

**CITY OF HELEN  
COMMISSION MEETING  
APRIL 20, 2021  
10:00 A.M.  
AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR
2. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 16, 2021
6. ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS
  - A. DISCUSSION FOR APPROVAL OF DECLARING EMERGENCY REPAIR NEEDED FOR RIDGE ROAD DUE TO RECENT WEATHER
  - B. UPDATE FROM CITY MANAGER ON CURRENT PROJECTS
  - C. FINANCIAL REPORT
  - D. CONSIDERATION OF ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION OF RODOLFO VALADEZ OF RIVER HAUS RESTAURANT & TAP, INC. LOCATED AT 689 EDELWEISS STRASSE FOR BEER ON PREMISES, WINE ON PREMISES, LIQUOR POURING AND SUNDAY SALES
  - E. CONSIDERATION OF ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION OF JEFFREY SCOTT HOGSED OF WILD HOGS BBQ, LOCATED AT 663 EDELWEISS STRASSE FOR BEER ON PREMISES, WINE ON PREMISES, AND SUNDAY SALES
  - F. CONSIDERATION OF ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION OF CINNAMON KAREN RUSTON OF CIMMI'S COURTYARD CAFÉ, LOCATED AT 8797 MAIN STREET SUITE 2 FOR BEER ON PREMISES, WINE ON PREMISES, AND SUNDAY SALES
7. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
  - A. MICHAEL HAMMERSMITH TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ZONING CHANGE OF COMER CIRCLE PROPERTY
8. HELEN/WHITE COUNTY CVB MONTHLY REPORT
9. POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT
11. PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTE WATER MONTHLY REPORT
12. BUILDING AND ZONING MONTHLY REPORT
  - A. DISCUSSION OF ADDING AN OBLISK TO THE VETERANS PARK EAGLE MONUMENT
13. PURCHASES AND BIDS
14. ORDINANCES
15. RESOLUTIONS
16. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS
17. ADJOURNMENT

**THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED APRIL 15, 2021 @ 1:45 P.M.  
THE MEETING AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND IS NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE  
CITY OF HELEN COMMISSION AT THE COMMISSION MEETING STATED HEREIN.**

**CITY OF HELEN  
COMMISSION MEETING  
APRIL 20, 2021  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Helen City Commission met on Tuesday April 20, 2021 in the Commission Chambers at Helen City Hall with Mayor Lee Landress calling the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. City Clerk Marilyn Chastain called the roll and attending were Commissioner Jeff Ash, Mayor Lee Landress, Commissioner Steve Fowler, and Commissioner Fred Garmon and Commissioner Geneva Elwell.

Also attending were Finance Officer Mona Wood, City Manager Jerry Elkins, City Attorney Carl Free, City Clerk Marilyn Chastain, Police Chief Brian Stephens, Fire Chief Jody Prickett, Public Works Assistant Director Jack Morgan, Building & Zoning Director Darrell Westmoreland.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 16, 2021; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Jeff Ash. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS**

DISCUSSION FOR APPROVAL OF DECLARING EMERGENCY REPAIR NEEDED FOR RIDGE ROAD DUE TO RECENT WEATHER; City Manager Jerry Elkins explained to expedite the repairs and get the road reopened that an emergency situation could be dictated, that the City Engineer will be in charge of the required repairs. Motion to declare emergency situation dictated by the road wash-out and road closure due to heavy rain events and to have the City engineer oversee and hire a contractor to repair after engineer receives 2 estimates made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

UPDATE FROM CITY MANAGER ON CURRENT PROJECTS; City Manager Jerry Elkins provided a report from EMI on the status of each project. Report included as an integral part of the Minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT; Finance Officer Mona Wood was present and gave a verbal report. Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Motion to approve the Financial Report made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

**COMMISSION MEETING  
APRIL 20, 2021  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
PAGE 2**

CONSIDERATION OF ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION OF RODOLFO VALADEZ OF RIVER HAUS RESTAURANT & TAP, INC. LOCATED AT 689 EDELWEISS STRASSE FOR BEER ON PREMISES, WINE ON PREMISES, LIQUOR POURING AND SUNDAY SALES; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

CONSIDERATION OF ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION OF JEFFREY SCOTT HOGSED OF WILD HOGS BBQ, LOCATED AT 663 EDELWEISS STRASSE FOR BEER ON PREMISES, WINE ON PREMISES, AND SUNDAY SALES; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

CONSIDERATION OF ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION OF CINNAMON KAREN RUSTON OF CIMMI'S COURTYARD CAFÉ, LOCATED AT 8797 MAIN STREET SUITE 2 FOR BEER ON PREMISES, WINE ON PREMISES, AND SUNDAY SALES; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Jeff Ash. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC  
MICHAEL HAMMERSMITH TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ZONING CHANGE OF COMER CIRCLE PROPERTY; Not present, no discussion.

Craig Sowerby stated he had purchased lot 21 in the Island and wanted permission to cut an apron in the curbing for an entrance to his property. Building Director Darrell Westmoreland explained the requirements. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Jeff Ash. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Cinnamon Ruston asked if the City had considered pay parking in the Island area.

There was discussion of possible zoning changes to the lots in the Island due to lack of parking from possibly C2 which it is now zoned to R4 which would be parking underneath with living quarters overhead. City Attorney Carl Free stated that the Georgia procedures Act of proposed changes requires public hearings, newspaper notices and other requirements before zoning is changed. Commissioner Steve Fowler made a motion to gather information then call for a work session to include property owners that would be affected, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Geneva Elwell. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

**COMMISSION MEETING  
APRIL 20, 2021  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
PAGE 3**

HELEN/WHITE COUNTY CVB MONTHLY REPORT; Director Jerry Brown was present and gave a verbal report. Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Director Jerry Brown stated he had found someone to preform 3 days per weekend during Oktoberfest in the Band shell at a cost of \$230.00 per day, or \$690.00 per week. Commissioner Jeff Ash made a motion to approve \$230.00 per day up to a total of \$4,000.00 during Oktoberfest under the authority of the City Manager, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

There was discussion of purchasing hat pins for the 51<sup>st</sup> Oktoberfest and discussion of the Helen Chamber of Commerce selling 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary pins which were bought last year during Covid. Commissioner Steve Fowler stated he thinks it is ok to have both that the Chamber is a private business and can sell what they choose.

POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT; Police Chief Brian Stephens was present and gave a verbal report. Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Commissioner Jeff Ash asked Chief Stephens to explain recent calls to a party at a rental in Innsbruck. Chief Stephens stated they had responded 3 times to a party over the weekend at a rental home in Innsbruck of noise complaints and parking in private driveways. Chief Stephens explained the Police Department cannot enforce homeowner association rules. Commissioner Jeff Ash asked the Chief to notify the Innsbruck Homeowner Association President of recent problems at rental units in Innsbruck.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT; Fire Chief Jody Prickett was present and gave a verbal report. Report included as an integral part of the Minutes.

PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTE WATER MONTHLY REPORT; Assistant Public Works Director Jack Morgan was present and gave a verbal report. Report included as an integral part of the Minutes.

BUILDING AND ZONING MONTHLY REPORT; Building Director Darrell Westmoreland was present and gave a verbal report. Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Building Director Darrell Westmoreland stated the manager of the Hayloft had asked for a second open sign for the other side of their building that faces another City Street and that it had been approved for other businesses prior. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

DISCUSSION OF ADDING AN OBLISK TO THE VETERANS PARK EAGLE MONUMENT; to be discussed at next meeting after more information is obtained.

**APRIL 20, 2021**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**PAGE 4**

Joel Caudwell owner of Alpine Express/JJL Ventures, LLC the train ride asked for approval of a second route on the south end of town and presented a map of the proposed route which would start on the Wilkins property. Police Chief Brian Stephens stated that slow moving vehicles are only allowed traveling northbound on the DOT highway and not allowed traveling southbound due to speed limit requirements and that Mr. Caudwell is to provide additional required paperwork before he proceeds. Motion to approve after required paperwork is submitted to the Police Chief made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Geneva Elwell. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

PURCHASES AND BIDS; None

ORDINANCES; None

RESOLUTIONS; None

CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS; Commissioner Fred Garmon stated he had been told by several business owners that business is up 30%, but that help is almost impossible to find.

ADJOURNMENT; Motion to adjourn at 11:23 a.m. made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

**RESPECTFULLY PREPARED BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN**