

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024**  
**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, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, City Attorney Pete Elverum, and Fire Chief Roger Campbell

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Ron Whitmoyer, Kathleen Hunthausen, and Dave Jensen (via Zoom)

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

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

**(0:01:20) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the February 6, 2024 meeting were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CITY COURT REPORT:** City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**(0:01:50) Administration** – A written report was included in the council packet. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the early rate indication for FY25 employee benefits had been received; the EPA would be holding an information session in the LEAP office in City Hall on March 11<sup>th</sup>; two public hearings regarding the proposed annexation of the Iron Horse Landing subdivision would be on the March 19<sup>th</sup> agenda; and that the kindergarteners would once again tour City Hall for 227 Day.

**(0:04:40) Police Department** – A written report was on the council room table. Police Chief Mike Sanders was excused. Mayor Harris reported that the department was receiving a high number of animal-related calls.

**(0:05:15) Public Works** – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the water rights application had been resubmitted to DNRC; staff had been working on filling potholes as the snow melts; the snow plow had been in a

minor accident; and that the estimate had been received to install a lock system at City Hall and would be considered again during the FY25 budget process.

**(0:09:55) Volunteer Fire Department** - Fire Chief Roger Campbell reported that the department had received 26 calls-for-service in the month of January and that February would be a similar number; new medical gear had been ordered; and that the department was looking at two applications for new members.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **(0:13:00) Treacy Foundation Grant Application Submission** – The draft application was included in the council packet. Ron Whitmoyer passed out a flyer and reported that the Treacy Foundation had accepted the application letter which allows the city to apply for the grant. He discussed the application. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the grant application. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:19:30) Request to Plant a Tree in Kennedy Park for Rick Pyfer** – Kathleen Hunthausen presented the request to plant the tree on behalf of Rick’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade classmates at St. Ann’s School. Council discussed planting the tree in Kennedy Park near the trees Rick had planted for his parents and how the planting of future trees would be covered in the new parks plan. (0:25:55) Ron Whitmoyer commented in support of planting the tree. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve working with the parks department to plant the tree for Rick Pyfer in Kennedy Park. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:29:00) Request to Conduct the East Helena Farmers Market in Main Street Park Tuesdays, July 9 through September 3, 2024** – Mayor Harris presented Dot Vieth’s request to hold the Tuesday Farmers Market in Main Street Park just like last year. Clerk/Treasurer Thorngren reported that the market purchases a blanket business license for the event every year. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve the Tuesday Farmers Market. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **(0:30:45) City of Helena RAISE Grant Letter of Support** – Mayor Harris reported that the City of Helena had requested the letter of support for their east side arterial connector project which would increase regional connectivity between Helena and East Helena. He noted that it is for a planning grant and does not compete with the RAISE construction grant for which East Helena is applying. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the letter of support. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(0:34:30) MAYOR’S REPORT:** Mayor Harris reported that he had discussions about a minor snow plow accident; an animal control call-for-service that ended badly, the RAISE grant application, and potholes.

**COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:**

**(0:37:25) Don Dahl** reported that he had attended the East Helena Zoning Commission public hearing regarding the proposed annexation of the Iron Horse Landing subdivision.

**Judy Leland** had nothing to report.

**(0:38:00) Wesley Feist** reported that he had attended the Montana Business Assistance Connection (MBAC) meeting.

**(0:38:10) Suzanne Ferguson** reported that she had attended the East Helena Zoning Commission public hearing regarding the proposed annexation of the Iron Horse Landing subdivision.

**(0:38:15) LEGAL REPORT:** City Attorney Elverum reported that there had been a couple of trials in city court; the new officer was being onboarded thanks to the COPS grant awarded to the city; and that he has been working on a response to HUD regarding a complaint about a denied code variance request to allow a rooster to be kept in city limits.

**(0:42:20) PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 297233 through 297279 were presented for Council's review. Councilmember Leland made a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

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

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

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor