

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 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, Fire Chief Roger Campbell (via Zoom), Police Chief Mike Sanders, Patrol Officer Morris, Patrol Officer Royce, and Patrol Officer Chris Kirkegaard

PUBLIC PRESENT: Kathleen Hunthausen, Amy Morris, and Dave Jensen

ABSENT/EXCUSED: City Judge Dennis Loveless and City Attorney Pete Elverum

(0:00:25) PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **Monthly Sewer Rate Increase for Red Fox Meadows Subdivision and Pele Park Sewer District** – Draft Resolution 604 was on the council room table. Mayor Harris noted that the rate increase was in alignment with the recently approved wastewater rate increase, but the process for raising rates for sewer districts differed from raising rates within city limits. This was an information-only item.
2. **Monthly Sewer Rate Increase for Red Fox Meadows Subdivision and Pele Park Sewer District** – Mayor Harris called for public comment on the proposed rate increase. (0:01:40) Dave Jensen commented in opposition to how long it took to raise the rates charged to the sewer districts after the initial rate increase was approved.
3. **Monthly Sewer Rate Increase for Red Fox Meadows Subdivision and Pele Park Sewer District** – Council discussed a discrepancy between the amount of the rate increase in the public notice and the draft resolution. They also discussed ensuring that future increases to the sewer districts are punctual. Councilmember Feist made a motion to table pending correction and republishing of the public notice and a new public hearing. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:09:50) PUBLIC COMMENTS: Kathleen Hunthausen thanked Council and staff for the assistance planting the tree at Kennedy Park in memory of Rick Pyfer. Donations in excess of the cost of the tree were given to the East Helena Historical Society.

(0:14:35) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the June 4, 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 Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

(0:15:25) Administration – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the donations to Rick’s Pyfer’s tree had been generous; Valley Bank had converted the city’s checking account to a commercial account; and that she attended the FitLot meeting.

(0:18:00) Police Department – Police Chief Mike Sanders reported that the department had received 135 calls-for-service so far this month; he attended the Arizona Intimate Partner Risk Assessment Instrument System training; the department had inventoried the abandoned bikes in storage; and that Officer Kirkegaard is scheduled to attend firearms instructor training.

(0:21:35) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the groundwater discharge test results were still pending; work will soon begin on the wastewater master plan; the garbage truck is being repaired; the service line to Schiller Park and the community garden failed and was repaired; the pool is operating and has already been inspected by the health department; and that funding should be coming through from HB 355.

(0:27:25) Volunteer Fire Department – A written report was included in the council packet. Fire Chief Roger Campbell commended Officer Kirkegaard for his service.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:28:35) Life Saving Award for Patrol Officer Chris Kirkegaard** – Police Chief Sanders presented an award and pin to Officer Kirkegaard for his heroic resuscitation of a car crash victim. This was an information-only item.
2. **(0:33:35) Disposal of Surplus Patrol Vehicles** – Draft Resolution 603 was on the council room table. Police Chief Sanders discussed which vehicles were ready to be sold. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve Resolution 603. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:35:20) Interlocal Agreement for Transportation Planning Services Between Lewis and Clark County, City of Helena, and City of East Helena** – The draft agreement was included in the council packet. Council discussed the locations in the agreement that named East Helena. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **(0:41:40) Amendment #2 to Robert Peccia & Associates Task Order 21 Scope of Work** – The draft amendment was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore discussed the amendment to the task order for engineering services related to the headworks and CIPP lining projects. (0:46:25) Dave Jensen commented in opposition to certain expenses being paid by the city rather than developers and wastewater system

users outside city limits. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the amendment to the task order. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **(0:49:15) Vigilante Subdivision Plant Road Right-of-Way Landscaping** – A drawing of the proposed landscaping was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore noted that signage was proposed to be placed in the right-of-way which doesn't align with the zoning ordinance. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the landscaping. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:52:10) MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that lifeguards had been onboarded for the pool; he met with the East Clark Street Sewer District who want to negotiate a new agreement; he attended the food truck festival at Main Street Park; and the Building Official position was accepted by Colin Thomas.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:

(0:56:50) Don Dahl reported that there would be a Zoning Commission public hearing for the rezoning of Prickly Pear Estates on July 9th.

(0:57:10) Judy Leland had nothing to report.

(0:57:15) Wesley Feist reported that he attended the Opioid Abatement Trust meeting; attended the food truck festival at Main Street Park; and that he attended the Hometown Helena meeting.

(1:00:00) Suzanne Ferguson had nothing to report.

LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum was excused.

(1:00:15) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 297650 through 297698 were presented for Council's review. Councilmember Feist 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, July 2, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, July 16, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:30.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor