

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 6, 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, Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Wesley Feist, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Police Chief Mike Sanders, and Deputy Police Chief Ed Royce

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** John Frisch, Aleka Kroitzsh, and Dave Jensen

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** City Judge Dennis Loveless, Fire Chief Roger Campbell, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson

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

**(0:00:50) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the April 15, 2025 meeting were included in the council packet. Councilmember Feist noted corrections to his report. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CITY COURT REPORT:** City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**(0:02:00) Administration** – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the audit of FY24 was in progress and that many swimming lesson registrations had been received.

**(0:03:10) Police Department** –Police Chief Mike Sanders reported that there had been 443 calls-for-service in April; he attended the quarterly Missouri River Drug Task Force executive meeting; Officer Zach Butler graduated from the Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLCT); Deputy Police Chief Royce attended the Capital City Tow Association meeting; Deputy Chief Royce has been with the department for two years; members of the department attended the grand opening of Prickly Pear Park; and Officer Kirkegaard will mark his two-year anniversary with the department soon.

**(0:05:45) Public Works** – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the heavy rain had led to leaks in various buildings and

vehicles; the HMI for the wastewater SCADA system needs to be replaced; a reject pump at the wastewater plant has failed again; and that the Washington Street construction project is wrapping up.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **(0:17:10) Blanket Business License for East Helena Flea Market at the Rodeo Grounds June 4<sup>th</sup>** – A copy of the business license application was included in the council packet. Mayor Harris presented Mariah Vogl's request for a blanket business license to cover the vendors for a flea market at the new rodeo grounds. He noted that the event had been approved by the East Helena Valley Rodeo Association. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the blanket business license. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:18:15) East Helena Police Department Contributions to the Child Advocacy Center and the Missouri River Drug Task Force** – A copy of the police department's budget versus actual report was included in the council packet. A report on the Missouri River Drug Task Force was on the council room table. Police Chief Sanders requested Council's approval to contribute unspent budgeted funds to the Child Advocacy Center and the Missouri River Drug Task Force. He discussed how both organizations benefit the city and reported that both had been affected by decreases in federal funding. He suggested contributions of \$4,000 to each. Council discussed adding these contributions to future budgets. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:24:55) New Town Pump Boundary Line Adjustment** – A copy of the certificate of survey was included in the council packet. Mayor Harris noted that the adjustment would put the existing structure on one lot. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the boundary line adjustment. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **(0:26:25) FY25 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Reports** – A copy of the budget versus actual expenditure report was included in the council packet. Council discussed the possibility of publishing legal advertisements in other newspapers. (0:27:05) Dave Jensen commented in favor of including revenue and cash reports. This was an information-only item.

**(0:30:30) MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Harris reported that he attended Officer Zach Butler's graduation from the MLCT; Gloria Soja has resigned from the police commission and the planning board and members are being sought for both positions; he attended the grand opening of Prickly Pear Park; he attended a meeting with the library regarding the results of the feasibility study; he has been getting ready for the opening of the pool; he participated in budget discussions; and he attended the audit entrance interview.

**COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:**

**(0:33:50) Don Dahl** reported that he attended the planning board meeting; that there are two openings on the planning board and one opening on the zoning commission; and he attended the grand opening of Prickly Pear Park.

**Judy Leland** had nothing to report.

**(0:35:50) Wesley Feist** reported that Greater Helena Gives raised over \$302,000.00 for Helena area non-profits; he attended Officer Zach Butler's graduation from the MLCT; he visited with the Boulder Monitor; he attended the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce meeting; he attended a meeting with the library regarding the results of the feasibility study; and he attended the grand opening of Prickly Pear Park. He thanked the VFW for the Easter egg hunt and the East Helena Day of Service.

**Suzanne Ferguson** was excused.

**(0:38:40) LEGAL REPORT:** City Attorney Elverum reported that court was going well and that he had spoken to counsel for the East Clark Sewer District regarding their pending agreement. He invited Council's questions about the progress.

**(0:41:30) PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 298691 through 298759 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 20, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, June 3, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor