

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING: 7:00 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022**  
**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 Harris called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilmember Ferguson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITY OFFICIALS & STAFF PRESENT:** Mayor Kelly Harris, Council President Don Dahl, Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, City Engineer Brad Koenig and City Engineer Jeremy Perlinski

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sally Nyland, Dave Jensen, Wade Kurns, Dot Vieth, and Steve Dyr Dahl

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** City Judge Dennis Loveless, Fire Chief Troy Maness, Police Chief Mike Sanders, and Councilmember Wesley Feist

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. **Resolution 566 – Transfer of Firearms** – The public notice was in the council packet. Draft Resolution 566 authorizing disposal of surplus property by transfer to the Teton County Sheriff’s Department was on the council room table. City Attorney Elverum noted that a resolution of intent to transfer the firearms between government agencies had been advertised in the Independent Record twice. This was an information-only item.
2. **Resolution 566 – Transfer of Firearms** – Mayor Harris called for public comment on the proposed resolution to transfer police department firearms and received none.
3. **Resolution 566 – Transfer of Firearms** – Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve Resolution 566. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Wade Kurns, a county resident who lives near Vigilante Subdivision, was present to ask Council to consider allowing him to connect to the city wastewater system. He commented that Council will likely receive similar requests from others living outside of city limits as aging septic systems fail.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the March 1, 2022 meeting were in the council packet. Dave Jensen commented that his public comments during the wastewater presentation were not included in the minutes. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the March 1, 2022 minutes with a correction to his position on the East Helena Zoning Commission. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

**PRESENTATION:** City Engineers Brad Koenig and Jeremy Perlinski of Robert Peccia & Associates presented City of East Helena American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update & Growth/Wastewater Flow

Projections. A copy of the presentation was in the council packet. A larger copy of the growth and flow projection map was handed out. They answered questions from City Attorney Elverum, Sally Nyland and Dave Jensen. Dave Jensen commented that all users located outside the city limits that are, or will be, connected to the city's wastewater system should pay premium rates and that the total cost (i.e. city engineer(s), preliminary engineering, construction engineering, construction, ...) of any further expansion of the current wastewater treatment plant beyond its current capacity should be 100.0% paid for by the future user(s) requiring/requesting the proposed plant capacity expansion regardless of whether the proposed user(s) are located within the current city limits or not and that the current resident's rates should decrease as existing loans are paid off.

**CITY COURT REPORT:** A written report from City Judge Dennis Loveless for the month of February 2022 was in the council packet.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**Administration** – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that City Hall would be a polling place for the June 7<sup>th</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup> elections, that she had been preparing for the audit of FY21 in April, and that the admin office had received many calls requesting information about swimming lessons and spring cleanup.

**Police Department** – A written report from Police Chief Mike Sanders was on the council room table. Mayor Harris reported that Chief Sanders would attend the first meeting of the month and provide a written report for the second.

**Public Works** - Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that NorthWestern Energy was trenching gas lines to the wastewater treatment plant, that the water improvement projects had begun, that water meters were still difficult to obtain, that there would be a total of 9 new ADA picnic tables in Kennedy Park this spring, that the city crew had been working on potholes, and that the police department service window had been installed. He commended the police department for saving a man's life on a recent emergency medical call.

**Volunteer Fire Department** - Fire Chief Troy Maness was excused.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. **Montana Environmental Trust Group New Public Water Supply Well Agreement** – Public Works Director Ore reported that he'd had a meeting with Cindy Brooks of METG and all was going well. Dave Jensen commented that there had been heavy equipment damage to Wylie Drive. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to table. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Farmers Market July 26 through September 27, 2022 – Main Street Park** – Dot Vieth was present to request moving the market from the City Hall parking lot to Main Street Park. Public Works Director Ore offered the use of the city's event signs. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.
2. **MDT Speed Traffic Study** – A copy of MDT's speed limit recommendation for Main Street was in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore reported that the proposed speed limit would be 25 MPH to Oak Street and then 35 MPH from there to the highway. There was no

public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

3. **Recreational Vehicle Occupancy Request – 11 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St** – Relevant city code, a violation letter from the city to the property owner, and a picture of the property were in the council packet. Property owner Steve Dyr Dahl explained how people came to be living in the recreational vehicle and requested that they be allowed to stay until the end of the school year. He answered questions from Mayor, Council, and public present. City Attorney Elverum explained the health, safety, and zoning issues that arise from occupying RVs. Councilmember Leland made a motion to allow occupancy of the recreational vehicle until June 10, 2022. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.
4. **Montana Disaster & Emergency Services Regional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan** – Correspondence from Montana DES was in the council packet. Clerk/Treasurer Thorngren reported that the city’s participation in the plan had been requested. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve participation in the mitigation plan. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:** Mayor Harris reported that he had spoken with AARP about spending grant funds on park benches, that he had met with Eagles 4040 about reviving the rodeo weekend street dance, that he had met with METG about Wylie Well #3, that he had met with the school district about 227 Day, and that he had met with a grant writer about funding Montana Avenue/Valley Drive improvements.

**COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS:**

**Don Dahl** reported he had attended the meeting about wastewater.  
**Judy Leland** had nothing to report.  
**Wesley Feist** was excused.  
**Suzanne Ferguson** had nothing to report.

**LEGAL REPORTS:** City Attorney Elverum reported that he just returned from an Army National Guard training, that the police department was moving along well, and that he had attended the meeting with Eagles 4040 about the street dance.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 294858 through 294906 were presented for Council’s review. Councilmember Leland made a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. All councilmembers voted aye.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

1. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 7PM, City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 7PM, City Hall Room 110

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 8:13 PM.

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor