

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 7, 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, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Police Chief Mike Sanders, Patrol Officer Ed Royce, Zoning Officer Jeremy Fadness (via Zoom), and City Engineer Neal Levang

PUBLIC PRESENT: Marty Folio, Jane Hauck, Mike Hossfeld, Steve Garrison, Terry Wiedeman, Iris Maness, Lynn Maness, Jacob Kunz, Terry Lamping, Cindy Brooks (via Zoom), and Dave Jensen

ABSENT/EXCUSED: City Judge Dennis Loveless and Fire Chief Roger Campbell

(0:00:25) PUBLIC HEARING 1:

1. **Termination of the East Clark Street Sewer District Interlocal Agreement** – Copies of the public notice and the letter sent to the district were included in the council packet. City Attorney Elverum discussed the past-due payments that triggered the public hearing per the terms of the agreement. This was an information-only item.
2. **Termination of the East Clark Street Sewer District Interlocal Agreement** – Mayor Harris called for public comment on the proposed agreement termination. (0:02:50) District Boardmember Terry Wiedeman discussed the current state of the district. Public Works Director Ore explained the wastewater connections within the district and noted that fees were calculated based on the entire district’s monthly metered usage rather than connections.
3. **Termination of the East Clark Street Sewer District Interlocal Agreement** – Council discussed the repercussions of terminating the interlocal agreement. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to terminate the interlocal agreement. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously!

(0:21:35) PUBLIC HEARING 2:

1. **Update to the City of East Helena Subdivision Regulations** – The public notice and Draft Resolution 602 were included in the council packet. A copy of the draft

subdivision update had been sent to Council electronically. Zoning Officer Fadness discussed the items that had been updated based on 2023 legislation and noted that some items were being moved to the engineering standards.

2. **Update to the City of East Helena Subdivision Regulations** – Mayor Harris called for public comment on the proposed update and received none.
3. **Update to the City of East Helena Subdivision Regulations** – Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the subdivision regulation update. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:28:50) PRESENTATION:

1. **Engineering Standards Update** – A copy of the draft engineering standards had been sent to Council electronically. Neal Levang of Robert Peccia & Associates discussed the updates with Council. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the update to the engineering standards. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

(0:35:15) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the April 16, 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 Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY COURT REPORT: A written report for the month of April was included in the council packet. City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

(0:35:50) Administration – A written report was included in the council packet.

Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that swimming lesson registration had gone smoothly; there had been technical difficulties with city staff email; the FY23 audit was in progress; and that AARP FitLot classes will start after Memorial Day at Kennedy Park.

(0:38:40) Police Department – A written report was included in the council packet. Police Chief Mike Sanders reported that there had been 397 calls-for-service in April; Officer Royce successfully completed his one-year probationary period and Officer Kirkegaard will soon, too; and that he attended the Missouri River Drug Task Force Executive Board meeting, The Friendship Center luncheon, the Montana Drug Information Symposium, and met with the Lewis and Clark County Health Department.

(0:46:00) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the city crew had started sewer jetting; something turned the sewer water red for several days; the annual drinking water report has been submitted to DEQ; lifeguard interviews will take place in the following week; burned out streetlights were down to 11 from 40; and that asphalt patching was in progress.

Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Roger Campbell was excused.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:54:50) Confirmation of Appointment of Patrol Officer Ed Royce** – Police Chief Sanders reported on Officer Royce’s exemplary first year with the department and requested Council’s confirmation of his appointment. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve confirmation of Officer Royce to the East Helena Police Department. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:59:55) Request for Open Container Variance for a Car Show over Rodeo Weekend and 227 Days** – Mike Hossfeld of Eagles 4040 requested Council’s approval to allow alcoholic beverages to be carried outside on Main Street from 1st Street to the creek during the car show in May, the poker run in June, and over rodeo weekend in July as well as 227 Days/The East Helena Block Party on a date yet to be determined. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the variance on Main Street from 1st Street to the creek for the car show, the poker run, and over rodeo weekend. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(1:08:45) Request for Kennedy Park Pavilion Fee Waiver for Joining Community Forces August 1, 2024** – Joining Community Forces Chair Steve Garrison requested Council’s approval to use Kennedy Park at no charge to hold a free barbeque for veterans and their families. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. Councilmembers Leland, Ferguson, and Dahl voted aye. Councilmember Feist abstained. The motion passed.
4. **(1:12:05) Request to Move the Manlove Cabin to the East Helena City Hall Parking Lot** – A copy of the request letter was included in the council packet. Marty Folio presented the East Helena Historical Society’s request to relocate the Manlove Cabin to the East Helena City Hall parking lot near the historic train depot. (1:12:55) Lynn Maness commented in favor of preserving the cabin. (1:17:30) Iris Maness shared some of the cabin’s history. (1:24:10) Cindy Brooks noted that the Montana Environmental Trust Group has secured up to \$38,000.00 to relocate the cabin. (1:32:10) Jacob Kunz suggested a location being developed within the greenway. Council discussed logistics and suitable locations for the historic cabin. Councilmember Feist made a motion to deny moving the Manlove Cabin to the City Hall parking lot. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(1:33:10) MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he attended the FY23 audit entrance interview; he had been preparing for the swimming pool season; and he commended the VFW’s Day of Service which attracted 40 volunteers to help clean up the city and the Boy Scouts brought another twenty.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:

Don Dahl had nothing to report.

Judy Leland had nothing to report.

(1:35:15) Wesley Feist reported that he attended Coffee with the Chamber, the Chamber of Commerce Board meeting, the Lewis and Clark County Growth Plan open house, the Hometown Helena meeting, the VFW trash pickup, and the Vision Helena meeting.

Suzanne Ferguson had nothing to report.

(1:37:35) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that the matter of the rooster residing in city limits was ongoing; the City of Helena case in which he was assisting with the prosecution has been resolved; and that the police department was doing great work resulting in a bench trial or two in the court.

(1:40:25) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 297469 through 297545 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, May 21, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, June 4, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor