

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 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 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, Police Chief Mike Sanders, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, and City Engineer Brad Koenig

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Dave Jensen, Sheldon Keller, and Unidentified Woman

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** City Judge Dennis Loveless and Fire Chief Troy Maness

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Sheldon Keller proposed adding to the snow and ice ordinance that neighbors can't push snow onto other neighbors' driveways and easements.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the November 15, 2022 meeting were in the council 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 for the month of November from City Judge Dennis Loveless was on the council room table.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**Administration** – A written report was on the council room table. A letter from the Montana Gambling Control Division detailing the city's first quarter video gambling license distribution and Lewis and Clark County Records Storage/Management and Archives Project's request for proposals were in the council packet. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported the following:

- The Helena Transportation Advisory Committee had drafted a FY24 coordination plan.
- Business license renewal reminder cards would be mailed out shortly.
- The gym had been mostly booked through April 2023.

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

- The RFP had gone out for the Records Management System for area dispatch.
- There were 190 calls-for-service in November.
- The new carpet was installed in the police department office.

- He met with the new Lewis and Clark County IT Supervisor.
- He attended the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council meeting.
- The police department had received their ballistic shield.

**Public Works** – A written report and a letter from DEQ regarding deficient backflow preventers at the parks were included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported the following:

- The water samples had passed the tests for lead and copper and more samples would be tested in January
- He met with Stahly Engineering regarding the reconstruction of Valley Drive.
- He had attended a meeting with the City of Helena, Lewis and Clark County, and MDT about the possibility of converting to a Metropolitan Planning Organization.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **City of East Helena Development Fees – Presentation and Discussion**– A copy of Robert Peccia & Associates’ November 15<sup>th</sup> development fee presentation was included in the council packet. City Engineer Brad Koenig handed out a water and sewer development fee comparison of other communities and a breakdown of fees for council discussion. He discussed a variety of fee options with Council and City Attorney Elverum. Dave Jensen commented on his concerns that current residents had overpaid for the existing system and that the sewer infrastructure fees should account for growth at higher than 50%. Sheldon Keller commented in favor of collecting fees from developers. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve water and sewer development fees for buy-in to the existing system and future infrastructure to support growth at 50%. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **City of East Helena and METG Funding Agreement and Release for South Montana Avenue** – The agreement was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore discussed the proposed payment-in-lieu of the previously agreed upon paving of the South Montana Avenue Extension/Sullivan Street with Council. He noted that METG had secured the MDT approach permit for Sullivan Street/Highway 518. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to table pending determination of whether county or city road building standards had been agreed upon. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Network Access Agreement between the City of East Helena and Lewis & Clark County** – A copy of the agreement was included in the council packet. Police Chief Sanders explained that the county supplies the equipment and service to access the public safety system. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the agreement. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Disposal of Firearms** – A list of firearms to be sold to Capital Sports was included in the council packet. Police Chief Sanders noted that the proposed sale was a part of the effort to clear unused firearms from the department. There was no public comment.

Councilmember Feist made a motion to table pending a draft resolution.  
Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Appointment of East Helena Representative to the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce Board** – A copy of an email from Helena Area Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Callie Aschim was in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to appoint Wesley Feist as East Helena’s representative on the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce Board. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. Councilmembers Ferguson, Dahl, and Leland voted aye. Councilmember Feist abstained. The motion carried.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:** Mayor Harris commended staff on the red and green lights installed in the outside lampposts for the Christmas Stroll and reported the following:

- He attended a meeting regarding construction of the south side sewer lift station.
- He met with trustees of the East Valley Fire Department regarding the consolidation of the area fire departments.
- He was invited to speak with Senator Tester’s office about what East Helena has accomplished with its ARPA funds.

**COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS:**

**Don Dahl** reported that he handed out cookies at the Christmas Stroll.

**Judy Leland** reported that she had handed out cookies at the Christmas Stroll and attended the Water Quality Protection District meeting.

**Wesley Feist** reported that he had attended Coffee with the Chamber at Galaxy Roasting where he made a contact with the Main Street Program and that he attended the Helena Leaders Breakfast at Carroll College where Wastewater Superintendent Pursley was commended for his work.

**Suzanne Ferguson** reported that she had judged a speech competition at the high school and had handed out cookies at the Christmas Stroll.

**LEGAL REPORT:** City Attorney Elverum reported that he had attended many of the same meetings as Mayor Harris and Public Works Director Ore and commended Police Administrative Support Specialist Jones for her work.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 295708 through 295783 were presented for Council’s review. Councilmember Leland made a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**SPECIAL MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Former ASARCO East Helena Smelter Site Public Meeting, Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m., METG Office – 325 Manlove Ave., East Helena

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

1. East Helena Planning Board Meeting, Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 6:00 PM, City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, December 20, 2022, 6:30 PM, City Hall Room 110

3. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, January 3, 2023, 6:30 PM, City Hall Room 110

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM.

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor