

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 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: Council President Dahl called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Councilmember Feist led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITY OFFICIALS & STAFF PRESENT: Council President Don Dahl, Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Wesley Feist, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, Police Chief Mike Sanders, Fire Chief Roger Campbell, Patrol Officer Chris Kirkegaard, and Patrol Officer Zack Butler

PUBLIC PRESENT: Michael Hossfeld, Jim McNicol, Lisa Hoffa, Jon Hoffa, Dennis Haubrick, Kayann Stone, Mark Trenary, Gayle Trenary, Wendy Rismon, Julie Brown, Ramon Mercado, and Regina Mercado

ABSENT/EXCUSED: City Judge Dennis Loveless and Mayor Kelly Harris

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **(0:00:50) Resolution to Modify Existing Lighting District No. 101** – Draft Resolution 624 was included in the council packet. Written public comment in opposition to the modification of the assessment for lighting had been received from Jason and Megan Makoutz and Nancy Barth. City Attorney Elverum discussed the modification. (0:04:20) Ramon Mercado asked for clarification on what services the city provides versus the homeowners' association. (0:09:20) Lisa Hoffa asked for clarification on how the funds were tracked. City Attorney Elverum and Public Works Director Ore answered questions. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve Resolution 624. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:13:05) Resolution to Modify Existing Lighting District No. 201** – Draft Resolution 625 was included in the council packet. City Attorney Elverum introduced the agenda item. Council President Dahl called for public comment. (0:14:45) Jim McNicol requested clarification on the lighting expenses in the district. City Attorney Elverum and Public Works Director Ore answered questions. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve Resolution 625. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:18:35) Resolution to Modify Existing Street Maintenance District No. 101** – Draft Resolution 626 was included in the council packet. Written public comment in

opposition to the modification of the assessment for road maintenance had been received from Ramon Mercado, Ky'Anna and Nathan Carlson, and Nancy Barth. City Attorney Elverum introduced the agenda item. City Attorney Elverum, Councilmember Feist and Public Works Director Ore discussed the street maintenance process. Council President Dahl called for public comment and received none. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve Resolution 626. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **(0:24:55) Resolution to Modify Existing Street Maintenance District No. 201** – Draft Resolution 627 was included in the council packet. City Attorney Elverum introduced the agenda item. Council President Dahl called for public comment. (0:26:50) Kayann Stone asked for clarification on road maintenance responsibilities. (0:28:35) Jim McNicol asked for clarification on road construction in the subdivision. City Attorney Elverum and Public Works Director Ore answered questions. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve Resolution 627. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

(0:32:10) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the July 15, 2025 meeting were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the minutes with an amendment to his report. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY COURT REPORT: A written report for the month of June 2025 was included in the council packet. City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

(0:33:25) Administration – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that building permit applications were picking up for fall, the pool season is winding down, and that there had been a record number of park rentals this year.

(0:34:40) Police Department – Police Chief Mike Sanders reported that there had been 578 calls-for-service in July which was an all-time high. Deputy Chief Royce attended the Missouri River Drug Task Force quarterly meeting, the entire department attended an update meeting with the county attorney's office, Officer Kirkegaard assisted with the manhunt in Anaconda, and Deputy Chief Royce and Officer Zack Butler spoke with the local driver education class.

(0:39:00) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the sludge had turned over at the wastewater treatment plant and would be washed down with a fire truck again, water and sewer line repairs continue, and that the PLC at Wylie Well #3 failed and is being replaced. He updated Council on the status of the BUILD grant and answered questions about sludge.

(0:47:15) Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Roger Campbell summarized the previous months calls-for-service and reported that the department had responded to a tree

that was on fire from touching a power line during a rainstorm. He explained the fire department's role in the subdivision process.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:50:40) 227 Days** – Mike Hossfeld of Eagles 4040 requested Council's approval to hold the annual 227 Days celebration in Main Street Park on September 6th in conjunction with the East Helena Block Party and waive the fees. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve use of Main Street Park at no charge on September 6th. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:53:15) East Helena Christmas Stroll** – Clerk/Treasurer Thorngren presented Stacia Winslow's request to set up next to J4 Automotive in Main Street Park during the Christmas Stroll as she has done in previous years. Council discussed waiting until J4 made their annual request for the park. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to table. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:55:40) Resolution 628 Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property** – The draft resolution was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore discussed the old vehicles that were proposed to be scrapped. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve Resolution 628. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Harris was excused.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:

(0:57:20) Don Dahl reported that he attended Habitat for Humanity's dedication ceremony for six new homes in the Highland Meadows Subdivision. He noted that an East Helena Planning Board meeting was scheduled for August 20th and an East Helena Zoning Commission meeting was scheduled for September 10th.

(1:00:05) Judy Leland reported that she attended Habitat for Humanity's dedication ceremony for six new homes in the Highland Meadows Subdivision.

(1:00:20) Wesley Feist reported that he attended the Helena Regional Airport master plan presentation and spoke with the director of the Department of Commerce regarding the reappointment of Cindy Brooks. He noted that Joe Mitchell State Farm's food truck festival would be held in Main Street Park on August 14th.

Suzanne Ferguson had nothing to report.

(1:01:40) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that he finished the case he was working on for the City of Helena, the police officers were doing a great job, and that city court was going well.

(1:02:05) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 299001 through 299082 were presented for Council's review. Councilmember Leland made a motion to pay the bills. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

1. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, August 19, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, September 2, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
3. East Helena Planning Board Meeting, Wednesday, September 10, 6:00 p.m., City Hall Room 110
4. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, September 16, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Council President Dahl adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor