

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 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, Councilmember Judy Leland, Councilmember Wesley Feist, Councilmember Suzanne Ferguson, Public Works Director Kevin Ore, Police Chief Mike Sanders, Deputy Police Chief Ed Royce, and City Attorney Pete Elverum, Fire Chief Roger Campbell.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Dave Jensen

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(0:01:03) Dave Jensen commented on enforcement of the designated truck route. Mr. Jensen provided pictures and a written version of his comments for the record.

(0:14:36) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A copy of the draft minutes of the December 2nd meeting was included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY COURT REPORT: No report was provided in the council packet. City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administration – No report was provided in packet, Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren was excused.

(0:15:03) Police Department – Police Chief Mike Sanders started with addressing this is his last council meeting prior retirement. Chief reported that there had been 235 calls-for-service in the last month and that officers received wrap training on December 11th. Chief Sanders, Officer Chris Kirkegaard, and Bonnie Jones attended Chamber Coffee. Chief Sanders then addressed the council regarding his retirement effective December 31st. He expressed his gratitude towards all City employees and his officers.

(0:22:05) Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the Montana Ave lift pump failed and was replaced with

spare pump. A service drain line for the M.C. Tank started leaking and crews will be digging and making repairs, Republic Services' landfill will be closed on the weekends for the winter season. Some budget adjustments will be made for FY-25 and FY-26 once City Clerk Thorngren returns.

(0:31:37) Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Campbell commented on Police Chief Sanders' retirement and wished him well. He reported that the fire department had a positive experience with the Christmas Stroll and will be having their EMS license inspection and renewal.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **(0:33:59) Request to Reissue and/or Cancel Stale-Dated Checks – Clerk/Treasurer Thorngren:** Tabled by Councilmember Fiest and 2nd by Councilmember Ferguson. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:34:40) Discussion on Proposed Changes to The Missouri River Drug Task Force Memorandum of Understanding – Police Chief Sanders:** Police Chief Sanders discussed changes to the MRDTF MOU. It would consist of four border control agents as an addition to the task force. Chief Sanders expressed concern that Border Patrol Agents do not have Title 21 authority. Chief's recommendation was to consider not re-signing the Missouri River Drug Task Force for two years. Council had some discussion on this matter. This was an information-only item. It will be presented in future Council meetings.

(0:58:25) MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he attended the Christmas Stroll and the RPA Christmas Lunch on Tuesday the 16th. Mayor Harris discussed his meeting with the EPA Regional Director. He will be setting up some additional meetings with water rights stakeholders.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:

(1:01:49) Don Dahl reported on attending Christmas Stroll handing out cider and that he attended the Christmas Convoy.

(1:02:12) Judy Leland reported she attended the same events as Councilmember Dahl.

(1:02:23) Wesley Feist reported that he attended school Christmas performances, Coffee with the Chamber, and the MBAC board meeting. He and Mayor Harris met with an aerospace group looking at possibilities in the East Helena area.

(1:04:17) Suzanne Ferguson reported she attended the same events as Councilmember Dahl and Councilmember Leland.

(1:04:58) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that Lewis and Clark Library is moving forward with the new library and he is working with the county on a draft agreement between the library and city. He attended the EPA meeting with Mayor Harris and

Public Works Director Ore. Attorney Elverum talked about a January presentation on the Rose Hills Subdivision and bonding options for major infrastructure.

(1:11:49) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 299472 through 299491 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, January 6, 2026, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Rm 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Rm 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor