



HELENA CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

July 14, 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 except Harold Woodman.

1. Review 07/14/2025 Agenda Items

- AP/Bill Payments
- 06/23/2025 and 07/09/2025 Meeting Minutes Review

2. Update from Council Boards and Committee Business

Teen Council is having their movie night this Thursday at the HHS football field for teens and will be showing the Minecraft Movie. Diversity & Inclusion and TAG Boards applications were received and are being reviewed by those boards, per Andy Healy. Healy will appoint the new board members once those are decided, possibly at the next Council meeting. The library's summer reading program for kids has concluded and seemed to have a great turnout for the events. Planning & Zoning will meet this Thursday, and as of now there is nothing on the agenda. HOT Board had a great turnout for the 4th of July event and has also worked with both the Parks and Public Works departments in getting some donated trees planted at the Amphitheater.

3. Mayor's Update

Mayor not in attendance.

4. Review Applications for D&I and TAG Board

Andy Healy has spoken to both boards, and they will be reviewing the applications received and making a recommendation to Healy for Council appointment.

5. Discussion/Review of Ordinance 309-82 – Second Amendment – Amending Sales Tax Ordinance

City attorney Brian Hayes spoke regarding the changes that were made since the last Council meeting, some were typos, and some were incorrect percentages in sections that have since been corrected, meaning that we will have to have another first reading tonight. The effective date was also updated to November 1st to give Admin and Revenue time to notify taxpayers, the state, etc.

6. Confirmation of 07/28/2025 Meeting date.

There being no further business, the work session was dismissed at 5:15 pm.

ATTEST:

Madison Harris
City Clerk

SIGNED:

Alice Lobell
Council President



HELENA CITY COUNCIL

July 14, 2025

MINUTES HELENA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING July 14, 2025

The Council of the City of Helena met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday night, July 14, 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 6:01 P.M.
Phillip Wolfe, student pastor from the Station Church, led the prayer.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tom Stanbury.

4. Roll Call

Present: Alice Lobell, Andy Healy, Chris Willis, Laura Joseph
Members: Alice Lobell, Andy Healy, Chris Willis, Laura Joseph, Harold Woodman
Absent: Harold Woodman
Visitors: City Attorney Brian Hayes, Fire Chief Chris Miller, Bill Miller, 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 June 23, 2025, with a second by **Andy Healy**.

AYE: Alice Lobell, Andy Healy, Chris Willis
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Laura Joseph
Motion carried.

6. Laura Joseph made a motion to approve the Pre-Council minutes and regular meeting minutes from July 9, 2025, with a second by **Chris Willis**.

AYE: Alice Lobell, Andy Healy, Chris Willis, Laura Joseph
NAY: None
Motion carried.

7. Revenue Report: Bill Payment

Chris Willis made a motion to approve the bills with a second by **Andy Healy**.

AYE: Alice Lobell, Andy Healy, Chris Willis, Laura Joseph
NAY: None
Motion carried.

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

Mayor not in attendance.

9. Approve/Deny – Resolution 07142025 – Dedication of Streets – Horseshoe Ridge

Chris Willis asked to remove from Agenda tonight, the streets are not ready at this time. Building Official will get with the builder on more information before the streets are dedicated to the City.

10. Approve/Deny – Parking License Agreement between the City of Columbiana Housing Authority and the City of Helena

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve Parking License Agreement between the City of Columbiana Housing Authority and the City of Helena, with a second by **Chris Willis**.

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

NAY: None
Motion carried.

11. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1014-2025A – Annexation – Mark and Jerri Vining – 4886 War Eagle Drive – 42 00 31 3 000 001.002

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Ordinance 1014-2025A – Annexation – Mark and Jerri Vining – 4886 War Eagle Drive – 42 00 31 3 000 001.002; with a second by **Laura Joseph**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

12. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1015-2025A – Annexation – Deborah Bostic – 4822 War Eagle Drive – 42 00 31 2 000 001.019

Andy Healy made a motion to approve Ordinance 1015-2025A – Annexation – Deborah Bostic – 4822 War Eagle Drive – 42 00 31 2 000 001.019; with a second by **Chris Willis**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

13. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1016-2025A – Annexation – Janice and Alan Wheatcroft – 4830 War Eagle Drive – 42 00 31 2 000 001.018

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve Ordinance 1016-2025A – Annexation – Janice and Alan Wheatcroft – 4830 War Eagle Drive – 42 00 31 2 000 001.018; with a second by **Andy Healy**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

14. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1017-2025A – Annexation – Jason and Michelle Jones – 4814 War Eagle Drive – 42 00 31 2 000 001.017

Andy Healy made a motion to approve Ordinance 1017-2025A – Annexation – Jason and Michelle Jones – 4814 War Eagle Drive – 42 00 31 2 000 001.017; with a second by **Chris Willis**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

15. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1018-2025A – Annexation – Jason Jones – 4810 War Eagle Drive – 42 00 31 1 000 004.000

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve Ordinance 1018-2025A – Annexation – Jason Jones – 4810 War Eagle Drive – 42 00 31 1 000 004.000; with a second by **Chris Willis**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

16. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1019-2025A – Annexation – Richard Vining – 8741 Bluff Ridge Road – 42 00 31 1 000 002.000

Andy Healy made a motion to approve Ordinance 1019-2025A – Annexation – Richard Vining – 8741 Bluff Ridge Road – 42 00 31 1 000 002.000; with a second by **Chris Willis**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

17. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1020-2025A – Annexation – Mark and Jerri Vining – 8735 Bluff Ridge Road – 42 00 31 1 000 002.010

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Ordinance 1020-2025A – Annexation – Mark and Jerri Vining – 8735 Bluff Ridge Road – 42 00 31 1 000 002.010; with a second by **Andy Healy**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

18. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1021-2025A – Annexation – Richard Vining – 8765 Bluff Ridge Road – 42 00 31 1 000 002.011

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve Ordinance 1021-2025A – Annexation – Richard Vining – 8765 Bluff Ridge Road – 42 00 31 1 000 002.011; with a second by **Chris Willis**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

19. Approve/Deny – Budget Amendment – Admin – \$19,000.00 for Proposed Parking Lot at 215 1st Avenue East

Laura Joseph made a motion for immediate consideration for Budget Amendment – Admin – \$19,000.00 for Proposed Parking Lot at 215 1st Avenue East; with a second by **Chris Willis**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve Budget Amendment – Admin – \$19,000.00 for Proposed Parking Lot at 215 1st Avenue East; with a second by **Chris Willis**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

21. First Reading – Ordinance 309-82 Second Amendment – Amending Sales Tax Ordinance

Updates read by Chris Willis, and public comment was taken. Council comments RE: Ordinance 309-82 Second Amendment:

Andy Healy: I would like to ask who currently has signing authority to approve invoices and purchases for the New City Hall project. If it is the Mayor, I would like to introduce a resolution to halt spending on the project until the Council can get an updated project report from Volkert. If it is the Council with final approval, I'd like to request the City Clerk hold all payments until the Council receives the updated project report from Volkert that was requested at the last Council meeting. If the next Council wants to repeal this ordinance 3-5 years down the road, they can do that if they so decide. They can adjust or amend any of the existing ordinances.

Chris Willis: We all agree that this is necessary for the City where the City is right now. I would like to make a motion for immediate consideration tonight.

Laura Joseph: We want to make sure that the City is being responsible with these funds and that we as the Council are being good stewards of the City's money. I hate that we need this, but in my opinion we do need this to ensure the long term health of the City.

Alice Lobell: I agree with Laura and Chris. I have been amazed for the past few years what the City is able to accomplish with the budget that we have had available.

Chris Willis made a motion for immediate consideration for Ordinance 309-82 Second Amendment – Amending Sales Tax Ordinance; with a second by **Andy Healy**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Ordinance 309-82 Second Amendment – Amending Sales Tax Ordinance; with a second by **Andy Healy**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

22. 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. Public comment was taken.

Alice Lobell invited Chief Miller to speak regarding the large commercial fire this past weekend in Brierfield. Multiple agencies were called for mutual aid on this fire; this commercial fire would have given a city as large as Birmingham problems, let alone a smaller community like Brierfield. Chief Miller states that there was some damage to one of our tanker trucks, and some firefighters received minor burns similar to a sunburn, but it could have been a lot worse, and they're thankful there were no fatalities.

23. Council Comments

Harold Woodman: Absent.

Andy Healy: I have been a recipient of Mr. Stanbury's questions, and as always I appreciate his comments and questions tonight. I also appreciate all of you in attendance for coming out, and I look forward to our next meeting.

Chris Willis: The pop-up splash pad event with the Fire Department and the Utilities looked like it went really well and was a lot of fun for the kids, looked like we had a great turn out.

Laura Joseph: Planning & Zoning is meeting this Thursday, and at this time there are no items on the agenda. The library summer reading program for the youth has concluded, but the adult program will be starting soon. The library will have a Japanese flying fish craft on Monday. On the topic of the sales tax ordinance, I hate that we're having to do this, and I cannot

say that enough, but I feel this is the most responsible option for the City and its long term health at this time. And now I'd like to invite John Barnes from the HOT Board to give an update on the Board and events.

- **John Barnes, HOT Board:** The 4th of July event was a massive success, our private security was counting and lost count after 11,500 in attendance, we estimate that we had over 12,000 in attendance. This was easily our biggest event yet, and the vendors did very well also. We've also been working on planting the donated trees in the park with Parks and Public Works departments and making sure that those trees thrive. Thank you guys for approving the parking agreement tonight, it will be extremely beneficial to not only the HOT Board and our events, but will also serve as more parking for those businesses in Old Town, and we've already had several people asking for updates on the parking lot. As mentioned previously, Vulcan will be donating the gravel for the parking lot.

Laura Joseph: I also wanted to ask about enacting a moratorium on annexations for the rest of this term so our City services can focus on providing for these new residents. Chief Miller and City Clerk advised that the City will not be accepting any more annexations right now due to the Election, and we shouldn't see any more annexations before the new term takes office.

Alice Lobell: Thank you to the department heads for all of their hard work, they don't get enough recognition for the work they put in. Reminder for the Teen Council movie night this Thursday at the HHS football field, we'll be showing the Minecraft movie. Our teens enjoy having more events directed for them, and we hope to do more events like this.

24. Adjourn

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

ATTEST:



Madison Harris
City Clerk

SIGNED:



Alice Lobell
Council President