

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2013
10:00 A.M.
AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR LYNN WHITENER
2. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 19, 2013
6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
 - A. Ashley Johnson with Natural Elegance for consideration of approval for Miss. Helen & Miss. Oktoberfest pageant as an official event supported by the City.
7. ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS
8. POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS
9. PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTE WATER OPERATIONS
10. BUILDING AND ZONING OPERATIONS
 - A. Public Hearing for Rezoning of Tuscany Villas located at 26 Midway Street, Helen, Georgia from C-1 Commercial to R-4 Multi-Family Residential.
 - B. Consideration of Commission for Rezoning of Tuscany Villas located at 26 Midway Street, Helen, Georgia from C-1 Commercial to R-4 Multi-Family Residential.
 - C. Application for Sign Variance / Appeal Requested by Bill Adcock for sign located at 8065 S. Main Street.
11. FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS
12. ORDINANCES
 - A. Discussion of Ordinance 13-11-03 that was tabled from Commission Meeting on November 19, 2013. An Ordinance of the City of Helen, Georgia, to amend the Official Code of the City of Helen, Georgia, by amending Chapter 34, Land Development Code, Article VII signs, Division 1, generally, by amending section 34-1005; Prohibited Signs.

13. RESOLUTIONS

14. PURCHASES AND BIDS

15. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED November 26, 2013 at 2:30 p.m.

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2013
10:00 A.M.
MINUTES OF MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR LYNN WHITENER

ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN: present were all Commission members; Judy Holloway, Helen Wilkins, Lynn Whitener, Dona K Burke, Jeff Ash. Also City Manager Jerry Elkins, City Attorney Carl Free, City Clerk Marilyn Chastain, Police Chief Jim Couch, Public Works Director Ross Hewell, Building & Zoning Director Patrick Couch.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve by Commissioner Dona K Burke, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 19, 2013: Motion to approve made by Commissioner Judy Holloway, 2nd by Commissioner Dona K Burke. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- A. Ashley Johnson with Natural Elegance for consideration of approval for Miss Helen & Miss Oktoberfest pageant as an official event supported by the city. Ashley Johnson was not present for the meeting. After discussion of the request by the Commission each stated they did not object to the event taking place but not as a City supported event. Commissioner Helen Wilkins made a motion that this event not be an official event and not supported by the City of Helen, 2nd by Commissioner Jeff Ash. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS: None

POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS: Police Chief Jim Couch informed the Commission that preparations were underway for the White Christmas, and suggested due to the large number of people that attended the Lighting of the Village that the Commission consider having the Christmas Market tents at Pete's Park next year.

PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTE WATER OPERATIONS: Public Works Director Ross Hewell informed the Commission that the lighting of the Village went off well and his department had worked hard to make it a success, also that they had been changing over to LED lights on the Christmas Decorations.

BUILDING AND ZONING OPERATIONS:

- A. Public Hearing for Rezoning of Tuscany Villas located at 26 Midway Street, Helen, Georgia from C-1 Commercial to R-4 Multi-Family Residential: Motion to begin the Public Hearing at 10:14 a.m. by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Dona K Burke. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.
There was discussion of the rezoning and Attorney Chad Knott spoke to the Commission on behalf of his client, First Citizens Bank of Georgia, stating that because of new guidelines by Freddie Mack, and Fannie Mae that have changed recently, purchasers and owners cannot get residential financing on property zoned C-1, and is requesting to have the property rezoned to R-4 Multi Family, and will add a portion of the property as green space as required in the current R-4 code. Motion to come out of the Public Hearing at 10:24 a.m. by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Dona K Burke. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.
- B. Consideration of Commission for Rezoning of Tuscany Villas located at 26 midway Street, Helen, Georgia from C-1 Commercial to R-4 Multi-family residential. Building & Zoning Director Patrick Couch presented explanations from the PDRB meeting of why the Zoning does not comply with the current code requirements. Motion to approve Rezoning of Tuscany Villas located at 26 Midway Street from C-1 Commercial to R-4 Multi-family with all variances required included in approval made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Judy Holloway. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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- C. Application for Sign Variance/Appeal requested by Bill Adcock for sign located at 8065 S. Main Street. Building & Zoning director Patrick Couch stated that Mr. Adcock had requested his Appeal be Tabled until the January 21, 2014 meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS: NONE

ORDINANCES:

- A. Discussion of Ordinance 13-11-03 that was tabled from The Commission Meeting on November 19, 2013. An Ordinance of the City of Helen, Georgia, to amend the Official Code of the City of Helen, Georgia, by amending Chapter 34, Land Development Code, Article VII signs, Division 1 generally, by amending section 34-1005; Prohibited Signs.: After much discussion, it was decided to have City Attorney Carl Free redraft Ordinance 13-11-03 to allow (1) 4 sq. ft. internally illuminated Open window sign, and (1) 8 1/2" x 11" non-illuminated Open door sign. Also discussed for Ordinance 13-11-03, to limit the number of exterior viewed illuminated signs to (2) at 4 sq. ft. in the walking district, and (2) at 6 sq. ft. in the driving district. No motions were made.

RESOLUTIONS: NONE

PURCHASES AND BIDS: NONE

CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS: Each Commissioner expressed gratitude for the excellent result of the Lighting of the Village.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 11:09 a.m. made by Commissioner Judy Holloway, 2nd by Commissioner Dona K Burke. Motion approved unanimously by the Commission.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN