



HELENA CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

August 25, 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 Andy Healy and Laura Joseph.

1. Review 08/25/2025 Agenda Items

- AP/Bill Payments
- 08/11/2025 Meeting Minutes Review

2. Update from Council Boards and Committee Business

Farmers Market has another pop-up market coming up on October 25, from 8AM-12PM at the Amphitheater. Helena Historic Preservation Committee states that Myers is looking at dates to cut the trees down near the coke ovens. Alice Lobell asked about the annual pumpkin house and if there were any updates on when that would go up. Cathy Hammann spoke for Beautification Board and states that the pumpkins have been ordered, and the order was cut in half this year since there were too many pumpkins last year but does not know a date for delivery at this time. Alice Lobell states that this may not be the section to discuss this but wanted to suggest that the City consider buying the Oversoul building as it could be beneficial to the City in many ways, including a great location for a Teen Center. Hal Woodman agrees that it would be a great idea for the City and he wishes that the City would've bought the property years ago.

Billy Rosener to speak for HOT Board tonight, stating that this will be his final day on HOT Board as he is resigning as a voting member tonight, but will continue to volunteer with the board; also stating that there's been no greater board that he has served on with the City. Reminder for Oktoberfest event on September 20 – gates open at 2:30PM and there will be plenty of events going on that day.

3. Mayor's Update

Mayor not in attendance.

4. Jill Jones – Bee City USA

Resident Jill Jones to present presentation to Council regarding going Bee Friendly in Helena.

5. Review and Discussion of FY26 Budget

Chris Willis proposed to approve the budget with the current pay scale, offering a COLA and step raises for those eligible, and let the new Council look at the possibility of a new pay scale; Lobell and Woodman agree that that is probably the best option overall. Willis also proposes going back to hiring 5 in the Fire Department and 4 in the Police Department, which is what they originally asked for in budget presentations.

6. Confirmation of 09/11/2025 and 09/22/2025 Meeting dates.

There being no further business, the work session was dismissed at 5:39 pm.

ATTEST:

Madison Harris
City Clerk

SIGNED:

Alice Lobell
Council President



HELENA CITY COUNCIL

August 25, 2025

**MINUTES HELENA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 25, 2025**

The Council of the City of Helena met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday night, August 25, 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 6:22 P.M.

Chris Willis led the prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Teen Council member Piper Boss and Jaid Spears.

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)

Chris Willis made a motion to approve the Pre-Council minutes and regular meeting minutes from August 11, 2025, with a second by **Harold Woodman**.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Laura Joseph

Motion carried.

6. Revenue Report: Bill Payment

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

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

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

Update on the train app in development with Gresham Smith; the app will show trains coming through the tracks, a livestream of train crossings, analytics, etc., and is scheduled to launch in October. Make sure you all go out and vote tomorrow for the general election. We will be using the old paper poll books, as that is all that Shelby County would allow us to use for this election, so please be prepared if it takes an extra minute or two to vote.

8. Resolution 08252025 – October 11, 2025 Declared as Jack Clayton Gray Day

Laura Joseph made a motion to approve Resolution 08252025 – October 11, 2025 Declared as Jack Clayton Gray Day; with a second by **Harold Woodman**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

9. Resolution 08252025A – Bond Proceeds

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Resolution 08252025A – Bond Proceeds; no second to the motion.

Laura Joseph made a motion to table Resolution 08252025A – Bond Proceeds to the next regular Council meeting on September 8, 2025; with a second by **Andy Healy**.

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

10. Approve/Deny – Accepting HOT Board Resignation from Brandon Wiman

Andy Healy made a motion to approve Accepting HOT Board Resignation from Brandon Wiman; with a second by **Harold Woodman**.

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

11. Approve/Deny – Final Plat for Town Hall Center

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Final Plat for Town Hall Center, contingent upon renaming one road and recording that update with Shelby County and in the recorded final plat with City records, with a second by **Harold Woodman**.

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

12. First Reading – Ordinance 1023-2025 – Violation of Orders and Rules and Regulations

13. 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.

14. Council Comments

Harold Woodman: People like Jack Gray deserve a monument in this City, but if you look around everything in this City is a monument to him.

Andy Healy: It was an honor to be asked to do that resolution for Jack Gray. Buck Creek Festival is looking for volunteers for the event in October, see their Facebook page. Tomorrow, best of luck to the candidates, it will be a long day. This has been an interesting and fun campaign. Go vote!

Chris Willis: Go vote tomorrow!

Laura Joseph: Jack was so special, he was one of my best friends, and I think that this would've tickled him. I hope you all go out and vote tomorrow, usually turnout for municipal elections is lower, but this is still important. Best wishes to all of the candidates – it's hard and a lot of work for not only you but your families as well.

Alice Lobell: One of the nicest things that Jack ever told me was that no matter what you'll always be my friend. Go vote tomorrow, hopefully we'll set a record in the state for voter turnout!

24. Adjourn

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.

ATTEST:



Madison Harris
City Clerk

SIGNED:



Alice Lobell
Council President