

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF EAST HELENA
CITY HALL – 306 EAST MAIN - ROOM 110
COUNCIL MEETING: 6:30 PM
DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 3RD, 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 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 Ed Royce, Officer Kyle Butler, Officer Zach Butler, Officer Chris Kirkegaard, City Attorney Pete Elverum, and Fire Chief Roger Campbell.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Shawn and Lisa Butler, Ted Decker, Bridget Williams, Nikia Greone, Jess Smith, Jacob Wheeling, Christian Mosqueda, Dave Jensen

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Clerk/Treasurer Amy Thorngren

(0:00:37) EAST HELENA SUPERFUND UPDATE: Bridget Williams with the EPA gave an update on East Helena soil remediation. They are still waiting on award of a contractor, hoping to have a contract awarded by St. Patrick's Day. She hopes to have shovels in the ground starting around June of this year. Also, Jess Smith and Bridget Williams will start to do more door-to-door community outreach.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(0:05:07) Dave Jensen commented on Rose Hills proposed bonds, future SIDS and City of East Helena long term debt. Mr. Jensen provided a written version of his comments for the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 1. (0:08:23)** A copy of the draft minutes of the February 3rd meeting was included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Leland made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Dahl seconded the motion. The motion passed, Councilmember Fiest abstained due to his absence from the February 3rd meeting.
- 2. (0:08:57)** A copy of the draft minutes of the February 17th meeting was included in the council packet. There was no public comment. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Feist seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mayor Harris voting aye, Councilmember Leland

and Councilmember Ferguson abstained due to their absence from the February 17th meeting.

CITY COURT REPORT: (00:09:49) A report was provided to the council at their table for the record. City Judge Dennis Loveless was excused.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

(0:10:03) Police Department – Police Chief Ed Royce reported that there had been 416 calls-for-service in the last month. Approximately half those calls were traffic related. Chief noted that calls are continuing to steadily increase. Chief reported that the Dept. of Public Health delivered a new round of Narcan and hard-sided gun cases. These cases are free to the public. Chief reported that East Helena is working with Highway Patrol and will start to investigate traffic accidents on Highway 12 and Highway 518 within the East Helena City Limits.

(0:20:31) Public Works – a written report was included in the council packet. Public Works Director Kevin Ore reminded Council that public meeting dates for sewer plant construction phases and related rates are set for March 9th , 10am-11am, and March 10th , 6pm-7pm at the City Hall gym. MMIA is processing an insurance claim for Main Street Park tree damage. They will cover clean up and replacement cost of trees. Kevin also reported he is still working with Federal Highways on getting a signed grant agreement in place for Valley Drive.

(0:22:56) Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Campbell reported they received 14 calls last month, 10 of those were medical calls, and 1 chimney fire. Chief talked about finishing up his ISO inspection. The review is scheduled for March 20th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **(0:26:35) Request for MBAC & MEDA East Helena Community Review Council Room Fee Waiver – Councilmember Feist** : Councilmember Feist discussed upcoming presentations on the City of East Helena community review. No public comment was made. Councilmember Dahl made a motion to approve the fee waiver for the council room, seconded by Councilmember Leland. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(0:28:29) Life Saving Award for Patrol Officer Kyle Butler** – Police Chief Royce presented Officer Butler with a life saving award for his actions on January 16th , 2026 in response to performing CPR. Information only item.
2. **(0:31:25) RPA Task Order 32, Upper Pressure Zone Water Tank and Pump Station** – Mayor Harris presented task order 32 for RPA on the design of the Upper Pressure Zone and discussed the reimbursement agreement from Habitat for

Humanity to pay for this task order. No public comment was made. Councilmember Feist made a motion to approve, Councilmember Leland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

(0:32:23) MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Harris reported on taking a ride along with Officer Kirkegaard and thanked the police department for the work they do. He stated how helpful the ride along was in seeing the day to day activities that the police department performs. Mayor Harris also reported on attending the wastewater plant improvements public meetings. He also discussed hosting the Leadership Helena Tour with Councilmember Feist.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS:

(0:34:42) Don Dahl reported on attending the Water Quality District meeting, and the wastewater plant improvement public meetings.

(0:34:53) Judy Leland reported she attended the wastewater plant improvements public meetings.

(0:34:57) Wesley Feist reported that he attended the Leadership Helena Tour with Mayor Harris, Coffee with the Chamber, and discussed this year's upcoming food truck festival on Main Street. He also reminded Council of the upcoming City of East Helena Community Review on Tuesday, March 10th at 1pm in the City Hall Council Room.

(0:37:08) Suzanne Ferguson reported she attended the February 24th wastewater plant improvements public meeting.

(0:37:20) LEGAL REPORT: City Attorney Elverum reported that Court has been going well. Attorney Elverum discussed the East Clark Street Sewer District letter that was included in packet. He advised that his response was to recommend that the East Clark Street Sewer District needs to make their request to the Council at a public meeting. Attorney Elverum also emphasized the amount of time that has been spent trying to work with the East Clark Street Sewer District, but still no current contract is in place.

(0:45:22) PAYMENT OF BILLS: Claims 299665 through 299733 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 Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 Upgrades, Monday, March 9, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., East Helena City Hall Gymnasium Room 108
2. East Helena Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 Upgrades, Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., East Helena City Hall Gymnasium Room 108
3. East Helena City Council Meeting, Monday, March 16, 2026, 6:30 p.m., East Helena City Hall Room 110

4. CANCELLED - East Helena City Council Meeting, Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 6:30 p.m., East Helena City Hall Room 110 – RESCHEDULED TO MONDAY, MARCH 16TH
5. East Helena Planning Board Meeting, Thursday, March 19, 2026, 6:00 p.m., East Helena City Hall Room 110

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Harris adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor