



**City of Helen
Georgia's Alpine
Village**

25 Alpenrosen Strasse
PO Box 280
Helen, Georgia 30545
706-878-2733
706-878-1655 -fax
www.cityofhelen.org



The City of Helen is an equal
opportunity provider and employer

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 19, 2026
10:00 A.M.
AGENDA**

Commissioners:

Lee Landress
Steve Fowler
Mervin Barbree
Cliff Hood
Helen Wilkins

City Manager:

Darrell Westmoreland

City Clerk:

Marilyn M. Chastain

Finance Director:

Mona Wood

Chief of Police:

Aletha Barrett

Clerk of Court:

Jaclyn Burke

**Building and Zoning
Administrator:**

Jonah Casper

Public Works

Director:

Jack Morgan

Fire Department

Chief:

Jody Prickett

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR LEE LANDRESS
2. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN
3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 21, 2024
6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
A – DISCUSSION OF PAY PARKING
7. ALPINE HELEN/WHITE COUNTY C.V.B. MONTHLY REPORT
8. HELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY REPORT
9. ADMINISTRATIVE
 - A. CITY MANAGER UPDATE
 - B. APPOINTMENT TO HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD
 - C. FINANCIAL REPORT
 - D. NANCY ACKERMAN FROM HELEN ARTS CENTER TO DISCUSS OUTDOOR TENTS
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
14. PURCHASES AND BIDS
15. ORDINANCES
16. RESOLUTIONS

Tree City U.S.A. since 2002

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE

18. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

19. ADJOURNMENT

THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED MAY 14, 2026 @ 1:00 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.



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**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 21, 2026
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Commissioners:

Lee Landress
Steve Fowler
Mervin Barbree
Cliff Hood
Helen Wilkins

The Helen City Commission met on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 in the commission chambers at Helen City Hall. Mayor Lee Landress called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. City Clerk Marilyn Chastain called the roll. The following commissioners were present: Commissioner Mervin Barbree, Commissioner Helen Wilkins, Mayor Lee Landress, and Commissioner Steve Fowler. Commissioner Cliff Hood was absent.

City Manager:

Darrell Westmoreland

Also, in attendance were Finance Director Mona Wood, City Manager Darrell Westmoreland, City Attorney Carl Free, City Clerk Marilyn Chastain, Police Chief Aletha Barrett, Fire Chief Jody Prickett. Building & Zoning Director Jonah Casper and Public Works Director Jack Morgan were absent.

City Clerk:

Marilyn M. Chastain

Finance Director:

Mona Wood

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Chief of Police:

Aletha Barrett

APPROVAL OF AGENDA; Motion to Amend by adding as G-1 discussion of parking and approve the Agenda made by Commissioner Mervin Barbree, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Clerk of Court:

Jaclyn Burke

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 17, 2026; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

**Building and Zoning
Administrator:**

Jonah Casper

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC; None

**Public Works
Director:**

Jack Morgan

NANCY ACKERMAN – ARTS CENTER. Withdrawn

ALPINE HELEN/WHITE COUNTY C.V.B. MONTHLY REPORT; Report included. Director Jerry Brown was absent.

**Fire Department
Chief:**

Jody Prickett

HELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY REPORT; Judy Holloway gave a verbal report stating that there were 790 entrants for the Trout Tournament, and that Bingo had started back up at the Festhall.

DISCUSSION FOR APPROVAL OF ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR CHRIS AND LAUREN WILLIAMS OF DAY LATE DOLLAR SHORT LLC, D/B/A PINK PIG SOUTHERN BBQ LOCATED AT 663 BRUCKEN STRASSE TO ADD LIQUOR POURING TO THEIR LICENSE THAT CURRENTLY INCLUDES BEER ON PREMISES, WINE ON PREMISES AND SUNDAY SALES; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Commissioner Mervin Barbree abstained due to being related to owners. Motion approved with a majority vote of the Commission present.

**CITY OF HELEN
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PAGE 2**

DISCUSSION FOR APPROVAL OF ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR ERIC JAMES MILLER OF YONAH VINEYARDS, LLC D/B/A THE POUR HAUS LOCATED AT 8016 SOUTH MAIN STREET SUITE B-1 FOR A BEER PACKAGE, WINE PACKAGE, SUNDAY SALES AND FARM WINERY LICENSE: Motion to approve made by Commissioner Mervin Barbree, 2nd by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Commissioner Helen Wilkins abstained due to family owning property. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE; City Manager Darrell Westmoreland went over EMI's engineering report of current projects. Report included as an integral part of the minutes. He also stated that the bid for the new well house will go out in June.

DISCUSSION OF BID OPENING FOR THE BID ON THE MONITORING WELL; Motion to award to the lowest bidder Sailors Engineering Associates, Inc in the amount of the base bid of \$6,611.00 made by Commissioner Mervin Barbree, 2nd by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

APPROVAL FOR CITY ATTORNEY CARL FREE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH REVISING/UPDATING CITY CHARTER; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Mervin Barbree, 2nd by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

APPOINTMENT OF HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD; Tabled until next meeting

DISCUSSION FOR APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH JEFF ASH ON PARKING LOT LOCATED ON HOHEN STRASSE; Motion to approve city picking up garbage from lot in exchange for 5% of income and with first right of refusal on purchasing property made by Commissioner Helen Wilkins, 2nd by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

DISCUSSION OF PRICE SETTING FOR RESTAURANT - RESTROOM USE; Motion to charge King Ludwigs \$12,000 per year, and Alpine Brew Deck \$3,600 per year which is \$5.00 per seat for use of public restrooms because they do not have restrooms at their restaurants for their customers as required by Ordinance made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

DISCUSSION OF CITY PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE ISLAND AREA; After discussion Commissioner Mervin Barbree made a motion to deed City owned property in Land Lot 39, 3rd District being Tract 2 containing 1,611 square feet adjoining Nathan Hold of Regensburg, LLC that is too small for the City to unitize to Nathan Holt of Regensburg, LLC, 2nd by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
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PAGE 3**

APPROVAL OF MATRIX SIGNS; Motion to approve the purchase of 2 signs for \$34,900 made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2nd by Commissioner Mervin Barbree. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

G-1. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL PAY PARKING IN ISLAND AND DISCUSSION OF PARKING AT CITY PARKS; Motion to, post 2 hour limit on City owned parking spaces along Narrweg and Tannenweg with no over-night parking on signage, and to post 2 hour limits on City owned parking lots at Riverside Park and Pete's Park made by Commissioner Mervin Barbree, 2nd by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Motion to pave, curb, and install a pay parking meter at City owned property known as the Island in the grassy area off Narrweg made by Commissioner Mervin Barbree, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Discussion of the needed replacement of the Gazebo downtown. Motion to use the existing poured foundation and replace structure using cedar wood, made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2nd by Commissioner Mervin Barbree. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

FINANCIAL REPORT; Finance Director 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 Mervin Barbree, 2nd by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Police Chief Aletha Barrett was present.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Fire Chief Jody Prickett was present. He informed the Commission of being awarded the Fire House Subs Grant of \$49,000 to be used for extraction equipment.

PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTE WATER MONTHLY REPORT; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes.

BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes.

PURCHASES AND BIDS; None

ORDINANCES; None

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
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MINUTES OF MEETING
PAGE 4**

RESOLUTIONS; None

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS FUTURE ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE; Motion to go into the Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. made by Commissioner Steve Fowler, 2nd by Commissioner Mervin Barbree. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 11:42 a.m.

There were no motions made as a result of the Executive Session

CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS; None

ADJOURNMENT; Motion to adjourn at 11:43. a.m. made by Commissioner Mervin Barbree, 2nd by Commissioner Steve Fowler. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

RESPECTFULLY PREPARED BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN





Alpine Helen/White County Convention & Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 730 • Helen, Georgia 30545 • 706-878-2181 • FAX 706-878-4032

CVB Report April, 2026

ADVERTISEMENTS:

- LRC Report on Social Media.
- Atlanta Magazine – Helen.
- South Carolina EMC Magazine.
- Georgia EMC Magazine.
- North Carolina EMC Magazine.
- White County Scoop Magazine.
- Blue Ridge Digest.
- Blue Ridge Country Magazine.
- Northeast Georgia Living.com.
- American Road Magazine.
- Travel, Taste & Tour magazine.
- North Georgia Living Magazine.
- Southern Living Magazine.
- Georgia's Great Places Magazine.
- AAA Explorer Magazine.
- Regional Newspapers – 8th Annual Songwriters Festival – Full page Advertisement.
- AJC.com – 10 Southern hiking trails that everyone can explore this season – Anna Ruby Falls – Helen. 1.6 million Impressions, with an estimated value of \$ 22,531.
- Parade.com + 23 other publishers – This European-style village is hidden here in the U.S. with cobblestone streets, wineries and Alpine Charm – Helen. 413.9 million impressions, with an estimated value of \$86,876.
- Southern Living.com – The North Georgia Mountain Town that won me over in a weekend. Cleveland, GA. 16.3 million impressions, with an estimated value of \$41,257.



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WELCOME CENTER:

- 2,487. (163 less) Visitors stopped by the Welcome Center in April.
- As of the end of April, we delivered 250 Helen Travel Guides. Mailed out an additional 720 Travel Guides by request. We had 103 Travel Guide downloads.
- Website visits for the month of April 91,000. with 87,000. Unique/new visitors. 3.24 page visits with over 401,000. page views with duration of 2.98 minutes per view. Bounce rate 49.30 with the first and third pages being most viewed.

TRAVEL SHOWS/MEETINGS:

- April – Director Brown attended weekly Rotary meetings in April.
- April 4th – Director Brown met with Advance Travel & Tourism to discuss Blog stories for May.
- April 8th – Director Brown conducted a joint meeting between NWGTA and the NEGMTA to combine efforts for marketing, meetings, etc.
- April 9th – Director Brown met with the Songwriters Committee to finalize last minute needs for the festival.
- April 10th - Director Brown met with Explore Georgia and the World Congress Center – FIFA World Cup Activation Center opportunities,
- April 12th – Welcome Center Manager Doris Skelton and Tanya Stanley assisted the Annual Gran Fondo road cycling race by handing out lunches and covering of the refreshment stops along the route.
- April 20-21 – Director Brown participated in the Annual D.C. Celebrity United Way Golf Tournament.
- April 16th – Director Brown gave his monthly report to the CVB Board.
- April 16th – Director Brown met with Advance Travel & Tourism to review our monthly digital campaign report.
- April 22nd – Director Brown met with Gray Digital Media to discuss possible marketing opportunities.
- April 23rd – Director Brown met with ITI Digital to update the new AI Travel Buddy on the CVB/ Welcome Center Website.
- April 24th – Director Brown met with Ruth Sykes w/ LRC to complete the Itinerary for 2 Groups of Travel Writers Media Visits in June.
- April 29th – Director Brown met with RMG (Response Marketing Group) on a possible partnership on a digital retargeting campaign.
- April 30th – Director Brown met with the State Tourism Office to discuss the IPW event in June.

Water/Wastewater - Infrastructure Projects Update - City of Helen

Groundwater Development:

The hydrogeologist retained by the City has identified four potential sites for groundwater exploration. The City has elected to proceed with development at the Lenzen Property site. Additional locations will be evaluated and recommended following initial development activities. It appears there is an additional site near the Lenzen well property. Concurrently, EMI is preparing an ARC grant application to support future groundwater well projects.

Well No. 11 (Lenzen Property):

Well and water line design is underway; well design is approximately 85%. Water line design is dependent upon development behind the Lenzen well property. EMI has completed our review of the submitted plans for water and sewer infrastructure and have provided correspondence to the City.

Land Application System (LAS) Improvements:

Solids removal from the large pond has begun. Design work for Spray Fields 4 and 5 is completed with plans and bid documents submitted to the City and contractor. Contractor is providing cost to the City for fields 4 and 5.

LAS Vegetation Plan

Project is on hold and scheduled to be rebid at a later date.

Telescopic Valve/Gypsum Feed System:

Preliminary engineering has been finalized, the survey has been completed, and the design is nearing 85% completion.

Zone Meters:

Four of the five zones have been surveyed/designed, some easements will need to be obtained. Working with city staff on calibrating/replacing current well and booster pump meters.

LAS Monitoring Well:

The plans and engineering letter report for the LAS groundwater monitoring well have been approved by the EPD. Project has been awarded.



CITY OF HELEN
FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY
PRELIMINARY TEN MONTHS ENDED APRIL 2026
TAX REVENUES SUMMARY COMPARISON

TAX REVENUES

HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUND

Monthly Comparison

<u>Apr-25</u>	<u>Apr-26</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
187,169	198,625	11,456	6.12%
	0		
	198,625		

Fiscal YTD Comparison - Ten Months Ended 4/30/26

<u>Apr-25</u>	<u>Apr-26</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
2,478,665	2,664,793	186,128	7.51%
	256,864 * Prior Periods Adjs		
	2,921,657		

SALES TAX

Monthly Comparison

<u>Apr-25</u>	<u>Apr-26</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
147,332	134,029	-13,303	-9.03%

Fiscal YTD Comparison - Ten Months Ended 4/30/26

<u>Apr-25</u>	<u>Apr-26</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
1,395,455	1,433,042	37,587	2.69%

BEER/WINE/LIQUOR EXCISE TAX

Monthly Comparison

<u>Apr-25</u>	<u>Apr-26</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
9,194	11,227	2,033	22.11%

Fiscal YTD Comparison - Ten Months Ended 4/30/26

<u>Apr-25</u>	<u>Apr-26</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
138,708	129,844	-8,864	-6.39%

MIXED DRINK TAX

Monthly Comparison

<u>Apr-25</u>	<u>Apr-26</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
7,230	6,506	-724	-10.01%

Fiscal YTD Comparison - Ten Months Ended 4/30/26

<u>Apr-25</u>	<u>Apr-26</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
95,537	97,182	1,645	1.72%

2020 SPLOST

Monthly Comparison

<u>Apr-25</u>	<u>Apr-26</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
145,859	132,705	-13,154	-9.02%

Fiscal YTD Comparison - Ten Months Ended 4/30/26

<u>Apr-25</u>	<u>Apr-26</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
1,381,523	1,418,792	37,269	2.70%

Fiscal YTD Comparison - Ten Months Ended 4/30/26

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
1,700,000	1,418,792	83.46%

<u>Cumulative #65</u>	<u>Estimated 2020</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% of Estimate</u>
8,282,322	5,600,000	-2,682,322	147.90%



Unaudited Draft

2021 Construction Fund

Account Summary

Date Range: 08/01/2021 - 4/30/2026

	Original Budget	To Date 4/30/26	Available @ 4/30/26 After Budget Reallocation
HEX STRASSE WELL (Complete)	250,000	80,471	0
LENZEN PROPERTY WELL #11	495,000	205,977	292,817
MAIN LIFT STATION (Complete)	1,450,000	1,295,230	0
SSES IMPROVEMENTS	1,500,000	1,088,777	126,563
CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER SEWER LINE (Complete)	375,000	239,360	0
GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT	25,000	37,569	106,052
METER REPLACEMENT (Complete)	595,000	409,286	0
WWTF SOLIDS REMOVAL (Complete)	425,000	558,379	0
LAS IMPROVEMENTS	875,000	1,343,173	206,346
	<u>5,990,000</u>	<u>5,258,222</u>	<u>731,778</u>



**CITY OF HELEN AVAILABLE 2020 SPLOST FUNDS
AS OF APRIL 30, 2026**

Unaudited Draft

<u>2020 SPLOST (20%)</u>	<u>ROADS, STREETS, BRIDGES, SIDEWALKS (23.21%)</u>	<u>WATER/WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS (33.93%)</u>	<u>PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (37.5%)</u>	<u>ADMIN EQUIP., FACILITIES & VEHICLES (5.36%)</u>	<u>2020 SPLOST REVENUE</u>
<u>TOTALS FOR</u>	1,300,000.00	1,900,000.00	2,100,000.00	300,000.00	5,600,000.00
<u>6 YEAR PERIOD</u>					
<u>CURRENT ESTIMATE</u>					
<u>REVENUE</u>					
ACTUAL RECEIVED	1,922,350.65	2,810,226.52	3,105,909.06	443,937.93	8,282,424.16
INTEREST EARNED	125,003.26	182,738.51	201,965.64	28,867.62	538,575.03
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
PRIOR YEARS TOTALS	1,282,147.58	618,508.97	1,149,203.87	132,307.52	3,182,167.94
CURRENT YEAR TOTALS	103,445.00	63,450.00	1,288,845.08	0.00	1,455,740.08
BANK FEES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2020 SPLOST AVAILABLE	661,761.33	2,311,006.06	869,825.75	340,498.04	4,183,091.17



City of Helen Debt Service as of April 30, 2026

Lender	Collateral	Loan Amount	Rate	Pmt. Amount	Due	Balance	Matures
BB&T	HME Ahrens Fire Truck	406,802	3.060	47,721	January*	46,304	Jan-27
GEFA CWSRF 14-018	Willow Pond Sewer Rehab	281,000	0.500	2,401	Monthly	14,386	Oct-26
GEFA DWSRG 13-012	Hamby St Bridge Crossing	309,041	0.660	2,662	Monthly	29,185	Mar-27
				<u>52,784</u>		<u>89,875</u>	
Debt Service 2021 Construction Bond (Principal + Interest)		\$ 7,325,248		changes	Semi-Annual	5,401,900	Aug-36
February 2026 Interest Only		\$ 73,200					
August 2026 Principal + Interest		\$ 418,200					



Helen Police Department

Monthly Report

April 2026

<u>Apr. 2026</u> <u>Arrests - 0</u> Felony - 0 Misdemeanor - 8 FVA - 1 VGCSA - 1	<u>Apr. 2025</u> <u>Arrests - 11</u> Felony - 0 Misdemeanor - 8 FVA - 0 VGCSA - 3	<u>Apr. 2026</u> <u>Citations</u> 172	<u>Apr. 2025</u> <u>Citations</u> 292
<u>Apr. 2026</u> <u>Security Checks</u> 132	<u>Apr. 2025</u> <u>Security Checks</u> 1,502 *Downtown businesses 71 (5,112)	<u>Apr. 2026</u> <u>Calls for Service</u> 580	<u>Apr. 2025</u> <u>Calls for Service</u> 637
<u>Apr. 2026</u> <u>Criminal Trespass</u> 0	<u>Apr. 2025</u> <u>Criminal Trespass</u> 10	<u>Apr. 2026</u> <u>Accident Reports</u> 6	<u>Apr. 2025</u> <u>Accident Reports</u> 8
<u>2026 Totals</u> Arrests – 49 Security Checks – 1,291 Criminal Trespass – 5 Citations – 697 Calls for Service – 3,019 Accidents – 24		<u>2025 Totals</u> Arrests – 133 Security Checks – 11,184 Criminal Trespass – 33 Citations – 3,451 Calls for Service – 10,048 Accidents – 77	

911 Accidental / Open Line / Hang	20	Fight	2	Road Block	
Abandoned Vehicle		Fire Calls	3	Road Rage	
Active Shooter		Flag Down		Security / Business Check	132
Alarm Calls	5	Follow up Report	5	Sexual Assault Reported	
Amber / Levi / Matties Call / Alert		Foot Patrol	60	Shots Fired	1
Animal Call	1	For Your Information	2	Special Detail	6
Apparent Death		Forgery		Speeding Vehicle	1
Armed Robbery		Fraud		Stalking	
Assault	1	Harassment		Subject Screaming	
Assist Fire / LEO	1	Hit & Run	3	Suicide (attempt or threat)	
Assist Motorist	2	Hostage Situation		Suspicious Person or Vehicle	14
Assistance Needed		Improperly Parked Vehicle	8	Taking Report	3
Attempting to Stop	1	In the Area		Temporary Protection Order	
BOLO		Intoxicated Driver / Ped.	5	Test Call	
Bomb Threat		Indecent Exposure		Theft Report	
Bond	4	Juvenile Problem		Threats	1
Burglary	1	Kidnapping		Traffic Accident	6
Call by Phone	3	Lines Down		Traffic Hazard	1
Car Jacking		Loitering	1	Traffic Stop	190
Chase in Progress		Lost / Found Item or Person	7	Tree Down / Across Roadway	
Child Abuse / DFCS		Mechanical Breakdown	3	Trespassing	
City / County Ordinance Violation	4	Medical Calls	19	Vandalism	
Court Detail		Meet in Person	6	Vehicle Lock Out	
Criminal Trespass		Mental Subject		Vehicle Registration Info.	
Damage to Property	2	Misc	4	Vehicle Taken without Permission	
Debris in Roadway		Missing Person	1	Vin Verification	
Deliver Message		Noise Complaint	4	Walk Thru	10
Direct Traffic	1	Not Otherwise Specified	2	Wanted Person / Warrant	3
Dispute	1	Open Door		Wanted / Stolen Indicated	
Disturbance		Overdue Motorist	2	Weather	1
Domestic	5	Pandering		Welfare Check	5
Driver / Criminal History Requested		Pick up Prisoner / Subject	1	School Crossing / Traffic	
Driver's License Information	1	Possible Dam Failure		Subject in Custody	
Drug Suspect	1	Prowler		Wrecker needed	
Emergency Road Repair		Public Assist	4	Civil Process	
Entering Auto		Reckless Driving	3	Illegal Dumping	
Escort	3	Refusing to Leave		Unknown Problem	1
Extra Patrol	1	River Patrol		Calls for Water Dept Problems	
				Walk In Report	2

Total calls for service: 580

City of Helen Fire & Rescue

Monthly Report for April 2026

Total "911 Responses" = 72 / Year to Date = 243

Major Incident Type(s) Breakdown

Major Incident Type	# Of Incidents Current Month	% Of Total Current Month
Fire (Structure, Wildland, Outside, Transportation, Special)	3	4.17%
Medical (Injury, Illness, Other)	32	44.44%
Hazardous Situation (Non-Chemical, HazMat, Overpressure, Investigation)	2	2.78%
Rescue (Outside, Structure, Transportation, Water)	2	2.78%
Public Service (Assistance, Non-Medical Alarms, Weather, Other)	18	25%
No Emergency (Cancelled, False Alarm, Good Intent)	15	20.83%
Assisting Law Enforcement	0	0%
TOTAL	72	

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TTL
2025	65	50	47	52	79	87	102	77	67	77	66	75	844
2026	55	47	69	72									243
Difference	-10	-3	+22	+20									

Count of Aid Given and Received for Incidents for Date Range			# Of Incidents by Day of the Week for Date Range						
AID TYPE	TOTAL	% Of TOTAL	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Aid Given	23	31.94%	10	7	10	17	10	14	4
Aid Received	6	8.33%	Busiest Hours for Date Range						
None	43	59.72%	0600-1159 / 33.33%						

Average Response Time for Non-Aid Incidents for Date Range		
AGENCY	AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (Dispatched to Arrival)	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
City of Helen Fire & Rescue	6:28	30

Apparatus Responses: This chart identifies our busiest apparatus for the Month

Apparatus Call Sign	Type of Vehicle	Number of Responses for Apparatus
Engine 31	2017 HME "Ahrens Fox"	24
Engine 32	1997 Ferrara "Spartan"	8
Truck 31	2025 Spartan "Gladiator"	9
Rescue 31	2000 Ford "F-650"	5
Utility 31	2016 Ford "F-150"	31
301	2025 Ford "F-150"	14
ATV 31	2016 Polaris "Ranger"	0

Training

Fire Department completed a total of **154 hours** of classroom and practical training.

Incident Types by Month Breakdown

Incident Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	%
Building fire	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.23
Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.41
Forest, woods or wildland fire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.41
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.41
Special outside fire, other	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.41
Rescue, EMS Incident, other	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.41
Emergency medical service incident, other	13	16	29	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	33.74
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	9	5	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	12.35
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.65
Extrication, rescue, other	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.82
Confined space rescue	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.41
Gas Leak (natural gas or LPG)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.23
Power line down	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1.23
Accident, potential accident, other	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2.47
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.41
Service Call, other	10	8	12	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	18.11
Cover assignment, general cleanup	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.41
Severe weather or natural disaster, other	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2.06
Dispatched & Cancelled enroute	5	3	7	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	9.47
No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2.47
Authorized controlled burning	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.82
Vicinity alarm (incident in other location)	5	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4.94
HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.41
Malicious, mischievous false call, other	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.41
System malfunction, other	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.65
Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.65
Total Runs by Month	55	47	69	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	243	100

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

April 2026

- Removed bushes and dirt from city parking lot beds replaced with fence .
- Striped new parking lot in the Island .
- Clean up side walk behind art center.
- Worked in spray field cleaning heads.
- Worked on one main water leaks.
- Normal routine: clean restrooms, trash route, roadside trash, read water meters, put chlorine and salt in wells, and water samples on weekends started cutting grass for the season.
- 811 locates .
- Spray sidewalks curb sides.
- Put 6+6 along the city parking lots.
- Put up directional signs.
- Removed broken side walk from main street and poured concrete back.
- Fixed drain and poured back side walk on White street.
- Paint direction arrows on golf cart right away in the park.
- Paint walking ramps on side walks.



Helen, GA

Service Order Statistics

Group Summary

Group	Issued	Completed	Voided	New
1ST AVAILABLE	41	41	0	0
WATER	2	2	0	0
Grand Totals	43	43	0	0

Staff Summary

Staff	Issued	Completed	Voided	New
1ST AVAILABLE	10	10	0	0
CHRIS ESTES	1	1	0	0
EDWARD SALWAY	30	30	0	0
PW TEAM	2	2	0	0
Grand Totals	43	43	0	0

Job Code Summary

Job Code	Issued	Completed	Voided	New
CONNECT - CONNECT	3	3	0	0
DELIVER CAN - DELIVER CAN	2	2	0	0
DISCONNECT & READ - DISCONNECT & READ	3	3	0	0
LEAK CK - LEAK CHECK	2	2	0	0
LOCK NON PAYMENT - LOCK NON PAYMENT	8	8	0	0
MISC - MISC	4	4	0	0
PULL DATA - PULL METER DATA	8	8	0	0
READ TO TRANSFER - READ TO TRANSFER	5	5	0	0
REINSTATE - REINSTATE	3	3	0	0
RE-READ IN BILLING - RE-READ IN BILLING	1	1	0	0
UNLOCK - UNLOCK	1	1	0	0
UNLOCK & READ - UNLOCK & READ	3	3	0	0
Grand Totals	43	43	0	0

Action Summary

Action	Issued	Completed	Voided	New
Connect	3	3	0	0
Disconnect	3	3	0	0
Re-Read	1	1	0	0
Occupant Change	5	5	0	0
Miscellaneous	18	18	0	0
Cutoff	8	8	0	0
Reinstate	3	3	0	0
Service Action	2	2	0	0
Grand Totals	43	43	0	0

Issued by User

User	Issued
Katie	4
Susie	39
Grand Totals	43

Completed by User

User	Completed
esalway	38
ksutton	1
ssanders	4
Grand Totals	43



**City of Helen
Georgia's Alpine
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The City of Helen is an equal
opportunity provider and employer

Commissioners:

Steve Fowler
Helen Wilkins
Cliff Hood
Mervin Barbree
Lee Landress

City Manager:

Darrell Westmoreland

City Clerk:

Marilyn M. Chastain

Clerk of Court:

Jaclyn Burke

City Finance Director:

Mona Wood

Chief of Police:

Aletha Barrett

Building and Zoning

Director:

Jonah Casper

Fire Chief:

Jody Prickett

Public Works

Director:

Jack Morgan

BUILDING AND ZONING MONTHLY REPORT

April 2026

PERMITS

Building: 0

Electrical: 0

Mechanical: 0

Plumbing: 0

Demo: 0

Sign: 0

Special Event: 2

INSPECTIONS

Permitted: 22

Builder and Architect consultations: 8

CERTIFICATES ISSUED

Residential: 1

Commercial: 3