

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN – ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING: 7:00 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 20, 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 7:01 PM. Councilmember Feist 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 Judy Leland, Councilmember Kelly Harris, Councilmember Wesley Feist, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, Fire Chief Troy Maness (via Zoom), City Attorney Pete Elverum, and Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thornngren

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Nate Kopp, Ted Decker, Keith Wildone (via Zoom), and Dave Johnson

**EXCUSED/ABSENT:** City Judge Dennis Loveless

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

**PRESENTATION:** – Nate Kopp, Program and Trail Director of Prickly Pear Land Trust (PPLT) presented “Kennedy Park Open Space Trail Improvements” which was on the council room table. Maps of the proposed trail were in the council packet, and another was handed out by Mr. Kopp. Ted Decker of Pioneer Technical was also present on behalf of PPLT.

1. **Improvements to Existing Kennedy Park Open Space Walking Trails** – Nate Kopp requested Council’s permission to make improvements to one of the city’s trails through the park that would connect to the proposed trails to the northwest at no cost to the city. There was no public comment. Councilmember Harris made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the July 6, 2021 and July 12, 2021 meeting minutes were in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the July 6, 2021 minutes as presented. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the July 12, 2021 minutes as presented. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

**CITY COURT REPORT:** A written report for the month of June 2021 from City Judge Dennis Loveless was in the council packet.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**Administration** – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thornngren reported that she had been working on the budget, preparing for the annual State Fund audit, working on creation of the Vigilante and Highland Meadows Subdivision lighting districts, closing FY21, and that she had attended the Municipal Summit.

**Police Department** – Mayor Schell reported that the officers had been working on discovery with City Attorney Elverum and that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the rodeo parade had gone well.

**Public Works** - Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the water system improvement bids would be opened Friday; that there had been graffiti and damage to the new FitLot equipment at Kennedy Park; that

he'd received a second quote on a new pool heater; that new stop signs would be going up; and that he will be inviting the residents of Pacific Street who would be affected by infrastructure improvements to an informational meeting.

**Volunteer Fire Department** - Fire Chief Troy Maness had nothing to report.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

\*Mayor Schell moved to New Business #1 at this time with the approval of the council.

1. **Montana Environmental Trust Group New Public Water Supply Well Agreement** – Mayor Schell reported that the revised agreement was awaiting signatures. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.
2. **Montana Environmental Trust Group (METG) COS/Boundary Line Relocation for Montana Propane on Smelter Road** – Mayor Schell reported that completion of easement agreements with Montana Rail Link was awaited. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.
3. **East Helena Building/Electrical/Fire Codes Ordinance Second Reading** – Ordinance 275 which incorporates the state-adopted 2018 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code and repeals the 2017 National Electrical Code by amending Chapter 1 of Title 4 of East Helena City Code was in the council packet. The first reading was approved at the July 6, 2021 meeting. There was no public comment. Councilmember Harris made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 275. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **VFW Request for Main Street Park Alcohol Variance for August 21, 2021** – Relevant city code was in the council packet. Dave Johnson was present to request that alcohol be allowed, but not sold, in Main Street Park for the VFW's event. Council discussed changing city code to align alcohol use in Main Street Park with that of Kennedy Park. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

\*Mayor Schell returned to Unfinished Business #1 at this time.

2. **Oro Fino Chapter DAR (Non-Profit) Use of Council Room Fee Waiver for Monthly Exec Board Meetings** – The use agreement and proposed schedule were in the council packet. Mayor Schell presented the DAR's request to continue to use the council room for their monthly meetings at no charge. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.
3. **Current Public Water Supply Status Overview and Discussion** – A water supply report from Public Works Director was on the council room table. He reported that the city's water supply was stable, although the drought had led to water restrictions being placed in neighboring areas. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.
4. **City Hall Display of the Late Richard E. Stafford Memorabilia** – Pictures of the memorabilia were in the council packet. Mayor Schell discussed their importance and possible locations for display in City Hall. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve. Councilmember Harris seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.
5. **Resolution Establishing a Procedure for Disposition of Unclaimed Property** – Draft Resolution 554 was in the council packet. City Attorney Elverum discussed the process for properly disposing of found, unclaimed property such as the contents of the 3 storage sheds behind City Hall which includes mostly bicycles. There was no public comment. Councilmember Harris made a motion to approve Resolution 554. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

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

- 1.) July 15, 2021 received Thank You card to Clerk/Treasurer Thorngren and Parks Crew.
- 2.) Public Notice for zoning variance request for 2820 Ashley Avenue.

3.) July 12, 2021 Carroll College SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Testing result graphs from the latest samples for the City of East Helena & Helena.

He reported that there would be a Water Quality Protection District tour July 27, 2021 at 5:30; proposed a one-day garbage committee meeting; and said that department head salaries would be discussed at the next budget meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS:**

**Don Dahl** reported that he had attended the budget meeting and the Zoning Commission meeting and said that the Zoning Commission meeting in November would include a discussion of the new marijuana legislation.

**Wesley Feist** reported that he had attended the Municipal Summit, met with Andy Shirtliff of the Small Business Administration, and attended the special meeting.

**Kelly Harris** reported that he had attended the special meeting and the rodeo parade.

**Judy Leland** reported that she had attended the special meeting.

**LEGAL REPORTS:** City Attorney Elverum reported that court was moving again, that he was looking forward to having a new Police Chief, that he had been working on lighting districts, and that he would be working on the issue of unqualified candidates filing to run for elected office.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 294087 through 294117 were presented for Council's review. Councilmember Leland made a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

1. East Helena Special Council Meeting, Monday, July 26, 2021, 5:30PM, City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 7PM, City Hall Room 110
3. East Helena Public Hearing & Council Meeting, Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 7PM, City Hall Room 110  
{Zoning Variance Request 2820 Ashley Avenue}

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Schell adjourned the meeting at 8:23 PM.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Mayor