



City of Helena
City Commission Meeting
July 15, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Zoom Online Meeting; <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81862350992>
City County Building Commission Chambers, Room 330

Time & Place

A regular City Commission meeting was held on Monday, July 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom Online Meeting ID: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81862350992> and physically in the City County Building Commission Chambers, Room 330.

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

City Attorney Dockter
City Manager Burton
Commissioner Dean
Commissioner Shirtliff
Commissioner Reed
Mayor Collins

The following were absent:

Commissioner Logan

Pledge of Allegiance

(00:01:04) Mayor Collins asked attendees to please stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

- A. 6-12-24 Admin Meeting
- B. 6-17-24 Commission Meeting
- C. 6-26-24 Admin Meeting

(00:01:43) **There being no comments or questions from the Commission, Mayor Collins accepted Minutes A, B, and C.**



Presentations

A. Transportation Systems – Capitol Traffic Plan

(00:02:02) Transportation Systems Director Knoepke presented Item A.

Proclamations

B. Flora Wong Day Proclamation

(00:02:58) Mayor Collins presented the Flora Wong Day Proclamation.

(00:07:18) Flora Wong addressed the Commission.

(00:14:46) Commissioners Dean, Reed, and Shirliff thanked Ms. Wong.

Consent Agenda

A. Claims

(00:19:39) Treasurer/Controller Kruzich presented Item A.

(00:20:40) **Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A. Commissioner Dean seconded the motion.**

(00:20:52) Mayor Collins called for a vote.

Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Logan voted: **Absent**

Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Dean voted: **Aye**

Mayor Collins voted: **Aye**

The motion carried 4:0.

Bid Awards

A. Consider Bid Award for Benton Avenue Turn Lanes

(00:21:12) Transportation Systems Director Knoepke presented Item A.

(00:22:54) Commissioner Shirliff asked Director Knoepke about a timeline for the next bid.

(00:23:16) Commissioner Dean asked Director Knoepke about MDT's involvement.

(00:23:56) Commissioner Reed asked Director Knoepke if this project could be considered by the MPO.



(00:25:22) Pat Dryden of Helena Sand and Gravel provided public comment, discussing concerns about the bid process.

(00:27:28) **Commissioner Dean made a motion to deny the Benton Avenue Turn Lanes project base bid and alternate #1 to Helena Sand and Gravel in the amount of Five Twenty-four Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-five dollars (\$524,655.00). Commissioner Reed seconded the motion.**

(00:27:47) Mayor Collins called for a vote.
Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**
Commissioner Logan voted: **Absent**
Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**
Commissioner Dean voted: **Aye**
Mayor Collins voted: **Aye**
The motion to deny carried 4:0.

B. Bid Purchase Award for Wastewater Treatment Bioreactor Mixer System Bid Purchase Project #24-07

(00:28:13) Engineer Clark presented Item B.

(00:28:59) **Commissioner Shirliff made a motion to award the Wastewater Treatment Plant Bioreactor Mixer Bid Purchase #24-07 to the lowest responsible bidder Xylem Water Solutions USA Inc. in the amount of \$380,911.00. Commissioner Reed seconded the motion.**

(00:00:00) Mayor Collins called for a vote.
Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**
Commissioner Logan voted: **Absent**
Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**
Commissioner Dean voted: **Aye**
Mayor Collins voted: **Aye**
The motion carried 4:0.

Communications/Proposals from Commissioners

A. Resolution to Establish Friendly Relations between City of Helena, Montana, United States of America and Stepanavan Community of Lori Marz, Republic of Armenia



- (00:29:54) Commissioner Dean discussed expanding relationships with communities.
- (00:30:44) David Hunter of World Montana provided public comment, advocating for approval.
- (00:32:58) Jeffrey Teabury of World Montana provided public comment, advocating for approval.
- (00:35:03) **Commissioner Dean made a motion to approve a Resolution to Establish Friendly Relations between City of Helena, Montana, United States of America and Stepanavan Community of Lori Marz, Republic of Armenia. Commissioner Shirliff seconded the motion.**
- (00:35:25) Mayor Collins called for a vote.
- Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**
- Commissioner Logan voted: **Absent**
- Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**
- Commissioner Dean voted: **Aye**
- Mayor Collins voted: **Aye**
- The motion carried 4:0.**

Report of the City Attorney

- (00:35:47) City Attorney Dockter discussed the Johnson v. Grant's Pass decision by the Supreme Court.

Report of the City Manager

- (00:39:21) Director Knoepke discussed a failure of the traffic signaling system on mini-malfunction junction.
- (00:40:46) Commissioner Dean asked Director Knoepke about the timeline for transitioning to a roundabout.

Communications from the Helena Citizens Council

- (00:43:46) HCC Representative Nancy Perry discussed recent and upcoming meeting agenda items.



Regular Items

A. Consider a Resolution establishing the City of Helena as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities

(00:46:15) Community Development Director Brink presented Item A.

(00:49:00) Commissioner Shirliff expressed support.

(00:49:23) Commissioner Dean expressed support.

(00:50:50) **Commissioner Shirliff made a motion to approve a Resolution establishing the City of Helena as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and approving a letter of support from Mayor Collins to AARP Montana. Commissioner Dean seconded the motion.**

(00:51:07) Mayor Collins called for a vote.

Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Logan voted: **Absent**

Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Dean voted: **Aye**

Mayor Collins voted: **Aye**

The motion carried 4:0.

B. Consider a Resolution of Intention to increase the fee charged for the use of the Firing Range at the Helena Regional Airport

(00:51:50) Police Chief Petty presented Item B.

(00:53:24) Commissioner Dean asked Chief Petty about the groups impacted by increased fees.

(00:54:58) **Commissioner Dean made a motion to approve A Resolution of Intention to Increase the fee charged for use of the Firing Range at the Helena Regional Airport and to set a Public Hearing for July 29, 2024. Commissioner Reed seconded the motion.**

(00:55:15) Mayor Collins called for a vote.

Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Logan voted: **Absent**

Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Dean voted: **Aye**



Mayor Collins voted: **Aye**

The motion carried 4:0.

C. Consider the passage of a Resolution of Intent to set fees charged and collected by the Planning Division of the Community Development Department, repeal Resolution No. 11093, and to set a public hearing date

(00:56:00) Director Brink presented Item C.

(01:04:52) Commissioner Dean thanked Director Brink and Staff, expressed support, and asked about methodologies in other communities.

(01:07:22) Commissioner Reed requested more varied fee options.

(01:08:28) **Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve the Resolution of Intent to set fees charged and collected by the Planning Division of the Community Development Department, repeal Resolution No. 11093, and to set a public hearing date for August 12th, 2024, at 6:00pm. Commissioner Dean seconded the motion.**

(01:08:50) Mayor Collins called for a vote.

Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Logan voted: **Absent**

Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Dean voted: **Aye**

Mayor Collins voted: **Aye**

The motion carried 4:0.

D. Consider 1st passage of an ordinance revising the regulation of signs by amending Chapter 23, Title 11 of the Helena City Code by repealing and replacing Chapter 23, General Sign Regulations, in its entirety and adopting this new Chapter 23, Sign Regulations, in lieu thereof, and to set the public hearing

(01:09:33) Planner Alvarez presented Item D.

(01:21:42) Commissioner Shirliff asked Planner Alvarez about backlit signs.

(01:23:28) Rebecca Harbage of the Zoning Commission provided public comment, advocating for approval.

(01:26:03) Allie Carly of Lamar Advertising provided public comment, expressing concerns.



- (01:29:44) Bob Alvarez provided public comment, expressing concerns.
- (01:33:17) Jeff Young of Yesco Outdoor Media provided public comment via Zoom, expressing concerns.
- (01:36:33) Nathan Young of Yesco Outdoor Media provided public comment via Zoom, thanking Staff.
- (01:37:46) **Commissioner Dean made a motion to approve an ordinance revising the regulation of signs by amending Chapter 23, Title 11 of the Helena City Code by repealing and replacing Chapter 23, General Sign Regulations, in its entirety and adopting this new Chapter 23, Sign Regulations, in lieu thereof. With the condition that the area of allowable wall signage in section 11- 23-9 be changed from 8% to 15%. The further condition that section 11-23-6 (H) be amended to read “Any on-premise electronic message center(s) that is located within three hundred (300) feet of any residential zoning district must automatically turn off between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. daily ...” And the further condition that section 11-23-7 (E) be amended to read “a nonconforming on-premise sign shall cease to be used when the business, activity...” Commissioner Shirliff seconded the motion.**
- (01:39:04) Commissioner Reed asked Planner Alvarez about the annual fee versus a one-time fee and if other municipalities were considered.
- (01:41:39) Commissioner Dean thanked the Zoning Commission and Community Development Staff.
- (01:42:56) James Carpenter provided public comment, expressing concerns.
- (01:45:20) Mayor Collins called for a vote.
Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**
Commissioner Logan voted: **Absent**
Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**
Commissioner Dean voted: **Aye**
Mayor Collins voted: **Aye**
The motion carried 4:0.

Public Hearings

- A. Consider Final Passage of an ordinance to amend Title 11, Chapter 2, Table 1 of the City of Helena Zoning Regulations



(01:46:08) Director Brink presented Items A, B, and C.

(01:49:36) **Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve an ordinance amending Title 11, Chapter 2, Table 1 of the City of Helena Zoning Regulations. Commissioner Dean seconded the motion.**

(01:49:53) Mayor Collins called for a vote.

Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Logan voted: **Absent**

Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Dean voted: **Aye**

Mayor Collins voted: **Aye**

The motion carried 4:0.

B. Consider Final Passage of an ordinance to amend Title 11, Chapter 40 of the City of Helena Zoning Regulations, titled Establishment of Areas that Allow the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages and Casinos within City Limits

(01:50:18) Director Brink presented Item B.

(01:54:00) **Commissioner Dean made a motion to approve an ordinance amending Title 11, Chapter 40 of the City of Helena Zoning Regulations. Commissioner Shirliff seconded the motion.**

(01:54:14) Mayor Collins called for a vote.

Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Logan voted: **Absent**

Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**

Commissioner Dean voted: **Aye**

Mayor Collins voted: **Aye**

The motion carried 4:0.

C. Consider Final Passage of an ordinance to amend Title 3, Chapter 15 of Helena City Code titled Review Process for Demolition of Historic Buildings

(01:54:35) Director Brink presented Item C.

(01:59:46) Commissioner Dean thanked Staff for their work.



(02:01:06) Commissioner Dean made a motion to approve an ordinance amending Title 3, Chapter 15 of Helena City Code titled “Review Process for Demolition of Historic Buildings”.
Commissioner Reed seconded the motion.

(02:01:22) Mayor Collins called for a vote.
Commissioner Shirliff voted: **Aye**
Commissioner Logan voted: **Absent**
Commissioner Reed voted: **Aye**
Commissioner Dean voted: **Aye**
Mayor Collins voted: **Aye**
The motion carried 4:0.

Public Communications

(02:01:36) There were no further comments or questions from the Commission and/or public.

Adjournment

(02:01:45) There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION