

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110 COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 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 Leland 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, and Fire Chief Troy Maness (via Zoom)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Rick Pyfer and Dave Jensen

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

(0:00:39) PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dave Jensen commented in opposition to heavy equipment being driven on city streets and speeding on West Gail Street.

(0:02:31) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the June 6, 2023 meeting were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY COURT REPORT: A written report from City Judge Dennis Loveless is expected at the next council meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

(0:03:03) Administration – A copy of the FY22 audit findings report was on the council room table. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that she had attended the audit exit interview; attended a meeting with Nancy Andersen of AARP and the new FitLot coach; and attended a meeting with the Lewis and Clark County Records Management Committee.

Police Department – A written report was on the council room table. Police Chief Mike Sanders was excused.

(0:04:57) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported the city crew had been jetting the sewer lines; the recent power outage had caused damaged at the Montana Avenue sewer lift station which led to backups at a few residences; he will be meeting with DN Tanks inside the new water tank; and Tri County Disposal will be working on a contract renewal with the city.

(0:14:07) Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Troy Maness reported that he was still working on the proposed merger with area fire departments and that the lock had been changed on the fire station.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **(0:15:45) Prickly Pear Estates/City of East Helena Letter of Understanding** – A copy of the draft letter of understanding was included in the packet at the last council meeting. Public Works Director Ore reported that amendments to the letter were expected and requested that council table the decision. (0:19:00) Dave Jensen commented in favor of amending the letter. Councilmember Feist made a motion to table. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:19:48) Train Depot Lease Agreement** – The draft agreement was on the council room table. City Attorney Elverum explained how the lease enabled the East Helena Historical Society to use the depot as a museum. (0:23:00) Rick Pyfer commented in favor of the agreement. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the agreement. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:27:52) Reappointment of Planning Board Members** – A copy of the board's roster was included in the council packet. Mayor Harris reported that Ana Glueckert was willing to be reappointed if no one was available to fill her seat on the Planning Board and that Ryan Loomis had responded in favor of his reappointment to another term. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to table Ana Glueckert's reappointment to the Planning Board pending the location of another interested party. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Feist made a motion to reappoint Ryan Loomis to the East Helena Planning Board. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:30:18) Reappointment of Zoning Commission Members** – A copy of the commission's roster was included in the council packet. Mayor Harris reported that Scott St. Clair requested not to be reappointed. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to deny Scott St. Clair's reappointment to the East Helena Zoning Commission. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Feist made a motion to reappoint Luke Serati to the East Helena Zoning Commission. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:32:01) July 4, 2023 Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting** – Mayor Harris asked Council whether to cancel or reschedule the first council meeting in July as it happened to land on Independence Day. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to cancel the July 4th council meeting. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:34:20) MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he had attended the audit exit interview; he and Deputy Clerk Ferguson had introduced themselves to the swimming pool staff; he had been working on a change to the building permit process; he met with a representative of MPERA regarding the proposed fire department merger; he had attended the parks maintenance position interview; and that he would be a judge in the East Helena Smoke Show at the Missouri River Brewing Company August 5th and 6th.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:

(0:42:20) Don Dahl reported that he had attended the Planning Board meeting.

(0:43:44) Judy Leland reported that she had attended the parks maintenance position interview.

(0:44:01) Wesley Feist reported that he had attended the Hometown Helena meeting; attended the audit exit interview; and that MBAC approved a loan to the Causeway Chalet. He formally requested a group picture.

(0:46:17) Suzanne Ferguson reported that she had attended the audit exit interview.

(0:46:29) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that he had been busy with criminal proceedings and that police department was doing well.

(0:48:50) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 296418 through 296472 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 Meeting, Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor