



**Helena Citizens' Council (HCC)
Minutes
May 27th, 2020 7:00pm
City/County Building - Room 326
Via Zoom- Open to the Public**

Members Present: A quorum was present (7 members from 4 different districts = quorum)

District 1: John Andrew, Patricia Christian, Timothy Chisman, Diana Hammer

District 2: Meg Bishop, Nancy Perry

District 3: Sumner Sharpe, Margaret Strachan, Gary Dalton

District 4: Dylan Klapmeier,

District 5: TJ Lehman, Ryan Schwochert

District 6: Steve Allen, Ben Kennedy

District 7: Bob Habeck, Denise Roth Barber, Chelly Hasquet

Other Attendees: Dr. G

Call to order:

Chair Dylan called the meeting to order at 7:05

Approval of February 2020 Minutes –motion was made and seconded to approve the February minutes. Motion passed.

Sumner Sharpe presented and reviewed the HCC's Review and Recommendation to the Commission Re: FY 21 Preliminary Budget. Each HCC member had received and been given time to review this document before the meeting. See attached document.

HCC member comments:

Move outstanding questions to read as recommendations/statements.

Agreed with free parking through the Christmas Season.

Important to have required minimums/reserves for both the Sewer and General Funds.

Promote Water Conservation as part of a publicity campaign.

Urban Forestry needs a 10 - year plan.

TIF should have a discussion of its main purpose for development of big projects. A future plan should be detailed.

Educating our Constituents:

People in Helena should know more about TIF and be informed of how the funds are going to be utilized.

Sidewalk, Sewer and Solar fund programs; the public should know about them. We should post information about them on our webpage.

One HCC member was signed up for and hoping to utilize the Sidewalk Fund program, but after submitting all the necessary paperwork, has not heard a word from them.

Helena does show a need for a covered swimming pool. Surveys done via www.helenasports.org

The majority of HCC members agree that the Civic Center should remain more open in the summer months for more revenue. It should research installing Solar Panels and AC.

One HCC member mentioned that most people in his district are concerned mainly about street and road work/improvements. When looking at the budget, it is hard to tell what are the priorities within the city for street improvements.

A motion was made by Nancy Perry to approve the HCC Budget Recommendation Document FY21. Time was provided for open discussion – there were no major changes or questions to the document. The motion was seconded by Margaret Strachan. Motion was approved through unanimous consent.

Guest: Dr. G spoke about the City's need for an organizational assessment evidenced by all the positions still open and the psychological safety of the city's employees. His company submitted a proposal/RFP to the Commission to conduct such an assessment, but has never received a reply.

Discussion about future topics for a possible meeting via Zoom on June 24th:

- City Manager recruitment
- Fire Lands Management – Amy Teegarden
- Vote on EAB resolution
- City's plan in relation to Covid-19

Meeting was Adjourned at 8:20