

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 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 Dahl 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, and City Attorney Pete Elverum

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Michael Hossfeld, Greg Wirth, Landy Leep, Zachary Oakland, Linda Vulk, Joe Mitchell, Whitney Mitchell, and Gary Oakland

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

**(0:00:30) PUBLIC HEARING 1:**

1. **Zone Map Amendment and Text Amendments for Prickly Pear Estates Planned Unit Development** – The public notice and the staff report including draft Ordinances 287 and 288 were included in the council packet. Zoning Officer Fadness discussed which areas were proposed to be residential and commercial. This was an information-only item.
2. **Zone Map Amendment and Text Amendments for Prickly Pear Estates Planned Unit Development** – Mayor Harris called for public comment on the proposed zone map and text amendments. (0:04:25) Greg Wirth commented in support of the amendments.
3. **Zone Map Amendment and Text Amendments for Prickly Pear Estates Planned Unit Development** – Council discussed punctuation errors, daycare specifications, manufactured housing, and requirements for parking spaces. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the first readings of Ordinances 287 and 288. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(0:15:05) PUBLIC HEARING 2:**

1. **Resolution to Modify Existing Lighting District No. 101** – The public notice, a map of Highland Meadows Subdivision, and itemized list of the assessments for each property were included in the council packet. Draft Resolution 607 was on the council

room table. City Attorney Elverum noted that there had not been enough public protest to stop the modification of the district. This was an information-only item.

2. **Resolution to Modify Existing Lighting District No. 101** – Mayor Harris called for public comment. Written public comment in opposition to the modification from Kara Hurst was included in the council packet.
3. **Resolution to Modify Existing Lighting District No. 101** – Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve Resolution 607. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(0:16:35) PUBLIC HEARING 3:**

1. **Resolution to Modify Existing Street Maintenance District No. 101** – The public notice, a map of Highland Meadows Subdivision, and an itemized list of the assessments for each property were included in the council packet. Draft Resolution 608 was on the council room table. City Attorney Elverum noted that sufficient protest had not been received from the public to prevent the modification. This was an information-only item.
2. **Resolution to Modify Existing Street Maintenance District No. 101** – Mayor Harris called for public comment. Written public comment in opposition to the modification from Kara Hurst was included in the council packet.
3. **Resolution to Modify Existing Street Maintenance District No. 101** – Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve Resolution 608. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(0:17:25) PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Linda Vulk expressed her frustrations regarding her malfunctioning water meter.

**(0:19:50) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the July 15, 2024 wastewater information meeting and July 16, 2024 council meeting were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve both as presented. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**(0:20:35) Administration** – A copy of the city’s 2024 certified taxable valuation was on the council room table. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that MASBO would be finished renting office space in City Hall on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**(0:22:40) Police Department** – Police Chief Mike Sanders reported that there had been 395 calls-for-service in July; he attended the Crime Stoppers meeting, Coffee with the Chamber, and the CJCC’s tabletop exercise; the county attorney’s office prosecuted the first fentanyl overdose death in the state of Montana; the department had several ride-alongs recently; Cliff’s Jewelry had been burglarized; one of the patrol cars is having the front windshield

replaced; and that East Helena was front and center in the Friendship Center's newsletter for being the first law enforcement-prosecutor-judge team to implement the APRAIS assessment tool in the county.

**(0:26:15) Public Works** – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the blower motor to the reactor basin at the wastewater treatment plant had failed and will probably result in a violation; the sludge building was running well after a motor failure; one of the Montana Avenue lift station pumps failed; the chemical feeder at the pool failed; the kickoff meeting for the RAISE grant will happen on the 26th; the City Hall landscaping project is underway; and Town Pump resubmitted their site plan for their truck scale.

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **(0:33:20) 227 Days at Main Street Park** – Mike Hossfeld of Eagles 4040 requested Council's approval to sell alcohol at Main Street Park for 227 Days, waive the fees for the vendors, and waive the fees for use of the park on September 7<sup>th</sup>. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion.
2. **(0:36:05) Request to Sell Beer at the Food Truck Festival on August 8th** – Whitney Mitchell of Joe Mitchell State Farm requested Council's approval for the Missouri River Brewing Company to sell beer at the final food truck festival of the summer. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:42:30) Resolution to Dispose of Surplus Bicycles and Scooters** – Draft Resolution 610 was included in the council packet. Police Chief Sanders requested Council's approval to donate or dispose of all the unclaimed bikes and scooters that had accumulated in the shed behind city hall over the years. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve Resolution 610. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **(0:44:45) Assessment of Delinquent Payments for Utilities on Property Owners' 2024 Tax Bill** – Draft Resolution 611 was on the council room table. Clerk/Treasurer Thorngren noted that attaching the list of four delinquent utility account balances to the property owners' taxes was a last resort for their collection. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve Resolution 611. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **(0:49:30) FY25 Preliminary Budget Timeline & Meeting Schedule** – Mayor Harris discussed the timeline for the FY25 budget with Council. Staff agreed to have a preliminary budget ready to present at the August 20 meeting. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to table. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion.

**(0:58:25) MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Harris reported that he'd been having discussions about the budget; that he sat in on the initial call regarding the RAISE grant; and that he'd been working on the acquisition of a plow truck from the county.

**COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:**

**(1:01:50) Don Dahl** reported that he sat in on the initial call regarding the RAISE grant.

**Judy Leland** had nothing to report.

**(1:10:30) Wesley Feist** reported that he attended the JCF barbeque; that he had spoken with a resident regarding the fireworks ordinance and development; the school district would be presenting at Hometown Helena; and the library would be holding a grand reopening to present their new meeting room.

**Suzanne Ferguson** had nothing to report.

**(1:15:05) LEGAL REPORT:** City Attorney Elverum reported that he'd had phone calls with representatives of the East Clark Street Sewer District and that he would be attending the upcoming meeting with the sheriff regarding law enforcement coverage and budgetary concerns.

**(1:16:30) PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 297805 through 297878 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, August 20, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, September 3, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

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

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor