

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2014
3:00 P.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 AUGUST 5, 2014, AND APPROVAL OF MUNUTES FROM AUGUST 7, 2014
6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
 - A. LINDSEY HOLT FROM BIGG DADDYS, AND RON TURNER FROM PAUL'S STEAKHOUSE TO REQUEST CONSIDERATION OF LATER SERVING HOURS FOR ALCOHOL SALES
7. ALPINE HELEN/WHITE COUNTY CVB MONTHLY REPORT
8. HELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY REPORT
9. ADMINISTRATIVE
 - A. FINANCIAL REPORT
 - B. TOM O'BRYANT TO DISCUSS GRANT FOR FIBER OPTIC BROAD BAN SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF HELEN
 - C. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM A CARRIAGE COMPANY TO RENT THE CITY OWNED TELEPHONE BOOTH LOCATED AT THE BAND SHELL FOR A HORSE CARRIAGE TICKET BOOTH
 - D. REVIEW OF PLANS FOR NEW PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING AND CONSIDERATION OF PROCEEDING WITH CONSTRUCTION.
10. POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT
11. FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT
12. PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTE WATER MONTHLY REPORT
13. BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT
 - A. VARIANCE REQUEST TO DISPLAY GOODS OUTSIDE STORE FRONT FROM DON WURST (ZEMENT HAUS), LOCATED AT 8520 S. MAIN STREET

14. PURCHASES AND BIDS; NONE

15. ORDINANCES

A. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 14-08-01; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA TO AMEND THE OFFICAL CODE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 6, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BY AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 6-8 PERTAINING TO PERMITS FOR ALCOHOL SALES OF BEER AND WINE AT CITY SPONSORED SPECIAL EVENTS

B. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 14-08-02; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL CODE 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

16. RESOLUTIONS

A. RESOLUTION 14-08-02; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HELEN, GEORGIA AUTHORIZING A COMPHREHENSIVE ADJUSTMENT TO FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 BUDGETARY APPROPRIATIONS

17. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

18. ADJOURNMENT

THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED FRIDAY AUGUST 15, 2014 AT 1:00 P.M.

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2014
3:00 P.M.
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Helen City Commission met on Tuesday August 19, 2014 at 3:00 p.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 Jeff Ash.

Absent was Commissioner Dona K Burke.

Also attending the meeting were City Manager Jerry Elkins, Finance Officer Debbie Gerchman, City Clerk Marilyn Chastain, Police Chief Jim Couch, Fire Captain Lee Poteat, Public Works Director Ross Hewell, Building & Zoning Director Larry Krul.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Approval of Agenda; Motion to remove item 6-A from the Agenda and approve made by Commissioner Helen Wilkins, 2nd by Commissioner Jeff Ash. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Approval of Minutes from Commission meeting on August 5, 2014, and Minutes from Called Commission meeting to set millage rate on August 7, 2014, motion to approve both sets of Minutes made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Petitions and Communications from the Public;

A. Item removed

Addressing the Commission was business owner Tim Golding with concerns of speeding and overloaded tubing buses traveling on the streets.

Alpine Helen/White County CVB monthly report; CVB Director Jerry Brown was present and stated that 5500 people had visited the Welcome Center during July, he also passed out new advertisements to the Commission to view. Monthly Report is included as an integral part of the Minutes.

Helen Chamber of Commerce monthly report; Report included as an integral part of these Minutes. Chamber Director Renee Chacon was present and reported that The Taste of Helen was a big success, and the new Art work is up for everyone to see, also that the opening day of Oktoberfest starts in 23 Days!

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Administrative;

A. Financial Report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Finance Officer Debbie Gerchman was present to answer questions. There were no questions. Commissioner Jeff Ash made a motion to approve the Financial Report, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

B. Tom O'Bryant to discuss a Grant for Fiber Optic Broad Ban Service for the City of Helen. Mr. O'Bryant explained the need for the City to have Fiber Optic Broad Ban service and the Grant that could be applied for thru the (ARC) Appalachian Regional Commission that could pay up to 70% or up to an maximum \$300,000.00, and explained the cost estimate to be \$420,000.00. The informational letter he submitted to the Commission explained other program objectives and eligible uses of the Grant. A copy of the letter is included as an integral part of the Minutes. Mr. O'Bryant explained that fiber optic is available to the north and south of Helen, and did not come thru town when installed on either end because of the cost to replace the existing power poles. After much discussion, Commissioner Jeff Ash made a motion to have City Manager Jerry Elkins write a letter of support from the City to send in with the Application to ARC, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

C. Consideration of request from a Carriage Company to rent the City owned Telephone booth located at the Band Shell for a Horse Carriage ticket booth. Each Commissioner present spoke up and replied no to the request. Mayor Judy Holloway stated that a lot of tourist take pictures of the phone booth, and does not think the City should consider renting it out for private use.

D. Review of plans for new Public Works building and consideration of proceeding with construction. City Manager Jerry Elkins stated Commissioner Fred Garmon had been working on plans, and getting estimates for the cost involved in constructing a new building and would like for him to present these to the Commission. Commissioner Fred Garmon explained that compared to the cost of purchasing the existing building on Alternate Hwy 75 for \$100,000.00 the City could build a completely new building with 7,200 sq. ft. and gave the estimated cost of concrete, lumber, roofing, doors, and the lift system with an estimated cost of \$118,645.00 plus contingencies of \$11,000.00 for a total of up to \$139,500.00. Commissioner Fred Garmon stated he would like to see the

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City Appropriate the money to build a new building versus purchasing the smaller building and property outside of the City limits. Commissioner Jeff Ash stated the City has funds available for a new facility. Mayor Judy Holloway and Commissioner Helen Wilkins both stated they would rather have a new building in town. Commissioner Jeff Ash made a motion to proceed with the new building as presented by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Police Department monthly report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Police Chief Jim Couch stated the Police Department had been very busy, and has been involved with a lot of investigations that required some out of town travel of Investigator Bryan Stevens, he also stated he would like to thank his staff for helping out with the events of the past weekend. He presented a Tablet that he is considering purchasing for his department that can be used while the officers are on patrol, and is talking with Windstream about the possibility of City wide, secure Wi-Fi that will allow the Officers access to files and reports on the new tablets, also that the cost of the Tablets had come down which will allow him to purchase additional Tablets with the amount already budgeted. Commissioner Jeff Ash stated they can put any necessary equipment on his building down town to access Wi-Fi if needed.

Mayor Judy Holloway asked Chief Jim Couch what happens when a Georgia State Patrol Officer writes a ticket in the City and does not come to Court. Chief Couch replied that if the GSP officer does not appear for court then the case is dismissed, which did happen recently, but that there is a new Commander for the area, Sergeant Harper, that was at our last court, and has assured him that he will have the Officers at Court when needed. Chief Couch stated the new Taser's have been ordered and that the GSP was looking forward to having the old ones donated for their use.

Fire Department monthly report. No written report. Fire Captain Lee Poteat was present for the meeting and stated they had been extremely busy with 60 calls during the month, and that the new Fireman was working out well. Mayor Judy Holloway asked why they had so many calls, his reply was mainly because of the time of year and more people being in town. Commissioner Jeff Ash stated there had been 7 golf cart accidents in Innsbruck, but that new Carts had been ordered that would be safer.

Public Works, Water and Waste Water monthly report. Report is included as an integral part of these minutes.

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Public Works Director Ross Hewell was present and stated the landscaping for Phase 1 of the island area has been planted and that the mulching was being finished today. City Manager Jerry Elkins stated that the Public Works employees had done a lot of work on the Island project, and that most of the digging for water lines, sewer lines, plantings, light post, had all been done by hand. Commissioner Helen Wilkins stated that the Island was looking very nice. City Manager Jerry Elkins stated that there was a lot of shrubbery planted on City property by the Hayloft and Siebert buildings that had become over grown and needs to be removed to look better, and that the cobble stone walkway should also be taken up to improve the looks and safety since it is unlevel.

Building and Zoning Department monthly report. Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Building and Zoning Director Larry Krul was present for the meeting and stated that the exterior colors for the new Holiday Inn Express had been approved by the Planning, Design and Review Board (PDRB), and that the site plans had almost all been reviewed as well.

A. Variance request to display goods outside store front from Don Wurst (Zement Haus), located at 8520 S. Main Street. Commissioner Jeff Ash made a motion to deny the Variance request, 2nd by Commissioner Judy Holloway. Motion denied with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Purchases and Bids; None

Ordinances;

A. Second reading of Ordinance 14-08-01; An Ordinance of the City of Helen, Georgia to amend the official code of the City of Helen, Georgia, by amending Chapter 6, Alcoholic Beverages, by an amendment to Section 6-8 pertaining to permits for Alcohol sales of Beer and Wine at City Sponsored Special Events; Motion to approve the second reading by Commissioner Helen Wilkins, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

B. First reading of Ordinance 14-08-02; An Ordinance of the City of Helen, Georgia to amend the Official code 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;

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City Manager Jerry Elkins read the Ordinance thru 68-15, and Commissioner Helen Wilkins read the remainder of the Ordinance. There was discussion of the renewal fees, and Doug Fortner a current Taxi operator had questions concerning the new Ordinance. Motion to approve the First reading of Ordinance 14-08-02 made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Resolutions;

A. Resolution 14-08-02; A resolution of the City of Helen, Georgia authorizing a Comprehensive adjustment to Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budgetary Appropriations; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Comments; None

Adjournment;

Motion to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN