

**MEETING MINUTES**

**CITY OF EAST HELENA**

**CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110**

**COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM**

**DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026**

**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, Mayor Harris, and Councilmember Leland took their oaths of office to begin their new terms. 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, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Deputy Police Chief Ed Royce, and Patrol Officer Chris Kirkegaard

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Mike Sanders, Jacob Kuntz, Mike Schell, Antonio Gonzalez, Roy Fair, Odell Cantrell, Courtney Ellis, Curtis Cline, Eliza DuBose, Jacob Wheeling, Bridget Williams, Brad Koenig, Greg Wirth, Andrea Eckerson, M. Susan Giese (via Zoom), Blair Miller (via Zoom), Guest (via Zoom), Guest (via Zoom), and Dave Jensen

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

**(0:02:30) PRESENTATION IN HONOR OF POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL SANDERS:**  
Mayor Harris expressed his appreciation to retiring Police Chief Mike Sanders for his service to the city and presented him with a plaque and a gift from city officials and staff. This was an information-only item.

**(0:05:05) EAST HELENA SUPERFUND UPDATE:** EPA Remedial Project Manager Bridget Williams updated Council on the progress of yard remediation in East Helena. This was an information-only item.

**(0:07:00) PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Dave Jensen commented in opposition to the enforcement of the city's truck ordinances. Mr. Jensen provided a written version of his comments for the record.

**(0:11:30) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The draft minutes of the December 16th meeting were included in the council packet. Dave Jensen commented in favor of an amendment to his public comments. Mr. Jensen provided a written version of his comments for the record. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember

Leland seconded the motion. Councilmembers Dahl, Leland, and Ferguson voted aye. The motion passed unanimously.

**CITY COURT REPORT:** City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**(0:12:20) Administration** – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the FY25 annual financial report had been submitted and that the department was processing 2025 tax forms.

**(0:12:50) Police Department** – A written report of calls-for-service stats was handed out to Council. Deputy Police Chief Ed Royce discussed the report and invited Council to go on ride-alongs with the police department. He reported that he received a call from a resident complimenting Officer Zach Butler.

**(0:23:30) Public Works** – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that he replied to DEQ regarding the October E. coli violation, a routine DEQ inspection is upcoming, and that there was information on the MPO included in the council packet.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. **(0:25:35) Request to Reissue and/or Cancel Stale-Dated Checks** – A copy of MCA 7-6-4303 and a list of stale checks were included in the council packet.

Clerk/Treasurer Thorngren requested approval to cancel the following outstanding municipal warrants:

Check#	Vendor Name	Amount	Issued	Cancelled
15073	Jane Manly	\$25.00	11/19/2008	12/31/2025
404	Helena Stamp Works	\$12.00	1/20/2010	12/31/2025
1638	Arleen R. Hibbard	\$25.00	6/9/2011	12/31/2025
1660	Kathryn Reed	\$12.00	6/9/2011	12/31/2025
3555	Mt Dept Of Environmental	\$70.00	7/1/2013	12/31/2025
4604	Wex Bank	\$2,226.06	8/20/2014	12/31/2025
5179	Northwest Pipe Fittings, Inc	\$2,317.75	4/22/2015	12/31/2025
5322	Grizzly Diesel Service	\$873.02	6/17/2015	12/31/2025
5890	K & N Electric Motors, Inc	\$719.00	1/20/2016	12/31/2025
5898	Pacific Steel & Recycling	\$3.85	1/20/2016	12/31/2025
7087	P-Pods	\$65.00	5/17/2017	12/31/2025
7300	Montana Dept Of Administration	\$220.00	7/28/2017	12/31/2025
8125	Lewis & Clark Sheriff's Reserve	\$1,040.00	7/18/2018	12/31/2025
8469	MJC & MCCA	\$35.00	11/21/2018	12/31/2025
8675	Erickson, Delane	\$244.24	2/20/2019	12/31/2025
9471	Anastasia Mitchell	\$21.10	12/18/2019	12/31/2025
9594	Interstate Battery of Montana	\$112.95	2/5/2020	12/31/2025
9690	William & Janel Walks	\$10.72	3/4/2020	12/31/2025
10315	Gloria Soja	\$10.00	11/19/2020	12/31/2025
10472	Harrington Physical Therapy	\$75.00	1/20/2021	12/31/2025

10488	Lewis & Clark Co Recorder	\$77.00	1/26/2021	12/31/2025
10612	Jody Davie	\$42.05	3/17/2021	12/31/2025
10866	Montana Janitorial, Inc.	\$120.00	6/16/2021	12/31/2025
11034	Zachary Curtis Dubose	\$7.50	8/4/2021	12/31/2025
11716	Daphne Brook 3283 E Us Hwy 12	\$100.00	4/20/2022	12/31/2025
12077	JV Maintenance & Repair	\$365.26	9/7/2022	12/31/2025
12617	Trevor Cuchine & Jaime Conway	\$142.25	3/21/2023	12/31/2025
13236	Christopher Hammen	\$100.00	10/17/2023	12/31/2025
13616	Thomson Reuters - West	\$125.00	3/5/2024	12/31/2025
13900	Rosita Belvedere	\$268.87	6/14/2024	12/31/2025
14299	Drug Information Systems, Inc.	\$70.00	11/15/2024	12/31/2025

There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to reissue check number 8675 to Delane Erickson and approve cancellation of the rest.

Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **(0:27:35) Request to Use Main Street Park for Bike Blessing 2026, Saturday, April 25th** – Roy Fair of the Servants for Christ Motorcycle Ministry requested Council’s approval to use Main Street Park for their annual community event and waive the fees. There was no public comment. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:30:25) Request to Use the Trail Area in Kennedy Park for Summer Camps** – A copy of an email from Eric Dymit of Adventures in Cardboard was included in the council packet. Mayor Harris presented Adventures in Cardboard’s request to hold more summer camps in the back portion of Kennedy Park at the rate of \$100 per week. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:31:35) Appointment of Deputy Chief Ed Royce as Acting Police Chief** – Mayor Harris requested Council’s approval to appoint Deputy Chief Ed Royce as Acting Police Chief until the hiring process for the next chief was complete. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **(0:33:20) Rose Hills SID Bond Assessment Examples** – Examples of possible SID bond assessments from Dorsey & Whitney, LLP were included in the council packet. City Attorney Elverum explained that the developer was considering using a bond as provided for in HB505 to finance the infrastructure for the subdivision. Courtney Ellis of Dorsey & Whitney, LLP discussed how the proposed SID bond assessments would work and answered questions from Council. This was an information-only item.
5. **(1:02:20) Rose Hills SID Bond Assessment Presentation** – A copy of the proposal was included in the council packet. Jacob Kuntz of Helena Area Habitat for Humanity discussed the proposal, the infrastructure a SID bond would finance, and answered

questions from Council. Brad Koenig of Robert Peccia & Associates discussed the need for a water tank and a lift station in the Rose Hills Subdivision. This was an information-only item.

6. **(1:35:35) Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Phase 2 Reimbursement Bond Resolution** – Draft Resolution 636 was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Ore explained that the resolution would give the city the option to be reimbursed in the future for expenses incurred on the project. Dave Jensen commented in opposition to the resolution. Mr. Jensen provided a written version of his comments for the record. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve Resolution 636. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**(1:37:40) MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Harris reported that he'd met with Public Works Director Ore regarding Wylie Well #3 improvements, requested feedback from Council on graphics for the new garbage truck, and noted that he'd been working on filling the open police chief position.

**COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:**

**(1:39:40) Don Dahl** reported that he attended Chief Sanders' retirement party.

**(1:39:55) Judy Leland** had nothing to report.

**(1:40:00) Wesley Feist** reported that he attended Chief Sanders' retirement party.

**(1:40:10) Suzanne Ferguson** reported that she attended Chief Sanders' retirement party.

**(1:40:30) LEGAL REPORT:** City Attorney Elverum had nothing to report.

**(0:40:50) PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Claims 299492 through 299557 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 & EVENT SCHEDULE:**

1. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:30 p.m., East Helena City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 6:30 p.m., East Helena City Hall Room 110

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer

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Mayor