

MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF EAST HELENA

CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110

COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM

DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 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, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, City Attorney Pete Elverum, and Public Works Director Kevin Ore

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

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

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

(0:00:35) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the June 3, 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:

(0:01:05) Administration – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the new wastewater improvements project loan had been closed and that the county elections office had cancelled East Helena's primary election.

Police Department – A written report was included in the council packet. Police Chief Mike Sanders was excused.

(0:08:50) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that there had been problems with the flocculation rake at the wastewater treatment plant; the CIPP lining project is going well; a letter was received from DEQ regarding potential PFA testing; reservation signs have been installed near the park pavilions; and that the preapplication meeting for Prickly Pear Estates had gone well.

Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Roger Campbell was excused.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:21:15) Plant Road Right-of-Way for Vigilante West Subdivision** – copies of the quit claim deed and certificate of survey were included in the council packet. Mayor Harris explained that Plant Road would be extended to reach the new Vigilante West subdivision.

There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the right-of-way. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **(0:22:05) Discussion on Recruitment of Members for the Planning Board, Zoning Commission, & Police Commission** – Relevant Montana code and by-laws for the Planning Board, Zoning Commission, and Police Commission were included in the council packet. Mayor Harris and Council discussed potential board members and methods of recruitment. There was no public comment. This was an information-only item.

(0:29:15) MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he had met with Councilmember Feist regarding the budget; he had attended the Patrol Officer interviews; had a call with Senator Darling regarding the appointment of METG; attended the State Farm Food Truck Festival; and reported that the pool was up and running well.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:

Don Dahl had nothing to report.

(0:31:45) Judy Leland reported that she had attended the Patrol Officer interviews.

(0:31:55) Wesley Feist reported that he'd had budget talks with staff; he attended the State Farm Food Truck Festival; he talked to the Montana Jewish Project regarding the Star of David Windows; he attended Coffee with the Chamber; and that he had visited Creative Stitches.

Suzanne Ferguson had nothing to report.

(0:34:20) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that he attended the State Farm Food Truck Festival; court has been going well; and that he is covering a case for the City of Helena.

(0:34:45) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 298867 through 298915 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, July 1, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, July 15, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor