

**CITY OF HELENA**  
**REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**September 29, 2014**  
**6:00 P.M.**

***Time & Place***

A regular City Commission meeting was held on Monday, September 29, 2014 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, Haque-Hausrath and Haladay were present. City Manager Ron Alles, City Attorney Thomas Jodoin and City Clerk Debbie Havens were present. Others present were Alyssa Bones 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.

***Minutes***

The minutes of the regular City Commission meeting of September 15, 2014 were approved as submitted.

***Presentations***

PRESENTATION:

A. Confirmation of Police Officer Kent Anderson

Police Chief Troy McGee acknowledged members of the Helena Police Department (HPD) in attendance and announced the promotion of Officer Brett Petty to the rank of Lieutenant. Mayor Smith congratulated Lieutenant Petty.

Chief McGee introduced Officer Kent Anderson, gave his professional and personal background, and recommended his confirmation as a Police Officer with the Helena Police Department.

Officer Anderson thanked Chief McGee, City Manager Alles and the Commission for the opportunity to serve on the Helena Police Department and stated this past year training for his position with the HPD has been an absolute joy. He then introduced his wife Leah and son Lane in attendance.

***Motion***

**Commissioner Ellison moved the confirmation of Police Officer Kent Anderson.** Commissioner Haladay seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

***Comment***

Commissioner Ellison stated it is always great to see young families starting out their lives in Helena, especially when they are new officers beginning their careers in law enforcement and coming before the Commission for their confirmation. Commissioner Ellison commended the amount of training and support Officer Anderson has already, and has yet, to receive through working with the other officers of the department and welcomed him to his position with the HPD.

Commissioner Elsaesser commended Officer Anderson on his confirmation and added he is glad to see the HPD filling their ranks with new officers as they were operating shorthanded for awhile.

Mayor Smith congratulated Officer Anderson on his confirmation. He addressed the challenges Officer Anderson will face in his position as a police officer and wished that he stay safe while on duty.

Chief McGee presented Officer Anderson with the HPD's Challenge Coin and explained what it represents. Assistant Chief Steve Hagen and his wife, Barb Hagen, presented Mrs. Anderson with the book, *I Love a Cop*, which speaks to the challenges that family members of law enforcement officers face.

### **Proclamations**

#### PROCLAMATIONS:

- A. **United Way Week** – Commissioner Elsaesser read the United Way Week proclamation into the record and presented it to United Way Executive Director Brian Johnson.

United Way Executive Director Brian Johnson thanked Mayor Smith and Commissioner Elsaesser for the proclamation and spoke of the impact the United Way has on the community by providing funding that changes peoples lives. He stated the United Way really appreciates all of the work and giving the City Commission, city employees and the community provides to the organization.

### Comment

Commissioner Elsaesser commented on the impact the United Way has on the community by providing funding to service organizations. He noted he will be one of the citizens celebrating United Way Week.

Mayor Smith stated the kickoff breakfast was very touching and impressive. He noted last year city and county employees raised about \$14,000.

- B. **The Big Read Under the Big Sky VIII** – Mayor Smith read the “Big Read Under the Big Sky” proclamation announcing *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain as this years’ book, and presented it to Lewis & Clark Library Director Judy Hart.

Director Hart thanked Mayor Smith for the proclamation and gave the history of the Big Read program, noting the Lewis & Clark Library is one of only three libraries in the nation to receive the grant. She added that a list of activities and events celebrating the program can be found on the library’s website: [www.lewisandclarklibrary.org](http://www.lewisandclarklibrary.org)

### **Board Appointments** BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

- A. Board of Adjustment - Reappointment of Bridget Holland and Matt Dalton to the Board of Adjustment. The second terms will begin upon appointment and expire October 1, 2017.
- B. Bill Roberts Golf Advisory Board - Reappointment of Lynn Staley to the Bill Roberts Golf Advisory Board. The second term will begin upon appointment and expire October 30, 2017.
- C. Business Improvement District/Helena Parking Commission - Reappointment of Kathleen Harrington to the BID/HPC. The second term will begin upon appointment and expire October 31, 2018.
- D. City-County Parks Board – Appointment of Ross Johnson as a city representative on the City-County Parks Board. First term will begin October 1, 2014 and expire September 30, 2017.
- E. Heritage Preservation and Tourism Council – Appointment of Mary Jane Bradbury to the Heritage Council Preservation and Tourism

Council. Term will begin upon appointment and expire June 30, 2017.

- F. Zoning Commission – Reappointment of Tim Meldrum to the Zoning Commission. The second term will begin upon appointment and expire September 30, 2017.
  
- G. Tenmile /South Helena Forest Restoration Collaborative Committee -
  - Two (2) representatives from Conservation organizations- Joe Cohenour
  - One (1) representative from local recreational user organizations -
  - Two (2) representatives from commercial use organizations such as timber, biofuels, mining, and livestock industries – Melissa Hayes
  - One (1) representative from the City of Helena governing body or their designee – Ron Alles
  - One (1) representative from Lewis and Clark County governing body or their designee – Mike Murray
  - One (1) representative from Jefferson County governing body or their designee – Leonard Wortman
  - One (1) representative from the fire community- Jordan Alexander
  - Two (2) citizens at large from the greater Helena area – Mike Bishop

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

**Motion** Commissioner Ellison moved approval of the board appointments as outlined above. Commissioner Haladay seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Comment Commissioner Elsaesser thanked everyone being appointed for their willingness to serve on the various boards and committees. He noted he is especially pleased to see the appointments being made to the Tenmile/South Helena Forest Restoration Collaborative Committee as it is very important for it to begin moving forward to reach an environmentally and economically well managed watershed.

**Consent Agenda** CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Claims
- B. Acceptance of a 100% federal funded grant from Homeland Security in the amount of \$23,845.58 to install a security system at the Missouri River Water Treatment Plant.
- C. Acceptance of a 100% federal share grant in the \$43,470.00 from Homeland Security to install a heating system in the Sedimentation/Flocculation building at the Missouri River Water Treatment Plant.

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

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

**Motion** Commissioner Elsaesser moved approval of the consent agenda, Items A-C. Commissioner Haque-Hausrath seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

**Discussion**

Water/Wastewater Superintendent Don Clark gave an overview of consent agenda items B and C, both of which are Homeland Security grants to aid in increasing security for the city's water system and supply at the Missouri River Water Treatment Plant.

Commissioner Elsaesser asked for more information on the Sedimentation/Flocculation building. Superintendent Clark explained the purpose of the building in detail, noting the heating system will result in the plant being able to become a year-round plant as that is a necessity for year-round operation. Commissioner Elsaesser asked if staff is looking at a heating and cooling system similar to the one at the Tenmile Plant that can utilize the water itself. Superintendent Clark explained due to the type of plant the Missouri River is, that kind of system will not work. Commissioner Elsaesser commended staff for continuing to be mindful of security and water quality at the city's plants and referred to an incident at the Wastewater Plant with hexavalent chromium. He reiterated he appreciates staff's mind toward improvements and conservation should the Missouri River Plant need to be utilized year-round.

City Manager Alles reported Superintendent Clark, Water Supervisor Jason Fladland and Natural Resources Coordinator Brad Langsather were recognized by Governor Bullock for their excellence in cooperation with other agencies; the focus of the award was the work done toward securing protection of the Tenmile watershed. Also recognized were employees of the Helena Forest Service and State of Montana-Department of Natural Resources.

Mayor Smith, on behalf of the Commission, commended Superintendent Clark for receiving the Governor's award and applying for and receiving the Homeland Security's grant funding. He asked Superintendent Clark to express the Commission's praise to Supervisor Fladland and Coordinator Langsather.

**Communications****COMMUNICATIONS/PROPOSALS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Mayor Smith and the entire Commission congratulated Thomas Jodoin for his promotion to City Attorney.

Commissioner Haladay stated he, Commissioner Elsaesser, and Community Development Director Sharon Haugen, attended a presentation by Jeff Speck who gave a community presentation on Helena's walkability, the downtown area and various streets. He had much to say about Cruse Avenue and many interesting ideas and suggestions about what Helena can do to increase its walkability and motorized traffic system. He noted Mr. Speck is currently working on improvements in Butte, Montana that have included the removal of several traffic lights, which have resulted in a positive outcome in many aspects. He's also worked toward providing more parking for downtown businesses and the installation of buffer zones so citizens can walk without feeling like they are next to a freeway. He reiterated it was a very interesting presentation and he is excited to see what will come from Mr. Speck's observations of Helena.

Commissioner Haque-Hausrath referred to the ongoing project by the City's Public Art Committee (PAC) that repurposes old parking meters into public art designed and adorned by local artists. The repurposed meters will provide a vein for donations to various non-profit organizations. Commissioner Haque-Hausrath introduced PAC members Vivian Hayes, Bobbi Harris and volunteer Kathy Macefield who displayed five of the six meters to be installed. Ms. Hayes introduced

each parking meter and the artist associated with it. The organizations that will benefit from the meters are: the Prickly Pear Land Trust, Helena Symphony, Holter Museum of Art, Women's Mural, and the dog park located in Centennial Park. There is a sixth meter that is still being worked on and should be done soon.

Commissioner Haque-Hausrath stated the PAC hopes to get the meters installed this year. Ms. Hayes concurred, noting they are currently working through right-of-way but believe they can be installed.

Commissioner Elsaesser spoke of attending several events: the City's Employee appreciation luncheon, the presentation by Mr. Jeff Speck, the Prickly Pear Banquet and the NAMI walk. He noted there were many citizens using the Centennial trail system, independent of the NAMI walk participants. He stated there will be a tour of the western portion of the Centennial Trail system on Wednesday, October 1st.

Commissioner Elsaesser also expressed appreciation to Manager Alles for supporting the Commission's request to release a draft version of the Administrative Meeting agenda a week prior to the meeting date; he believes this will be very helpful toward increasing preparedness for the meetings.

***Report of the City Attorney***

**REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Jodoin thanked City Manager Alles, City Directors and various city employees for being a valuable asset and providing ongoing guidance during his employment as Deputy City Attorney, and commented he will still rely on them and their knowledge now that he has been promoted to City Attorney.

***Report of the City Manager***

**REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Alles commented on Superintendent Don Clark's constant desire to save energy at the facilities that are probably the major consumers of energy in the City. He commented he is very adept at seeking out and applying for grants to aid in reducing the City's carbon footprint and commended him for this effort.

City Manager Alles announced the plaintiffs in the Chessman Reservoir/Red Mountain Flume lawsuit have voluntarily moved to case. Judge Christianson still has to decide whether to accept their request so it's not been formally dismissed. Manager Alles stated he the decision should be announced in the next couple of days.

***Report from the Helena Citizens***

**REPORT FROM THE HELENA CITIZENS COUNCIL (HCC)**

HCC member Alyssa Bones gave an overview of the HCC's September meeting, noting formal recommendations to the Commission regarding truck traffic in residential areas, specific to the Boulder Avenue area, and also a recommendation on the sign ordinance. Those recommendations will be submitted to the Commission at the September 15<sup>th</sup> Administrative Meeting.

Commissioner Ellison thanked Ms. Bones for attending tonight's meeting and providing a report to the Commission; he commented he looks forward to receiving the HCC's recommendations.

***Public Communications***

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

No public communications were given.

***Meetings of  
Interest***

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

The next City-County Joint Work Session is October 2, 2014 at 3:00 p.m., the next City Commission meeting is October 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. and the next Administrative Meeting is October 15, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Ellison announced he would be out of town next week and therefore absent from the October 6<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting.

***Adjournment***

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

/S/ James E. Smith  
Mayor James E. Smith

ATTEST:

/S/ Debbie Havens  
Clerk of the Commission