

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN – ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 7:00 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 18, 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: Mayor Schell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilmember Leland led the Pledge of Allegiance. Masks and physical distancing were recommended for those in attendance at City Hall.

CITY OFFICIALS & STAFF PRESENT: Mayor James Schell, Councilmember Don Dahl, Councilmember Wesley Feist, Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Kelly Harris, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, and City Attorney Pete Elverum

PUBLIC PRESENT: Frank Belgarde, Dave Jensen, Anna Lund, and Raymond Berg

ABSENT/EXCUSED: City Judge Dennis Loveless and Fire Chief Troy Maness

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

PRESENTATION: VFW Cory-Dullum Post 10010 Monument Committee Chairman Frank Belgarde present to discuss the scheduling of additional names to be added to the Main Street Park Service Members Monument. He said that the VFW was considering adding names every 3 years or when 100 names were collected, whichever happened first. He asked Council to consider cost sharing with the VFW and they discussed it favorably. The Council thanked Mr. Belgarde for presenting at the council meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the May 4, 2021 meeting and the May 13, 2021 special meeting were in the council packet. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the May 4, 2021 minutes as presented. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the May 13, 2021 minutes as presented. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

CITY COURT REPORT: A written report from City Judge Dennis Loveless is expected at the next meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administration – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that she had attended the water improvements call; that grant draws from TSEP and DNRC had been received to be applied to engineering expenses for the water improvements projects; and that swimming lesson registration were being taken and many classes were already full and had wait-lists as well.

Police Department – Mayor Schell reported that Officers Mitchell and Palumbo were attending a Property and Evidence Room online training course n evidence and property handling training.

Public Works – A letter from DEQ was handed out that explained no additional information was needed regarding the recent Wastewater plant inspection. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the Public Works crew would be attending training in Great Falls; that the swimming pool was filling, but required a heater repair on which he was getting estimates; that the alleys would be graded soon; that chip sealing had been scheduled; and that a letter would be going out to Moontown residents regarding the condition of Manlove Ave.

Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Troy Maness was excused.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Red Fox Meadows Wastewater Agreement Connection Increase Request** – Excerpts from the agreement, usage data, a plat of Red Fox Meadows Subdivision II, and excerpts from the Wastewater Master Plan were in the council packet. City Attorney Elverum reported that numbers were awaited from city engineers and should be available for the June 1st meeting. Dave Jensen commented that it had been his understanding that revenue from Red Fox Meadows would go toward paying off debt and that, in his opinion, it would be reasonable to raise their rate by \$9 per connection until a designated level of debt service has been met. Councilmember Harris made a motion to table until June 1, 2021. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.
2. **East Helena Cemetery Future Cost Analysis** – City Attorney Elverum spoke with the Lewis and Clark County Elections Supervisor and clarified that the cemetery district could be put on the ballot in May of next year as opposed to the November election. . Dave Jensen asked about the city’s liability in case of vandalism. Public Works Director Ore explained that vandalism to headstones could be covered by the homeowner’s insurance of descendants and that accidental damage done by city employees would fall under the city’s liability insurance. This was an information-only item.
3. **Montana Environmental Trust Group New Public Water Supply Well Agreement** – Mayor Schell reported that surveyors were working with the county and the landowner on an easement access location. This was an information-only item.
4. **Montana Environmental Trust Group COS/Boundary Line Relocation for Montana Propane Along Smelter Road. Includes Public Access Easement Allocation for Leon Road and Smelter Road** – A marked up plat of the area and BLM land records were in the council packet. Mayor Schell reported that the easements and updated certificates of survey would be presented at the next meeting. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.
5. **Adventures in Cardboard Kids Program Use of Kennedy Park Open Space** – Program information was in the council packet. Anna Lund explained the requirements of the program in detail and requested Council’s permission to use the northwest part of the park to set up a cardboard village for a camp July 26th through 30th. There was no public comment. Councilmember Harris made a motion to grant use of the park July 26th through 30th for \$100 with insurance requirements met. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Fee Waiver for Fireman’s Hall Tuesday Night AA Meetings 5PM to 9:30PM** – Relevant meeting minute excerpts were in the council packet. Mayor Schell said he was awaiting attendance stats from Brandy Pennington. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to table until the June 1st meeting. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.
2. **City-County Board of Health Interlocal Agreement and 2021 HB121** – A roster of City-County Board of Health members, the existing agreement, and House Bill 121 were in the council packet. Mayor Schell and City Attorney Elverum explained that they are working with the County and the City of Helena on who the governing body in HB121 would be. In the future, the Board of health will make recommendations to the governing body on enactment and modification of certain regulations who would then decide whether to adopt the recommendations. Council discussed the possibility of the city’s representative being either the council president or a city-wide elected official like the mayor to be on this new governing body. Raymond Berg was present to resign his position on the board. Councilmember Harris made a motion to table. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.
3. **East Helena Pool Schedule, Hours, & Rates 2021 Season** – Public Works Director Ore reviewed the current pool rates, the current schedule, and previous season report that were in the council packet. Dave Jensen commented that the pool could reduce its financial losses by adjusting the schedule to reduce personnel costs and that residents should be given priority for swimming lessons. Pete Elverum commented that the pool is something the city should be proud of and should be viewed through the lens of the value of the service provided and the benefit to the residents. Council discussed potential changes for the next swim season. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the pool schedule and hours for 2021 with the

provision that lap-swim could be replaced with lessons if enough lifeguards applied and were hired for the season. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

4. **Approve Councilmember Feist to the Montana Business Assistance Connection (MBAC) Board of Directors** – Mayor Schell reported that he had been on the MBAC board since January of 2014 and was the longest serving member, but that he would be bowing out if Council approved Councilmember Feist to the MBAC board of directors. There was no public comment. Councilmember Harris made a motion to approve. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. Councilmembers Harris, Leland, and Dahl voted aye. Councilmember Feist abstained. The motion passed.

MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Schell included the following handouts in the council packet:

- 1.) Montana 2021 Legislature Bill Number to MCA cross reference.
- 2.) City of East Helena Garbage Ordinance. Reminder that amendments to allow composting within the city limits to take place.
- 3.) May 10, 2021 Carroll College SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Testing result graphs from the latest samples for the City of East Helena & Helena.

Mayor Schell reported that he was working on submitting the CBDG grant final report for the growth policy; that he had attended the MBAC meeting; and that he had toured the METG property and slag pile with Lewis and Clark County Commissioner Tom Rolfe.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ REPORTS:

Don Dahl had nothing to report.

Wesley Feist reported that he had been watching the recordings of the Elected Officials Institute.

Kelly Harris reported that he had met with Mayor Schell and Public Works Director Ore.

Judy Leland had nothing to report.

LEGAL REPORTS: City Attorney Elverum reported that he had been doing MLCT trainings, gone to a meeting with the city and the county, and that court had been slow.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 293832 through 293874 were presented for Council’s review. Councilmember Leland made a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

SPECIAL MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MEETING SCHEDULE:

1. East Helena Council Meeting and Public Hearing, Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 7PM, City Hall Room 110
{ Building Code Ordinance }
2. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 7PM, City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Schell adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor