

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING: 6:30 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 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, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Fire Chief Roger Campbell (via Zoom), and Patrol Officer Chris Kirkegaard

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Zach Butler and Dave Jensen

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** City Judge Dennis Loveless and Police Chief Mike Sanders

**(0:00:45) PUBLIC COMMENTS:** A copy of a letter from Matt Lindberg regarding potholes and road conditions was included in the council packet. Dave Jensen reiterated his own previous public comments. Mr. Jensen provided a written version of his comments for the record.

**(0:05:45) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the October 1, 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 Ferguson 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:**

**(0:06:20) Administration** – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that she had attended trainings for the new text alert system and that the FY23 audit report had been issued.

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

**(0:07:35) Public Works** – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the bid opening for the Headworks/CIPP Lining project had been pushed back to October 18<sup>th</sup>; he would be meeting with the DEQ regarding wastewater capacity on October 31<sup>st</sup>; MJD Contracting finished the work at the caissons; chip-sealing

would begin soon; he met with the school district regarding the Thurman Street extension; and he addressed recent concerns about the condition of Pacific Street.

**(0:15:40) Volunteer Fire Department** - Fire Chief Roger Campbell reported that there had been a small fire at Chemet; he sent four terminations to inactive members; he is in the process of interviewing five new applicants; and he attended a walk-through of new Town Pump with the state fire marshal. He expressed his concerns about truck traffic surrounding the new Town Pump.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. (0:20:25) Ordinance 289 Providing that the East Helena Municipal Code Be Amended by Adding a New Chapter 9.13 Providing for the Establishment of Truck Routes throughout the City of East Helena** – A copy of the first reading of the ordinance was on the council room table. City Attorney Elverum discussed the proposed routes with Council. (0:29:40) Dave Jensen commented in opposition to the proposed ordinance. Mr. Jensen provided a written version of his comments for the record. Councilmember Leland Made a motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance as presented. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2. (0:35:45) Ordinance 290 Providing that the East Helena Municipal Code Be Amended by Revising Chapter 6.1.3, Public Drinking, Defining Public Places to Preclude Kennedy Park, Main Street Park, and the Downtown Commercial District Along Main Street from 1st Street to Thurman Avenue** – A copy of the first reading of the ordinance was on the council room table. City Attorney Elverum discussed the proposed amendments with Council. Council discussed gathering more public input before revising the ordinance as well as other changes. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to table. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(0:47:00) MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Harris reported that he'd received a phone call regarding the CDBG grant; he attended the patrol officer interviews; he had purchased candy for the Halloween Stroll; and that he attended multiple Homecoming events.

**COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:**

**Don Dahl** had nothing to report.

**(0:50:10) Judy Leland** reported that she attended the patrol officer interviews.

**(0:50:15) Wesley Feist** reported that he attended Helena Forward event, the Habitat for Humanity Name the Neighborhood event, the Homecoming parade, and the grand opening of the new Helena Food Share. He visited with the editor of Boulder Monitor regarding the need for news coverage in East Helena.

**Suzanne Ferguson** had nothing to report.

**(0:54:15) LEGAL REPORT:** City Attorney Elverum reported that he attended the homecoming football game; he will be meeting with the attorney for the bond on the East Clark Street Sewer District; and that court was going well.

**(0:55:05) PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 298060 through 298198 were presented for Council's review. Councilmember Leland made a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

1. **Cancelled for Election Day** - East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, November 5, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, November 19, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor