



HELENA CITY COUNCIL

September 30, 2025 12:15PM

**MINUTES HELENA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION
September 30, 2025**

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 and Discussion of Agenda Items

Mayor Puckett stated that he wanted to add a resolution for budget amendment and would pass around the line items for each department. Lobell and Woodman stated that they were not in favor of this since they had not seen it prior to this meeting. Willis states that he understood it for budget and audit purposes but would still like to look over and review.

Joseph asked to remove Resolution 08252025A from the agenda since it has now been separated into two resolutions, all members stated that they were fine with removing the resolution.

Mayor Puckett asked about Resolution 09302025C, Lobell stated that it was up for discussion. Willis stated that there is no true legal definition for mission critical, but we do currently have a mission critical pay scale. Mayor Puckett asked Attorney Hayes if the designation of employees/positions as mission critical was an operational duty. Hayes stated that there are no set rules on this, but Council can designate who would be considered mission critical. Mayor Puckett stated that the Council approved the purse, but not operational duties as that falls to the Mayor. Woodman asked to remove from agenda at this time since this also seems last minute, Mayor Puckett agreed. Willis stated that the current City Clerk is not currently on the mission critical scale, but the previous Clerk was. Lobell asked Council if they'd like to leave the resolution on the agenda, no real comment so it will stay on the agenda at this time. Joseph stated that her opinion is that she is okay with changes across the board, not changes that would only affect a few employees individually; she doesn't want it to appear that anyone is playing favorites, and with the new administration coming in in one month really does not want to make any last-minute decisions. Willis asked if defining mission critical positions falls under the Council's purview; Hayes states that ultimately it is up to the Council since the three positions in question are all appointed by Council. Willis stated that he would like to leave the resolution on the agenda for a vote, Lobell agreed.

Mayor Puckett passed around documentation for Resolution 09302025D for the budget amendments, stating that he spoke with the auditor and a final budget amendment like this is recommended to clean up the year and account for all spending. Mayor Puckett stated that he took the Fire Department resolution from the week prior and used that as a template for wording and formatting, updating it for each department. Healy asked the Mayor whether the promotions previously turned down by Council were included in this budget amendment, and the Mayor confirmed that they were included. Woodman expressed frustration that these documents were being presented at the last minute; Joseph agreed, stating that she wished the Council would have had the weekend prior to review these and ask any questions, and that this feels rushed. Willis, while reviewing the proposed budget amendment, asked about the City's contract with C Spire. Mayor stated that it was less than Charter/Spectrum, and that the majority of the charges this year were new device set up and switching everything over from the previous IT company. Lobell, while reviewing the proposed budget amendment, asked if the payroll line for Admin included the COLA, steps, and additional employee that were previously approved; whether the payroll line for the Parks Department included overtime, steps, and the COLA; and also expressed frustration at receiving these documents at the last minute. Lobell asked Bill Miller if the Parks Department employees were all set on the same schedule, or if they were staggered; Mayor Puckett stated that they were already set to come in at different times. Stormwater and ADEM fees were also brought up, that the total at the end of the year was much higher than the budgeted number; Mayor Puckett stated that we get an estimated number from Gresham Smith and ADEM to use for budgeting purposes, but things come up throughout the year. Willis stated that the current expenses were okay on the budget amendment, but he would like to make sure nothing had been added; Lobell and Joseph agreed. Willis also stated that as long as the incoming Council approved a budget within the first quarter all would be fine.

Lobell attempted to adjourn the work session, but was asked by Mayor Puckett about not approving the promotions. Lobell stated that it was too much; Willis agreed and stated that it was not equitable across the board, and that no vote was taken at the Civil Service meeting the week before. Mayor Puckett expressed frustration and stated that there was no deciphering their actions, since they approved the COLA and steps but not these promotions.

Lobell also stated that she planned to invite incoming Council members to sit at the table for the next work session, and all stated that that would be a good idea.

2. Confirmation of 10/27/2025 Meeting

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 12:51 PM.

ATTEST:



Madison Harris
City Clerk

SIGNED:



Alice Lobell
Council President



HELENA CITY COUNCIL

September 30, 2025

**MINUTES HELENA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
September 30, 2025**

The Council of the City of Helena met in a special called meeting on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, in the Helena Municipal Building at 12:30 P.M., regular place for holding said meetings.

Council President Alice Lobell called the meeting to order at 1:04PM.

Chris Willis led the prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Laura Joseph.

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, Mayor Brian Puckett

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

5. Approve/Deny – Resolution 08252025A – Bond Proceeds

Chris Willis made a motion to remove Resolution 08252025A – Bond Proceeds from the agenda, with a second by **Laura Joseph**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried; item removed.

6. Approve/Deny – Resolution 09302025 – Bond Proceeds 2024A

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Resolution 09302025 – Bond Proceeds 2024A, with a second by **Laura Joseph**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

7. Approve/Deny – Resolution 09302025A – Bond Proceeds 2024B

Harold Woodman made a motion to table Resolution 09302025A – Bond Proceeds 2024B indefinitely, with a second by **Chris Willis**.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried; item tabled indefinitely.

8. Approve/Deny – Resolution 09302025B – Part-Time Employee Equitable Compensation

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Resolution 09302025B – Part-Time Employee Equitable Compensation, with a second by **Laura Joseph**.

AYE: Alice Lobell, Chris Willis, Laura Joseph

NAY: Andy Healy, Harold Woodman

Motion carried.

9. Approve/Deny – Resolution 09302025C – Designating Certain Positions as Mission Critical

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Resolution 09302025C – Designating Certain Positions as Mission Critical, with no second.

Motion not carried.

10. Approve/Deny – Resolution 09302025D – Budget Amendments

Alice Lobell asked for a motion to add Resolution 09302025D – Budget Amendments to the agenda; no motion was made. Item not added.

11. Approve/Deny – Resolution 09222025C – Continuation of FY25 Budget

Chris Willis made a motion to approve Resolution 09222025C – Continuation of FY25 Budget, with a second by Harold Woodman.

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

NAY: None

Motion carried.

12. Council Comments

No comments from Council.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

ATTEST:

SIGNED:



Madison Harris
City Clerk



Alice Lobell
Council President