

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2021
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Helen City Commission met on Tuesday October 19, 2021, in the Commission Chambers at Helen City Hall with Mayor Lee Landress calling the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Deputy Clerk Mirinda Dispain called the roll. Attending were Commissioner Jeff Ash, Mayor Lee Landress, Commissioner Geneva Elwell, Commissioner Steve Fowler, and Commissioner Fred Garmon.

Also attending were Finance Officer Mona Wood, City Manager Jerry Elkins, City Attorney Carl Free, Deputy Clerk Mirinda Dispain, Police Chief Brian Stephens, Building & Zoning Director Darrell Westmoreland, and Assistant Public Works Director Jack Morgan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2021: Motion to approve as written made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

UPDATE FROM CITY MANAGER ON CURRENT PROJECTS: Fletcher Holliday of EMI gave a verbal update and a written copy of the current projects that will become an integral part of the minutes. Mr. Holliday said the Hydrogeological Services for Location of Potential Ground-Water Drinking Wells Project bids were in and ready to be awarded. Mayor Landress asked for the item to be tabled until the next meeting so the Commission could review the two bids.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion to approve the Financial Report made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Geneva Elwell. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

HELEN/WHITE COUNTY CVB MONTHLY REPORT: Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Director Jerry Brown was present and gave a verbal report.

HELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY REPORT: Judy Holloway was present and gave a verbal report. She stated that Oktoberfest was a great success with thousands of people coming to the Festhalle. She said they had been awarded the Shuttered Venue Grant for \$200,000 (the second grant they had been given) for following all the COVID guidelines.

**COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2021
MINUTES OF MEETING
PAGE 2**

POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Report included as an integral part of the minutes. Police Chief Brian Stephens was present and gave a verbal report. He also stated in lieu of Safe Night for Halloween, the department would host a drive through Trunk or Treat to offer something for the kids, but to protect everyone from getting sick.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Fire Chief Jody Prickett was not present to give a verbal update.

PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTEWATER MONTHLY REPORT: Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Assistant Public Works Director Jack Morgan was present to answer questions.

BUILDING AND ZONING MONTHLY REPORT: Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Director Darrell Westmoreland was present and gave a verbal report.

Paul Morris of King Ludwigs came before the Commission to ask for a variance to allow his outdoor tent to remain up until after Christmas. The PDRB had recommended the denial of the extension. Commissioner Ash thought the tent would hinder the appearance of the White Horse Square area for Christmas, and that if one business is allowed to leave the tent up, other businesses would have to be allowed to leave theirs up as well. Motion to deny Paul Morris of King Ludwigs extending the date for his erected tent through the Christmas season was made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

PURCHASES AND BIDS: None

ORDINANCES: None

RESOLUTIONS: None

CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 10:39 a.m. made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Geneva Elwell. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

RESPECTFULLY PREPARED BY DEPUTY CLERK MIRINDA DISPAIN