



HELENA CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

July 28, 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 07/28/2025 Agenda Items

- AP/Bill Payments
- 07/14/2025 Meeting Minutes Review

2. Update from Council Boards and Committee Business

TAG Board and D&I Board will each appoint a new member tonight. Farmers Market just had their last market this past weekend, and are wanting to add two additional members at the next Council meetings; there was an increase in the rate of the storage unit, which will be factored into the next budget. Teen Council had their movie night a couple of weeks ago and it went well and had a good turnout; thanks to the high school for help setting up the event.

3. Mayor's Update

The Hillsboro trail is currently being repaved where old gas lines were removed by Kinder Morgan, and Kinder Morgan will be paying for the repaving. The right turn lane project at Hwy 17 and Hwy 58 will unfortunately not be finished before school starts back next week as we are waiting on AT&T to move a utility pole.

4. Discussion/Review of New City Hall Project Timeline and Expenses to Date

Bob Morgan and Jake Baker, project managers from Volkert, here to present update to the Council.

5. Review of Library FY25 Budget and Discussion of FY26 Budget

Dan Dearing to present to Council.

6. Discussion to Purchase Door Prop for Training for Police and Fire Department from One Cent Funds

Chief Chris Miller to present to Council, wanting to purchase a door prop to practice breaching doors. This equipment will be used by both Fire Department and Police Department, and is requested to come from the One Cent Funds as it will benefit not only the Fire Department and Police Department, but also the Fire Explorers, Police Explorers, SROs, and will be beneficial to the schools as well. The total cost without shipping is around \$13,200.00. Laura Joseph and Hal Woodman both hesitant to use One Cent Funds for the total cost; suggested that it can also be split between One Cent and Capital Outlay, or One Cent/Police Department/Fire Department. General Consensus is for the latter, and will split 50% to One Cent, 25% to Fire Department, and 25% to Police Department; and Fire Department and Police Department will adjust with budget amendments at the end of this fiscal year.

7. Discussion of Social Media Contact Policy for Businesses

Harold Woodman brought up, and stated that he spoke to Attorney Brian Hayes and will be tabling this for now until Woodman can look into this some more.

8. Discussion of Ordinance for Helena Police Department

Laura Joseph states that this ordinance is a potential for the City to be proactive by passing this. According to Attorney Brian Hayes, multiple other cities have this ordinance relating to Failure to Obey Lawful Order; this would be protection for the City and the Police Department, and is highly recommended from higher courts to put something like this into effect. Can set for a first reading at the next Council meeting if all agree.

9. Discussion of Designation of Signatory for Execution of Warrants Ordinance

Laura Joseph wanted to bring this back to revisit and see what Council is feeling as far as going forward or not at this time. Alice Lobell reminded all that Council currently sees and approves all bills currently prior to payment, and also expressed concerns from Accounts Payable as far as timeliness if a designee can only come in once a week to sign checks. City Clerk advised Council that Accounts Payable is currently printing checks at least twice a week, sometimes more depending on which accounts are needing checks cut, current events schedules, invoice demand, etc. Andy Healy mentioned possibly

having two days a week to help alleviate that issue. Chris Willis stated that he feels that this is a very permanent solution to a very temporary problem, and would be something that the new Council would potentially need to recall after they take office. City Clerk expressed that the current wording of 5 days to swap everything over would be next to impossible, especially during an election season; 30 days would be much better to implement. Mayor Puckett advised Council that he gave them all a weekly calendar where each Council member could rotate sitting in with the Mayor to approve purchase orders with him before they approve them at the following Council meeting. Per Laura Joseph, will remove from the agenda tonight and have Council revisit the weekly calendar and visits with the Mayor to look over purchase orders.

10. Confirmation of 08/11/2025 Meeting date.

There being no further business, the work session was dismissed at 5:59 pm.

ATTEST:



Madison Harris
City Clerk

SIGNED:



Alice Lobell
Council President



HELENA CITY COUNCIL

July 28, 2025

MINUTES HELENA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING July 28, 2025

The Council of the City of Helena met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday night, July 28, 2025, in the Helena Municipal Building at 6:00 P.M., the regular place and time for holding said meetings.

Council President Alice Lobell called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

Council President Alice Lobell led the prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Captain Charles Hudson.

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, 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)

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve the Pre-Council minutes and regular meeting minutes from July 14, 2025, with a second by **Chris Willis**.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Harold Woodman

Motion carried.

6. Revenue Report: Bill Payment

Chris Willis made a motion to approve the bills with a second by **Harold Woodman**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

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

The Hillsboro trail is currently being repaved where old gas lines were removed by Kinder Morgan, and Kinder Morgan will be paying for the repaving. The right turn lane project at Hwy 17 and Hwy 58 will unfortunately not be finished before school starts next week as we are waiting on AT&T to move a utility pole. Also, congratulations to Captain Charles Hudson on his promotion tonight, very well-deserved. School will be starting next week, be mindful of the extra traffic and give yourself some extra time in the mornings. Thank you to the Fire Department and Police Department as they had a few tough calls over the weekend that they handled extremely well.

8. Police Department Promotion – Lt. Charles Hudson to Captain

Presented by Police Chief Mike Wood.

9. Approve/Deny – Appointment of New Member to Diversity & Inclusion Board

Andy Healy made a motion to approve New Member to Diversity & Inclusion Board, to include Stephanie Gottlieb; with a second by **Laura Joseph**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

10. Approve/Deny – Appointment of New Member to TAG Board

Andy Healy made a motion to approve New Member to TAG Board, to include Macie Frederick; with a second by **Chris Willis**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

11. Approve/Deny – Resolution 07282025 – Declaring Certain Property Listed Under the Assets of the Helena Fire Department

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Resolution 07282025, with a second by **Andy Healy**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

12. Approve/Deny – Final Plat for Wiltshire at Hillsboro, with a favorable recommendation from Planning & Zoning on 05/15/2025

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve Final Plat for Wiltshire at Hillsboro, with a favorable recommendation from Planning & Zoning on 05/15/2025, with a second by **Harold Woodman**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

13. First Reading – Ordinance 1022-2025 – Designation of Signatory for Execution of Warrants

Harold Woodman made a motion to remove First Reading – Ordinance 1022-2025 – Designation of Signatory for Execution of Warrants, with a second by **Andy Healy**.

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

NAY: None

Motion to remove item carried.

14. Period for Public Comment – 3 Minutes per Resident, to Sign in with City Clerk between Work Session and Council Meeting

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.

16. Council Comments

Harold Woodman: Congratulations to Captain Hudson, your promotion is well-earned. Also, welcome to the new board members.

Andy Healy: Congratulations to Captain Hudson, and welcome to the new board members. Thank you for being here tonight and volunteering your time.

Chris Willis: Congratulations to Captain Hudson, this is a well-deserved promotion.

Laura Joseph: Same as these guys, I remember the first time I met you, congratulations to you Captain Hudson. And thank you to our new board members for serving our community.

Alice Lobell: Congratulations to Captain Hudson, and to Macie and Stephanie, thank you and we appreciate you for volunteering your time to serve our community on these boards. Our Teen Council movie night went well, and I wanted to thank the Police Department and HHS for all the help.

24. Adjourn

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm.

ATTEST:



Madison Harris
City Clerk

SIGNED:



Alice Lobell
Council President