

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025
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 (via Zoom), Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson, Councilmember Wesley Feist, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, and Public Works Director Kevin Ore

PUBLIC PRESENT: John Frisch, Emily Frazier, Aleka Kroitzsh (via Zoom), Eric Stickline, and Dave Jensen

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(0:00:45) John Frisch commented in favor of restricting train horns in city limits.

(0:05:55) Eric Stickline requested information on where he was allowed to park his food truck.

(0:08:00) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the April 1, 2025 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:

(0:09:10) Administration – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the admin office had been receiving many calls regarding upcoming events such as Easter egg hunts and swimming lessons and had received many park pavilion reservations.

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

(0:10:15) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that spring sewer-jetting continues and “Spring Yard Clean Up” is planned for the first week of June.

Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Roger Campbell was excused.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:14:40) Proclamation Declaring the First Thursday in May as Greater Helena Gives Day** – The draft proclamation was included in the council packet. (0:15:40) Emily Frazier of the Helena Area Community Foundation commented in favor of the proclamation. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the proclamation. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:16:25) FY26 Employee Benefit Elections** – Employee benefit information for the next fiscal year was included in the council packet. A copy of the current employee benefit elections was on the council room table. Clerk/Treasurer Thorngren noted that there would be a 12.2% cost increase. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the FY26 benefit elections as presented. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:18:00) MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he had been in discussions in regard to bringing back the annual spring cleanup, infrastructure improvements had begun at the wastewater treatment plant, his water rights response letter had been sent out that day, the last remaining dirt roads in town had been paved, budgeting for FY26 has begun, and that he intends to run for another term.

COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS:

Don Dahl had nothing to report.

Judy Leland had nothing to report

(0:21:25) Wesley Feist reported that he had spoken with Congressman Downing’s office regarding the BUILD grant; talked with a prospective member the volunteer fire department; attended the library’s 25th anniversary open house; and attended Community Blend at Galaxy Roasting.

Suzanne Ferguson had nothing to report.

LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum was excused.

(0:23:00) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 298632 through 298690 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 6, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor