

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN – ROOM 110
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: 7:00 PM
DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 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 7:05 PM. Councilmember Dahl led the Pledge of Allegiance. Masks and physical distancing were recommended for those in attendance at City Hall.

CITY OFFICIALS & STAFF PRESENT: Councilmember Don Dahl, Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Kelly Harris, Councilmember Wesley Feist, Mayor James Schell, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Volunteer Fire Chief Troy Maness (via Zoom), and Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren

PUBLIC PRESENT: Dave Jensen and Alan Hulse

ABSENT/EXCUSED: None

PRESENTATION: Chief Executive Officer Alan Hulse of Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA) explained who MMIA was and what they do. He discussed the potential for discount rating, the no-fault sewer backup clause, and risk management training provided. Dave Jensen asked if there was a way to increase the \$2500 payment for sewer backups and Mr. Hulse confirmed that the board was considering it.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Budget Introduction and Timeline** – Mayor Schell reported that the public hearing for the preliminary budget was tentatively scheduled for the September 7, 2021 meeting. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.
2. **Review of Open Budget Questions** – The list of open budget questions was in the council packet. Mayor Schell discussed each with Council. Dave Jensen commented that he had asked about phone expenses at a previous meeting and had not seen them yet. This was an information-only item.
3. **Review of Department Budgets & Expenditures (Including Personnel)** – The departmental budgets were in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore discussed changes made since the last meeting with Council. Mayor Schell presented the Police Department budget and reported that there was a potential interview with a Police Chief candidate on August 31, 2021. Dave Jensen commented on the budget changes he wanted in the general fund and enterprise funds. This was an information-only item.
4. **Review of Employee COLA & Department Head Salaries** – COLA and salary scenarios were in the council packet. Council discussed using the new salary to advertise more aggressively for a new Police Chief. Dave Jensen commented that step and benefit increases are part of COLA and asked how much it would cost to contract law enforcement services to the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office. This was an information-only item.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Review of FY22 General & Enterprise Fund Budget Reserves** – Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed at this meeting. It is on the next meeting's agenda. This was an information-only item.

2. **Review of and Schedule Upcoming Budget Meetings** – Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed at this meeting. It is on the next meeting’s agenda. This was an information-only item.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

1. East Helena Special Meeting, Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 5:30PM, Kennedy Park Tour, 402 N. Harrison Ave
2. East Helena Special Council Meeting, Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 6:00PM, City Hall Room 110
3. East Helena Public Hearings & Council Meeting, Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 7PM, City Hall Gym Room 108
{Water Rate Increase Public Hearing & FY21/FY22 Budgets}
4. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 7:00PM, City Hall Room 110

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

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor