

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING: 6:30 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 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.

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

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Damian Briggs and Stephanie Chambers

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** City Judge Dennis Loveless, Police Chief Mike Sanders, and Fire Chief Roger Campbell

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

**(0:00:45) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the September 3, 2024 meeting were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**(0:01:20) Administration** – A note of thanks from the VFW for assistance with the annual Easter egg hunt was included in the council packet. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the 28 FitLot classes hosted over the summer had attracted 510 participants.

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

**(0:02:25) Public Works** – A written report, the Department of Labor & Industry’s Safety Compliance report, and a letter outlining manganese testing requirements were included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that sludge had built up in the holding basin at the wastewater treatment plant and had been removed; he attended the pre-bid meeting for the headworks and CIPP lining project; one of the residents on the unpaved

block of Clinton Street is not in agreement with paving; and that he was still researching automatic door locks for City Hall.

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **(0:13:00) Request to Allow Pontiac Pac Trunk-or-Treat in City Hall Parking Lot**– Damian Briggs proposed a trunk-or-treat with classic cars possibly in City Hall parking lot on Halloween. Council discussed locations for the event. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the trunk-or-treat down the middle of Main Street during the Halloween Stroll. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:20:35) Request to Use Main Street Park for the Halloween and Christmas Strolls** – Steph Chambers presented J4 Automotive’s request to use Main Street Park for holiday activities during the Halloween and Christmas Strolls. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve use of Main Street Park for the Halloween and Christmas Strolls. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:23:45) East Helena Christmas Stroll** – Mayor Harris spoke about what a great community event the Christmas Stroll is every year. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the use of city facilities for the Christmas Stroll. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **(0:24:40) Request to Close City Hall Administration Office Friday, November 29, 2024 and Allow Staff to Use Vacation Time** – Mayor Harris presented the office staff’s request to close the office and allow staff to use their vacation time on Black Friday. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(0:26:10) MAYOR’S REPORT:** Mayor Harris reported that he’d been in discussions regarding the road repair and construction and weight restrictions.

**COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS:**

**Don Dahl** had nothing to report.

**Judy Leland** had nothing to report.

**(0:28:55) Wesley Feist** reported that he attended the Block Party and 227 Days and that the Department of Revenue would be here to help people apply for their property tax rebates. He attended the Opioid Abatement and MBAC meetings and had been in conversations regarding the preservation of the Manlove Cabin.

**Suzanne Ferguson** had nothing to report.

**(0:31:25) LEGAL REPORT:** City Attorney Elverum reported that court was going well and that the East Clark Street Sewer District would likely be on the next agenda.

**(0:32:00) PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 297967 through 298000 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, October 1, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, October 15, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor