

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, Fire Chief Roger Campbell, Volunteer Firefighter Nick Kallem, Police Chief Mike Sanders, Deputy Police Chief Ed Royce, and Patrol Officer Chris Kirkegaard

PUBLIC PRESENT: Patty White, Kara Snyder, Rylan Stahly, Bill Hoffman, Pat Bertagnolli (via Zoom), Eva Bertagnolli (via Zoom), Cindy Brooks (via Zoom), and Dave Jensen

ABSENT/EXCUSED: City Judge Dennis Loveless

(0:00:30) HELENA FOOD SHARE PRESENTATION: A copy of the presentation was included in the council packet. Program Director Kara Snyder and Communications Director Patty White presented information on Helena Food Share's programs with emphasis on services provided to and support from the East Helena area. This was an information-only item.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(0:15:50) Dave Jensen commented in opposition to the condition of the new concrete and asphalt on Pacific Street, soil compaction specification enforcement, and designated truck route enforcement. Mr. Jensen provided pictures and a written version of his comments for the record.

(0:24:30) Bill Hoffman commented in support of creating pickleball facilities in East Helena.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **(0:27:35) September 16, 2025** – The draft minutes were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **(0:27:50) September 25, 2025** – The draft minutes were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl 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 on the council room table. City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

(0:28:40) Administration – Information about the Greater Helena MPO open houses was included in the council packet. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that she had met with Lewis & Clark Public Health regarding their grants for neighborhood block parties next summer.

(0:29:55) Police Department – A picture of a social media post praising Patrol Officer Kyle Butler was on the council room table. Police Chief Mike Sanders reported that the department had received 587 calls-for-service in September, participated in the EHHS Homecoming parade, hosted Coffee with a Cop at Galaxy Roasting, and escorted the EHHS golf team out of town for the state tournament. He commended Deputy Chief Royce for completing a leadership course through Northwestern University. Mayor Harris expressed his appreciation for how much the East Helena Police Department has improved during Chief Sanders' tenure.

(0:35:00) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that crews had responded to a broken water line in Vigilante Subdivision, he met with DEQ regarding an upcoming inspection, all the tables at Main Street Park had been replaced, Montana Avenue/Valley Drive will be closed October 16th and 17th for pavement repairs, final comments on the BUILD grant have been submitted, and one of the three boilers in City Hall failed and needs to be replaced.

(0:39:05) Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Roger Campbell introduced Volunteer Firefighter Nick Kallem and reported that the department was moving to digital patient care reports, would like to paint a mural on the side of the fire station, participated in the EHHS Homecoming parade, attended the 9/11 Remembrance Day event, provided medical coverage for JV football games, met with the Mayor Harris and Valley Bank regarding the Christmas Stroll, and will be participating in the Halloween Stroll.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:44:35) Request to Place a Memorial Park Bench along Prickly Pear Creek** – Pat and Eva Bertagnolli requested Council's approval to purchase a bench and place it along the creek in a location approved by the city in memory of their son Brady. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:48:45) 701 E. Lewis St. Encroachment Permit Application** – Copies of Will and Rachael Gold's application and the draft permit agreement were included in the

- council packet. Mayor Harris noted that the property had changed hands and required an updated agreement. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve the encroachment permit. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:49:50) METG Exempt Survey Boundary Line Relocation** – A copy of the certificate of survey was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore noted that the boundary line relocation would increase the amount of land for sale by the Montana Environmental Trust Group which relates to water rights and separates an additional 5 acres for a water tank that will be dedicated to the city. Cindy Brooks was available to answer questions. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the boundary line relocation. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 4. **(0:51:35) City Attorney Elverum's Contract Agreement** – A copy of the updated contract was included in the council packet. Mayor Harris noted that the contract is updated every 2 years. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the contract. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 5. **(0:52:50) Selection of Garbage Truck Contract** – A copy of the bid form and specifications was in the council packet. A bid from Northland Truck Sales, Inc. was on the council room table. Mayor Harris reported that one bid had been received and that it came in under budget. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the purchase of a new garbage truck. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 6. **(0:56:35) West Riggs Street Overlay Project** – A bid from Helena Sand & Gravel, Inc. and a map of the project were included in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore noted that West Riggs Street was chosen above other streets in need of repair because there were no water or sewer projects planned for it. (0:58:25) Dave Jensen requested clarification on the bid. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve the overlay project. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(1:00:10) MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he had been in discussions regarding roads. He thanked City Attorney Elverum for his work on the water rights letter of response.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:

(1:01:00) Don Dahl reported that he attended the METG open house, the Planning Board meeting, and the water rights special meeting.

(1:01:25) Judy Leland reported that she attended the METG open house.

(1:01:45) Wesley Feist reported that he attended the METG open house, attended the water rights special meeting, attended the Montana Opioid Abatement Trust meeting, and that he has accepted a new role at NorthWestern Energy.

(1:03:45) Suzanne Ferguson reported that she attended the METG open house.

(1:03:50) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that he attended an Interim Local Government Committee meeting at the legislature regarding development.

(1:08:45) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 299239 through 299310 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, October 21, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Rm 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, November 4, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Rm 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer