

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 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 Feist 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, Police Chief Mike Sanders, City Engineer Jeremy Perlinski, and City Engineer Trevor Larson

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Dave Jensen

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** City Attorney Pete Elverum and Fire Chief Roger Campbell

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

\*\*\*Mayor Harris moved the meeting to the City Court Report at this time.

**PRESENTATION:**

1. **(0:10:10) Wastewater Master Plan Update** – A written copy of the presentation was included in the council packet. Larger copies of a map were handed out. Engineers Trevor Larson and Jeremy Perlinski of Robert Peccia & Associates identified the city’s wastewater infrastructure needs based on projected growth through 2052. They answered questions from Council and Dave Jensen. No action was taken by Council.

**(0:45:25) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the February 20, 2024 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.

**(0:01:20) CITY COURT REPORT:** A written report for the months of January and February were on the council room table. City Judge Dennis Loveless reported that the police department was doing a great job and that he would be attending a judges’ conference at the end of April.

\*\*\*Mayor Harris moved the meeting to the Police Department Report at this time.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**(0:45:55) Administration** – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the East Helena Senior Citizens Club would be meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at the East Helena United Methodist Church and that any city representative was invited to come and speak without scheduling. She discussed utility billing data for the month of February.

**(0:02:15) Police Department** – Police Chief Mike Sanders reported that there had been 292 calls-for-service in February; the officers all passed at the firing range; he attended Coffee with the Chamber; Officers Johnston, Morris, and Royce completed their leadership training; the contract for the department’s body and car cameras ends June 30<sup>th</sup> at which point another vendor will be chosen; he applied for a grant for body and car cameras; Officer Royce will be attending a field training officer course; and that he will be meeting with Panasonic regarding on-board computers in the patrol vehicles and may apply for a grant for them.

\*\*\*Mayor Harris moved the meeting to New Business 1 at this time.

**(0:47:50) Public Works** – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the flows from the East Clark Street Sewer District were getting close to the maximum agreed-upon amount and were being monitored; he invited input on the FY25 budget; and noted that he was still taking suggestions for the name of the road going to the new rodeo grounds.

**Volunteer Fire Department** - Fire Chief Roger Campbell was excused.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **(0:05:15) Discussion on Update to Ordinance 6-3-16 Dogs Prohibited in City Parks** – The ordinance with suggested updates was included in the council packet. Police Chief Sanders proposed adding language to the ordinance to address allowances for dogs on the new Grove walking trail in Kennedy Park. He noted that his suggested changes were consistent with the City of Helena’s trails and Prickly Pear Land Trust’s other trails. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.

\*\*\*Mayor Harris moved the meeting to the Wastewater Master Plan Update Presentation at this time.

**(0:54:00) MAYOR’S REPORT:** Mayor Harris reported that he had conversations about the FY25 budget and requested Council’s input; he had phone calls regarding water rights and the new rodeo grounds; planning for the swimming pool season had begun; letters would be going out regarding sign ordinance violations in the rights-of-way; and that he attended the Board of Health meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS:**

**Don Dahl** had nothing to report.

**Judy Leland** had nothing to report.

**(0:59:30) Wesley Feist** reported that he attended the Chamber of Commerce board meeting; attended Coffee with the Chamber; visited with School District 9 Superintendent Rispens regarding the Opioid Abatement Trust; and that he filed to run for House District 83.

**Suzanne Ferguson** had nothing to report.

**LEGAL REPORT:** City Attorney Elverum was excused.

**(1:02:20) PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 297280 through 297324 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 Hearings, Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, April 2, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor