



**City of Helena  
City Commission Meeting  
June 17, 2024 – 6:00 PM  
Zoom Online Meeting; <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82462518129>  
City County Building Commission Chambers, Room 330**

**Time & Place**

A regular City Commission meeting was held on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom Online Meeting ID: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82462518129> and physically in the City County Building Commission Chambers, Room 330.

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

**(00:00:23)** The following responded present, either via zoom or in person:

City Attorney Dockter  
City Manager Burton  
Commissioner Shirtliff  
Commissioner Logan  
Commissioner Reed  
Mayor Pro Tem Dean

The following were absent:

Mayor Collins

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**(00:01:15)** Mayor Collins asked attendees to please stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

- A. 5-29-24 Budget Work Session Meeting
- B. 6-3-24 Commission Meeting

**(00:01:40)** There being no comments or questions from the Commission, Mayor Collins accepted Minutes A and B.

**Proclamations**

- A. Juneteenth Proclamation



- (00:02:00) Mayor Pro Tem Dean presented Proclamation A.
- (00:04:38) Human Resources Director McMahon discussed Juneteenth Events throughout the City.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of a Resolution declaring various vehicles owned by the City of Helena to be surplus property and authorizing the City Manager to dispose of that property
- B. Approval of a Resolution designating the Environmental Certifying Official for the purposes of Helena Housing Authority's HUD Section 18 Low-income Public Housing Program Disposition Application for Stewart Homes and the related request for Tenant Protect Project-Based Vouchers
- C. Consider a Resolution to Establish Fees for the Use of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Owned By the City and Available for Public Use

(00:07:08) **Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A, B, and C. Commissioner Logan seconded the motion.**

(00:07:18) Mayor Pro Tem Dean called for a vote.

Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**  
Commissioner Logan voted: **Aye**  
Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**  
Mayor Pro Tem Dean voted: **Aye**  
Mayor Collins voted: **Absent**

**The motion carried 4:0.**

### Bid Award

- A. Consider Bid Award for Benton Avenue Turn Lanes

- (00:07:55) Transportation Systems Director Knoepke presented Item A.
- (00:18:00) Commissioner Reed asked Director Knoepke about addressing pedestrian concerns via curbing instead of adding turn lanes and about cost estimate concerns.
- (00:20:28) Mayor Pro Tem Dean asked Director Knoepke about traffic data models.
- (00:23:30) Commissioner Logan asked Director Knoepke to discuss the process for this project and financial planning.



- (00:26:22) Commissioner Logan asked Director Knoepke for clarification of funding consensus.
- (00:28:56) Commissioner Shirtliff asked Director Knoepke about possibilities of adding pedestrian crossing improvements.
- (00:31:17) Greg Wirth provided public comment, advocating for denial.
- (00:35:14) Lucas Wallace provided public comment, advocating for denial.
- (00:38:10) Diana Hammer provided public comment, advocating for denial.
- (00:39:05) Commissioner Reed asked Director Knoepke about the investment timeline for crossings and about crossing specifics.
- (00:41:52) Mayor Pro Tem Dean asked Director Knoepke about the funding timeline for this Item and about flashing beacon response from drivers.
- (00:43:31) **Commissioner Reed made a motion to table the bid award for Benton Avenue turn lanes in order to give the opportunity to look at the parts most relevant to pedestrian safety, including the curbs but to not go forward with the project as currently bid. Commissioner Shirtliff seconded the motion.**
- (00:43:58) Commissioner Logan asked Attorney Dockter about procedure for failed table motions
- (00:44:34) Mayor Pro Tem Dean called for a vote.  
Commissioner Shirtliff voted: **Aye**  
Commissioner Logan voted: **No**  
Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**  
Mayor Pro Tem Dean voted: **No**  
Mayor Collins voted: **Absent**  
**The motion ties 2:2.**
- (00:44:48) Clerk Clayborn called upon Attorney Dockter for council regarding a tie vote.
- (00:45:19) Mayor Pro Tem Dean, Attorney Dockter, and Commissioner Reed discussed possible next steps given the intent for the motion.



**(00:47:22) Commissioner Logan made a motion to award the Benton Avenue turn lanes project base bid alternate number 1 to Helena Sand and Gravel in the amount of \$524,654. Motion was not seconded.**

**The motion fails.**

**(00:48:00) Commissioner Reed made a motion to table the bid award for Benton Avenue turn lanes and move the item to an Administrative Meeting for further discussion. Commissioner Shirtliff seconded the motion.**

**(00:48:20)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean called for a vote.  
Commissioner Shirtliff voted: **Aye**  
Commissioner Logan voted: **No**  
Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**  
Mayor Pro Tem Dean voted: **Aye**  
Mayor Collins voted: **Absent**  
**The motion to table carries 3:1.**

### **Communications/Proposals from Commissioners**

**(00:48:49)** Commissioner Shirtliff discussed public comment regarding parking on Jackson Avenue and stairwells. Director Knoepke addressed Commissioner Shirtliff's question.

### **Report of the City Attorney**

**(00:50:51)** City Attorney Dockter had nothing to report.

### **Report of the City Manager**

**(00:51:00)** City Manager Burton had nothing to report.

### **Communications from the Helena Citizens Council**

**(00:51:18)** HCC Representative Diana Hammer discussed recent and upcoming meeting agenda items.

### **Regular Items**



**A. Consider a Resolution relating to Limited Tax General Obligation Bond for the Improvements to the Vehicle Maintenance Shop; Preliminarily Authorizing the Issuance and Private Negotiated Sale of Such Bond and Authorizing the Process for selecting a Purchaser Thereof**

(00:52:32) Finance Director Danielson presented Item A.

(00:54:11) **Commissioner Logan made a motion to approve a Resolution relating to a Limited Tax General Obligation Bond for the Improvements to the Vehicle Maintenance Shop; Preliminarily Authorizing the Issuance and Private Negotiated Sale of Such Bond and Authorizing the Process for selecting a Purchaser Thereof. Commissioner Reed seconded the motion.**

(00:54:38) Mayor Pro Tem Dean called for a vote.

Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**  
Commissioner Logan voted: **Aye**  
Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**  
Mayor Pro Tem Dean voted: **Aye**  
Mayor Collins voted: **Absent**

**The motion carried 4:0.**

**B. Consider adoption of the 2024 Strategic Plan**

(00:55:03) Public Information Officer Garcin presented Item B.

(00:57:35) **Commissioner Shirliff made a motion to adopt the 2024 Strategic Plan. Commissioner Logan seconded the motion.**

(00:57:47) Mayor Pro Tem Dean called for a vote.

Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**  
Commissioner Logan voted: **Aye**  
Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**  
Mayor Pro Tem Dean voted: **Aye**  
Mayor Collins voted: **Absent**

**The motion carried 4:0.**

**C. Consider A Resolution Creating the Parking Advisory Board as a City of Helena Advisory Board**



- (00:58:14) Director Knoepke presented Item C.
- (01:00:06) Commissioner Shirtliff asked Director Knoepke about membership seat designation.
- (01:02:05) Logan Smith provided public comment, recommending that non-motorized travel be considered for the Parking Advisory Committee.
- (01:03:40) **Commissioner Shirtliff made a motion to approve A Resolution Creating the Parking Advisory Board as a City of Helena Advisory Board. Commissioner Logan seconded the motion.**
- (01:03:56) Mayor Pro Tem Dean called for a vote.
- Commissioner Shirtliff voted: **Aye**
- Commissioner Logan voted: **Aye**
- Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**
- Mayor Pro Tem Dean voted: **Aye**
- Mayor Collins voted: **Absent**
- The motion carried 4:0.**
- D. Consider an ordinance amending City of Helena ordinance no. 3097 and the official zoning map for the City of Helena that changes the zoning district from Public Lands and Institutions (PLI) to R-3 (Residential) for the property legally described as all of Lot 9 and the north 1/2 of lots 10, 11, and 12 in Block 434 of the Allen Addition to the City of Helena, Lewis and Clark County, Montana**
- (01:04:45) Planner Holland presented Item D.
- (01:10:55) Rebecca Stanfell provided public comment, advocating for approval.
- (01:14:32) **Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve an ordinance amending City of Helena ordinance no. 3097 and the official zoning map for the City of Helena that changes the zoning district from Public Lands and Institutions (PLI) to R-3 (Residential) for the property legally described as all of Lot 9 and the north 1/2 of lots 10, 11, and 12 in Block 434 of the Allen Addition to the City of Helena, Lewis and Clark County, Montana. Commissioner Shirtliff seconded the motion.**



**(01:15:07)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean thanked the Montana Jewish Project for their work.

**(01:15:38)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean called for a vote.

Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Logan voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**

Mayor Pro Tem Dean voted: **Aye**

Mayor Collins voted: **Absent**

**The motion carried 4:0.**

**E. Consider a Resolution Repealing Resolution No. 19549, and dissolving the Non-Motorized Travel Advisory Council**

**(01:16:14)** City Clerk Clayborn presented Item E and read a written statement from Mayor Collins into the record.

**(01:21:38)** Commissioner Reed asked Director Knoepke about the role of subcommittees on the Metropolitan Planning Organization and their jurisdiction for recommendations on local projects.

**(01:25:05)** Commissioner Shirliff asked Clerk Clayborn about changes and consolidation of other boards.

**(01:27:18)** Commissioner Logan discussed the establishing resolution and the outdated nature of the scope and purpose.

**(01:28:55)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean asked Director Knoepke about the dissolution of the Transportation Coordination Committee in reference to the Long Range Travel Plan.

**(01:31:33)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean asked Director Knoepke about MPO staffing, subcommittee establishment procedures, and about the implications of this Item.

**(01:36:17)** Commissioner Shirliff asked Director Knoepke about the non-motorized designation on the MPO and about other potential membership designations.

**(01:38:39)** Commissioner Reed asked Director Knoepke about redundancy.

**(01:41:05)** Commissioner Logan asked Director Knoepke about staffing both boards should NMTAC be retained.

**(01:42:20)** Greg Wirth provided public comment, advocating for denial.

**(01:45:50)** Ben Kuiper provided public comment, advocating for denial.



- (01:46:30) Lucas Wallace provided public comment, advocating for denial.
- (01:50:50) Logan Smith provided public comment, advocating for denial.
- (01:52:25) Bob Jones provided public comment, advocating for denial.
- (01:54:32) Diana Hammer provided public comment, advocating for denial.
- (01:57:00) Anne Hausrath provided public comment, advocating for denial.
- (01:59:26) Cory Mitchell provided public comment, advocating for denial.
- (02:00:45) John Andrew provided public comment, advocating for denial.
- (02:01:45) Mayor Pro Tem Dean discussed the advisory board restructuring project and budget implications of MPO designation.
- (02:08:14) Commissioner Reed discussed concerns about gaps formed should NMTAC not continue.
- (02:09:13) Commissioner Shirliff thanked NMTAC and members of the public.
- (02:10:53) Commissioner Logan discussed his support for approval.
- (02:12:41) **Commissioner Logan made a motion to approve a resolution dissolving the Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Council and repealing Resolution No.19549 and any duties discharged to the Council membership, staff and Commission shall be nullified. Motion was not seconded.**

**The motion fails.**

- (02:13:25) **Commissioner Reed made a motion to table a resolution dissolving the Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Council and repealing Resolution No.19549 and any duties discharged to the Council membership, staff and Commission shall be nullified and move the item to a future administrative meeting. Commissioner Shirliff seconded the motion.**

- (02:13:52) Mayor Pro Tem Dean called for a vote.
- Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**
- Commissioner Logan voted: **Aye**
- Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**
- Mayor Pro Tem Dean voted: **Aye**
- Mayor Collins voted: **Absent**





**The motion to table carried 4:0.**

## **Public Hearings**

### **A. Consider a resolution granting a Conditional Use Permit to allow a Residence, multiple-dwelling units use in a R-2 zoning district**

- (02:14:44)** Planner Holland presented Item A.
- (02:24:35)** Commissioner Shirliff asked Planner Holland about R-2 designation restrictions and the intent for this property.
- (02:25:24)** Commissioner Reed asked Planner Holland about stormwater drainage abatement and the lack of comment by Public Works.
- (02:26:35)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean asked Planner Holland about parking availability and conditional usage.
- (02:27:55)** Applicant BG Strumberg provided public comment, advocating for approval.
- (02:33:03)** Connie House provided public comment, advocating for denial.
- (02:36:10)** Barbara Belt provided public comment, advocating for denial.
- (02:40:13)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean asked Planner Holland if potential drainage issues will be addressed in the building permit process.
- (02:41:20)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean asked Attorney Dockter about the possibility of adding a condition restricting parking large accessory items on the street, and about the procedure for adding the condition.
- (02:45:37)** Applicant BG Strumberg addressed Mayor Pro Tem Dean's question.
- (02:47:05)** Commissioner Shirliff asked Planner Holland about the patio's vicinity to the property line.
- (02:48:33)** Commissioner Reed, Attorney Dockter, and Mayor Pro Tem Dean discussed the Commission's ability to influence parking on the street, and the implications of non-conforming conditions.
- (02:51:59)** Commissioner Shirliff asked Director Knoepke about adding parking signage to abate the issue.



**(02:53:58)** Commissioner Logan made a motion to approve a resolution granting a Conditional Use Permit to allow a Residence, multiple-dwelling units use in a R-2 zoning district for the property legally described as Lots 15 and 16 in Block 97 of the Ming Addition to the City of Helena, Lewis and Clark County, Montana. Commissioner Shirliff seconded the motion.

**(02:54:30)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean called for a vote.

Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Logan voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**

Mayor Pro Tem Dean voted: **No**

Mayor Collins voted: **Absent**

The motion carried 3:1.

**B. Consider a Resolution Approving the Workplan and Budget for the Business Improvement District and Levying an Assessment on all Properties within the District for Fiscal Year 2025**

**(02:55:01)** Finance Director Danielson presented Item B.

**(02:56:02)** Commissioner Shirliff made a motion to approve a Resolution Approving the Workplan and Budget for the Business Improvement District and Levying an Assessment on all Properties within the District for Fiscal Year 2025. Commissioner Logan seconded the motion.

**(02:56:20)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean called for a vote.

Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Logan voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**

Mayor Pro Tem Dean voted: **Aye**

Mayor Collins voted: **Absent**

The motion carried 4:0.

**C. Consider a Resolution Approving the Workplan and Budget for the Tourism Business Improvement District and Levying an Assessment on All Properties within the District for Fiscal Year 2025**

**(02:56:47)** Director Danielson presented Item C.



**(02:57:32) Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve a Resolution to Approve the Work Plan and Budget for the Helena Tourism Business Improvement District and to Levy an Assessment on all Property within the District for Fiscal Year 2025. Commissioner Shirliff seconded the motion.**

**(02:57:48)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean called for a vote.  
Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**  
Commissioner Logan voted: **Aye**  
Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**  
Mayor Pro Tem Dean voted: **Aye**  
Mayor Collins voted: **Absent**  
**The motion carried 4:0.**

**D. Consider a Resolution Adopting Preliminary Budget, Budget Authorities, and Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, and setting the Salary for the Municipal Court Judge**

**(02:58:18)** Director Danielson presented Item D.

**(03:00:20)** Commissioner Reed asked Director Danielson and Manager Burton about the Parking Advisory Committee's possible impact on the budget via recommendation.

**(03:02:02)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean thanked Director Danielson and Staff.

**(03:04:07)** Director Danielson addressed Commissioner Reed's question.

**(03:04:38)** HCC Chairperson Kuiper provided public comment, thanking Staff and the Commission for their work and offering additional assistance for recommendations.

**(03:05:33) Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve A Resolution Adopting Preliminary Budget Authorities, and Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025, and setting the Salary for the Municipal Court Judge. Commissioner Logan seconded the motion.**

**(03:05:57)** Mayor Pro Tem Dean called for a vote.  
Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**  
Commissioner Logan voted: **Aye**  
Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**



Mayor Pro Tem Dean voted: **Aye**

Mayor Collins voted: **Absent**

**The motion carried 4:0.**

### Public Communications

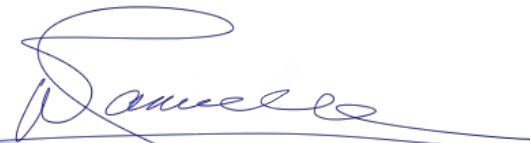
**(03:06:16)** There were no further comments or questions from the Commission and/or public.

### Adjournment

**(03:06:20)** There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.



  
CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION

  
MAYOR