

MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF EAST HELENA

CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN STREET – ROOM 110

COUNCIL WORK SESSION & SPECIAL MEETING: 5:30 PM

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021

INTERNET ZOOM MEETING: <https://zoom.us/j/8976327748>

CONFERENCE CALL-IN: 1-301-715-8592 MEETING ID: 897 632 7748

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Council President Dahl called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Councilmember Leland led the Pledge of Allegiance. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only legally required and essential agenda items were be considered. Masks and physical distancing were required for those in attendance at City Hall.

CITY OFFICIALS & STAFF PRESENT: Councilmember Don Dahl, Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Kelly Harris, Councilmember Wesley Feist, City Engineer Austin Wargo, City Engineer Brad Koenig, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, and City Attorney Pete Elverum

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Mayor James Schell, Police Chief William Harrington, and Fire Chief Troy Maness

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Water System Infrastructure Improvement Projects Status Update & Rate Increase Scenarios** – Rate increase scenarios were in the council packet. Updated scenarios and a water usage report were on the council room table. City Engineers Brad Koenig and Austin Wargo compared and contrasted four scenarios of base and variable rate combinations and savings for future maintenance of the water system. Council discussed their preference for Scenarios A (\$43.47 base rate plus \$1.35 per 1,000 gallons of usage and no future maintenance savings) and D (\$40.00 base rate plus \$1.78 per 1,000 gallons of usage and no future maintenance savings). Council also discussed the need to evaluate and adjust rates on an annual basis. There will be one more Council Work Session & Special Meeting after construction bids are opened to finalized the rate increase before sending out a postcard to residents announcing the first of two public hearings. This was an information-only item.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **City Sponsorship of Employees for Shape Up Montana Team** – Clerk/Treasurer Thorngren requested Council’s permission to pay the city employees’ team registration fee at a maximum of \$150 for a full team. Shape Up Montana is an interactive 3-month team competition from February 1 – May 1 that encourages Montanans to develop healthy physical activity and eating habits. Councilmember Dahl reported that he had received public comment opposed to the request. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

SPECIAL MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Growth Policy Update – Planning Board Meeting, Thursday, February 18, 2021, 6PM, Council Chambers Room 110

MEETING SCHEDULE:

1. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 7PM, City Hall Room 108 (Gym)

2. East Helena Council Meeting & Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 7PM, City Hall Room 108 (Gym) {Vigilante Subdivision Phase 2 Commencement}

ADJOURNMENT: Council President Dahl adjourned the meeting at 6:17 PM.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor