

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 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 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, Volunteer Fire Chief Roger Campbell, City Attorney Pete Elverum, Police Chief Ed Royce, and Patrol Officer Zach Butler

PUBLIC PRESENT: Steve Garrison, Rhonda Vogl, Ron Whitmoyer, Bridget Williams, Jacob Wheeling, Cindy Brooks (via Zoom), Eliza Dubose (via Zoom), Brad Koenig, and Greg Wirth

ABSENT/EXCUSED: City Judge Dennis Loveless and Councilmember Wesley Feist

(0:00:30) EAST HELENA SUPERFUND UPDATE: EPA Remedial Project Manager Bridget Williams updated Council on the progress of the yard remediation project. This was an information-only item.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: A copy of an email in opposition to train horns and a thank-you note that contained a donation to the cemetery were on the council room table.

(0:03:05) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A copy of the draft minutes of the January 20th meeting was included in the council packet. A copy of an email from Councilmember Feist requesting an amendment to his report was on the council room table. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY COURT REPORT: City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

(0:03:50) DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Administration – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren reported that the admin office had received a call in opposition to the beaver dam removal on Prickly Pear Creek and complaints about limited landfill hours.

Police Department – Police Chief Ed Royce reported that the department had received 503 calls-for-service in January, he was exploring new grants, he attended the MRDTF board

meeting, he attended the CJCC board meeting, he attended career day at St. Andrew's Catholic School, he met with the bureau chief of the narcotics and human trafficking division of the Department of Criminal Investigation, and that the department would be rejoining the DUI Task Force.

Public Works – A written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reported that the dates had been set for the public hearings regarding the wastewater treatment plant upgrades, staff is working on a problem with the clarifier at the wastewater treatment plant, and that the beaver dam was removed from Prickly Pear Creek.

Volunteer Fire Department - A written report of the department's calls-for-service was included in the council packet. Fire Chief Roger Campbell reported that two new members had joined the department, repairs were being made to the fire station, the ISO inspection should be completed by the end of the month, the department was doing a comprehensive driving evaluation program, and that the department would be assisting with the Passion Plunge event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:15:55) General Contractor Construction Manager for the Rose Hills Subdivision** – An explanation of the GCCM method and draft Resolution 638 were included in the council packet. Brad Koenig of Robert Peccia & Associates discussed MCA 18-2-503 which allows the city to use the GCCM method and requires a resolution. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to approve Resolution 638. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. **(0:19:05) Request to Apply for a New Treacy Foundation Grant for the East Helena Rodeo Grounds** – A copy of the letter of intent to apply for the grant was included in the council packet. Ron Whitmoyer of the East Helena Valley Rodeo Association requested Council's approval to apply for the \$40,000 grant on behalf of the city as was done two years ago. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve applying for the grant. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **(0:21:50) Request to Use and Fee Waiver of Kennedy Park for the Montana Joining Community Forces BBQ August 6, 2026** – The use agreement was included in the council packet. Steve Garrison of Montana Joining Community Forces requested Council's approval to use Kennedy Park at no charge for this annual event. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the request and fee waiver. Councilmember Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **(0:00:00) Montana Environmental Trust Group Declaration of Easement and Amended Plat for a Sewer Lift Station** – The draft easement agreement was included in the council packet. A copy of the notice of environmental conditions was on the council room table. Mayor Harris noted that it was a minor update to the

previously approved agreement. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the easement agreement. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **(0:23:50) Rescheduling of the March 17, 2026 Council Meeting** – Mayor Harris requested Council’s approval for a one-time rescheduling of the regularly scheduled council meeting to the day before. There was no public comment. Councilmember Ferguson made a motion to reschedule the March 17th meeting to Monday, March 16th. Councilmember Leland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:25:05) MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported that he met with METG, met with the Legislative Audit Division, and took a tour of the slag pile with Congressman Downing.

(0:26:35) COUNCILMEMBERS’ REPORTS:

Don Dahl had nothing to report.

Judy Leland had nothing to report.

Wesley Feist was excused. A copy of an email from Councilmember Feist was on the council room table.

Suzanne Ferguson had nothing to report.

(0:26:50) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that court was going well and the police department was doing a great job.

(0:27:00) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 299603 through 299654 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, February 17, 2026, 6:30 p.m., East Helena City Hall Room 110
2. East Helena Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 Upgrades, Monday, February 23, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., East Helena City Hall Gymnasium Room 108
3. East Helena Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 Upgrades, Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., East Helena City Hall Gymnasium Room 108

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor