

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 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 Ferguson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(0:01:10) PRESENTATION:

1. **East Helena High School Update** – Activities Director Shaun Murgel updated Council on spring sports including baseball, softball, tennis, and track. He noted that the sports schedules and facilities use are on the school district’s website. This was an information-only item.

CITY OFFICIALS & STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Kelly Harris, Council President Don Dahl, Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Wesley Feist, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson (via Zoom), Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, and City Attorney Pete Elverum

PUBLIC PRESENT: Steve Dobb, Damian Briggs, Ron Whitmoyer, Fred Goughnour, Shaun Murgel, Jeff Larson, Tensina Smith, Mike Smith, Kevin Schulte, Wesley Brilz, De Brilz, Joe Nistler, Blaine Verbanac, Cheryl Verbanac, Jamus Lamb, David W. Letang, and Dave Jensen

ABSENT/EXCUSED: City Judge Dennis Loveless, Police Chief Mike Sanders, Fire Chief Roger Campbell, and Zoning Officer Jeremy Fadness

(0:03:15) PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **Iron Horse Landing Request for Annexation** – The published notice of public hearing and staff report by Zoning Officer Jeremy Fadness were included in the council packet. Mayor Harris noted that the staff report contained 10 itemized conditions of approval and that the proposed development would still need to go through the conditional use permitting process. This was an information-only item.
2. **Iron Horse Landing Request for Annexation** – Copies of written public comments in opposition to the proposed annexation from Michael Smith, Tensina Smith, Susan Grovom, and Dave Letang were in the council packet. Mayor Harris called for public comment. (0:05:50) Dave Letang, (0:09:19) Tensina Smith, (0:12:55) Jamus Lamb, and (0:14:50) Mike Smith commented in opposition to the proposed annexation. (0:17:00) Dave Jensen commented that the developers should be contractually

obligated to pay all infrastructure impact fees. Mr. Jensen provided a written version of his comments for the record. (0:18:10) Jeff Larson and (0:20:00) Joe Nistler commented in support of the proposed annexation.

3. **Iron Horse Landing Request for Annexation** – City Attorney Elverum discussed some of the legalities surrounding the request. Council asked for more information from the requester, Joe Nistler. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the annexation request as recommended by staff. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:35:45) PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **Iron Horse Landing Annexation Zone Map Amendment** – The published notice of public hearing and staff report by Zoning Officer Jeremy Fadness were included in the council packet. Mayor Harris stated that the proposed zoning designation was residential. This was an information-only item.
2. **Iron Horse Landing Annexation Zone Map Amendment** – Copies of written public comments in opposition to the proposed annexation from Michael Smith, Tensina Smith, Susan Grovom, and Dave Letang were in the council packet. Mayor Harris called for public comment. (0:36:45) Dave Letang commented in opposition to the proposed zone map amendment (ZMA). (0:38:25) Jamus Lamb commented in opposition to the proposed ZMA (0:39:45) Joe Nistler commented in support of the proposed ZMA.
3. **Iron Horse Landing Annexation Zone Map Amendment** – Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve rezoning Iron Horse Landing to residential as recommended by staff. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

(0:43:40) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the March 5, 2024 meeting were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY COURT REPORT: City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

(0:44:20) Administration – A written report was included in the council packet. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the EPA information session had been well attended. A copy of their presentation was included in the council packet.

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

(0:45:25) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the McClellan Creek well was back up and running and the

project was nearly complete; the department was gearing up for swimming pool season; chip and crack seal bids were favorable; and that the city crew would assist the VFW with their community cleanup on May 4th.

Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Roger Campbell was excused.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **(0:49:45) Wastewater Master Plan Update** – Public Works Director Ore noted that a council vote on the update was overlooked at the last meeting. (0:50:25) Dave Jensen commented in opposition to the update. A written copy of Mr. Jensen’s comments was submitted for the record. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the wastewater master plan update as presented. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:52:25) Main Street Car Show** – Damian Briggs of the Pontiac Pac Car Club requested Council’s approval to hold a car show on May 25th on Main Street from the VFW to the bridge. He noted that the proceeds would go to the new rodeo grounds. (0:55:15) Kevin Schulte commented in support of the car show. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the car show. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(1:00:55) Naming of Road to New Rodeo Grounds** – Public Works Director Ore asked Council for four name suggestions to submit to county addressing. (1:02:55) Ron Whitmoyer commented in support of Rodeo Drive on behalf of the rodeo committee. Council discussed and ranked possible names for the road to the new rodeo grounds. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the suggestions Rodeo Drive, Buckle Drive, Barrel Road, and Lasso Lane. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(1:07:05) Pool Manager Job Description Update** – The position announcement and updated job description were included in the council packet. (1:07:35) Dave Jensen commented in opposition to the update. A written copy of Mr. Jensen’s comments was submitted for the record. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the pool manager job description update as presented. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(1:10:15) MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he attended the building codes conference in Bozeman; met with Prickly Pear Land Trust (PPLT) and Habitat for Humanity regarding future developments; and that he spent time with the University of Montana students working on the local lead documentary.

COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS:

(1:12:00) Don Dahl reported that he attended a meeting with Robert Peccia & Associates (RPA) regarding water transmission lines.

(1:12:15) Judy Leland reported that she attended a meeting with RPA regarding water transmission lines.

(1:12:35) Wesley Feist reported that he had attended the EPA's yard lead cleanup information session; the United Way's Spirit of Service event is approaching; he attended a meeting with RPA regarding water transmission lines; and that he attended the MBAC meeting.

Suzanne Ferguson had nothing to report.

(1:15:20) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that court was going well and that the officers were doing a good job. He attended the meeting with PPLT and Habitat for Humanity regarding future developments.

(1:16:35) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 297325 through 297364 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, Tuesday, April 2, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor