

CITY OF HELENA
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
January 30, 2012
6:00 P.M.

Time & Place

A regular City Commission meeting was held on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers, 316 N. Park Avenue, Helena, Montana.

Members Present

Mayor Smith indicated for the record that Commissioners Elsaesser, Ellison, Thweatt and Haque-Hausrath were present. City Manager Ron Alles, Acting City Attorney Thomas Jodoin and Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown were present. Others present were David Scrimm representing the Helena Citizens Council.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith asked those persons present to please stand and join him in the pledge of allegiance.

Presentation

PRESENTATION:

A. State of the City Address

Mayor Smith presented the 2012 State of the City Address. A copy of the address is included in the Commission packet as part of the official record.

Minutes

The minutes of the regular City Commission meeting of January 9, 2012 were approved as submitted.

Board Appointments

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

A. 2012 City Commission Appointments to Boards

Mayor Smith asked for Commission concurrence on the following Commission member appointments to boards for 2012:

MAYOR PRO TEM

Matt Elsaesser

ADA COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

Two-year term – expires September 1, 2012

James E. Smith

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

One year term - expires December 31, 2012

Dan Ellison

AUDIT COMMITTEE

One-year term - expires December 31, 2012

James E. Smith

Matt Elsaesser

Katherine Haque-Hausrath

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS/HELENA PARKING COMMISSION

No specific term

Dick Thweatt

CITY COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

One-year term - expires December 31, 2012

Katherine Haque-Hausrath

City Manager Ron Alles - standing member

CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

No specific term

James E. Smith

CITY-COUNTY PARKS BOARD

No specific term

Dick Thweatt

CITY-COUNTY WEED BOARD

No specific term

Matt Elsaesser

CIVIC CENTER BOARD

No specific term

James E. Smith

HELENA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LIAISON

No commission representative as of January 2012

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

No specific term

Dan Ellison

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

No specific term

No appointment

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE

One year term – expires December 31, 2012

Katherine Haque-Hausrath

LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

No Specific Term

Dick Thweatt

MONTANA BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CONNECTION

No specific term

Matt Elsaesser

City Manager Ron Alles – standing member

MONTANA LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

No specific term

James E. Smith

NON-MOTORIZED TRAVEL ADVISORY COUNCIL

One year term – Expires December 31, 2012

Dan Ellison

PRE-RELEASE SCREENING COMMITTEE

No specific term
Dan Ellison

PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

No specific term
Katherine Haque-Hausrath

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

One year term - expires December 31, 2012
Dick Thweatt
Matt Elsaesser

Public comment Mayor Smith asked for public comment, none was received.

Motion Commissioner Ellison moved approval of the 2012 Commission Board Appointments as outlined above. Commissioner Elsaesser seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Mayor Smith asked for Commission concurrence on the following board appointments:

Building Board of Appeals - Appointment of Marty Schuma to the Building Board of Appeals as the contractor representative. Term will begin upon appointment and expire December 31, 2016.

Transportation Coordinating Committee - Appointment of Melinda Barnes as the voting member to the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC). Term will begin upon appointment and expire December 31, 2013.

Public comment Mayor Smith asked for public comment, none was received.

Motion Commissioner Elsaesser moved approval of the appointments to the Building Board of Appeals and Transportation Coordinating Committee as outlined above. Commissioner Haque-Hausrath seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Consent Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Claims
- B. Approval of the recurring water bill inserts list
- C. Acceptance of the December 2011 pledged collateral report
- D. Confirmation of Probationary Firefighter Owen Koeppen
- E. Centennial Trail CTEP Agreement with MDT

City Manager Ron Alles recommended approval of the claims and the consent agenda.

Commissioner Elsaesser asked item E be removed for further discussion.

Public comment Mayor Smith asked for public comment, none was received.

Motion Commissioner Elsaesser moved approval of items A through D on the consent agenda. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Motion

Commissioner Thweatt moved to award the Missouri River Treatment Plant Recycle Loop Improvements, City Project #11-18 to the lowest, responsible bidder, Hard Rock Road Building & Utilities, Inc. in the amount of \$1,330,070. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

- B. State government bid prices for administrative and service fleet purchases

Staff Report

Fleet Superintendent Ben Sautter reported the State of Montana opened bids for administrative and service vehicles in December 2011. The City of Helena included a number of vehicles identified for fleet replacement for all departments in the bid process. A summary of departments with their vehicle requests and bid prices was included in the Commission packet.

Superintendent Sautter recommended the purchase of these new vehicles at the bid price as presented on the bid summary and noted all vehicles are within department budgeted amounts. The vehicles replaced will be declared surplus and sold at auction in October 2012. He noted the proposed purchases will result in improved reliability of the fleet and lower maintenance costs.

Public comment

Mayor Smith asked for public comment, none was received.

Motion

Commissioner Haque-Hausrath moved to award the low bids to those dealers identified in the summary of bids included in the Commission packet. Commissioner Elsaesser seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Communications

COMMUNICATIONS/PROPOSALS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Haque-Hausrath spoke of recent vandalism to the newly painted Chinese mural next to the Windbag by the spray-painting of a swastika. She commented the vandalism and its underlying bigotry do not reflect the values of city government or Helena's residents. Mayor Smith concurred with Commissioner Haque-Hausrath's comments.

Commissioners Ellison and Elsaesser thanked Mayor Smith for his State of the City address.

Report of the City Attorney

REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

No report was given.

Report of the City Manager

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

Manager Alles thanked City Attorney Jodoin for his work as Acting City Attorney. He noted next years' State of the City Address will include an even larger list of accomplishments by the city.

Report from the Helena Citizens Council

REPORT FROM THE HELENA CITIZENS COUNCIL

HCC member David Scrimm reported the HCC has been discussing transportation issues in great detail lately. He encouraged the Commission to continue working on providing solutions to non-motorized issues in the community. Commissioner Haque-Hausrath asked if the HCC has any specific recommendations or suggestions on non-motorized issues. Mr. Scrimm stated not at this time but the council continues to work towards finding solutions.

Public Hearings

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. CONSIDER A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HELENA TO APPLY FOR A MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (HOME) GRANT TO ASSIST WEST MONT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HOUSING PROJECT TO BE KNOWN AS RON'S PLACE AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE GRANT

- B. CONSIDER A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HELENA TO APPLY FOR A MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) HOUSING GRANT TO ASSIST WESTMONT, INC. IN DEVELOPING A SIX UNIT GROUP HOME AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE GRANT

Staff Report

Community Development Director Sharon Haugen reported West Mont has asked the City of Helena to sponsor both a HOME grant and CDBG grant to help finance and assist in the construction of a six unit group home for developmentally disabled adults. West Mont's Ron's Place is planned as a six unit, single-room occupancy residential group home for developmentally disabled adults. The home will be part of the continuum of care provided by West Mont within the City of Helena and the State of Montana that provides long-term housing for adults with a variety of developmental disabilities.

The home-like, non-institutional atmosphere created by Ron's Place will serve as an alternative to residents living in a nursing home. This residence will be fully accessible, adaptable, near medical facilities, and will be community-oriented as a "gathering place" for individuals with disabilities and the families and community members who care for them. On the continuum of care, the facility is intended as a potential stepping stone to West Mont's Caldwell House which serves the needs of medically fragile disabled people. Ron's Place will serve those who are not yet at that level of care but still need support that exceeds the normal group home environment. Currently, there is not a facility in the state that cares for moderately medically fragile disabled people.

Director Haugen recommended approval of the resolutions authorizing submittal of the grant applications and noted the facility, when constructed, will meet or exceed the most current energy codes.

Public Testimony

Mayor Smith declared the public portion of the hearing open and called for any persons wishing to address the Commission.

Arlene Flynn, Westmont; spoke in support of Ron's Place and urged the Commission to approve submission of the grants.

Becky Patton, SMA Architects; provided details of the preliminary site plan for Ron's Place.

There being no further persons wishing to address the Commission, Mayor Smith closed the public hearing.

Motion

Commissioner Ellison moved approval of a resolution authorizing the submission of a Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Grant application for West Mont and authorizing the City Manager to sign all documents related to the grant.

Commissioner Elsaesser seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried. **Res #19895**

Discussion

Commissioners Haque-Hausrath, Ellison and Elsaesser spoke in support of the proposal for Ron's Place.

Motion

Commissioner Thweatt moved approval of a resolution authorizing the submission of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Grant application for West Mont, including the typographical corrections on page 1, and authorizing the City Manager to sign all documents related to the grant. Commissioner Haque-Hausrath seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried. **Res #19896**

Regular Items

REGULAR ITEMS:

- A. CONSIDER A RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 19698 WHICH ESTABLISHED A PERMANENT URBAN WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UWAC) FOR THE CITY OF HELENA.

Staff Report

City Manager Alles reported Resolution No. 19698 established a permanent Urban Wildlife Advisory Committee (UWAC) for the City of Helena. He recommended rescinding this resolution as the City Commission may now seek recommendations from the Helena Citizens Council if there are proposed changes to the adopted methods and objectives of the current Urban Wildlife Management Plan implementation strategy.

Manager Alles recommended approval of the resolution and noted the City Commission adopted the Urban Wildlife Management Plan on June 15, 2007 and those recommendations continue to be implemented by staff.

Discussion

Commissioner Elsaesser spoke in support of the Urban Wildlife Management Program.

Commissioner Thweatt thanked the original members of the Urban Wildlife Advisory Council for tackling a tough issue.

Public comment

Mayor Smith called for public comment; none was received.

Motion

Commissioner Elsaesser moved approval of a resolution rescinding Resolution No. 19698. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried. **Res #19894**

Public Communications

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Sarah Sadowski, NMTAC Chair; thanked the Commission for approving the Centennial Trail CTEP Agreement and installing bike lanes on Helena Avenue. She welcomed Commissioner Ellison to NMTAC and thanked city staff for their work with the council. Ms. Sadowski announced NMTAC would soon be finalizing its recommendations for CTEP projects for 2012.

Meetings of Interest

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

The next Administrative Meeting is February 8, 2012 and the next Commission Meeting is February 13, 2012. The next City/County Joint Work Session will be held February 2, 2012.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission,
the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Mayor James E. Smith

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Commission