

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 5, 2015
10:00 A.M.
AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR DONA K BURKE
2. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 21, 2015
6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
7. ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS
 - A. CONSIDERATION OF ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION FOR BULAH M. McDONALD D/B/A CELEBRITY PIANO BAR AND SUPPER CLUB LOCATED AT 8252 SOUTH MAIN STREET HELEN, GEORGIA 30545 FOR BEER ON PREMISES, WINE ON PREMISES, LIQUOR POURING, AND SUNDAY SALES.

 - B. CONSIDERATION OF A VARIANCE REQUEST FROM DERRICK LONG REPRESENTING HELEN WATER PARK TO THE CITY'S ORDINANCE SECTION 70-39 PARAGRAPH D, TO ALLOW THE WATER PARK TO EXCEED THE MAXIMUM 20,000 GALLONS USEAGE PER 24-HOUR PERIOD.
8. POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS
9. FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS
10. PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTE WATER OPERATIONS
11. BUILDING AND ZONING OPERATIONS
12. PURCHASES AND BIDS
 - A. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL BID FOR THE LANDSCAPE CONTRACT.
13. ORDINANCES; NONE
14. RESOLUTIONS; NONE
15. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE

16. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

17. ADJOURNMENT

THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED FRIDAY MAY 1, 2015 @ 11:30 A.M.

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 5, 2015
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Helen City Commission met on Tuesday May 5, 2105 in the Commission Chambers at Helen City Hall with Mayor Dona K Burke calling the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Approval of Agenda; Motion to Amend the Agenda to include under Administration as item C. Consideration of adopting an Ordinance for the use of Golf Carts upon the streets of the City of Helen, under Public Works, Water and Waste Water Operations as item A. consideration of request from Edelweiss Strasse Townhomes for the installation of a speed bump in front of the townhomes and to approve the Amended Agenda made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Judy Holloway. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2015; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Jeff Ash. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Petitions and Communications from the Public; From the Helen Arts & Heritage Center was Vice President Gayle Murdock. She informed the Commission on the growth of the Center in the past year, how well the remodeling of the old Fire Department bays is coming along, and of the upcoming fundraiser planned for the Friday after Memorial Day. Treasurer/CFO Paula Ash gave the Commission an update on funds being spent so far on the remodeling and improvements, stating that they are expecting to spend 40 to 50 thousand more to complete the project. She also thanked Commissioner Fred Garmon for volunteering his time and expertise on the project.

Commissioner Fred Garmon read the profit & Loss statement from the Center and stated he thinks the project can be completed around \$35,000.00

Administration;

A. Consideration of Alcohol License Application for Bulah M. McDonald D/B/A Celebrity Piano Bar and Supper Club, located at 8252 South Main Street Helen, Georgia 30545 for Beer on Premises, Wine on Premises, Liquor Pouring, and Sunday Sales. Motion to approve the License made by Commissioner Judy Holloway, 2nd by Commissioner Jeff Ash. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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B. Consideration of a Variance request from Derek Long representing Helen Water Park to the City's Ordinance Section 70-39 paragraph D, to allow the Water Park to exceed the maximum 20,000 gallons usage per 24-hour period. Derek Long was not present at the meeting. After much discussion on working with the Long's request, and in the possibility of swapping service for service by the Long's allowing the City access from the Water Park property to repair the previously discussed Sewer line across the river, in exchange for doing so, allowing if available additional water to the Water Park to fill the pool. A Motion was made by Commissioner Jeff Ash to allow City Manager Jerry Elkins the authority at his discretion and judgment, to permit Derek Long to fill the pools at the Water Park with an allocation over the 20,000 gallons per day, provided the available water was sufficient to do so, and the City retained enough water supply to properly serve all other City water customers in exchange for the City to be allowed to use the Long property at the Water Park to access the Sewer line across the river bank for repairs and river bank restoration with agreement being in writing, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission. In further conversation the City Commission agreed to only perform the work from Mr. Long's property during the time the Water Park was not open for their summer business.

City Manager Jerry Elkins gave an update on the Island area project and stated to the Commission that the City roadway that crosses at Country Inn & Suites in order for all pavement to be new should be cut out and replaced stating that there are funds still available to do so.

Another item City Manager Jerry Elkins discussed with the Commission is the request from City resident Judy Presley for replacement of the sidewalk in front of Betty's store to the corner at Hamby Street. There was discussion of the need to go all the way beyond to the Hofbrauhaus restaurant being it is the last building on that end of town. Public Works Director Ross Hewell is to check into the State's requirements for permitting.

C. Consideration of adopting an Ordinance for the use of Golf Carts upon the streets of the City of Helen. After discussion and consideration, it was decided to do more research before a decision is made.

There was discussion of signage being installed at the Crosswalks. Public Works Director Ross Hewell explained his conversation with a DOT representative and what would be required by the City in order to install, stating that the City will be responsible for the cost to purchase, installation and of removal during the winter because of the snow plows and other requirements. Commissioner Jeff Ash made a motion to purchase 12 crosswalk signs at a cost of approximately \$400.00 each for pedestrian safety, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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Item 10, A. was moved up for discussion. Consideration of request from Edelweiss Strasse Townhomes for the installation of a speed bump in front of the townhomes. After discussion and consideration, Commissioner Helen Wilkins made a motion to approve the installation of a speed bump on Edelweiss Strasse, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Police Department Operations; Police Chief Jim Couch stated he is getting ready for the SOWO Event and wanted to thank David Wilkins for use of one of his buildings to use as a second Post during the event, that he is meeting with White County EMA Director David Murphy to discuss safety during the event, and that he is working on the schedule for the officers. Commissioner Helen Wilkins asked how many are expected to attend the event and Chief Couch stated approximately 23,000.

Fire Department Operations; Fireman Johnathan Sutton was present and stated there has been no new business. Commissioner Fred Garmon asked if all the equipment inspections had been done and Fireman Sutton stated they had and the equipment has all been serviced.

Public Works, Water and Waste Water Operations; Director Ross Hewell was present and stated he had requested in his budget a new bucket truck and expects the cost to be \$85,000 to \$100,000 to build, and after ordered 6 to 8 weeks to get delivery. City Manager Jerry Elkins stated the money will come from the other Special projects fund.

Building and Zoning Operations; Director Larry Krul was present and stated there is repainting being done at the Hayloft, Mother Lode Mining Company is opening soon, the Red Roof Inn is coming along slowly that the reason he got that the money was coming from overseas. Commissioner Fred Garmon asked if there had been news on the new Motel, Director Larry Krul replied that they are getting a re-bids for a Contractor, and are now going to use the original plans that were submitted and approved.

Purchases and Bids;

A. Consideration and approval of Bid for the Landscape Contract. City Manager Jerry Elkins explained there had been only 1 bid received by the deadline, and it was from Bartlett Landscaping at a yearly cost of \$131,517.24. Motion to approve the bid by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Ordinances; None

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Resolutions; None

Executive Session to discuss Acquisition of Real Estate; Motion to go into the Executive Session at 11:06 a.m. made by Commissioner Helen Wilkins, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

The Regular Commission meeting resumed at 11:20 a.m. Motion as a result of the Executive Session made by Commissioner Fred Garmon to allow City Manager Jerry Elkins the authority to sign any necessary documents for the exchange of 1.986 acres owned by Terry Sims on Dandy Lane for the 1.435 acres owned by the City of Helen on Alternate Highway 75 that was recently purchased from Barbara Roper, 2nd by Commissioner Jeff Ash. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

City Commission Comments;

Commissioner Helen Wilkins stated that the Special Olympics are this Friday that she plans to attend and wanted to remind others that were interested in going.

Commissioner Fred Garmon stated he had spoken with the Director of the Corvette Club of America and would like to make a presentation to the Club to bring their annual event to the City of Helen.

Adjournment; Motion to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

RESPECTFULLY PREPARED BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN