

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 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 Ferguson 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 Attorney Pete Elverum

PUBLIC PRESENT: Sally Nyland and Dave Jensen

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the September 6, 2022 council meeting were included in the packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Dahl 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 report on city court revenues and a copy of School District 9’s permit for the Homecoming Parade were included in the council packet. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported on the following:

- She had been working on the budget document which is due to the state October 1st.
- The Halloween cookies, which may or may not be frosted depending on price, will be ordered soon.
- The clerks’ office will start doing the Fireman’s Relief Association bookkeeping in October.
- The gym schedule is filling up for basketball season.

Police Department – A written report from Police Chief Mike Sanders was on the council room table. Mayor Harris reported the following:

- The AR-15s purchased with council approval had arrived.
- Officers Johnston and Harris attended active shooter training.
- The police department records management software is in need of updating.

Public Works - Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported the following:

- DN Tanks had begun the process of wrapping the new water tank.
- MJD Contractors had begun work at the caissons.
- Helena Sand & Gravel will be paving several areas in town.
- Mockel will repair two sections of sewer line on Manlove Avenue.
- He and City Engineer Koenig will be meeting with the water rights attorney.
- The new pickup had been ordered, but the old plow won't fit it properly. A new plow can be purchased within budget.

Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Troy Maness was excused.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Missouri River Brewing Company Paving Deferment Request** – A copy of the original agreement and a letter from Paul Dorrance requesting a one-year extension to the deferment of paving were in the council packet. The extension was requested in order to combine the paving at the brewery with an adjacent project in the interest of efficiency. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **System Development Fees** – City Attorney Elverum reported that the water and sewer ordinances would be changed to allow for system development fees adopted by resolution. Robert Peccia & Associates (RPA) is developing a fee schedule to ensure that future growth is covered. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.
3. **Meeting Time Resolution** – Draft Resolution 575 setting the time for regular council meetings at 6:30 PM was on the council room table. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve Resolution 575. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported the following:

- He met with Stahly Engineering regarding Montana Avenue/Valley Drive.
- He attended 227 Days at Main Street Park. All councilmembers past and present will eventually have bricks at the pavilion.
- He met with RPA regarding the next meeting's wastewater presentation.
- The high school football team gained their first win on Friday.
- He attended the meeting with the Oakland Group regarding the proposed new development near Highway 518.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:

Don Dahl reported that he attended the Planning Board meeting and the meeting with the Oakland Group regarding the proposed new development near Highway 518.

Judy Leland reported that she attended 227 Days at Main Street Park.

Wesley Feist reported that he had attended the Montana Business Assistance Connection (MBAC) meeting and that the Helena Chamber of Commerce would be hosting Coffee with the Chamber at Galaxy Roasters on September 27th.

Suzanne Ferguson reported that she had attended 227 Days at Main Street Park.

LEGAL REPORTS: City Attorney Elverum reported the following:

- He had attended the meeting with Stahly Engineering regarding Montana Avenue/Valley Drive and that it would likely require a general obligation bond.
- He attended the meeting with the Oakland Group regarding the proposed new development near Highway 518.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 295474 through 295513 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 City Council Wastewater Work Session, September 21, 2022, 6:30 PM, City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 6:30 PM, City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor