

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2014
10:00 A.M.
AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR JUDY HOLLOWAY
2. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 2014
6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
7. ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS
 - A. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT PREPARED BY FLETCHER HOLLIDAY OF EMI CONCERNING A COMPLAINT OF SILT FROM A PROPERTY OWNER.
 - B. DISCUSSION OF PROJECTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR LMIG PROJECTS
8. POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS
9. FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS
10. PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTE WATER OPERATIONS
11. BUILDING AND ZONING OPERATIONS
 - A. SIGN VARIANCE REQUEST FROM ARYANA HOTELS, DBA- HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
 - B. SIGN VARIANCE REQUEST FROM LYNN WHITENER, DBA- ON THE RIVER FELLOWSHIP
12. PURCHASES AND BIDS; NONE
13. ORDINANCES; SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 14-08-02 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA, BY THE ADDITION OF CHAPTER 68, A CHAPTER OF THE HELEN MUNICIPAL CODE PREVIOUSLY RESERVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF HELEN FOR FUTURE CODIFICATION AS NECESSARY; WITH SAID CHAPTER TO BE INTITLED; TAXICABS FOR HIRE
14. RESOLUTIONS; NONE

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS; PERSONELL, PENDING OR POSSIBLE LITIGATION, AND AQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE

16. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

17. ADJOURNMENT

THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED OCTOBER 3, 2014 AT 11:00 A.M.

**CITY OF HELEN
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OCTOBER 7, 2014
10:00 A.M.
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Helen City Commission met on Tuesday October 7, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Chambers at Helen City Hall, with Mayor Judy Holloway calling the meeting to order.

City Clerk Marilyn Chastain called the roll and the following were present; Commissioner Fred Garmon, Commissioner Helen Wilkins, Mayor Judy Holloway, Commissioner Dona D Burke, Commissioner Jeff Ash.

Also attending the meeting were City Manager Jerry Elkins, City Attorney Carl Free, City Clerk Marilyn Chastain, Police Chief Jim Couch, Public Works Director Ross Hewell, Building & Zoning Director Larry Krul, Fireman Johnathan Sutton. Absent was Fire Captain Lee Poteat.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Approval of Agenda; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Helen Wilkins, 2nd by Commissioner Dona K Burke. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2014; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Dona K Burke, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Petitions and Communications from the Public; Troy Merkley representing Spice 55 Restaurant at Bergland Mall requested the removal of four crepe myrtles around the sign at Bergland Mall stating they were blocking the view of the restaurant. Commissioner Dona K Burke stated that the Commission had discussed the sign before with Mr. Rowland and explained that the sign was erected without being approved and had asked Mr. Rowland to remove it, and that the Commission had suggested installing a Markee type sign on each end at the entrances.

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City Manager Jerry Elkins also explained that a survey of the property had been done and shows that the Crepe myrtles are on the City right of way, and that the City had planted them. Mayor Judy Holloway suggested to Mr. Merkley to go before the PDRB board with plans for signs on each entrance.

Administrative Operations;

A. Presentation and discussion of the report prepared by Fletcher Holiday of EMI concerning a complaint of Silt from a property owner. After hearing details of the findings on the report that the silt is going into a stream, and then into the pond on the property of Cliff Hood is being caused by run- off coming from storm water of Innsbruck resort, and off of city leased property that was caused by an act of nature, Commissioner Fred Garmon made a motion to send a copy of the report to the property owner of the complaint Cliff Hood, 2nd by Commissioner Dona K Burke. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

B. Discussion of projects to be submitted for LMIG projects. City Manager Jerry Elkins informed the Commission of projects he believes should be submitted being (1) on Edelweiss Strasse at intersection of Brucken Strasse to the water park needing repair where the road has alligatored estimated 150 yards, then (2) being on Escowee but suggested waiting until the sidewalk is completed.

City Manager Jerry Elkins also informed the Commission that an application had been sent in to GEFA for an electric car charging station grant, to be built on the small City owned parking lot on Chattahoochee and Edelweiss streets, with the estimated cost of \$8,000.00 in which the City would pay 50% and the Grant would provide 50%.

Police Department operations; Police Chief Jim Couch stated the number of calls received had doubled during the last weekend, that overall the crowds were getting heavier, but there had been no major issues, and that the new Officer, David Goodwin is now working. Also there had been a problem with GCIC and 911 calls transferring correctly, over the weekend but that he had put someone at the computer in the Police Department until the problem was resolved because of the public safety factor. Chief Couch stated that the COPS grant was not given to Helen this time, but had been awarded to a number of the larger Cities that had applied.

Fire Department operations; Fireman Johnathan Sutton stated the department is running smoothly, and they had been working on promotions and training with the new equipment.

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Public Works, Water and Waste Water Operations; Public Works Director Ross Hewell stated his department has been very busy on weekends and on the new storage building, and that Commissioner Fred Garmon was doing a great job overseeing the work, also that he had ordered more Christmas lights getting ready for the season.

Building and Zoning operations; Director Larry Krul stated things are going well in his department, that the stairs had been repaired on Ms Crowell's building in White Horse Square and her home on Dandy lane had been cleaned up some. Commissioner Helen Wilkins stated the Village Inn property is looking bad and repairs are needed, Director Larry Krul stated he would get with the property owner, and that he had met with United Community bank about their wall and they have agreed to make repairs and possibly add stairs.

A. Holiday Inn Express; Sign variance request for Construction sign. Carol Powell manager stated they wanted the public to be aware that they letting people know they will have convention facilities and are booking conventions, but that the corporate office will not let them book rooms until the Hotel is within 45 days of completion, and that the sign is a construction sign and only temporary until the CO is issued. Commissioner Jeff Ash made a motion to approve the variance request, 2nd by Commissioner Dona K Burke. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

B. Sign variance request from Lynn Whitener, DBA, On The River Fellowship; The request is for additional wording on the sign to let the community and public know about the church. Motion to approve the variance request as submitted made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approve with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Purchases and Bids; None

Ordinances; Second reading of Ordinance 14-08-02 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA, BY THE ADDITION OF CHAPTER 68, A CHAPTER OF THE HELEN MUNICIPAL CODE PREVIOUSLY RESERVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF HELEN FOR FUTURE CODIFICATION AS NECESSARY; WITH SAID CHAPTER TO BE INTITLED; TAXICABS FOR HIRE; Motion to accept the changes and amend Ordinance 14-08-02 by lowering the Liability Insurance requirements to \$25,000.00/\$50,000.00, making the effective date of the Ordinance January 1, 2015 made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Dona K Burke. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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Resolutions; None

Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Pending or Possible Litigation, and Acquisition of Real Estate; Motion to go into Executive Session at 11:40 a.m. made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Dona K Burke. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission. All Commissioners were present for the Executive Session.

The regular Commission Meeting resumed at 12:40 p.m. and the following motions were made as a result of the Executive Session;

Commissioner Jeff Ash made a motion to deny Tuscany Villas a Certificate of Occupancy changing the current Occupancy from Hotel/Motel to Residential until all deficiency's are brought to the current City and State residential code, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Commissioner Jeff Ash made a motion to allow City Attorney Carl Free to move forward to Quite Title on the Right of Way on Hamby Street and Escowee Street, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

City Commission Comments; None

Adjournment; Motion to adjourn at 12:48 p.m. made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Dona K Burke. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN