



HELENA CITY COUNCIL

December 9, 2024

**MINUTES HELENA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 9, 2024**

The Council of the City of Helena met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday night, December 9, 2024, in the Helena Municipal Building at 6:00 P.M., regular place and time for holding said meetings.

Council President Alice Lobell called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Matt Herndon led the prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Teen Council members Anna Kate Joseph and Brandon Williams.

Roll Call

Present: Alice Lobell, Chris Willis, and Laura Joseph

Members: Alice Lobell, Chris Willis, Laura Joseph, Harold Woodman

Absent: Harold Woodman

Visitors: Mayor Puckett, City Attorney Brian Hayes, Fire Captain Ed Lindsey, Police Chief Brad Flynn, Jason Poe, DJ Jones, and others (list attached)

Council President Alice Lobell declared a quorum present, and meeting was open for business.

5. Minutes Approved/Corrected from Prior Meeting(s)

Chris Willis made a motion to approve the Pre-Council minutes November 25, 2024, with a second by **Alice Lobell**.

AYE: Chris Willis, Laura Joseph.

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Laura Joseph

Motion carried.

6. Minutes Approved/Corrected from Prior Meeting(s)

Chris Willis made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes November 25, 2024, with a second by **Laura Joseph**.

Roll Call:

AYE: Chris Willis, Laura Joseph, Alice Lobell.

NAY: None

Motion carried.

7. Revenue Report: Bill Payment

Chris Willis made a motion to approve the bills with a second by **Laura Joseph**.

AYE: Chris Willis, Alice Lobell, Laura Joseph.

NAY: None

Motion carried.

8. Municipal Operations Report from Mayor J. Brian Puckett:

None

9. Acceptance of Council Member Chris VanCleave Resignation, Council President Pro Tempore Resignation – per Letter Submitted to Council on 11/25/2024

VanCleave's resignation letter was accepted by all present council members.

10. Appointment of Council Pro Tempore

Alice Lobell appointed Laura Joseph to serve as Acting President Pro Tempore, until a fifth council member can be appointed to hold a full vote for Council President Pro Tempore.

11. Approve/Deny – Council Pro Tempore Appointment

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Laura Joseph as Acting Council President Pro Tempore; with a second by **Alice Lobell**.

AYE: Chris Willis, Alice Lobell.

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Laura Joseph

Motion carried.

12. Appointment of Council Liaison Vacancies – Helena Utilities Board, Beautification Board, Economic Development Board

Council liaison vacancies include the Utilities Board, Beautification Board, and Diversity & Inclusion Board. The Economic Development Board was listed but has been dissolved into the Industrial Development Board. Council has decided to hold off on liaison appointments until the new council member is appointed.

13. Appointment of Grievance Committee Member

Moved to special called meeting on 12/18/2024.

14. Approve/Deny – Grievance Committee Member Appointment

Moved to special called meeting on 12/18/2024.

15. Approve/Deny – Utilities Resolution 11182024A – Resolution of the Utility Board of the City of Helena Creating By-Laws Establishing the Operational Structure and Procedures of the Utility Board

Chris Willis made a motion to approve the Utilities Resolution 11182024A – Resolution of the Utility Board of the City of Helena Creating By-Laws Establishing the Operational Structure and Procedures of the Utility Board; with a second by **Laura Joseph**.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Alice Lobell, Laura Joseph, and Chris Willis

NAY: None

Motion carried.

16. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 999-2024A – Annexation – Kathy Townsend – 163 Pleasant Place – 12 8 28 0 000 009.002

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve Ordinance 999-2024A; with a second by **Chris Willis**.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Alice Lobell, Laura Joseph, and Chris Willis

NAY: None

Motion carried.

17. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1000-2024A – Annexation – David & Lois Weaver – 8901 Bluff Ridge Road – 42 00 32 2 000 004.000

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Ordinance 1000-2024A; with a second by **Laura Joseph**.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Alice Lobell, Chris Willis, and Laura Joseph

NAY: None

Motion carried.

18. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1001-2024A – Annexation – David & Lois Weaver – 8885 Bluff Ridge Road – 42 00 32 2 000 003.000

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve Ordinance 1001-2024A; with a second by **Chris Willis**.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Alice Lobell, Chris Willis, and Laura Joseph

NAY: None

Motion carried.

19. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1002-2024A – Annexation – Devin Harmon – 8891 Bluff Ridge Road – 42 00 32 2 000 003.002

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Ordinance 1002-2024A; with a second by **Laura Joseph**.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Alice Lobell, Chris Willis, Laura Joseph

NAY: None

Motion carried.

20. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1003-2024A – Annexation – Debra McCraw – 8927 Bluff Ridge Road – 42 00 32 2 000 004.001

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve Ordinance 1003-2024A; with a second by **Chris Willis**.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Alice Lobell, Chris Willis, and Laura Joseph

NAY: None

Motion carried.

21. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1004-2024 – Requirements to Work Within the Public Right of Way

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve Ordinance 1004-2024A; with a second by **Chris Willis**.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Alice Lobell, Chris Willis, and Laura Joseph

NAY: None

Motion carried.

24. Council Comments

Harold Woodman: absent

Laura Joseph: We have a lot going on with the City between now and Christmas – make sure you're following along on Facebook. We have a lot of opportunities to serve Helena with these board openings, and we need you. I really hope that you will consider these opportunities, or if you know of someone better suited, let them know about these opportunities.

Chris Willis: I wanted to tell Beautification Board and Rebekah Henderson congrats on the Tree Lighting event and thank you for all your hard work, it went really well and we had a great turnout.

Alice Lobell: Both the Tree Lighting and the Christmas Parade went really well, and I hope everyone had a good time and enjoyed those events. I'd like to read the details for the public to submit questions for the council interviews. Per City Attorney, Brian Hayes, "This will be an open meeting, but is not a public hearing. This means the only questions posed to the interviewing candidates will be done by Council members. However, the Council would like public input on the questions to be posed to the candidates. To accomplish this, members of the public are encouraged to email questions to the City Clerk no later than December 13th, 2024, at 12:00PM (Noon). Any submitted questions should be about policy, qualifications, governing philosophy, and strategic planning ideas the candidates have for the City. Any questions outside the scope of these guidelines will not be included in the panel questions posed to the candidates.

The Council questions, including any relevant and appropriate questions submitted by the Public, will be provided to the Candidates in advance of their interviews. The Council, as the governing body of the City has the sole responsibility and discretion to fill this vacancy, and has chosen this open meeting interview process to gather information prior to voting on the filling of the Place 2 vacancy."

25. Adjourn

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

ATTEST:



Madison Harris
City Clerk

SIGNED:



Alice Lobell
Council President

