

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 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, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, Police Chief Mike Sanders, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, Zoning Officer Jeremy Fadness, and Fire Chief Troy Maness (via Zoom)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Neal Blossom, Cindy Brooks (via Zoom), Dave Jensen, Jesse Leland, Liam Azure, and Arlo Leland

ABSENT/EXCUSED: City Judge Dennis Loveless

(0:00:30) PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jesse Leland, Liam Azure, and Arlo Leland asked Council to consider the addition of bicycle jumps at Kennedy Park.

(0:03:35) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the July 18, 2023 meeting were included in the council packet. Referring to his report, Councilmember Feist noted that he had attended a meeting with the Army Reserve rather than the JROTC. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. 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:

(0:04:35) Administration – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the Montana State Fund audit had occurred the previous day; she and Chief Sanders had attended Coffee with the Chamber; and that the admin office had sent mailings to the residents of Highland Meadows and Vigilante Subdivisions regarding lighting and street maintenance assessments.
(0:08:30) Police Department – Police Chief Mike Sanders reported that there had been 282 calls-for-service in July; the department had attended a training with the county attorney’s office; Officers DeBoo and Kirkegaard will be participating in the National Night Out event;

night shifts will resume August 23rd; and that the department had received an award from Lexipol.

(0:12:55) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the sewer-jetter had broken down and was repaired; the new water tank at McClellan Creek is expected to begin service in September; he met with Councilmember Dahl regarding water rights; the county had been chip-sealing city streets; and that he had been working on the FY24 budget.

(0:19:20) Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Troy Maness reported that he had met with MPERA regarding the proposed fire department merger and that he had hired a new mechanic for the fire trucks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:21:10) Manlove-282 Minor Subdivision Final Plat** – A copy of the staff report was included in the council packet. Zoning Officer Fadness discussed the staff report and recommended approval of the final plat. (0:21:55) Neal Blossom of American Chemet commented in favor of approval. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the final plat. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:23:45) City of East Helena Engineering Standards** – A copy of the updated engineering standards was included in the digital version of the council packet. A printed copy was on the council room table. Public Works Director Ore discussed the updates with council and recommended a correction to the stipulation that size of the incoming water line determines the meter size and the inclusion standards for garage floor drains. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the engineering standards with the amendments discussed. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:30:50) MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he had attended the Board of Health meeting; attended the meeting with Habitat for Humanity regarding future development; met with Eagles 4040 regarding 227 Days; had coordinated with organizers of the East Helena Smoke Show; and that he had been working on the FY24 budget.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:

(0:34:00) Don Dahl asked for clarification on whether one of the roads out of the new Town Pump intersected the middle of a block. He reported that he had seen the FitLot class and Adventures in Cardboard enjoying Kennedy Park and had received more complaints about parking at the intersection of Main and Washington.

(0:36:00) Judy Leland reported that she had attended the Water Quality Protection District meeting.

(0:36:10) Wesley Feist reported that he had attended the Chamber of Commerce's presentation on the new Montana Heritage Center and that he was asked by United Way of

the Lewis and Clark area to be a part of the Move the Dial effort for ending homelessness. He thanked the pool staff for quality swimming lessons; Public Works Director Ore for dealing with a hornet nest at Kennedy Park; and Clerk/Treasurer Thorngren for email billing. **(0:38:45) Suzanne Ferguson** did not have anything to report.

(0:38:50) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that he had attended the meeting with Habitat for Humanity; attended MMIA's child abuse prevention virtual workshop; and that court had been busy.

(0:39:25) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 296590 through 296638 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 & Public Hearing, Tuesday, August 15, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, September 5, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor