



**CITY OF HELENA
Planning Commission
January 13, 2026 - Minutes
Recording Available Upon Request**

**Members Present: Lucy Richards; Mike Newhouse
Members Absent: Maddi Petrosky**

Staff Present: Christopher Brink, Ellie Ray, April Sparks

Call to Order and Roll Call

(0:00:02) Chair Richards called the meeting to order, and roll call was taken. A quorum of two members was established.

Approval of Minutes

(0:00:35) Chair Richards brought forward minutes from December 4, 2025 for approval. The minutes were approved as presented.

Discussion

A. MLUPA Compliance Update

(0:01:34) Director Brink gave a brief overview of where the City is with compliance with the MLUPA, and what is planned for the Planning Commission in the short term and how it will exist going forward.

(0:10:01) A question was asked about the terms to be served by the current members of the Commission. Director Brink clarified that the language in the resolution would be from the time of the adoption of the resolution, allowing all members to serve in three year terms, and current members will not need to apply for reappointment for the last year of their current terms.

(0:12:21) Director Brink then introduced proposed changes to the By Laws for the Commission, including recognition of the new number of members, quorum size, changing roles and responsibilities, definition of Planning Administrator, and changing the timing of the meeting to occupy the date currently held by the Zoning Commission. Commissioners signaled their desire to move the meetings to the proposed date. It was also noted that a former member was still listed on the By Laws draft.

(0:16:49) Director Brink gave a broad overview of the work the Planning Commission will be undertaking in the next 18 months related to MLUPA.



B. Zoning and Subdivision Regulation Project Update

(0:20:55) Ms. Ray briefly went over a memo from Houseal Lavigne staff outlining where the current code needs to be updated to be in compliance with MLUPA by the May deadline. Ms. Ray asked the Commissioners about their availability for a work session in the following week to go over some of the proposed changes prior to the public hearing in February. It was decided to hold the work session on Thursday, January 22 at 5:30 PM. There was no public comment.

Meetings of Interest / Announcements

(0:31:43) It was noted the next scheduled meeting is February 5.

Adjournment

(0:34:00) The meeting was adjourned.