

MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF EAST HELENA

CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110

COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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 Ferguson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITY OFFICIALS & STAFF PRESENT: Mayor Kelly Harris, Council President Don Dahl, Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Volunteer Fire Chief Roger Campbell, Patrol Officer Kyle Butler, and City Engineer Jeremy Perlinski

PUBLIC PRESENT: John Adams, Marjie Adams, Jacob Kuntz, Damian Briggs, Markus Briggs, Wes Beitz, De Beitz, and Dave Jensen

ABSENT/EXCUSED: City Judge Dennis Loveless, Councilmember Wesley Feist, and Police Chief Mike Sanders

(0:00:40) WASTEWATER FACILITY PLAN ADOPTION & FUTURE RATE

DISCUSSION: A copy of the presentation and Resolution 634 adopting the facility and accepting staff recommendations were included in the council packet. Jeremy Perlinski of Robert Peccia & Associates presented information on the city's current and future waste management needs and projected the necessary rate increases to fund them. He answered questions from the public and Council. Dave Jensen commented in opposition to the future rate projection. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve Resolution 634. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:41:50) PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dave Jensen commented in opposition to nonresident decision makers. Mr. Jensen provided pictures and a written version of his comments for the record.

(0:46:45) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The draft minutes of the November 4th meeting were included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY COURT REPORT: City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

(0:47:20) Administration – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that facility rentals had increased, building permits had decreased, she had received a quote for placing legal ads with MT43 News, and she had submitted the fire department relief association's AFR.

Police Department – A written report was on the council room table. Police Chief Mike Sanders was excused.

(0:48:20) Public Works – A written report and a copy of the most recent DEQ sanitary survey inspection report were included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that headworks construction at the wastewater treatment plant continues, crews responded to a water line break at the intersection of Montana Avenue and Lewis Street, garbage service was delayed due to a truck breakdown, and new tables have been installed in the Kennedy Park pavilion.

(0:53:25) Volunteer Fire Department - Fire Chief Roger Campbell reported that calls-for-service had increased, 65 lbs. of candy were given out by the department on Halloween, and the department is preparing for their medical license inspection this month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:54:50) Recreation Hall Rental Agreement for 2026** – John Adams of the Living Church of God requested Council's approval of their rental use agreement for next year. A copy of their 2026 requested usage schedule was included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the rental agreement. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:56:00) Car Show on Main Street Saturday, May 23rd** – Damian Briggs and the Pontiac PAC Car Club requested Council's approval to use Main Street Park and close a section of Main Street for a car show including food trucks over Memorial Day weekend. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(1:01:40) Reappointment of Don Dahl to the Planning Board and Zoning Commission** - Mayor Harris thanked Don Dahl for representing the city in various capacities. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to reappoint Don Dahl to the planning board and zoning commission. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. Councilmembers Leland and Ferguson voted aye. Councilmember Dahl abstained. The motion passed.
4. **(1:02:30) Resolution 635 Authorizing the Submittal of the MCEP Infrastructure Planning Grant Application** – The draft resolution was included in the council packet. Mayor Harris noted that the resolution was an application requirement. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve Resolution 635. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **(1:03:05) Donation of 5-Acre Parcel from the Montana Environmental Trust Group to the City of East Helena** – A copy of the quitclaim deed was included in the council packet. Mayor Harris requested Council’s approval to sign the deed for the parcel on which a water tank will be built. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve signing the quitclaim deed. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(1:03:40) MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he attended the Veterans Day ceremonies, attended the Check A Vet event at the brewery, and that he attended a meeting with the EPA regarding water rights.

COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS:

Don Dahl had nothing to report.

(0:00:00) Judy Leland reported that she attended the Veterans Day ceremonies.

Wesley Feist was excused.

Suzanne Ferguson had nothing to report.

(1:07:00) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that court was busy and going well, the case he worked on for the City of Helena is ongoing, and that he attended a meeting with Habitat for Humanity

(1:08:05) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 299374 through 299428 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 & EVENT SCHEDULE:

1. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, December 2, 2025, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena Christmas Stroll, Thursday, December 4, 2025
3. East Helena Christmas Convoy, Saturday, December 13, 2025
4. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor