



HCC Full Board Meeting  
**AGENDA**

Weds. February 28<sup>th</sup> 7-9PM  
In person room 326 or via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84037084814>

Meeting ID: 840 3708 4814

One tap mobile  
+16699006833,,84037084814# US (San Jose)  
+17193594580,,84037084814# US

**7:00PM Call to Order**

1. Attendance – Quorum established
2. Approval of January 2023 Full HCC Board Minutes
3. Swear in New HCC member(s)
4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
5. City Commission Update

**7:10PM League of Women's Voters Spokesperson regarding Local Government Review**  
with Sharon Haugen and Mary Micky Harlow - Q& A session

**7:35PM Officer Reports**

Chair – Ben Kuiper

District Meetings

Future Recommendations

Vice Chair- Lowell Chandler Guide in the writing of recommendations

Secretary – Diana Hammer

Treasurer – Lori FitzGerald Budget updates

**7:40PM Unfinished Business**

1. Create Budget Advisory Committee – John Andrew is interested.
  - a. Assign Departments for Budget Committee or HCC members to cover – Information will be gathered from public meetings and Commission packets. Explain the use of YouTube channel and agenda packet for info gathering
  - b. Prioritize/Discuss previous budget recommendation that were not acted upon
  - c. Line Items from the Budget in the HCC Recommendation? We do not have access to the AS400 (Accounting Software the City uses)
2. Details about Budget Process with dates
3. Discussion about whether HCC will continue to attend 4 commission meetings per month

**8:15PM New Business**

1. Approve HCC Budget FY 2025
2. Future Recommendations

**8:25 PM Commission Attendees' Reports –**

**2/7 Pat Bik** - Fire and Police presented public safety proposal, which includes \$1.4m for 9 new police officers; \$1.6m for 15 new firefighters; and \$6.9m for the new fire station #3. The voters will need to decide in favor of the mill levy and bond for construction in order for the proposal to be realized.

The City share of Infrastructure funding is \$458,775, which must be matched locally. The Commissioners ranked their choices among three proposals, which resulted in no conclusive winners. The matter will be further discussed at subsequent meetings. Commission discussed formation of a Housing Task Force to deal with homelessness in Helena. Also, the Commission looked at the costs involved in Local Government Review, should the votes decide in June 24 to conduct such a study.

### **2/12 Nancy Perry**

A total of \$3,834,615.88 was owed on claims from January 1 through January 26. The Commission approved all claims. An **audit of city finances** was conducted FY2023, with “no findings”, indicating that the auditors found no significant issues with all financial statements and the city’s Finance Department is complying with all OMB guidelines.

Renee McMahon, Human Resources Director, announced that all city **employee union contracts** were signed and finalized except the contract with the police union.

Montana’s constitution decrees that every 10 years each municipality decides if it wants to have a **local government review**. This decision is made by election and would be conducted by the County Election Department. This election would be held in June 2024 and would be paid from cash reserves in the 2025 budget. A 5-person review committee would be compiled to educate the public.

The commission discussed distributing Downtown Urban Renewal District (DURD) TIF funds for **facade improvements at the Helena YWCA**. The commission unanimously approved using TIF funds for the YWCA window project.

The commission unanimously approved the final plat for commercial phase 5 of **Crossroads at Mountain View Meadows** Major Subdivision creating 7 city lots containing 6.56-acres from Tract 1-A-1.

The commission unanimously approved updating current code “the **Use of Public Rights of Way, Title 7 - Chapter 13**” to reflect the current code updates of **internet and telecommunications software** in regard to technical advancements.

The commission unanimously approved granting a change in the use permit to allow **enlarging the Lucky Lil’s Casino** into the space previously occupied by the convenience store at 115 Enterprise.

### **2/21 Nancy Perry**

**2/26 Ben Kuiper** – verbal report

8:40PM **Coordinator Report** – Peggy Benkelman  
Commission Meeting Attendance Sign Up

8:42PM **Outreach Committee Report** – Emily Mowers

8:45PM **Boards & Standing Committees – How to handle receiving Board Meeting Info.**  
Confirm if HCC members will volunteer to attend

**L&C County Water Quality Protection District Board** – Diana Hammer is still a member

### **HCC Volunteers to attend these advisory boards/committees and give written updates**

City-County Planning Board – John Andrew

Helena Public Arts Committee – Paige R. Myers

**Non-Motorized Travel Advisory Council** – Motion made and approved to request \$200,00 from 2025 budget be used for Safe Routes to School.

Citizen Conservation Board

Solid Waste Master Plan Meetings – Denise R. Barber

City-County Library Board

Golf Advisory Board – Bob Schlack

**City-County Consolidated Parks Board – Pat Bik** - The Board supported the proposal by American Legion Baseball League to place artificial turf from first and third baselines out to the foul area to save on maintenance costs.

Purchase and installation paid for by the League; no City funds needed. Also, BID proposed installation of modular, ADA compliant, public restroom in Constitution Park. Board supported with funding secured at \$98,000 from City, \$35,000 County; \$44,000 BID, and an unsecured at \$63,000 from Downtown TIF.

Affordable Housing Trust Fund -

MPO – when meetings begin

9:00PM **Meeting Adjourned**