



HELENA CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

June 9, 2025, 5:00PM

PRE-COUNCIL: Work Session

A discussion and review of City Council agenda items, projects, department, committee, and board liaison reports, and task assigned for City operations and business.

All Members Present.

1. Review 06/09/2025 Agenda Items

- AP/Bill Payments
- 05/12/2025, 05/20/2025, and 06/04/2025 Meeting Minutes Review

2. Update from Council Boards and Committee Business

Old Town Live is coming up this weekend, more information is posted on their Facebook page. Planning & Zoning will be meeting next Thursday, June 19th – City Hall will be closed for Juneteenth holiday, but P&Z will still meet that day. Library summer reading programs have started, make sure to visit the Library and City Hall for their programs. Farmers Market has had better turn out the past few weeks; started low due to all of the rain we've had. Helena Historical Preservation Committee discussed getting the trail back open to the Billy Gould coke mines and mentioned that that may be brought up in the next fiscal year budget. The Diversity & Inclusion Board recently had a meeting and would like to see about making their Helena United Festival bigger and better in the future. The TAG Board will appoint a new board member tonight to fill the vacancy. Teen Council interviews are ongoing for the next school year. The Fire Department presented a quote from FERNO for power stretchers, wanting to get Council's permission to lock in before prices go up July 1st; the funds will not come from General Fund, rather will be funded directly from the Emergency Medical Services/Transport account. Council all agreed that it was a good decision to lock in with the lower rate now, even though payment will not be due until the order comes in, which could be later this fall.

3. Mayor's Update

The three police cars that were ordered have arrived and are being outfitted and striped. Tomorrow we will be having a blood drive across the street as part of the World Police and Fire Games. Old Town Live is this Saturday with Adam Doleac headlining. The notice of election has been posted and is on the City's website as well. Qualifications begin tomorrow at 8AM with the City Clerk and will run until the 24th at 5PM.

4. Discussion of Dedication of Room in New City Hall in Jack Gray's Memory

Alice Lobell wanted to introduce the topic since Jack Gray has been such a staple to Helena and its growth. Jack volunteered on the Planning & Zoning board and all around the City for years. Discussion was brought up to potentially name a conference room at the new City Hall after him, but Laura Joseph and Hal Woodman suggested to run the idea by Jack's wife before anything is decided; Alice Lobell states she will reach out to her about the idea.

5. Discussion of Resolution 06092025B – SAFER Grant Program Funding

Fire Chief Chris Miller presented information and documentation for the SAFER Grant Program.

6. Update on 58/17 Turn Lane – Laura Joseph requested an update on the turn lane project. Mayor Puckett states that they are in the right-of-way acquisition process and it should be bid out in the next couple of weeks, with the goal for the entire project to be completed by the end of summer. All expenses paid out of General Fund will be reimbursed by the Rebuild Alabama account.

7. Confirmation of 06/23/2025 Meeting date.

There being no further business, the work session was dismissed at 5:24 pm.

ATTEST:

Madison Harris
City Clerk

SIGNED:

Alice Lobell
Council President



HELENA CITY COUNCIL

June 9, 2025

**MINUTES HELENA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
June 9, 2025**

The Council of the City of Helena met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday night, June 9, 2025, 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.

Coach Sanders, Helena High School Softball Coach, led the prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Wyatt Toole.

4. Roll Call

Present: Alice Lobell, Andy Healy, Chris Willis, Laura Joseph, Harold Woodman

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

Absent:

Visitors: City Attorney Brian Hayes, Fire Chief Chris Miller, Police Chief Mike Wood, Dan Dearing, Jason Poe, and others (see attached list)

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 and regular meeting minutes from May 12, 2025, with a second by **Andy Healy**.

AYE: Alice Lobell, Laura Joseph, Andy Healy, Chris Willis, Harold Woodman

NAY: None

Motion carried.

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

Chris Willis made a motion to approve the special-called meeting minutes from May 20, 2025, with a second by **Andy Healy**.

AYE: Laura Joseph, Andy Healy, Chris Willis

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Alice Lobell, Harold Woodman

Motion carried.

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

Chris Willis made a motion to approve the special-called work session minutes from June 4, 2025, with a second by **Andy Healy**.

AYE: Alice Lobell, Laura Joseph, Andy Healy, Chris Willis

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Harold Woodman

Motion carried.

8. Revenue Report: Bill Payment

Harold Woodman made a motion to approve the bills with a second by **Laura Joseph**.

AYE: Alice Lobell, Andy Healy, Laura Joseph, Chris Willis, Harold Woodman

NAY: None

Motion carried.

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

Congratulations to the softball team! The three police cars that were ordered have arrived and are being outfitted and striped. Tomorrow we will be having a blood drive across the street as part of the World Police and Fire Games. Old Town

Live is this Saturday with Adam Doleac headlining. The notice of election has been posted and is on the City's website as well. Qualifications begin tomorrow at 8AM with the City Clerk and will run until the 24th at 5PM.

10. Recognition – Honoring the Helena High School Softball Team for Winning the Alabama State Championship

11. Resolution 06092025A – Recognizing Wyatt Toole's Achievement of Eagle Scout

12. Presentation of Annual School Donations

The City of Helena presented annual donations of \$25,000 per school to Helena Elementary School, Helena Intermediate School, Helena Middle School, and Helena High School.

13. Appoint William Norwood to TAG Board

14. Resolution 06092025B – SAFER Grant Program Funding

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Resolution 06092025B – SAFER Grant Program Funding, with a second by **Harold Woodman**.

AYE: Alice Lobell, Andy Healy, Laura Joseph, Chris Willis, Harold Woodman

NAY: None

Motion carried.

15. Approve/Deny – Budget Amendment – Library – \$23,000.00 for Two New HVAC Units

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Budget Amendment – Library – \$23,000.00 for Two New HVAC Units, with a second by **Laura Joseph**.

AYE: Alice Lobell, Andy Healy, Laura Joseph, Chris Willis, Harold Woodman

NAY: None

Motion carried.

16. Approve/Deny – Conditional Use – 15 Metrock Circle – Hybrid Cheer of Birmingham – Current Zoning is M2, Approved by Planning & Zoning on 05/15/2025

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve Conditional Use – 15 Metrock Circle – Hybrid Cheer of Birmingham – Approved by Planning & Zoning on 05/15/2025; with a second by **Andy Healy**.

AYE: Alice Lobell, Laura Joseph, Andy Healy, Harold Woodman, Chris Willis

NAY: None

Motion carried.

17. First Reading - Ordinance 1013-2025 – Naming Absentee Elections Manager and Establishing Compensation for Absentee Elections Manager for Municipal Elections

18. Period for Public Comment

Residents wanting to speak will sign-in with City Clerk prior to the meeting and will be given three minutes to speak.

19. Council Comments

Harold Woodman: Wyatt, congratulations on earning Eagle Scout and keep being awesome! Thank you to the principals, we really appreciate you leading the schools. Congratulations to the softball team.

Chris Willis: Thank you to the principals, and congratulations again to the softball team.

Andy Healy: Thank you, principals, for coming out for all you do for our kids. Also, to the softball team, my daughter wanted to congratulate you guys – she also followed the games very closely and was invested.

Laura Joseph: Reminder that the library's summer reading program has started with lots of programs and events for everyone. Planning & Zoning will still meet on the 19th at 6PM. Old Town Live is this Saturday with Adam Doleac, please come out and support. These concerts are always a fun time, and the board works hard to get these events together every year.

Alice Lobell: I'll echo everyone's congratulations, and also a reminder for the blood drive tomorrow from 10AM-6PM.

20. Adjourn

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.

ATTEST:



Madison Harris
City Clerk

SIGNED:



Alice Lobell
Council President