10 JACK GRAY WAY
HELENA, AL 35080

CITY OF HELENA

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

OCTOBER 26, 2026 **5:00PM**

Call to Order

Council President Brooke Dodson called the Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

Review of Agenda Items for October 26, 2026, City Council Meeting

1. Final Plat Approval - Barimore II, Phase I

Council reviewed the request to approve the Final Plat for Barimore II, Phase I, consisting of 61 lots submitted by Newcastle Construction. The item received a favorable recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission at its meeting on October 15, 2026. There were no questions or concerns regarding this item.

2. Appointment of Beautification Board Members

Councilwoman Cathy Hammann advised that two new members were being appointed to the Beautification Board, bringing the board to its maximum membership as established by ordinance. The proposed appointees were Cody Tesmer and Leah Lewis.

Councilman Jeff McDaniels inquired about the number of applicants received. Councilwoman Hammann stated that these were the two applications submitted to the board.

3. Resolution Declaring November as Epilepsy Awareness Month

Council reviewed a resolution declaring November as Epilepsy Awareness Month. Council President Dodson asked who would present the resolution during the Council Meeting. Councilman Andy Healy stated that he would read the resolution.

4. Presentation of TAG Grant Awards Recipients

Councilman Healy advised that he would begin the presentation of the TAG Grant Awards and that other TAG Board members would assist in presenting checks to the award recipients. He stated that

The TAG Board worked diligently to review applications and noted there were many deserving projects.

Councilman Healy reported that the Board received more than $100,000 in funding requests and awarded a total of $58,951.00 in grants.

2. AP/Bill Payments

Council President Dodson stated that Council had received the AP/Bill Payment information from Financial Director Patti Morrow and asked if there were any questions regarding the report. No questions were raised.

3. Review of October 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Council President Dodson asked if there were any questions or corrections to the October 15, 2026 meeting minutes. No corrections were requested.

4. Updates from Council Boards and Committees

Library Board: Council President Dodson reported that the Library Board met the previous week and that a quarterly report would be provided soon.

TAG Board: Councilman Healy discussed recent TAG Board meetings and noted that grant presentations would be made during the Council Meeting. He also announced that the next Helena Market Pop-Up would be held on December 12, 2026, at Helena High School.

Beautification Board: Councilwoman Hammann advised that the Beautification Board would be meeting later that evening. Mayor Rosener requested social media information regarding the tree lighting event. Councilwoman Hammann advised that there were already posts about the event and the flyer had been shared. Councilwoman Hammann stated that the Board would discuss the request at the meeting regarding a media spot.

Buck Creek Festival: Mayor Rosener announced that the Buck Creek Festival had been rescheduled for November 14, 2026.

5. Discussion of the FY 2027 Budget

Mayor Rosener opened discussion of the FY 2027 Budget and reviewed the draft budget document previously provided to the Council and posted on the City's website. He noted that the proposed budget is a tight budget,

with revenue increases primarily attributable to permitting activity and the addition of a new Code Enforcement position.

Mayor Rosener explained that the proposed Code Enforcement position would assume the City's (MS4) responsibilities currently contracted through Gresham Smith and would also be responsible for code enforcement activities throughout the City.

Councilman Jeff McDaniels inquired about the anticipated cost savings associated with the new position and asked when the employee would begin work. He also asked whether the city would continue utilizing Gresham Smith until the new employee is hired. Mayor Rosener stated that he hoped to have the position filled shortly after the beginning of the new year and confirmed that Gresham Smith would continue providing services until that time.

Councilwoman Cathy Hammann commented at our last Budget review Mayor Rosener had commented that he needed to further look into the $1,111,787 figure. The number had not changed in the most recent review. He acknowledged he still needed to investigate these numbers further. Council then discussed the City's debt service obligations and bond payment structure. Mayor Rosener explained that the one-cent sales tax and one-cent use tax revenues are allocated differently, with the use tax allowing greater discretionary spending while the sales tax revenues are dedicated to specific obligations, including schools and School Resource Officers. Discussion also included the high school bond obligation and the possibility of utilizing sales tax revenues, along with revenues associated with the Helena Forward bonds, to satisfy future debt service requirements.

Councilman McDaniels asked about operational expenses associated with the new municipal building, specifically utility costs, and requested a more detailed itemization of those expenses. Mayor Rosener stated that staff would review the budget presentation and provide additional details where appropriate.

Mayor Rosener also noted that, at present, no General Fund revenues are being utilized to support the Debt Service Fund.

Council President Brooke Dodson raised concerns regarding the public comment portion of Council meetings and the amount of time allotted for speakers. Discussion followed regarding public comment procedures and time limitations.

Councilwoman Cathy Hammann suggested that each Council Member utilize their social media platforms to invite questions and concerns from residents regarding the proposed FY 2027 Budget. She stated that collecting and addressing questions prior to November 9, 2026, Council Meeting would provide an opportunity for the community to better understand the budget before its anticipated adoption.

Mayor Rosener agreed that this would provide an additional avenue for public engagement and noted that residents are also welcome to contact him directly with questions, as his email address is publicly available.

Mayor Rosener further stated that he would like to begin discussions regarding the FY 2028 Budget much earlier next year to allow additional time for review and planning. Councilman Jeff McDaniels suggested that preliminary budget discussions begin shortly after the second quarter of the fiscal year to provide Council with more opportunities to review revenues, expenditures, and budget priorities.

Councilman McDaniels reiterated that the document under discussion remained a working budget and had not yet become the Council's adopted budget. He emphasized the importance of public comment and stated that Council should carefully consider concerns and questions raised by residents collectively. He further stated that while citizen input is valuable, no single individual should be able to hold up the budget process. Councilman McDaniels noted that Council's responsibility is to make decisions that are in the best interest of the community as a whole and to represent all residents of Helena.

Councilman Andy Healy stated that questions and concerns received from residents should be compiled into a centralized list. He suggested that responses be provided where possible and that any remaining questions be presented to the Mayor and Council for further discussion and consideration.

Councilwoman Hammann stated that transparency was a key principle on which Council members campaigned and that the two-week period before the November 9 meeting would provide an opportunity to listen to residents, answer questions, and educate the public regarding the budget process and proposed expenditures.

Councilman McDaniels stated that there must be a reasonable compromise between public input and the need to move forward with the budget process. He further suggested that Council and the Mayor establish a formal quarterly review of budget numbers and financial performance to provide ongoing oversight and facilitate future budget planning.

There being no further discussion regarding the FY 2027 Budget, the discussion concluded.

6. Discussion of Ordinance No. 1045-2026 – E-Bikes

Mayor Rosener introduced discussion regarding proposed Ordinance No. 1045-2026 related to the operation of e-bikes and other motorized devices within the city. He stated that this was the beginning of the discussion process and emphasized that the ordinance should not be rushed. Mayor Rosener noted that Alabama law contains specific provisions governing the operation of motorized vehicles on public streets and that those requirements must be carefully considered as the ordinance is developed.

Mayor Rosener further stated that community involvement and partnership would be important in the development of the ordinance, noting that the topic has generated significant discussion within the community and on social media due to the increasing use of e-bikes and other motorized devices.

Councilman Jeff McDaniels stated that references to the various types of motorized devices should be consolidated into one comprehensive ordinance. He also expressed concerns regarding enforcement and questioned the Police Department's ability to manage additional responsibilities associated with the proposed regulations. Councilman McDaniels stated that the city should avoid creating requirements that would place an undue burden on law enforcement personnel.

City Attorney Brian Hayes advised that he had met with Chief Wood to review applicable state laws and that revisions had been made to the draft ordinance, including updates to the proposed speed limits to better align with state law and enforcement considerations.

Councilwoman Cathy Hammann stated that Chief Wood had previously expressed concerns regarding manpower and staffing challenges associated with enforcing additional requirements under the ordinance. She noted that support may be necessary if enforcement responsibilities are a part of the ordinance.

Councilman McDaniels asked Councilman Andy Healy about the anticipated timeline for consideration of the ordinance. Councilman Healy responded that there was no specific timeline and that it was more important for the ordinance to adequately address the City's needs than to move

the process forward quickly. He stated that the ordinance should ultimately reflect the goals and concerns identified by the community and Council.

Councilman McDaniels further stated that the bicycling and e-bike community should have additional opportunities to provide input before the ordinance is finalized. He also noted that Council should review the proposed penalties contained within the ordinance, expressing concern that parents could be held financially responsible for violations committed by minors if the penalties remain unchanged. Councilman McDaniels emphasized that the ordinance is fundamentally a public safety issue and should be approached accordingly.

Discussion followed regarding obtaining additional public input and delaying further consideration until the second Council Meeting in November to allow residents and stakeholders an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed ordinance.

There being no further discussion, Council agreed to continue reviewing the ordinance and seek additional public input before moving forward with consideration of the proposal.

7. Sign up for public comment with the city clerk. Three (3) minutes per resident.

Council President Dodson made the announcement that the sign-up sheet is available for public comment with the city clerk at the conclusion of this meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the Work Session concluded at approximately 5:59p.m. with the council meeting to begin at 6:05pm.

ATTEST:
Kym Rollan
City Clerk

SIGNED:
Brooke Dodson
Council President

10 Jack Gray Way
Helena, Al 35080

City Council Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2026 **6:00pm**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Council President Brooke Dodson.

2. Invocation

The invocation was delivered by Ken Trammel of Cornerstone Church.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by two members of the Helena Teen Council.

4. Roll Call

Present:

Council President Brooke Dodson, Councilwoman Cathy Hammann, Councilman Andy Healy and Councilman Jeff McDaniels

Absent:

Councilman Dennis Wilson

A quorum was declared present, and the meeting proceeded.

5. Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2026, Work Session and Council Meeting

Councilman McDaniels made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2026, Work Session and Regular Council Meeting. Councilman Healy seconded the motion.

Vote:
AYE: Hammann, Healy, Dodson, McDaniels
NAY: None

Motion carried.

6. Revenue Report and Accounts Payable Bill Payments

Councilwoman Hammann made a motion to approve the Revenue Report and Accounts Payable Bill Payments. Councilman Healy seconded the motion.

Vote:
AYE: Hammann, Healy, Dodson, McDaniels
NAY: None

Motion carried.

7. Municipal Operations Report

Mayor Rosener provided updates regarding municipal operations and upcoming events, including:

- The Police Department's inaugural Cops & Goblins event was a significant community success, and planning has already begun for next year.
- Renovations to the bathrooms at Cahaba Lily Park have been completed, with a new park sign expected in the coming weeks.
- The Police Department is planning a Ruck March on November 14, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.
- The Buck Creek Festival has been rescheduled for November 14, 2026. Approximately 65 vendors have already committed to participate.
- Municipal elections will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, with polling locations at the Helena Sports Complex and Church at Cahaba Bend.

8. Final Plat Approval – Barimore 2 Phase 1 (SDPR) (61 Lots)-Newcastle Construction- a favorable recommendation from the Helena Planning Commission October 15, 2026.

Council President Dodson asked if a representative from Newcastle Construction was present. John Crawford addressed the Council on behalf of the applicant. There were no questions from the Council and no public comments.
Councilwoman Hammann made a motion to approve the Final Plat for Barimore 2 Phase 1. Councilman Healy seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:
AYE: Hammann, Healy, Dodson, McDaniels
NAY: None

Motion carried.

9. Appointment of Beautification Board Members

Councilwoman Hammann announced the names of the proposed Beautification Board appointees. Following brief discussion, Councilman Healy made a motion to approve the appointments. Councilwoman Hammann seconded the motion.

Vote:
AYE: Hammann, Healy, Dodson, McDaniels
NAY: None

Motion carried.

10. Presentation of Resolution Declaring November Epilepsy Awareness Month

Councilman Healy presented and read the Resolution declaring November 2026 as Epilepsy Awareness Month.

11. Presentation and Recognition of TAG Grant Award Recipients

Councilman Healy expressed appreciation for the efforts of the TAG Grant Committee and stated that it was an honor to recognize this year's recipients. He then turned the presentation over to TAG Board Member Kim Ray.

Checks were presented to representatives from all four Helena schools receiving TAG grants. Following each presentation, photographs were taken by Councilwoman Hammann.

12. Public Comment for FY 2027 Budget

No public comments were received regarding the FY 2027 Budget.

13. Public Comment

Dorothy Carlisle Helena Road- Commented on the E-Bike Ordinance and expressed her desire to see separate paths for pedestrians and users of e-bikes, golf carts, and similar vehicles.

Tom Stanbury, 146 Cedar Bend Drive Commented that he had observed improvements in the City's relationship with Shelby County, resulting in road and park improvements. He expressed appreciation for those efforts. Mr. Stanbury also stated that comments made by Councilman McDaniels regarding public participation and the budget should concern Helena taxpayers because citizens have the right to hold local government accountable.

14. Council Comments

Councilman Andy Healy Thanked everyone for attending and stated that he was proud to recognize Helena's teachers and educators through the TAG Grant Program. He also thanked the members of the Helena Teen Council for attending.

Councilwoman Cathy Hammann Congratulated the TAG Grant recipients and the newly appointed Beautification Board members. She also noted that the Station Church polling location serves Helena residents. Mayor Rosener acknowledged the omission and apologized.

Councilman Jeff McDaniels Thanked those who attended and provided public input.

Council President Brooke Dodson Congratulated the TAG Grant recipients and school leaders on their accomplishments and thanked them for their leadership. She also reminded residents to exercise caution during Halloween and watch for trick-or-treaters.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Attest:

Kym Rollan
City Clerk

Signed:

Brooke Dodson
Council President