

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 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, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, City Attorney Pete Elverum, and City Engineer Trevor Larson

PUBLIC PRESENT: Ron Whitmoyer, John Adams, Marjie Adams, and Dave Jensen

ABSENT/EXCUSED: City Judge Dennis Loveless, Police Chief Mike Sanders, and Fire Chief Troy Maness

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

(0:00:55) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the November 7, 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 Fiest seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

CITY COURT REPORT: City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

(0:01:25) Administration – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the Missouri River Brewing Company had sent the required notice that the paving had been completed from Clark Street to the cul-de-sac; a Toys for Tots donation bin has been placed in the admin office; she attended a meeting at Local Government Services Bureau regarding the FY23 Annual Financial Report; attended the wastewater improvements funding call; and that AARP intended to award the city an Outstanding Community Partner award for the FitLot classes at Kennedy Park.

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

(0:05:00) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the wastewater connections in Red Fox Meadows

Subdivision had been audited; Robert Peccia & Associates staff were finishing up the city's water and sewer master plans; he met with Cindy Brooks of Montana Environmental Trust Group regarding water rights; he met with the president of the La Casa Grande Subdivision Water and Sewer Association regarding future infrastructure projects; and that the new McClellan Creek water tank is in service. He discussed a map on the council room table depicting proposed city street repair, maintenance, and construction projects and anticipated expenses and funding sources.

Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Troy Maness was excused.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:20:30) Living Church of God 2024 Recreation Hall Usage Dates** – A list of dates was included in the council packet. John Adams expressed his appreciation for the church's continued use of the recreation hall. He discussed the church's hours of operation with Council. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the dates. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:23:20) East Helena Valley Rodeo Association Recreation Hall Fee Waiver Request** – A copy of the facility use agreement was included in the council packet. Ron Whitmoyer requested the waiver of recreation hall rental fees for the new rodeo grounds construction bid opening meeting. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:27:30) Washington Avenue Water Main/McClellan Creek Transmission Main 2023 Summary of Bids** – A summary of bids was included in the council packet. City Engineer Trevor Larson discussed the bids and recommended approval of Helena Sand & Gravel's bid. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to award the project to Helena Sand & Gravel. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **(0:30:10) Washington Avenue Water Main/McClellan Creek Transmission Main 2023 Change Order** – A summary of the change order was included in the council packet. City Engineer Trevor Larson reported that the bids had come in lower than expected and there were funds left over that could be used to extend the transmission main further. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the change order. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:32:35) MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he had attended the wastewater improvements funding call; participated in some employee reviews; attended discussions regarding road funding; discussed an evening closing time for City Hall with Police Chief Sanders and Public Works Director Ore; and that he attended the METG public meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:

(0:35:10) Don Dahl reported that he attended the METG public meeting.

Judy Leland had nothing to report.

(0:35:25) Wesley Feist reported that he attended the METG public meeting; he attended the MBAC meeting; and that he would need to recuse himself from decisions regarding state surplus because he had accepted a new position.

(0:36:55) Suzanne Ferguson reported that she attended the METG public meeting and that the staff holiday party would be held on Friday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m.

(0:37:35) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that court was going well and that drivers were still adjusting to recent speed limit changes.

(0:38:55) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 296768 through 297002 were presented for Council's review. Councilmember Leland made a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. East Helena Christmas Stroll Thursday, December 7, 5:30 p.m.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

1. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor