

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN – ROOM 110
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: 5:30 PM
DATE: MONDAY, JULY 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: Mayor Schell called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. Councilmember Feist led the Pledge of Allegiance. Masks and physical distancing were recommended for those in attendance at City Hall.

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Dave Jensen

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Public Works Director Kevin Ore and Fire Chief Troy Maness

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Budget Introduction and Timeline** – Mayor Schell went over the progress of the budget cycle which was in the council packet. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.
2. **Review of Open Budget Questions** – A list of open budget questions was on the council room table. Mayor Schell reviewed each item on the list. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Review of Capital Assets List** – The City’s capital assets list was in the council packet. Clerk/Treasurer Thorngren discussed it with Council. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.
2. **Review of Administration Accounts** – The preliminary budgets for Judicial Services, Elections, Records Administration, Debt Service, Other Financing Uses, and Comprehensive Liability Insurance were in the council packet as well as the long-term debt spreadsheet. Clerk/Treasurer Thorngren discussed each with Council. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.
3. **Review of Public Works Salary & Wage Information** – The current pay scale and job descriptions for all positions were in the council packet. Also included was a public works salary survey by Public Works Director Ore. Council discussed paying department heads by salary instead of an hourly rate exempted from overtime-pay. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.
4. **Review of and Schedule Upcoming Budget Meetings** – No additional meetings were scheduled at this time. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.
5. **Notice of Petition for Unit Determination East Helena Police Department** – Correspondence from the Department of Labor & Industry and the Notice of Petition were in the council packet. City Attorney Elverum handed out his letter of recommended response to the Notice of Petition and discussed it with Council. Dave Jensen stated that he wondered why the officers felt the need to form a union. Councilmember Harris made a motion to send no response to the Notice of Petition. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

1. East Helena Special Council Meeting, Monday, August 2, 2021, 5:30PM, City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 7PM, City Hall Room 110
3. East Helena Special Council Meeting, Thursday, August 5, 2021, 5:30PM, City Hall Room 110
4. East Helena Special Council Meeting, Tuesday, August 10, 2021, 5:30PM, City Hall Room 110
5. 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 6:41 PM.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor