

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

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Cynthia Brooks (via Zoom), Greg Wirth, Eli Russell, Hannah Russell, George Russell, Holly Russell, Levi Russell, Stephanie Chambers, Sally Nyland, and Dave Jensen

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Fire Chief Troy Maness

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

**(0:00:50) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the May 16, 2023 meeting were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(0:01:15) CITY COURT REPORT:** City Judge Dennis Loveless reported that the fully-staffed police department had been keeping the court busy and that the court will be transitioning to a new software program.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**(0:03:20) Administration** – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the department was in the midst of the audit of FY22; a FitLot coach had been found with the help of Nancy Andersen of AARP; an invitation to a celebration of life for retired electrical inspector Wayland Smith had been received; and that maximum storage for recorded meetings had been met on the website.

**(0:06:55) Police Department** – Police Chief Mike Sanders reported that there had been 195 calls-for-service in May; the department had responded to multiple parking violations, accidents, and animal bites; the training of Officers Royce and Kirkegaard was going well; Coffee with a Cop at Galaxy Roasting had been successful; the department participated in the East Helena Memorial Day Parade and the East Helena High School Graduation; he had coordinated with the Lewis and Clark Humane Society to improve communication between the animal shelter and police department regarding impounded animals; and he will be

attending the Montana Board of Crime Control meeting and the Montana Association of Chiefs of Police Conference.

**(0:11:35) Public Works** – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the diffuser tubes at the wastewater treatment plant will be replaced again; there was a waterline break on Manlove Avenue; Wastewater Superintendent Pursley completed the lead and copper sampling; he had been looking at proposals for garbage trucks; Valley Drive will be closed June 8 through August 23 for construction; he met with Mayor Harris, City Attorney Elverum, and Spencer Dodge of HDR Engineering regarding grant possibilities for Valley Drive/Montana Avenue; there had been flooding in the new trail system at Kennedy Park over the weekend; and that he had been working on the FY24 budget.

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **(0:19:20) East Helena Exempt Division – New Rodeo Grounds Utility Easement** – Mylars for the project were on a table in the council room. Greg Wirth of Stahly Engineering reported that the right-of-way tract would be 66 feet wide per city standards and that there would be a gravel access road to the new rodeo grounds. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:23:25) Prickly Pear Estates/City of East Helena Letter of Understanding** – The draft letter was included in the council packet. Greg Wirth of Stahly Engineering requested that this item be tabled because changes were expected to be made. Dave Jensen commented in favor of amending the letter of understanding. Councilmember Feist made a motion to table. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:27:00) Resolution 586 Approving the 2020 Wastewater Master Plan and Influent Pump Station Alternative Analysis** – The draft resolution was included in the council packet. City Attorney Elverum noted that the resolution formalized the previous adoption of the master plan to align with bond requirements. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve Resolution 586. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **(0:28:12) Train Depot Lease Agreement** – City Attorney Elverum reported that the final draft of the agreement was pending. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to table. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(0:29:55) MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Harris reported that he had attended the Board of Health meeting; met the media at the Prickly Pear Land Trust trail; attended the audit entrance interview; he had been researching the potential for a Pickleball court; had monitored flooding; attended the Memorial Day Parade; and attended the meeting regarding Valley Drive/Montana Avenue funding options.

**COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:**

**Don Dahl** had nothing to report.

**(0:34:33) Judy Leland** reported that she attended the lifeguard interviews.

**(0:34:41) Wesley Feist** reported that he attended Coffee with the Chamber at Galaxy Roasting and spoke at the Greater Helena Soapbox with Mayor Harris.

**Suzanne Ferguson** had nothing to report.

**(0:36:48) LEGAL REPORT:** City Attorney Elverum reported that animal control and coordination with the animal shelter have improved and that responsiveness to traffic violations had improved greatly.

**(0:39:50) PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 296352 through 296417 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 Planning Board Meeting, Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena Council Meeting, Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor