

**CITY OF EAST HELENA
COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
July 19, 2016 7PM**

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

EXCUSED/ABSENT: City Judge Loveless, Fire Chief Troy Maness, Councilmember Kit Johnson, Police Chief Dale Aschim

PRESENT FROM CITY: Mayor James Schell, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Clerk Treasurer Gena Berry, Public Works Director St. Clair

OTHERS PRESENT: Sally Nyland, Myrna Verbanac, Cheryl Verbanac, Blaine Verbanac, Betsy Burns of EPA, Cindy Brooks of METG, William Semenza

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 Mayor Schell.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Vi Johnson of J4 Auto presented a check to the City for \$1,158 for donation to the Veterans Monument project. This money came from a fundraising endeavor over rodeo weekend. Bill Semenza reported selling 1300 wristbands over the two nights of street dancing and making a \$2,400 donation to the Montana Youth Challenge Academy in Dillon after paying the band \$1,500.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the July 5, 2016 Council Meeting were reviewed for approval. A motion was made by Councilmember Dahl seconded by Councilmember Leland to approve the minutes as amended. All Members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. The minutes of the July 13, 2016 Special Council Budget Meeting were reviewed for approval. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Leland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY JUDGE REPORT: none

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST GROUP (METG)/EPA UPDATE: There was an oral reported given by Cindy Brooks.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

City Clerk Treasurer: Clerk Treasurer Berry relayed that the current method of fuel receipt tracking and submittal is not working. She wishes to work with the other department heads on a new procedure that will work better. She continues to work on budgets.

Police Department: Chief of Police Aschim had an excused absence from this meeting.

Public Works Department: Public Works Director St. Clair reported working on grading alleys and addressing pot holes therein. Now he is fielding calls with complaints of the dust instead of calls about the pot holes. He then gave an update on the sieve that has been causing problems. It has been working now for a week after they fixed an electrical component. The summer rec program for the kids is going well. Sally Nyland asked a question about gravel on the Right of Way, Betsy Burns will answer this for her at a later date.

Fire Department: Excused

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. First up will likely be the rubbish ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Water Rights Presentation – David Donahue was to give a presentation. This was moved to the August 2, 2016 meeting.
2. East Clark Street Water & Sewer District Wastewater Agreement – Mayor Schell gave a summary on this item for the public. City Attorney Elverum gave his comments. Public Works Director St Clair asked a couple of questions. There were no public comments. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to table. Councilmember Misowic seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Montana Environmental Trust Group Petition To Abandon Montana Avenue – Mayor Schell gave a summary for the public. Cindy Brooks spoke to the Council. Public Works Director St Clair asked about a timeline for road completion. Cindy said she sees this being completed before this coming winter. There were no public comments. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the petition to Abandon a Portion of South Montana Avenue and Rickard and Sullivan Streets and Extend the Portion of South Montana Avenue not Vacated as amended to include the road extension to be of Minor Local Road building standards. Councilmember Misowic seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Porter Street Traffic – Police Chief Aschim submitted a report showing calls for service and highlighted the calls for Porter Street. Mayor Schell talked about the possibility of conducting a speed study on Porter. He will be obtaining information on the cost of such a study. He will also ask Chief Aschim to explain the information on the report that was given. Attorney Elverum gained confirmation that the City can reduce the speed limit for areas of special concern and is in favor of conducting a speed study. Member of the public, Blaine Verbanac said that there is definitely an issue with people speeding on Porter and using it as a Bi-way to the Post Office after work hours. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to table. Councilmember Leland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Personnel Policy Manual Updates – Mayor Schell presented preliminary changes to the Personnel Policy Manual as requested by MMIA. Mayor Schell gave a summary about this endeavor to the public. Councilmember Dahl stated having 8 questions and/or updates to discuss as well. There were no public comments. Information only item.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Early Payment of Propane Bill for Discount – Mayor Schell explained that the City will receive significant discounts from Montana Propane if we can pay their bills prior to waiting for Council approval. There were no public comments. Councilmember Leland made a motion to allow for standing payments to Montana Propane prior to Council approval. Councilmember Dahl seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORTS: Mayor Schell reported the Public Works Director getting a phone call from the Methodist Church regarding parking stripes they paint in error. This issue is pending resolution.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Don Dahl reported on planning and budget meetings with upcoming zoning public hearing on the 20th.
Kit Johnson- excused
Judy Leland-nothing
Mike Misowic-nothing

LEGAL REPORTS:

City Attorney Elverum reported attending the ROW meeting. Attorney Elverum is also working on updating ordinances regarding Beer/Wine/Liquor Licenses and Solid Waste. The 408 E Clark residence that had not been hooked up to the sewer system for a very lengthy period has gotten that done. There are potentially 3 jury trials pending. Attorney Elverum will be back from a National Guard Tour on August 15th, 2016.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Councilmember Dahl motioned to pay the bills claim numbers 288882-288936 for \$60,328.39. Councilmember Leland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MEETING SCHEDULE:

1. East Helena Zoning Commission Public Hearing Wednesday, July 20, 2016, 6PM, City Hall RM 101
2. East Helena ROW (Right-of-Way) Committee Meeting Wednesday, July 20, 2016, 6:30PM, City Hall Rm 110
3. Special East Helena Council Budget Meeting Thursday, July 21, 2016, 7PM, City Hall Rm 110
4. Special East Helena Council Budget Meeting Tuesday, July 26, 2016, 7PM, City Hall Rm 110
5. Scheduled East Helena Council Meeting Tuesday, August 2, 2016, 7PM, City Hall Rm 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Schell 8:10pm

ATTEST:

Clerk

Mayor