

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 5, 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 JULY 15, 2014
6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
 - A. MED LINK GEORGIA; LINDA RAMEY DIRECTOR OF MARKETING/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
7. ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS
 - A. DISCUSSION OF DRAFTING AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OPERATION OF TAXI CABS, AND TAXI CAB DRIVERS
 - B. DISCUSSION OF CELL TOWER CONSTRUCTION
 - C. CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF VARIANCES TO ALLOW VENDORS AT THE HELENDORF INN DURING A CAR GATHERING ON AUGUST 9, 2014
8. POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS
9. PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTE WATER OPERATIONS
10. BUILDING AND ZONING OPERATIONS
11. PURCHASES AND BIDS
12. ORDINANCES
 - A. 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
13. RESOLUTIONS

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL

15. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED AUGUST 1, 2014 AT 11:00 A.M.

**CITY OF HELEN
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AUGUST 5, 2014
10:00 A.M.
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Helen City Commission met on Tuesday August 5, 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 K Burke, Commissioner Jeff Ash.

Also in attendance were City Manager Jerry Elkins, City Attorney Carl Free, 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 amend the Agenda by adding as 6-B, under Petitions and Communications from the Public, Helen Arts & Heritage Center, as 7-D, under Administration, discussion of Hazard Mitigation Plan, and add to the Executive Session, discussion of Property Acquisition made by Commissioner Dona K Burke, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Approval of Minutes from July 15, 2014; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Helen Wilkins, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

City Manager Jerry Elkins was presented with a cake and Corinthian Bell wind-chimes from the Commissioners and City Employees as a surprise, in appreciation for his 15 years of employment as City Manager for the City of Helen.

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Petitions and Communications from the Public;

A. Med Link GA; Linda Ramey Director of Marketing/Business Development informed the Commission on what Med Link does for the Community and asked for letters of support in getting them located in the County, Joy Ross with Med Link was also present.

B. Helen Arts & Heritage Center; Nancy Ackerman spoke to the Commission about the Arts Center's new project of having a history center featuring a memorial for John Kollock at the Arts Center, and asked the Commission for use of the space of the old Fire Department bays, also that the Arts Center is planning fund raisers to help with the cost, and that the Arts Center had put \$5000.00 aside to help with the project. City Manager Jerry Elkins stated that the area is now being used as storage for the City Christmas Decorations, and is used as a work area for getting the decorations ready to hang. He explained that the City does not currently have additional storage space to relocate the decorations. Commissioner Helen Wilkins stated that there were others involved in the original planning as well as John Kollock. Commissioner Dona K Burke stated that the Christmas decorations that are stored in the building need to be easily accessible in town as they currently are, and does not think that now because of cost is a good time to try to relocate a storage place for them, but maybe in the future the City could look at purchasing property or another building.

Administrative Operations;

A. Discussion of drafting an Ordinance concerning the permitting requirements for the operation of Taxi Cabs, and Taxi Cab Drivers; City Clerk Marilyn Chastain explained to the Commission that after talking to Vicki Judd with the Department of Driver Services (DDS) she explained that DDS does not regulate Taxi's or Taxi Drivers, that any rules required of them would have to be set by an Ordinance in each City, it was explained that anyone with **any** type of criminal history could come into Helen and put the word Taxi on the side of any type vehicle and operate as a taxi, the Commissioners were given copies of the City of Cornelia and City of Athens Taxi Ordinances as a guide. Commissioner Dona K Burke, Commissioner Helen Wilkins, Commissioner Jeff Ash all agreed that the City should have a Taxi Ordinance and asked that the City Attorney draft the Ordinance. Attorney Carl Free stated he was looking at the City of Athens Ordinance and would be glad to draft a similar Ordinance for Helen.

B. Cell Tower discussion; City Manager Jerry Elkins stated he had spoken with a representative from ATT concerning the cell tower lease, and that ATT's position is they do not currently have the funding to build at this time but should be able to do so in 2016, he also stated that ATT has the option to cancel the lease in November and may want to hold off making any decision to see if the lease is renewed then.

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C. Consideration for approval of a variance request to allow vendors at the Helendorf Inn during a car club gathering on August 9, 2014. City Manager Jerry Elkins stated that he had received a request to allow 5 vendors to set up during a private birthday celebration for one of its car club members that are staying at the Helendorf to sell parts, he explained that this would be done in the parking lot of the Helendorf and not open to the public. Commissioner Dona K Burke stated as long as it is not for the public and is a private event she does not have a problem with allowing the Vendors. The other Commission members present agreed they have no problem with the request if for a private gathering.

D. Hazard Mitigation Plan; Discussion and approval for participation with White County to update the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation plan. Copy of letter to participate with White County included as a part of the permanent Minutes. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Dona K Burke, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

City Manager Jerry Elkins stated he had met with Harry Bartlett of Bartlett landscaping and choose with Bart's recommendation the plants and shrubs for Phase One of the Island area project, also that a sidewalk is needed to join the sidewalk by the Hayloft restaurant and would like to get bids for the project.

Police Department Operations; Police Chief Jim Couch stated that he had attended the Chiefs Conference in Savannah and that the department had been somewhat busy.

Fire Department Operations; Fire Captain Lee Poteat stated the Department had been rather busy during July.

Public Works, Water and Waste Water operations; Director Ross Hewell stated the Public Works Department had also been as is normal, busy during July, and had been working on installing the wiring to the street lights in Island area project.

Building and Zoning operations; Director Larry Krul stated the color drawings for the new Holiday Inn Express should be submitted by the next Planning Design & Review Boards next meeting, and that he has been working with architect Tom Wright on the Plans for America's Best Value Inn.

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City Manager Jerry Elkins informed the Commission of the Donation from JT Gangwal of two I-Pads to the City of Helen, for use by the City Manager and Building & Zoning Director. Motion to approve and accept the Donation made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Purchases and Bids; None

Ordinances;

A. 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 first reading of Ordinance 14-08-01 made by Commissioner Dona K Burke, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Resolutions; None

Executive Session for Personnel, and Land Acquisition;

Motion to go into Executive Session at 11:38 a.m. made by Commissioner Dona K Burke, 2nd by Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission. No motions were made as a result of the Executive Session.

City Commission comments; Commissioner Helen Wilkins stated there should be consideration of adding Pete Hodkins, and John Kollock to the Wall of Fame soon because both of their surviving wives are ill. Motion to approve moving forward with adding Pete Hodkins, and John Kollock to the Wall of Fame made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Mayor Judy Holloway. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Adjournment; Motion to adjourn at 12:35 p.m. made by Commissioner Helen Wilkins, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

RESPECTFULLY PREPARED BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN