MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 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 (via Zoom), Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Wesley Feist, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, and Fire Chief Troy Maness (via Zoom)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Clint Smith, Ron Whitmoyer, Beth Lewis, Shawn Lewis, Paul Witham, and Dave Jensen

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

(0:00:40) PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dave Jensen commented in opposition to the performance of city officials and staff regarding spending on infrastructure improvements; sewer and garbage rate increases; wage allocation and department head salary increases; the most recent detour around Wylie Drive; and public information request fulfillment. Mr. Jensen provided a written version of his public comments for the record.

(0:05:15) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the October 3, 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.

CITY COURT REPORT: City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:
(0:05:50) Administration – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the candy was ready for the Halloween Stroll; an EVMS student in need of an alternate learning location will be in the building four mornings a week; there have been updates to the admin office; METG sent money for the wastewater master plan; building permit activity was going strong; and that she had been working on the FY23 Annual Financial Report.

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

(0:08:20) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that DEQ had approved the RPZ valves for water trucks at the Main Street Park hydrant; Pool Manager Mook will not be returning to manage the pool next season; he had been in contact with Prickly Pear Estates regarding their request to relocate the new rodeo grounds; the old water tanks had been demolished; and that the new water supply well was nearly complete.

Volunteer Fire Department – Draft images for the fire station mural were on the council room table. Fire Chief Troy Maness had not yet joined the meeting via Zoom.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **(0:13:20) East Helena Valley Rodeo Association Lease Agreement** – The draft agreement with proposed changes was included in the council packet. An updated draft was on the council room table. City Attorney Elverum discussed the details of the sixty-year lease agreement. He discussed corrections and clarified points of the agreement with Council. Ron Whitmoyer commented in support of the agreement. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the agreement as amended. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:31:00) Resolution No. 598 Authorizing the Lease of Real Property Owned by the City to the East Helena Valley Rodeo Association** – The draft resolution was included in the council packet. An updated draft was on the council room table. City Attorney Elverum noted that the resolution was required by Montana Code. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve Resolution 598. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:33:30) Facility Use Agreement Update** – A copy of the updated use agreement was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore explained that the new agreement would allow for hourly rental of the recreation hall. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the updated use agreement. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:38:15) Use of City Facilities for the Annual Christmas Stroll** – Mayor Harris presented Stephanie Chambers' request to close Main Street and use city facilities for the Christmas Stroll on December 7th. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:39:15) MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he had been working on the rodeo grounds lease agreement.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:
(0:40:25) Don Dahl reported that he had been contacted by residents on Washington Street about campers blocking the sight triangle at the intersection.
Judy Leland had nothing to report.
(0:40:55) Wesley Feist reported that he had seen goats in city limits; a resident contacted him about egging on Riggs Street; attended the Housing is Healthcare meeting; and that he will be attending Lunch with Local Government on October 26th.
Suzanne Ferguson had nothing to report.

(0:42:45) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that he had been working on the rodeo grounds lease agreement.

(0:43:40) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 296831 through 296884 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 EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:
1. East Helena Halloween Stroll Tuesday, October 31, 5:00 p.m.

MEETING SCHEDULE:
1. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, November 7, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, November 21, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

_____   _____
Clerk/Treasurer   Mayor