

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 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 Suzanne Ferguson, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Fire Chief Troy Maness, Zoning Officer Jeremy Fadness

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Ron Whitmoyer, Arne Wiebe, Robie Culver, Jerry Kittson, Jason Crawford, and Dave Jensen

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** City Judge Dennis Loveless, Police Chief Mike Sanders, and Councilmember Wesley Feist

**(0:00:30) PRESENTATION: RAISE Grant Application Update** – A written report was included in the council packet. Robie Culver and Arne Wiebe of Stahly Engineering updated Council on the progress and projected timeline of the application process for the grant which would facilitate the rebuilding of Montana Avenue/Valley Drive. They answered questions from Council. The grant application is due February 24, 2024.

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

**(0:15:05) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the December 5, 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 Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CITY COURT REPORT:** A written report was included in the council packet. City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**(0:15:45) Administration** – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren thanked Council for the staff holiday party and reported that she had attended lunch sponsored by Robert Peccia & Associates (RPA); attended Coffee with the Chamber; attended the AARP Volunteer

Recognition Celebration; attended the meeting with RPA regarding the city website; and that the East Helena Valley Rodeo Association had prepaid their 60-year lease of the new rodeo grounds.

**(0:17:35) Police Department** – A written report was on the council room table. Police Chief Mike Sanders was excused.

**(0:17:45) Public Works** – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that water, wastewater, and parks master plans would be presented at upcoming meetings; he will be submitting an insurance claim for the fence that was damaged by a vehicle at Kennedy Park; he attended a meeting with MDT and the school district regarding the TA grant project; new locks will be installed in the exterior doors at City Hall and the Recreation Hall; and that he attended the meeting with RPA regarding the city website.

**(0:22:25) Volunteer Fire Department** - Fire Chief Troy Maness reported that the Christmas Stroll had gone well; the department continues to recruit new members; and that the department elected Roger Campbell to be the new fire chief beginning in January.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **(0:29:45) Vigilante Subdivision Phase III Final Plat** – The staff report was included in the council packet. Zoning Officer Fadness discussed the report and recommended approval of the final plat. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve Vigilante Subdivision Phase III per staff recommendation. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:32:10) Request to Request Rodeo Grounds Grandstands Grant Funding from the Treacy Foundation** – A draft letter of request to the Treacy Foundation was included in the council packet. Ron Whitmoyer updated Council on the progress of the new rodeo grounds and explained that the rodeo association could not request the funds from the Treacy Foundation because they do not own the property. He asked Council to consider the city applying for the grant and using the funds to purchase and construct the grandstands. He offered his assistance with the grant writing. City Attorney Elverum discussed the procedure the city would need to follow if the request were to be approved. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve requesting grant funding from the Treacy Foundation. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(0:48:50) MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Harris commended Councilmember Ferguson for her work on the staff holiday party and reported that he had attended the lunch sponsored by RPA; met with newly-elected Fire Chief Roger Campbell; attended the Patrol Officer interviews; and that he attended the Christmas Stroll.

**COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:**

**Don Dahl** had nothing to report.

**(0:51:45) Judy Leland** reported that she attended the staff holiday party and the Patrol Officer interviews.

**Wesley Feist** was excused.

**(0:52:05) Suzanne Ferguson** reported that she attended the staff holiday party and handed out what was left of the hot cider at the Christmas Stroll.

**(0:53:30) LEGAL REPORT:** City Attorney Elverum reported that he attended the staff holiday party and that the officers were doing a good job enforcing speed limits.

**(0:54:10) PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 297047 through 297090 were presented for Council's review. Councilmember Leland made a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

1. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, January 2, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, January 16, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor