

CITY OF HELENA
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
October 17, 2011
6:00 P.M.

Time & Place

A regular City Commission meeting was held on Monday, October 17, 2011 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 Ellison, Thweatt and Elsaesser were present. Commissioner Cartwright was excused. City Manager Ron Alles, City Attorney David Nielsen and Deputy City Clerk Robyn Brown were present. Others present were Lora Behlmer representing the Helena Citizens Council.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith asked the members of Boy Scout Troop #218 to stand and lead those persons present in the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes

The minutes of the regular City Commission meeting of October 3, 2011 were approved as submitted.

Consent Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Claims
- B. An amendment to the existing contract with Dowling-Sandholm Architects
- C. Accept a \$10,000 grant from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to help fund a technical study for Chessman Reservoir; the study includes an investigation of the seepage, monitoring plan and system design repair
- D. Approval of funding by the Montana Board of Crime Control in the amount of \$184 for Law Enforcement Booklet stickers
- E. Accept the September 2011 pledged collateral report
- F. Accept a \$15,000 grant from the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) to reimburse the City of Helena for a portion of the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to provide a back wash recycle and managed irrigation plan for the Tenmile Water Treatment Plant (TMTP)

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

Public Comment

Mayor Smith asked for public comment, none was received.

Motion

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

Communications

COMMUNICATIONS/PROPOSALS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Ellison thanked members of Boy Scout Troop #218 and their Scout Master Tom Mazanek for attending tonight's Commission Meeting. He reported he would be speaking to the troop tomorrow evening regarding a recent study they performed on drivers and traffic in Helena.

Commissioner Elsaesser announced he would be submitting an amendment to the proposed distracted driving ordinance for consideration the public hearing on November 7, 2011; he will provide the Commission and City Attorney's Office with the amendment prior to the November 2nd Administrative Meeting for review.

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 reported Benton Avenue behind the City/County Building has been paved and the Broadway/Walking Mall pedestrian crossing is scheduled to reopen tomorrow.

Report from the Helena Citizens Council

REPORT FROM THE HELENA CITIZENS COUNCIL
HCC member Lora Behlmer reported the HCC's next regular meeting will be held on October 26, 2011 at 7:00p.m. in City/County Building- Room 326. Parks & Recreation Director Amy Teegarden will be providing a presentation on the ACHIEVE Grant to the council.

Regular Items

REGULAR ITEMS:
A. CONSIDER A RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A RATE MATRIX AND CONSIDER A RATE INCREASE FOR SERVICE CHARGES FOR COMMERCIAL COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE AND REFUSE IN THE CITY OF HELENA FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2012

Staff Report

Administrative Services Director Tim Magee reported the Resolution of Commission Intent for the FY2012 Annual Budget calls for funding of essential services, including providing annual funding of regularly recurring Comprehensive Capital Improvement Program (CCIP) components and annually reviewing rates to ensure adequate funding of operations, maintenance and debt; addressing capital project priorities; providing for part or all of the impact of inflation; and making incremental rate changes that are regular and predictable for citizens. Therefore, a rate increase to cover the cost of providing commercial sanitation is recommended in FY2012, effective for the November 2011 billing cycle to be sent out December 1, 2011.

Staff is recommending approval of a resolution of intention to establish a rate matrix for service charges for commercial collection and disposal of garbage and refuse and that the Commission set a public hearing date of November 7, 2011. Approval of the resolution will allow for public input on the proposed rates used by the Commercial Solid Waste enterprise for FY2012.

Discussion

Commissioner Elsaesser asked if the proposed resolution would affect the cost per-ton or only the service charge. Director Magee stated only the service charge; the cost per-ton was set in July.

Mayor Smith commented the Landfill Monitoring District was created last January and staff has been working on setting these charges since that time. He commended Public Works and Administrative Services staff for their work.

Commissioner Elsaesser spoke in support of the formation of the Landfill Monitoring District and the transparency of its creation.

Commissioner Ellison expressed delight to see savings in the amount of approximately \$47,000 be able to be passed along to the commercial carrier, while the rest of the charges for the Landfill Monitoring District are being distributed widely across the city so everyone can participate and have some ownership in the process. He spoke in support of the proposed resolution and rate matrix. Commissioner Thweatt concurred with Commissioner Ellison.

Manager Alles noted the city will not charge for Commission-sponsored recycling events in town, in terms of the garbage that gets taken to the Transfer Station. He commented this is one more step in encouraging recycling in the City of Helena.

Public Testimony

Mayor Smith called for public comment; none was received.

Motion

Commissioner Ellison moved approval of a resolution of intention to establish a rate matrix for service charges for commercial collection and disposal of garbage and refuse in the City of Helena, Montana for FY2012 and set a public hearing date of November 7, 2011. Commissioner Elsaesser seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried. **Res #19884**

Public Communications

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Tom Bourns, 2108 Broadway Street; urged the Commission to support the Lewis & Clark Humane Society in finding a new location for their facility. Mr. Bourns submitted written testimony via email; this testimony has been included in the Commission packet as part of the official record. He noted he would also be contacting the Lewis & Clark County Commissioners about the issue.

Commissioner Thweatt asked if the Humane Society is consistently overcrowded. Mr. Bourns stated yes.

Commissioner Elsaesser asked for more information on infrastructure problems related to the proposed site for the new Humane Society. City Manager Alles explained the cost to extend the infrastructure to the new facility was prohibitive. He noted the city has not rescinded its donation of land for the facility.

Meetings of Interest

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

The next Administrative Meeting is November 2, 2011 and the next Commission Meeting is November 7, 2011. The City/County Joint Work Session will be held on November 3, 2011.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Mayor James E. Smith

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Commission

