



HELENA CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

February 23, 2026, 5:00PM

PRE-COUNCIL: Work Session

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

All Members present except Dennis Wilson. Work Session started at 5:00PM.

1. Review 02/23/2026 Agenda Items

- AP/Bill Payments
- 02/09/2026 Meeting Minutes Review

2. Update from Council Boards and Committee Business

Healy states that he met last week with the Farmers Market and went over bylaws and objectives, and will have something to present to the Council on March 23; states that he wants Farmers Market to be more "dirt to table" items and less gifting items. Healy states that Farmers Market is short five members at this time and has sent an application to the Clerk to post after the ordinance is approved. Dodson states that the Planning & Zoning meeting set for last week was rescheduled to this Thursday; also Library Board met recently and will have three vacancies coming up. Mayor states that Planning & Zoning Commission prior to this administration did not have a true city official serving on the board per the ordinance, and most would assume that would be the Building Official; however, Building Official already has a seat at the table and is able to voice any concerns or questions to the board but is not a voting member. The only other qualified City employee at this time with that skillset would be our Fire Marshal Keith Martin, to better explain his appointment set for tonight.

3. Jill Jones – Bee City USA Updates

Provided information to the Council regarding applying to become a Bee City USA City, program overview, and the benefits this program would provide, stating that she was not sure how much Council was wanting to do tonight or just wanting more information at this time. Jones states that she met with Dana Hazen, who started the Bee City USA program in Mountain Brook, and she stated that the easiest way to get a committee started would be to nest it under another already existing committee. Yearly events and outreach could fall under either Farmers Market or Beautification Board, and both Hammann and Healy stated that they are willing to help. The biggest concern would be the cost of the less damaging chemical, and Mayor asked if there were grants available. Jones states there is a grant opportunity through KOWACA, and she will look into that and how much we could apply for; application process runs April through June. Mayor states that he has looked into some other chemical options, but it really all comes down to cost at this time. Jones states that Mountain Brook has stopped spraying altogether, and currently Pelham is only spraying between 2-3AM, which is a less harmful option. Dodson asks if Jones knows anyone willing to serve on a committee, she states she has had several reach out in the past and she will see about getting back in touch with them. Jones states that once we are established as a Bee City USA City, we will receive some signage to post around town; states that Bee City USA focuses on supporting native bee species, and that the honeybee is actually not a native species.

4. Discussion of Adding New Ordinances/Revisions to City Website

Hammann states that as we work on updating and modifying ordinances, we have not been updating those on the website; not all ordinances are posted on the website as is, but wanting to be better about updating and posting those new ordinances as they are approved; Clerk states that is an easy fix and will work on getting those updated and posted. Mayor states that we have been working with CivicPlus for over a year at this point to get all ordinances codified and in one place, searchable and easy to use; is hoping to get an update on the timeline for when that will be completed and ready to use. McDaniels states that we must make sure that we remain ADA compliant, per the League we have until April 2027 for our population size and want to be cognizant of getting back into compliance. City attorney Brian Hayes states that we were one of the first in the state to be ADA compliant with our website when our website was updated, but since more has been added to the website we do need to look at it again and make sure we can get that back into compliance. Hammann asks McDaniels if he could give us an example of where we can improve ADA compliance; McDaniels states he cannot, but he does have a checklist he can share, and states that Birmingham is required to be ADA compliant by April 2026 so they are undergoing training at this time and he will be better able to speak on that after that point. Healy also states that a resident has asked if we can lighten the word DRAFT on these documents when the packet is posted.

5. Update on Civil Service Act, Representative Leigh Hulse

Quick update from Representative Hulse – she states that herself and Senator Weaver will be dropping the bill tomorrow in both the Senate and the House and are working on getting this bill through as quickly as possible, hoping to have it out of both chambers this week and moving right along. Mayor asks what the best case scenario date is for approval; Rep. Hulse states they are hoping to have that passed by the end of next week.

6. Confirmation of Next Meeting

03/09/2026 – 5PM work session

There being no further business, the work session was dismissed at 5:32PM.

ATTEST:



Madison Harris
City Clerk

SIGNED:



Brooke Dodson
Council President



HELENA CITY COUNCIL

February 23, 2026

MINUTES HELENA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING February 23, 2026

The Council of the City of Helena met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday night, February 23, 2026, in the Helena Municipal Building at 6:00 P.M., the regular place and time for holding said meetings.

Council President Brooke Dodson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Reverend John Bussman, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Helena plant congregation led the prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Fire Chief Chris Miller.

4. Roll Call

Present: Cathy Hammann, Andy Healy, Brooke Dodson, Jeff McDaniels
Members: Cathy Hammann, Andy Healy, Dennis Wilson, Brooke Dodson, Jeff McDaniels
Absent: Dennis Wilson
Visitors: Fire Chief Chris Miller, Police Chief Mike Wood, Dan Dearing, Bill Miller, Jason Poe, DeJay Jones, and others (see attached list)

Council President Brooke Dodson declared a quorum present, and meeting was open for business.

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

Jeff McDaniels made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from February 9, 2026, with a second by **Andy Healy**.

AYE: Cathy Hammann, Andy Healy, Brooke Dodson, Jeff McDaniels

NAY: None

Motion carried.

6. Revenue Report: Bill Payment

Jeff McDaniels made a motion to approve the bills with a second by **Cathy Hammann**.

AYE: Cathy Hammann, Andy Healy, Brooke Dodson, Jeff McDaniels

NAY: None

Motion carried.

7. Municipal Operations Report from Mayor Billy Rosener:

Parks and Recreation baseball and soccer will be starting soon; there's a possibility of starting pickleball indoor in the next couple of months, residents have fundraised the costs for nets and striping, so no cost to the City. With the budget and Civil Service updates I have not had time to update all on the new Sports Complex project – we have received some additional options and will be putting those together in the coming weeks to present. Fire Department ISO ratings will be out in the next couple of weeks. Chief Miller invited to speak on new Medic 67, stating that it was donated from Shelby County Commission and received well in advance of the anticipated December 2026 timeline; only costs to the City were to stripe the unit and outfit it with equipment. Medic 67 will replace Medic 66 at Station One and at that time Medic 65 will go into reserve. Public Works advises that the pier at Joe Tucker Park has been taken down, we are still discussing replacement options at this time. Roy Drive will be closed tomorrow to repair a drain pipe under the road, see the Facebook post for more information. The turn lane project at Hwy 17 and Hwy 58 is still looking at a March 16th completion date at this time, they did not pass the roll test and will need to make some corrections. Library is having a book sale this weekend, starting Thursday at 10AM through Saturday. Updates on the new Civil Service Act, Representative Hulsey states that it is currently in the work session and should pass through the House and the Senate by the end of next week. HR updates, employees had an election to choose a member of the Personnel Board and elected Tim Alexander; Mayor will be recommending Dennis O'Brien to the Council as the second member. First Coffee with the Community will be this Saturday morning here in the Council chambers.

8. Recognition – Jourdan Godwin – Second Place in the 6A State Wrestling Championship

Godwin unable to attend; will move to another Council meeting.

9. Proclamation – Helena as a Semi-Quincentennial City for America's 250th Celebration – Natalie Steed, American Village
Presented by Natalie Steed with American Village to Mayor Rosener, members of Helena Historic Preservation Committee, and Council members Healy and McDaniels.

10. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1037-2026 – Ordinance for Boards & Committees

Andy Healy made a motion to approve Ordinance 1037-2026 – Ordinance for Boards & Committees; with a second by **Jeff McDaniels**.

AYE: Cathy Hammann, Andy Healy, Brooke Dodson, Jeff McDaniels

NAY: None

Motion carried.

11. Approve/Deny – Ordinance 1038-2026A – Annexation – Mark & Brittnie Moore – 819 HWY 1 – 24 3 05 0 000 004.000

Cathy Hammann made a motion to approve Ordinance 1038-2026A – Annexation – Mark & Brittnie Moore – 819 HWY 1 – 24 3 05 0 000 004.000; with a second by **Jeff McDaniels**.

AYE: Cathy Hammann, Andy Healy, Brooke Dodson, Jeff McDaniels

NAY: None

Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENT:

McDaniels: Asked the Mayor if Council could receive more information on residential annexation requests on how this will impact our public works workload, as well as the economic impact to the City, whether positive or negative.

12. Approve/Deny – Appointment to Planning & Zoning Commission – Keith Martin as City Administrative Official

COUNCIL COMMENT:

Hammann: I have a concern; this member does not live in our community.

Dodson: All eight other members of Planning & Zoning Commission are residents. I see this as more of a technical role that he would be filling, and he probably has more qualifications than some current members of our Planning & Zoning Commission.

McDaniels: Attorney Hayes, correct me if I am wrong, but Alabama State Code section 11-52-3 states that the administrative official does not have to have any qualifications per the code. Attorney Hayes confirmed.

Andy Healy made a motion to approve Appointment to Planning & Zoning Commission – Keith Martin as City Administrative Official; with a second by **Jeff McDaniels**.

AYE: Andy Healy, Brooke Dodson, Jeff McDaniels

NAY: Cathy Hammann

Motion carried.

13. Approve/Deny – Property Use Agreement with Buck Creek Festival

Cathy Hammann made a motion to approve Property Use Agreement with Buck Creek Festival; with a second by **Andy Healy**.

AYE: Cathy Hammann, Andy Healy, Brooke Dodson, Jeff McDaniels

NAY: None

Motion carried.

14. Approve/Deny – Appointment of Dennis O'Brien to the Personnel Board

Jeff McDaniels made a motion to approve Appointment of Dennis O'Brien to the Personnel Board; with a second by **Cathy Hammann**.

AYE: Cathy Hammann, Andy Healy, Brooke Dodson, Jeff McDaniels

NAY: None

Motion carried.

15. 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.

16. Council Comments

Cathy Hammann: Good evening all and thank you for attending; I'd also like to shout out the members of the Helena Historic Preservation Committee that attended tonight for the Proclamation. Thank you Mayor Rosener for all of the updates and information for everything going on in town; thank you Chief Miller for the updates on new Medic 67.

Andy Healy: Now that this ordinance is passed, you will start to see some applications posted to get more volunteers for some of these boards; we are all looking for volunteers. One Helena is also looking for more culturally diverse vendors and experiences for our Unity Event.

Jeff McDaniels: I have written down my comments tonight. Thank you former Council member Hewy Woodman for all of the work in setting up Arbor Day; thank you to Ron and Peggy Holly for your help, you made a world of difference in turning up for this event. In true Helena fashion, the event started at 6AM and the first resident showed up at 5:31AM; Woodman even

ended up extending the event by several hours. Thank you again Hewy and Ron for the work you put in. I'd also like to welcome Jay Culpepper with It's Wing Time as a new business in the City, and thank you Daniel Barron, according to Jay, Daniel was instrumental in where he chose to put his business. Mayor Rosener – Avadian's corporate office has offered to do some fraud prevention/awareness training, can focus on our senior residents; have already spoken to Bill Miller about the possibility as this would be beneficial for our seniors.

Brooke Dodson: I appreciate you all for coming out tonight; thank you to Shelby County Commission for the new ambulance for our community, and thank you to the Fire Department for the work to get that ready. Thank you Natalie Steed with American Village, we look forward to celebrating our country's 250th birthday. Congrats to our newly annexed residents, and congratulations to both Keith Martin and Dennis O'Brien for their appointments tonight.

17. Adjourn

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

ATTEST:



Madison Harris
City Clerk

SIGNED:



Brooke Dodson
Council President