

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF EAST HELENA**  
**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**  
**COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM**  
**DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 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, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, Police Chief Mike Sanders, Deputy Police Chief Ed Royce, and City Attorney Pete Elverum

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Greg Wirth, Brad Schmidt, Unidentified, and Dave Jensen

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** City Judge Dennis Loveless and Fire Chief Roger Campbell

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**(0:00:50) Dave Jensen** commented in opposition to the condition of the new picnic tables installed at Main Street Park, enforcement of the Jake brake ordinance, and enforcement of the designated truck route. Mr. Jensen provided pictures and a written version of his comments for the record.

**(0:08:15) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A copy of the draft minutes of the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was 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.

**CITY COURT REPORT:** A written report was on the council room table. City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**(0:09:15) Administration** – A written report was included in the council packet. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the EPA will begin giving a monthly update at the first meeting in December and presented utility billing stats.

**(0:11:00) Police Department** – Police Chief Mike Sanders reported that there had been 710 calls-for-service in October, the department will have firearms qualifications on Thursday, and that the officers are trying out body cameras with translation and report writing capabilities. He thanked the Public Works Department for their work cleaning up the tree damage from the heavy snow in Kennedy Park.

**(0:13:45) Public Works** – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the paving repairs had been completed on West Riggs and Wylie Drive, spot repairs had been done on Montana Avenue, and that the Federal Highway Administration had forwarded the city’s grant agreement to the program office.

**Volunteer Fire Department** - Fire Chief Roger Campbell was excused.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. **(0:15:55) Second Reading of Ordinance No. 293 Adopting Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to Add Rose Hills Planned Unit Development Regulations to Chapter 3** – The first reading of the ordinance was included in the council packet. Mayor Harris noted that no changes had been made. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 293. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:16:55) Second Reading of Ordinance No. 294 Amending the East Helena Land Use Map by Amending The Zoning District from Industrial District to Rose Hills Planned Unit Development on Lots Legally Described as That Portion of the NW1/4 Lying North and West of Highway 262 and South of the Rail Road Right of Way and That Portion of the NW1/4SW1/4 Lying North and West of Highway 282 in Section 36, Township 10 North, Range 3 West, M.P.M., Lewis And Clark County, Montana. (Ref: Book 12 Deeds, Page 207, Book 61 Deeds, Page 103, Book 219 Deeds, Page 447 and Book 219 Deeds, Page 116) Excepting Therefrom the Property Shown on Certificate of Survey Filed Under Doc. No. 3254919, Deeded to the City of East Helena by M Book 48 of Records, Page 2428., Lewis and Clark County, Montana.** – The first reading of the ordinance was included in the council packet. Mayor Harris noted that no changes had been made. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 294. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **(0:17:25) Appointment of Don Dahl to the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District Board of Directors** – There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to appoint Don Dahl to the Water Quality Protection District. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. Councilmembers Feist, Ferguson, and Leland voted aye. Councilmember Dahl abstained. The motion passed.
2. **(0:18:30) East Helena Kiwanis Club Request for Fee Waiver for Fire Hall November 12<sup>th</sup>** – Brad Schmidt introduced the newly established East Helena chapter of the club and requested Council’s approval to use the recreation hall at no charge for a meeting. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(0:20:00) MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Harris reported that he met with representatives of the East Helena Kiwanis Club, handed out Halloween candy during the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual East Helena Fright Night, received some feedback regarding the city's water rights, and attended a meeting with the Oakland Group regarding water rights.

**COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:**

**Don Dahl** had nothing to report.

**(0:22:40) Judy Leland** reported that she handed out Halloween candy during the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual East Helena Fright Night.

**(0:23:15) Wesley Feist** reported that he attended the Red Ribbon Parade, visited with some folks that are interested in the Town Pump property, attended Helena Area Chamber of Commerce board meeting, participated in an EPA 5-year review interview, handed out Halloween candy during the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual East Helena Fright Night, attended the EHHS football game, attended the East Helena Kiwanis Club meeting, was invited by the Helena Ambassadors to give an update on East Helena, and attended the EHHS Booster Club's Casino Night at the Kleffner Ranch.

**Suzanne Ferguson** had nothing to report.

**(0:25:25) LEGAL REPORT:** City Attorney Elverum reported that court is going well and has been quite busy.

**(0:26:45) PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 299334 through 299373 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, November 18, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Rm 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, December 2, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Rm 110

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor