

CITY OF HELENA
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
August 7, 2017 - 6:00 P.M.
City Commission Chambers, Room 330

Time & Place A regular City Commission meeting was held on Monday, August 7, 2017, 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, Haladay, Noonan, and Farris-Olsen were present. City Manager Ron Alles, City Attorney Thomas Jodoin, City Clerk Debbie Havens, and Deputy City Clerk Katya Grover were present.
HCC Representative Gary Spaeth was also present.

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 July 24, 2017, were approved as submitted.

Presentations PRESENTATIONS

A. Confirmation of Probationary Firefighter Josh Royan

Fire Chief Mark Emert recommended confirmation of Firefighter Josh Royan who has successfully completed one-year probation.

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

Motion Commissioner Ellison moved approval of the confirmation of Firefighter Josh Royan. Commissioner Noonan seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Discussion Mr. Royan expressed his gratitude to his colleague firefighters, his family, and to those who supported him through the period of becoming a firefighter. Mr. Royan said that he was looking forward to serving the community.

Commissioner Ellison said that it was great to see Mr. Royan finish his probationary period and realize his dream. Commissioner Ellison referred to Mr. Royan's colleagues, who came to express their support, and noted that it showed that Mr. Royan had the support and respect from the Fire Department. Commissioner Ellison also noted that today's confirmation was an example of Fire Department being staffed with great personnel.

Commissioner Noonan asked Mr. Royan to express the Commission's gratitude to his family.

Commissioner Farris-Olsen said that seeing other firefighters at the confirmation spoke volume about their respect for Mr. Royan. Commissioner Farris-Olsen thanked Mr. Royan and welcomed him to the Fire Department.

Commissioner Haladay also thanked Mr. Royan for his service.

Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Royan for his work noting that being a firefighter is a tough job and wished him a great career.

Oath of Office Firefighter Royan received the Oath of Office from Mayor Smith.

Board Appointments BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

- A. Business Improvement District/ Helena Parking Commission (BID/HPC)
- B. Helena Regional Airport Authority

Mayor Smith recommended the following appointments:
Appointment of Lee W. Shubert to a first term on the BID/HPC.
Term will begin upon appointment and expire October 31, 2020.
Appointment of Michael Murray to a first term on the Helena
Regional Airport Authority. Term will begin September 1, 2017, and
expire September 1, 2020.

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

Motion Commissioner Haladay moved approval of the board appointments to Business Improvement District/ Helena Parking Commission and to the Helena Regional Airport Authority as outlined above. Commissioner Farris-Olsen seconded the motion. All voted aye, motion carried.

Consent Agenda CONSENT AGENDA:
A. Claims
City Manager Alles recommended approval of the claims.
B. Resolution amending the Tobacco-Free Policy for Developed Parks and Recreation Facilities to permit smoking of noncommercial tobacco products for ceremonial or spiritual purposes by Native Americans. **Resolution 20373**
C. Resolution reestablishing a Tax Increment Financing Advisory Board for the Railroad Urban Renewal Area. **Resolution 20374**
D. Resolution establishing a Citizen Conservation Board for the City of Helena. **Resolution 20375**
E. Helena Visitor and Commerce Center Lease Agreements.
F. Neighborhood Center Lease Agreement.

Discussion Commissioner Ellison said that he did not have a lot of concern about item D, Resolution establishing a Citizen Conservation Board, but did want to have a conversation about that item. Commissioner Ellison noted that when the discussion regarding establishing such a commission had begun, he was not sure if Helena needed another board. However, Commissioner Ellison said that after listening to arguments made by Commissioner Haladay and after having reviewed a Climate Change Report produced by the Task Force from 2009, he felt that it was an important issue. Commissioner Ellison said that the Citizen Conservation Board should include a healthcare professional, a professional engineer, and an educator from an Earth Sciences sector. Commissioner Ellison noted that he did not have objections to those already listed as members who would comprise the Board; however, Commissioner Ellison suggested either to add to the size of those already listed or to replace the student leaders.

Commissioner Haladay expressed his agreement.
Commissioner Haladay noted that adding more members would bring the number up to 14 people but that that it would be fine.
Commissioner Farris-Olsen also agreed that adding three more members would be acceptable.
Mayor Smith suggested adding three more positions to the Conservation Board.

Public Comment on Motion to Amend Mayor Smith asked for public comment, none was received.

**Communications
From Commissioners**

COMMUNICATIONS/PROPOSALS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Farris-Olsen thanked Director of Parks and Recreation Department Amy Teegarden for having the creek running on the walking mall.

Commissioner Noonan commented on passing the TIF Advisory Board for the Railroad Urban Renewal Area and noted that it was an important step for all the things that had been happening. Commissioner Noonan congratulated the city citizens from that district who have been working on it, the city and county staff, and the EPA for having accomplished it.

**Report of the City
Attorney**

REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

There was nothing to report on.

**Report of the City
Manager**

REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Alles said that he invited Fire Chief Emert to explain the Insurance Service Inspection (ISO) report. Fire Chief Mark Emert provided background information on ISO, as well as reported on the most recent ISO in Helena.

The City of Helena and the Fire Department undergo an ISO once every five years. This inspection aids insurance companies in setting rates for residents and businesses. On April 4, 2017, the Insurance Service Inspection began in Helena. Inspected areas included an in-depth review of Fire Department operations, staffing, automatic and mutual aid agreements, front-line and reserve equipment, the training program, etc. This was a city-wide inspection rather than only a Fire Department inspection. At previous inspections the City was rated "Class 4", which is a common score for cities of the same size as Helena across the nation. On June 26, 2017, the results from the ISO inspection showed that Helena received a new ranking: "Class 3" within the city boundaries and "Class 3X" within the West Side Fire Service area. The significance of this rating is that Helena's citizens should see a tangible result from this inspection. By increasing the city's rating, there is an opportunity for the rate to decrease.

It is extremely difficult to obtain a "Class 2" or "Class 1" rating. Those ratings are usually reserved for much larger cities that have the funding and the personnel that they can dedicate in making those efforts to happen.

In closing, Fire Chief Emert expressed his appreciation and gratitude to those who were involved in the preparation for the inspection process. It is a result of many departments working together.

Mayor Smith asked Fire Chief to carry the Commission's gratitude and thanks to all those departments that he worked with during this process. Mayor Smith also thanked City Manager for establishing and maintaining cooperative ethic within the city and in its various departments.

**Report from the
Helena Citizens**

REPORT FROM THE HELENA CITIZENS' COUNCIL

HCC Chair Spaeth noted that a member of the Police Department participates in each HCC meeting for answering questions, but tonight Fire Chief Emert volunteered to have a member of the Fire Department at the HCC meetings. Mr. Spaeth expressed his appreciation.

Mr. Spaeth also reported that there are 6 vacancies in 6 different districts in the Helena Citizens' Council. Mr. Spaeth encouraged to apply for membership with HCC.

Mr. Spaeth also praised the work that the Road Department has been doing.

Mayor Smith said that tomorrow, at their weekly meeting, Mayor and City Clerk Debbie Havens would have a discussion regarding how to spread the word about filling the vacancies within the HCC.

***Public
Communications***

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

No comments received.

Mayor Smith acknowledged seeing representatives from Montana Conservation Corps and thanked them for their work and for joining the City Commission meeting.

***Meetings of
Interest***

MEETINGS OF INTEREST

The next Administrative Meeting is August 16, 2017; and the next Commission Meeting is August 21, 2017.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

/S/ JAMES E. SMITH
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/S/ DEBBIE HAVENS
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION