

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 20, 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 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, City Attorney Pete Elverum, and Fire Chief Roger Campbell

PUBLIC PRESENT: Retired Fire Chief Troy Maness, Lynn Maness, Kennedy Maness, McKenzie Maness, Terri Norman, Kyle Norman, Julie Stoner, Marla Rogers, Lanae Vetsch, Iris Maness, Dan Maness, Katherine Tomaski, Joe Maness, Brandon McClain, Bee McLean, Josh Kiilsgaard, Amador Monticello, Whitney Mitchell, Joe Mitchell, JoVonne Wagner, and Karter Miller

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

(0:00:20) PRESENTATION:

1. **Appreciation of Troy Maness’ 31 Years of Service and Devotion as Firefighter, Captain, Fire Chief, and Friend of the City of East Helena** – Mayor Harris commended Troy Maness for his many years of service to the city and presented a plaque to him. Troy Maness spoke briefly about his retirement. Roger Campbell discussed Troy’s work and recognized his family’s support. Julie Stoner commented on Troy’s service. This was an information-only item.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

(0:05:55) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the May 6, 2025 meeting were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY COURT REPORT: A written report for the month of April was on the council room table. City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

(0:07:15) Administration – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the audit of FY24 had gone well, summer park rentals and swimming lesson registrations were arriving, and that there is a credit/debit card reader in the office now.

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

(0:09:30) Public Works – A written report and a map of current sewer jetting were included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the park reservation system was being upgraded in response to increased use, the service line to the swimming pool broke and was repaired, and the mounts for the Star of David windows had arrived.

(0:13:10) Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Roger Campbell reported that the first accident had been reported near the new Town Pump, the firefighters had been taking summer training, and that a resident had violated the open burning ordinance by removing debris from their lawn with a weed burner.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:15:35) East Helena Food Truck Festival - Year 2** – Whitney and Joe Mitchell requested closing East Main Street from Morton Avenue to Thurman Avenue and use of Main Street Park on Thursdays, June 12th, July 10th, and August 14th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. for their second annual Food Truck Festival. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve use of Main Street Park at no charge, closing a section of East Main Street, and a blanket business license for the event. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:32:05) Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser** – Local student Karter Miller requested Council's approval to use Main Street Park on July 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for a 50/50 cornhole tournament to raise money for a school trip to France. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve use of Main Street Park for the event. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:34:35) Fee Waiver, School District #9, JFK Park and Pavilion** – Public Works Director Ore presented the school district's request to use the park during the final days of the school year as they have in previous years. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve use of Kennedy Park and pavilion at no charge. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **(0:35:25) Sewer System Revenue Bond Resolution** – The draft bond resolution was attached. Mayor Harris noted that work had already begun on the project. Council discussed the wastewater rate increase and how it factored into the payments on the loans. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve Resolution 618. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:39:00) MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he went on a vacation, attended meetings regarding the FY26 budget, and that a big water rights meeting was forthcoming.

COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS:

(0:40:55) Don Dahl reported that he attended the FY24 audit exit interview.

Judy Leland had nothing to report.

(0:41:25) Wesley Feist reported that he attended the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, visited with Librarian Andrea Eckerson about a volunteer coordination event, attended Community Blend, and attended the MBAC board meeting.

(0:43:35) Suzanne Ferguson reported that she had just returned from vacation and had been emailing with a citizen about a section of Clinton Street that cannot be paved.

(0:44:10) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported the police department was looking for a new officer and that court was going well.

(0:45:15) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 298760 through 298809 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, June 3, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, June 17, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor