

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023
JOIN ZOOM MEETING: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3787705872>
CONFERENCE CALL-IN: 1-253-205-0468 MEETING ID: 378 770 5872

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Councilmember Ferguson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITY OFFICIALS & STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Kelly Harris, Council President Don Dahl, Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Wesley Feist (via Zoom), Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Fire Chief Troy Maness (via Zoom), and Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren

PUBLIC PRESENT: Sally Nyland and Dave Jensen

ABSENT/EXCUSED: City Judge Dennis Loveless and Police Chief Mike Sanders

(0:00:20) PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dave Jensen commented in opposition to the recent sewer rate increase.

(0:01:45) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the May 2, 2023 meeting were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland 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 was on the council room table at the previous meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

(0:02:15) Administration – A written report was included in the council packet. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that online swimming lesson registration had gone well; she would be meeting with Nancy Andersen of AARP regarding classes on the FitLot equipment at Kennedy Park; and building and zoning permit activity had increased.
Police Department – A written report was included in the council packet. Police Chief Mike Sanders was excused.

(0:04:40) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that he had met with Robert Peccia & Associates regarding the design of the headworks and influent lift station; there will be four RV dumps at the new Town Pump; the contractor will resume work on the water and sewer lines underneath Highway 12 in July; construction of the new water tank will resume May 17th; bids will determine how much water line will be replaced compared to the original plan for ARPA funding; the DEQ lead service line inventory is due in 2024; MDT will continue snow

removal in the approaches along Highway 12 after the new Town Pump is built; and the electricity to the train depot will be installed near the end of June. He answered questions about street lighting from Sally Nyland.

(0:16:10) Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Troy Maness reported that he had met with new East Valley Fire Department Chief Willy Wagner regarding an equipment inventory as a part of the proposed merger of local fire departments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **(0:17:40) Second Reading of Ordinance No. 285 - An Ordinance Granting a Franchise to TDS Metrocom, LLC, and Allowing the Construction, Operation, Regulation, and Control of a Cable Communication System Within the City of East Helena, Montana** – A copy of the first reading of the ordinance was included in the council packet. Mayor Harris noted that the ordinance allows the city to negotiate for TDS's services. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 285. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:18:20) Resolution 585 Requesting from the Lewis and Clark County Elections Administrator a Mail Ballot Election for the City's 2023 General and any Primary Election** – Draft Resolution 585 was included in the council packet. City Attorney Elverum noted that the ordinance was needed every time there was a municipal election. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve Resolution 585. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:20:20) East Valley Middle School 8th Grade Graduation Celebration Baskets** – Public Works Director Ore presented Margie Arnst's request for a donation of 12 punch card pool passes to include in the prize baskets at the 8th Grade Celebration. (0:21:15) Dave Jensen commented in opposition to the request. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:22:30) Parks Maintenance (Seasonal) Position Hire** – The draft job opening announcement and a copy of the job description was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore suggested a wage of around \$15.00 per hour. (0:27:28) Dave Jensen commented in opposition to hiring additional personnel. Council discussed maintenance of the cemetery. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve hiring for the seasonal parks maintenance position. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **(0:28:45) Manlove Lift Station Funding Agreement** – The draft agreement was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore noted that the agreement is between the City of East Helena, American Chemet Corporation, Power Townsend Company, and the Helena Area Habitat for Humanity to build a sewer lift station on the south side of the highway. (0:33:20) Dave Jensen commented in favor of adding verbiage that covers future equipment failure. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the Manlove lift station funding agreement. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:34:25) MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he had been working on a report for POST; onboarding the new patrol officers; and beginning the FY24 budget.

COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS:

Don Dahl had nothing to report.

Judy Leland had nothing to report.

(0:38:25) Wesley Feist reported that the Chamber of Commerce would be holding a golf tournament and updating the Helena Community Guide.

Suzanne Ferguson had nothing to report.

(0:39:40) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that letters of understanding would be going out to Prickly Pear Estates as the new development progresses.

(0:40:46) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 296272 through 296351 were presented for Council’s review. Councilmember Leland made a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

1. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena Planning Board Meeting, Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m., City Hall Room 110
3. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor