

CITY OF HELENA
City Commission Meeting
April 5, 2021 - 6:00 PM
Zoom Online Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92238647224>

(00:12) Call to Order and Roll Call

City Attorney Jodoin, City Manager Harlow-Schalk, Commissioner Haladay, Commissioner Dean, Commissioner Logan, Commissioner O'Loughlin, and Mayor Collins were all present. All participated virtually via Zoom.

(00:45) Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations

A. Confirmation of Helena Police Officers Andrew Mohr and Bret Haux

(01:33) Police Chief Hagen presented Item A to the City Commission.

(03:10) Commissioner Logan moved to approve confirmation of Officer Andrew Mohr and Officer Brett Haux. Commissioner Dean seconded the motion. The motion carried 5:0.

(03:54) Officer Andrew Mohr addressed the Commission.

(04:19) Officer Brett Haux addressed the Commission.

(04:40) Members of the Commission expressed their support for the officers and welcomed them to the City of Helena Police Department.

Consent Agenda

A. Claims

(06:00) City Manager Harlow-Schalk introduced the expenditure approval lists for 3/26/2021 that have been approved in the amount of \$266,667.00 and checks 180773 – 180907 have been issued for payment.

(06:37) Commissioner Dean moved to approve item A of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Logan seconded the motion. The motion carried 5:0.

B. Authorize the City Attorney to file a counterclaim against plaintiff in Subsector Solutions, dba Treasure State Internet & Telegraph v. City of Helena, BDV-2020-1507.

(07:55) Commissioner Logan moved to approve authorizing the City Attorney to file a counterclaim against plaintiff in Subsector Solutions, dba Treasure State Internet & Telegraph v. City of Helena, BDV-2020-1507. Commissioner Dean seconded the motion. The motion carried 3:2.

Communication/Proposals from Commissioners

Report of the City Attorney

Report of the City Manager

(09:25) City Manager Harlow-Schalk informed the Commission the city had been receiving several emails surrounding E-bikes and E-scooters. This issue will be brought before the City Commission at the April 14th Administrative Meeting and a request to provide direction regarding where E-bikes and E-scooters should and should not be allowed in the City of Helena.

(12:48) Further discussion was had between the city staff and the Commission on subjects such as how other municipalities have handled E-Bikes and E-scooters, expanding on the definition of E-bikes, and what the public engagement has been to date.

A. Letter of Support to the Helena Regional Sports Agency and the YMCA for Improvements on City Property.

(28:10) City Manager Harlow-Schalk presented on Item A.

(29:41) Commissioner Haladay spoke in opposition to portions of the drafted letter citing he did not want to tie the Commission's support for merely public purposes but to allow for a quasi-non-profit opportunity.

(32:16) Further discussion was had amongst the City Commission regarding potential alternative language to be included with the draft letter of support.

B. COVID-19 One Year Later

(45:24) City Manager Harlow-Schalk presented on Item B and expressed the desire to have a commemorative event to mark the one-year anniversary of COVID-19.

Communications from the Helena Citizens Council

(47:56) HCC representative, Ryan Schwochert gave a report.

There were no public comments.

Regular Items

A. Consider a resolution of intention to amend Resolution No. 19818 that created Special Improvement Lighting District No. 222 to alter the boundaries by adding sixteen streetlights and to remove property in SILD No. 222 in the city of Helena, Montana.

(50:16) Finance Director, Sheila Danielson presented a summary for a resolution of intention to amend Resolution No. 19818 that created Special Improvement Lighting District No. 222 to alter the boundaries by adding sixteen streetlights and to remove property in SILD No. 222 in the city of Helena, Montana.

(52:50) Commissioner O'Loughlin moved to approve a resolution of intention to amend Resolution No. 19818 that created Special Improvement Lighting District No. 222 to alter the boundaries by adding sixteen (16) streetlights and to remove property in SILD No. 222 in the City of Helena, Montana and set a public hearing date of May 3, 2021. Commissioner Dean seconded the motion.

There was no public comment.

The motion carried 5:0.

B. Consider a resolution of intention to create Special Lighting Improvement District No. 399 in the City of Helena, Montana.

(54:24) Finance Director, Sheila Danielson presented a summary for a resolution of intention to create Special Lighting Improvement District No. 399 in the City of Helena, Montana. Ms. Danielson informed the Commission that earlier that day, one of her staff indicated there may be an error with the resolution and asked that Regular Item B be tabled at this time so she could further review it with the City Attorney and bring it back at a later meeting.

(55:08) Commissioner Logan made a motion to table a resolution of intention to create Special Improvement Lighting District No. 399 in the City of Helena, Montana. Commissioner O'Loughlin seconded the motion.

(56:08) Ryan Schwochert residing at 714 Cole Avenue offered public comment.

(57:41) Commissioner O'Loughlin requested that when this item comes back before the commission, it also include a summary of the potential costs for property owners within the SLID. Director Danielson explained the cost depended on the property's square footage and indicated there was also an attachment included in the packet for Regular Item A that expanded on this for a reference.

(01:00:33) The motion carried 5:0.

C. Consider a request to release a non-motorized access easement along the common boundaries of lot 4 and 5 in Block 9 of Uplands Phase 2 of the Crossroads at Mountain View Meadows.

(01:01:02) Public Works Director, Ryan Leland presented a summary to consider a request to release a non-motorized access easement along the common boundaries of lot 4 and 5 in Block 9 of Uplands Phase 2 of the Crossroads at Mountain View Meadows.

(01:05:25) Discussion was had between city staff and the Commission regarding the specifics of the property as it relates to the adjacent Jumping Crane Park.

(01:13:37) The project's engineer, Greg Wirth addressed the Commission and offered further clarification on the proposal.

(01:16:07) Dave Gates residing at 2834 Twilight Avenue and President of the Mountain View Meadows Single-Family Homeowners Association offered public comment in support of removing the trail from its existing location.

(01:17:30) The developer, Mark Runkle offered public comment in support of the request.

(01:19:50) Further discussion was had between city staff, the applicant, and the Commission regarding the justification for the request.

No further public comments.

(01:31:13) Commissioner Haladay made a motion to approve release of a non-motorized access easement along the common boundaries of lot 4 and lot 5 in Block 9 of Uplands Phase 2 of the Crossroads at Mountain View Meadows, COS 3353050. Commissioner Logan seconded the motion.

(01:31:42) Commissioner Haladay explained his decision to approve the request stemmed from the Commission often receiving these types of requests but the applicants don't always offer anything in exchange for seeking out of the easement. Whereas in this case, the applicant is offering two potential park access points in place of the one that will be lost should the request be approved.

(01:33:17) The motion carried 5:0.

D. Consider a sidewalk variance request for 707 12th Avenue and 619 N Davis Street.

(01:33:40) Public Works Director, Ryan Leland presented a summary to consider a sidewalk variance request for 707 12th Avenue and 619 N Davis Street.

(01:36:23) Commissioner Dean asked Director Leland if the rest of the block had boulevard sidewalks and Director Leland confirmed that to be true, adding the proposal would create a good opportunity for additional connectivity on the block even though the new sidewalks would not be boulevard sidewalks. In addition, Director Leland explained it would require the applicant to not only connect to the existing sidewalks on the block but also add an ADA ramp at the corner to bring the area into full compliance.

There were no public comments.

(01:33:40) Commissioner O'Loughlin made a motion to approve the variance request to install curbside sidewalks along 12th Avenue and 619 N Davis Street. Commissioner Haladay seconded the motion.

(01:39:44) Commissioner Dean stated she intended to vote for this variance but expressed her disappointment that the new sidewalks would not be boulevard sidewalks like the rest of the block.

(01:40:24) Commissioner Haladay echoed Commissioner Dean's comments and added it was a heavily trafficked corridor that would benefit from the added connectivity.

(01:42:00) The motion carried 5:0.

(01:42:19) City Manager Harlow-Schalk introduced the City's new Public Information Officer, Jacob Garcin.

(01:43:34) Mr. Garcin gave a brief introduction and addressed the Commission.

Public Communications

Meetings of Interest

Adjournment

(01:45:18) There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

/S/ WILMOT COLLINS

MAYOR

ATTEST:

/S/ DANNAI CLAYBORN

CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION