

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING: 6:30 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**  
**INTERNET ZOOM MEETING: <https://zoom.us/j/84979380604>**  
**CONFERENCE CALL-IN: 1-301-715-8592 MEETING ID: 849 7938 0604**

**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 (via Zoom), Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Wesley Feist, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, Clerk Treasurer Amy Thorngren, Police Chief Mike Sanders, and Fire Chief Troy Maness (via Zoom)

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Scott Ferguson and Dave Jensen

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** City Judge Dennis Loveless and City Attorney Pete Elverum

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. **Resolution 574 Adopting the FY23 Municipal Budget** – The published public notice, draft Resolution 574, and the FY23 Preliminary Budget were in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore reviewed the updates made to the draft budget as recommended by Council at the August 24, 2022 special budget meeting. They included removal of the proposed raise for the councilmembers and a COLA increase for the paid members of the fire department. There were no additional updates recommended. This was an information-only item.
2. **Resolution 574 Adopting the FY23 Municipal Budget** – Mayor Harris called for public comment on the proposed budget. Dave Jensen commented that certain proposed expenses for food and water supplies; software; road and street services; legislative services; law enforcement; the swimming pool; water system operating; wastewater system operating and improvements; and solid waste services should be reduced, reallocated, or removed. He provided an itemized written version of his comments for the record.
3. **Resolution 574 Adopting the FY23 Municipal Budget**– Councilmember Leland made a motion to adopt the budget including a reduction in force and privatization of janitorial services. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Scott Ferguson commented that he had heard very positive comments about the East Helena Police Department over the last months.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the August 16, 2022 and August 24, 2022 meetings were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the August 16, 2022 minutes as presented.

Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.  
Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the August 24, 2022 minutes as presented.  
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** – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thornngren reported the following:

- The USDA-RD wastewater loan reporting was completed.
- The Building Codes Program report had been completed.
- Deputy Clerk Shannon attended the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Court Clerks Conference.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Mike Sanders reported the following:

- The police department had 498 calls-for-service in August.
- He and Officer Cox attended the MLEA law enforcement equivalency course.
- Officer Cox attended a standard field sobriety training and has been selected to attend the FBI Command College leadership course.
- New Police Administrative Support Specialist Bonnie Jones started that day.
- Officers Harris and Johnston will be attending the Helena Police Department’s active shooter training.

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

- The Oakland Group has a purchase agreement for 740 acres of METG land and will be meeting with city officials within the next few weeks.
- METG agreed to assist the city with master plans for future development.
- He proposed a wastewater work session September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM.
- The boring under HWY 12 was going well, but there is a delay on pipeline.

**Volunteer Fire Department** - Fire Chief Troy Maness reported the following:

- The fire department had 24 calls-for-service in August.
- New EMT members were being interviewed.
- East Helena, East Valley, and Eastgate Fire Departments are coordinating to cover East Helena High School football games.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. **Second Reading of Ordinance 281 Adopting Building Related Codes** – A copy of the first reading of the ordinance was included in the council packet. No additional changes were recommended. Mayor Harris noted that ordinance aligned city codes with state codes per regulation. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the second reading of Resolution 281. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Halloween Movie/Christmas Kids’ Tent in Main Street Park** – Mayor Harris presented Kit and Viola Johnson’s request to set up a tent in Main Street Park at no charge for the annual Halloween and Christmas Strolls. There was no public

comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the request.  
Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Harris reported the following:

- He attended the Board of Health meeting.
- Sussex Construction will be developing the METG land near HWY 518.

**COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:**

**Don Dahl** had nothing to report.

**Judy Leland** reported that she had attended the Water Quality Protection District tour of the Lake Helena Shoreline Restoration Project.

**Wesley Feist** had nothing to report.

**Suzanne Ferguson** had nothing to report.

**LEGAL REPORTS:** City Attorney Elverum was excused.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 295406 through 295473 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, September 20, 2022, 6:30 PM, City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Wastewater Work Session, September 21, 2022, 6:30 PM, City Hall Room 110
3. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 6:30 PM, City Hall Room 110

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM.

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor