

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 5, 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 6:30 PM. Councilmember Feist led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITY OFFICIALS & STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Kelly Harris, Council President Don Dahl, Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Wesley Feist, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, Clerk Treasurer Amy Thorngren, and City Engineer Brad Koenig

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jade Bummer, Sally Nyland, and Dave Jensen

ABSENT/EXCUSED: City Judge Dennis Loveless, Police Chief Mike Sanders, Fire Chief Troy Maness, and City Attorney Pete Elverum

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dave Jensen commented on Robert Peccia & Associates' estimates for development fee creation presented at the June 21, 2022 council meeting. He described how he thought the estimate should be structured differently, said that city staff and engineering staff should be more of a team, and that city staff should be utilized to create the development fees to reduce engineering expenses.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the June 21, 2022 meeting were included in the council packet. Dave Jensen suggested some changes to his public comments made at the meeting. Sally Nyland provided written changes to her comments made at the meeting. Councilmember Feist made a motion to adopt the June 21, 2022 meeting minutes with the noted changes. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administration – A written report was on the council room table. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported on the following:

- The city is billing for 146 wastewater connections in Red Fox Meadow Subdivision (up from 66 one year ago).
- Zoning and building applications have been received for 70 addresses in Highland Meadows Subdivision and 44 addresses in Vigilante Subdivision (up from 14 and 22 one year ago).

- She spoke about development in East Helena at a Helena WINS Invest in Helena session.

Police Department – Police Chief Mike Sanders was excused. Mayor Harris reported the police department was running smoothly despite a COVID-19 setback and that the 4th of July had been uneventful.

Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported on the following:

- He has been working on the FY23 budget.
- He had attended a phone meeting with METG where he had requested financial assistance with engineering expenses for the water and wastewater master plans.
- He met with American Chemet about their collapsed sewer line.
- Two hundred fifty water meters that had been ordered April of last year had been received.
- Pacific Street infrastructure construction was going well despite some rain delays.
- Crews had spent the day picking up spent fireworks and wind-downed tree branches.

Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Troy Maness was excused.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **CDBG Planning Grant Application for Water and Wastewater Master Plans** – An email describing various funding opportunities was included in the council packet. City Engineer Brad Koenig reported that the CDBG planning grant was a good option and that there was plenty of time to make the August 1st application deadline. Councilmember Feist reported that the Big Sky Trust Fund planning grant was another good opportunity. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve moving forward with the CDBG planning grant application. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **Eagles 4040 Parking Lot Event Request** – Relevant city code and state guidance on alcoholic beverage catering endorsements were included in the council packet. Eagles 4040 Manager Jade Bummer was present to request Council’s approval to allow patrons to carry beverages from their bar to their adjacent parking lot for an event during rodeo weekend. Council discussed including the area between Smith’s Place, Eagles 4040, and the VFW for the weekend. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to waive the open container ordinance between Smith’s Place, Eagles 4040, and the VFW during rodeo weekend. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Removal of U-Turn Signs along Main Street** – Public Works Director Ore requested Council’s approval to remove the outdated U-Turn signs from Main Street. Sally Nyland commented in favor of removing the signs because they are not enforced. Mayor Harris reported that DOT does not require the signs. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve removal of the U-Turn signs on Main Street. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported the following:

- He attended the Board of Health meeting and COVID-19 transmission levels were high.
- He attended the phone meeting with METG.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:

Don Dahl reported the following:

- He had attended the Planning Board Meeting. No public comment was received regarding the updates to the Subdivision Regulations.
- He felt the city needed to move forward soon with rebuilding Valley Drive.

Judy Leland reported that she had toured the Missouri River Wastewater Treatment Plant with the Water Quality Protection District.

Wesley Feist reported the following:

- He had attended the phone meeting with METG.
- He attended a Helena area leadership event at Carroll College and discussed East Helena and housing with a member of the United Way.
- A resident reported their concerns to him about equipment being parked around the intersection of Washington and Main causing low visibility.

Suzanne Ferguson had nothing to report.

LEGAL REPORTS: City Attorney Elverum was excused.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 295217 through 295264 were presented for Council's review. Councilmember Leland made a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

1. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 6:30 PM, City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, August 2, 2022, 6:30 PM, City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:07 PM.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor