

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 4, 2017
10:00 A.M.
AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR HELEN WILKINS
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 21, 2017
6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
 - A. HELEN ARTS & HERITAGE CENTER NANCY ACKERMAN
 - B. RICHARD RILEY TO DISCUSS THE HELEN TO HARDMAN HERITAGE TRAIL
7. ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS
8. POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS
9. FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS
10. PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTE WATER OPERATIONS
11. BUILDING AND ZONING OPERATIONS
 - A. CONSIDERATION FOR VARIANCE REQUEST FROM OWNER OF VALHALLA RESORT TO NOT REQUIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS BE INSTALLED IN PROPOSED RESORT CABINS
12. PURCHASES AND BIDS
13. ORDINANCES;
 - A. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 17-03-01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA, TO AMEND THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA
 - B. 17-04-01; FIRST READING OF 17-04-01; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA TO AMEND THE OFFICAL CODE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA, BY THE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER SIX OF THE HELEN MUNICIPAL CODE: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

14. RESOLUTIONS

15. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

THIS AGENDA WAS AMENDED AND POSTED MARCH 31, 2017 @ 9:45 A.M.

THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED MARCH 30, 2017 @ 2:00 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 4, 2017
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Helen City Commission met on Tuesday April 4, 2017 in the Commission Chambers at Helen City Hall with Mayor Helen Wilkins calling the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

City Clerk Marilyn Chastain called the roll and the following were present: Commissioner Cinnamon Spurlock, Commissioner Fred Garmon, Mayor Helen Wilkins. Absent were Commissioner Judy Holloway, and Commissioner Jeff Ash.

Also attending were City Manager Jerry Elkins, City Clerk Marilyn Chastain, Police Chief Brian Stephens, Public Works Director Ross Hewell, Building & Zoning Director Larry Krul, Fire Chief Jody Prickett. Absent was City Attorney Carl Free.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the Agenda which had been amended on March 31, 2017 and posted at 9:45 a.m. to include as Item B under Ordinances, First reading of Ordinance 17-04-01; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA TO AMEND THE OFFICAL CODE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA, BY THE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER SIX OF THE HELEN MUNICIPAL CODE: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. Motion to approve the Agenda as had been amended made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Cinnamon Spurlock. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 21, 2017; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Cinnamon Spurlock, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A. HELEN ARTS & HERITAGE CENTER NANCY ACKERMAN. Ms. Ackerman spoke to the Commission stating that the Helen Arts and Heritage was preparing to celebrate it's 10th year and thanked the City for their support and for providing the 12,000 sq. ft. building for the center. She told of the different classes for children, of classes they had been having with the Avita groups which is for the mentally challenged and drug abuse recovery, and of the free arts programs they have been doing for the Veterans. Veteran William Reed spoke and told the Commission what a change the program had made in his life and how he had learned to paint and make pottery and how it has helped him. Ms. Ackerman went on to explain that the operations and maintenance of the building average \$4000.00 per month, and they have 3 part time employees but have had to be closed some due to lack of volunteers, they average 10,000 visitors per year, and receive approximately \$87,000 per year in donations.

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Ms. Ackerman is asking the City to consider Contributing additional funds for the Arts Center from SPLOST for 2017 \$20,000, 2018 \$30,000, and 2019 \$40,000. Mayor Helen Wilkins stated they would take her request into consideration. No motions were made.

B. RICHARD RILEY TO DISCUSS THE HELEN TO HARDMAN HERITAGE TRAIL

Mr. Riley presented drawings of the trail and explained that the property is all DNR owned property, and is going to be 4400 ft in length going from the parking lot of the Hardman farm to the parking area in the City limits and will run along side of the Chattahoochee river. It will be constructed of concrete with some wood platforms to cross damp areas and have benches made of natural material along the trail. No motorized vehicles or golf carts will be allowed on the trail. Mr. Riley went on to explain he thinks the trail will help bring in tourist dollars by encouraging people to stay in the area longer.

Administrative Operations; City Manager Jerry Elkins updated the Commission on several projects stating that the City is advertising for bids for the new Pedestrian Bridge which will be opened on May 16th, that the Escowee sidewalk project is complete except for finishing up of some of the landscape planting, that the Roadside beautification project has been delayed because of the recent rains making it to damp to get to the area, and that the new file room at City Hall had been started.

Police Department Operations; Police Chief Brian Stephens stated that all is going smooth in the department.

Fire Department Operations; Fire Chief Jody Prickett stated the new addition is coming along well and they have been doing the Fire Hydrant testing.

Public Works, Water and Waste Water Operations; Public Works Director Ross Hewell stated his department has been busy with all the projects going on, in addition to their regular duties.

Building and Zoning Operations;

A. CONSIDERATION FOR VARIANCE REQUEST FROM OWNER OF VALHALLA RESORT TO NOT REQUIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS BE INSTALLED IN PROPOSED RESORT CABINS; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Mayor Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a majority vote of the Commission present. Commissioner Cinnamon Spurlock did not vote.

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Purchases and Bids; None

A. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 17-03-01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA, TO AMEND THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Mayor Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

B. 17-04-01; FIRST READING OF 17-04-01; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA TO AMEND THE OFFICAL CODE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA, BY THE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER SIX OF THE HELEN MUNICIPAL CODE: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Cinnamon Spurlock, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Resolutions; None

Comments; None

ADJOURNMENT; Motion to adjourn at 11:07 a.m. made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Cinnamon Spurlock. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

RESPECTFULLY PREPARED BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN