clair spoke as a member of the public in opposition stating that he feels a new building would be more beneficial and that it would be a poor investment to add on. Jeremy Fadness gave the zoning review staff report. There were no questions from the council. Charles Lindstrom asked a question. Sally Nyland as a member of the Right of Way Committee asked about the State Highway Approach (Main Street). Scott St Clair asked as Public Works Director about sign placement, flag pole and parking. Councilmember Misowic asked about adding on vs building new. Councilmember Johnson explained that adding on would be a temporary solution and that the process for getting permission to build a new station and then actually building it would be very lengthy. Councilmember Johnson made a motion to grant the variance for the addition. Council member Dahl seconds, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the June 21, 2016 Council Meeting and Public Hearings were reviewed for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Dahl seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the minutes as amended. All Members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY JUDGE REPORT: none

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST GROUP (METG)/EPA UPDATE: no update

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

City Clerk Treasurer: Clerk Treasurer Berry informed the council of the recent problems with the office computers, stating that Mark from Rocky Mountain Computers was working on it. Clerk Berry then informed the council that the relief worker for the East Helena Summer Fun program is helping out as a temporary employee in the office when she is not needed at the park for the duration of the summer.

Police Department: Chief of Police Aschim reported the challenges for the department surrounding the 4th of July. There was a fireworks related fire today (July 5th, 2016) in JFK Park but none on the 4th. PWD St Clair asked if the debris from the fireworks was from residents or non-residents. The speed trailer was

set up on the westbound 300 block of Gail today. Clerk Berry asked about if he would be setting it up going in the opposite direction as well. The Chief said he would be.

Public Works Department: Public Works Director St. Clair submitted a written report. He then spoke about the Heli Sieve Auger still having issues and the proposed plan of action. He will be meeting with Fire Chief Maness and Police Chief Aschim to discuss the safety and speeding issues on Porter. Councilmember Dahl asks about the garbage truck and if it's air conditioner had been fixed. PWD St Clair asked for permission to have the vault work approved ahead of the budget while they are doing another task in the area. There was discussion about a few of the playground items at Main Street Park. There will need to be a few revisions to the existing equipment. Councilmember Johnson asked about pool management since the actual Pool Manager is now the Deputy Clerk Treasurer in the office. The response was that Julie is still helping and the tenured lifeguards are doing the scheduling, banking and chemical monitoring. Charles Lindstrom asked if the problem with the auger is electrical. The picnic tables have been painted in JFK for the upcoming Hot Rod car event.

Fire Department: Shayne Foster reported the department getting called out 8 times on the 4th of July. Three of those were for medical reasons, one seizure and the other two were for burns. There were 5 calls for fires, one of which was for a vehicle. All fires were fireworks related.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Gazebo: nothing to report

Right of Way/Parking/Community Decay Committee: Councilmember Misowic stated that the committee is ready to move ahead on some ordinance revisions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. 911 Center Presentation given by Peter Callahan.
2. Door-to-Door Kirby Vacuum Sales Request – Mike Davis requested permission for his staff to be able to obtain a business license and sell door to door. Sally Nyland made a public comment. Councilmember Misowic made a motion to allow this request. Councilmember Leland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. East Clark Street Water & Sewer District Wastewater Agreement –Attorney Elverum reviewed his concerns. Brad Koenig gave a presentation explaining the numbers. There were no public comments. After much discussion, Councilmember Johnson made a motion to table. Councilmember Leland seconded, motion carried unanimously.
4. Montana Environmental Trust Group Petition To Abandon Montana Avenue –There was a brief discussion to review this topic. There we no public comments. Councilmember Johnson made a motion to include in the petition to rebuild road to Minor Local road standards. Councilmember Dahl seconded, motion passed unanimously. Mayor Schell will contact METG regarding this request.
5. Porter Street Traffic update. Mayor Schell noted in the council handout that this section of Porter Street is actually deemed to be a narrow road and that a 15mph speed limit would appropriate. Sally Nyland asked about using the concaved dips like those used to control water in other parts of the city. There were no other public comments. Councilmember Misowic made a motion to table. Councilmember Dahl seconded, motion carried unanimously.
6. Ordinance 260 2nd Reading - Northwestern Energy Non-exclusive Franchise Agreement – Mayor Schell gave a brief synopsis of this agreement for those in attendance. There were no public comments. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve this agreement. Councilmember Misowic seconded, motion carried unanimously.

7. Reappoint Jean Riley To Planning Board – There were no public comments. Councilmember Johnson made a motion to reappoint Jean Riley to the Planning Board for a term to expire June 30, 2019. Councilmember Dahl seconded, motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Personnel Policy Manual Updates – Mayor Schell presented the council with the preliminary draft of the changes proposed to the manual. Information only item.
2. Network Access Agreement With Lewis & Clark County – This agreement is for computer network communications with the County and State required for the Police Department. No public comments were made. Councilmember Misowic made a motion to approve the agreement. Councilmember Dahl seconded, motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR’S REPORTS: Mayor Schell submitted a written report. He informed the council that Eagles 4040 donated \$667.00 from the street dance profits last year. Mayor Schell asked the council for permission to allow Maintenance Worker Colten Huckins to use the Firehall for his wedding rehearsal dinner free of charge as a wedding gift. There was a brief discussion regarding the email received from Jean Strainer about the message of noxious weed responsibility being on the bill cards.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ REPORTS:

Don Dahl attended METG tour, zoning public hearing will be on the 20th.
Kit Johnson- METG tour, planning board, compliments the crew on the good job done removing the weeds at City Hall, reports that MDT sprayed the weeds on Lane Ave and they are now dead but still tall.
Judy Leland-nothing
Mike Misowic-tour

LEGAL REPORTS:

City Attorney Elverum updated the council regarding the 408 E Clark stating that they are under contract and saying that the sewer should be hooked up in two weeks.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: There was a question about the bill from the County Humane Society. It was clarified that they impounded 8 dogs, 3 cats and 1 rooster for the City in fiscal year 2016. Councilmember Johnson motioned to pay the bills claim numbers 288861-288881 for \$16,180.62. Councilmember Dahl seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor gave out a preliminary budget.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Rodeo Parade - Saturday, July 9, 2016, 1 PM, On Main Street From VFW To Grand Avenue
2. Helena Street Rodders Horsepower Roundup - Saturday, July 9, 2016, 8AM to 4PM, Kennedy Park
3. East Helena Arts Activities Focus Group Meeting Monday, July 11, 2016, 5:30PM, Fire Hall

MEETING SCHEDULE:

1. East Helena ROW (Right-of-Way) Committee Meeting Wednesday, July 6, 2016, 6:30PM, City Hall Rm 110
2. East Helena Planning Board Meeting Tuesday, July 12, 2016, 6PM, City Hall Rm 110
3. Special East Helena Council Budget Meeting Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 7PM, City Hall Rm 110
4. Scheduled East Helena Council Meeting Tuesday, July 19, 2016, 7PM, City Hall Rm 110
East Helena Zoning Commission Public Hearing Wednesday, July 20, 2016, 6PM, City Hall

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Schell 10:16pm

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor