

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 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 Leland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITY OFFICIALS & STAFF PRESENT:** Mayor Kelly Harris, Council President Don Dahl (via Zoom), Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Wesley Feist, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, Deputy Police Chief Ed Royce, and Fire Chief Roger Campbell

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Austin Young and Denis Young

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

**(0:00:25) PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Written public comment from Julie Stoner in opposition to speeding was on the council room table.

**(0:00:55) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the July 1, 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:** City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**(0:01:30) Administration** – Invitations to Council from the Montana Wool Growers Association Lamb Jam and the Lewis and Clark Library Foundation board meeting were included in the council packet. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the admin department had been working on the FY26 budget and that nearly \$100,000 in building permit revenue was received in the first half of 2025.

**(0:02:45) Police Department** – A written report was on the council room table. Deputy Police Chief Ed Royce reported that Officer Buissereth had been sworn in on July 8<sup>th</sup>, Officer Zack Butler was on his last week of field training, and Officer Kyle Butler was completing firearms instructor training. He noted that the officers had been working as many as 11 consecutive days to cover staff shortages and the rodeo. He discussed speeding in East Helena as had been reported on the local news.

**(0:09:50) Public Works** – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the RAS-WAS gate at the wastewater treatment plant failed and was repaired, the chlorine feeder at the swimming pool will be replaced, the draft BUILD (RAISE) grant application has been resubmitted, City Hall’s water service needs to be replaced, and that an old abandoned water service line on a vacant lot had ruptured and was being removed.

**Volunteer Fire Department** - Fire Chief Roger Campbell had been called out on an emergency by this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **(0:17:00) City of East Helena Engineering Standards** – The draft engineering standards were included in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore noted that the revised standards added commercial garbage can rack specifications, updated water and sewer EDU calculations, a looped water main requirement, a 400-foot maximum distance between fire hydrants, a 200-foot maximum water service line length, a paving requirement for alleys/carriage lanes, and updated paint-striping and crosswalk material specifications. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the engineering standards. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:21:50) Appointment of Molly Holahan to the East Helena Planning Board** – MCA 76-1-221 was included in the council packet. Mayor Harris recommended Molly Holahan’s appointment and noted that positions on other boards are also available. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to appoint Molly Holahan to the Planning Board. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:22:55) Kleffner Ranch Offer to Purchase JFK Park Walking Bridge Frame** – Austin Young offered to purchase the unused bridge for \$2,500.00 and relocate it at his own expense. Council discussed the offer. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to sell the bridge to the Kleffner Ranch for \$2,500.00. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(0:32:20) MAYOR’S REPORT:** Mayor Harris reported that he attended the rodeo, the rodeo parade, the food truck festival, and the smeltermen’s picnic. He had met with the lieutenant governor regarding water rights and had been interviewed by the Boulder Monitor, KTVH, and a radio station. He reported that the Greenfield Environmental Trust Group had won a EPA Phoenix Award for their work at the former ASARCO smelter site.

### **COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS:**

**Don Dahl** had nothing to report.

**Judy Leland** had nothing to report.

**(0:35:20) Wesley Feist** reported that he attended the most recent Montana Opioid Abatement Trust meeting. He expressed his appreciation of Council's contribution to the annual fireworks show.

**(0:37:50) Suzanne Ferguson** reported that she attended the food truck festival, the fireworks show, and the rodeo including the parade.

**(0:38:30) LEGAL REPORT:** City Attorney Elverum emphasized that speeding was being rigorously enforced by the police department and reported that he was filling in on a case for the City of Helena.

**(0:40:00) PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 298970 through 299000 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, August 5, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Rm 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, August 19, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Rm 110

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor