

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 1, 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 JUNE 17, 2014
6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
 - A. KATHY WOOD OF SORBA (SOUTHERN OFF-ROAD BICYCLE ASSOCIATION) FOR PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE PLANNING STAGES FOR THE OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA BEING CONSIDERED BY THE WHITE COUNTY COMMISSION
7. ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS
 - A. DISCUSSION AND DECISION OF ALCOHOL TO BE PERMITTED AT SPECIAL EVENTS
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
13. ORDINANCES
 - A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 14-07-01; 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 3, STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS; SECTION 34-1118: STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SHADOW BOX SIGNS
14. RESOLUTIONS

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPERTY ACQUISITION
16. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS
17. ADJOURNMENT

THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED JUNE 27, 2014 @ 10:00 A.M.

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 1, 2014
10:00 A.M.
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Helen City Commission met on Tuesday July 1, 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 Clerk Marilyn Chastain, Police Chief Jim Couch, Public Works Director Ross Hewell, and Building & Zoning Director Larry Krul. Absent from the meeting were City Attorney Carl Free, and Fire Captain Lee Poteat.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Approval of Agenda; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Dona K Burke. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2014; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Dona K Burke, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Petitions and Communications from the Public;

A. Kathy Wood of SORBA (Southern off-road Bicycle Association) for presentation of information regarding the planning stages for the outdoor recreation area being considered by the White County Commission. Ms Wood presented a slide show to the Commission with maps of proposed trails designed by SORBA and IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association), and list of reasons why SORBA and IMBA thinks having the multi-use trails built would benefit the businesses and residents of White County.

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Mrs. Wood estimates that the cost to build the proposed 20 miles of "non-motorized use" trails to be one million dollars to complete, and will need volunteers for the upkeep, volunteers to build, and donations of money to construct and maintain.

Administrative Operations;

A. Discussion and decision of alcohol to be permitted at Special Events; City Manager Jerry Elkins explained to the Commission that Alcohol sales could be allowed at Special Events if adopted by Resolution. Commissioner Dona K Burke stated her opinion is that allowing alcohol sales at Special Events would be chaos trying to control. Commissioner Fred Garmon stated he had talked with several of the Restaurant owners and they were all opposed, because it is not fair to the Restaurants that pay for their Alcohol license, Occupational tax, employee wages, taxes, insurance, inventory, and that there are already 34 places in town that sell alcohol. Mayor Judy Holloway stated that the opinion of the Board seems to be they are all opposed. Commissioner Jeff Ash made a motion to never permit alcohol sales at any Special Events, and to have City Attorney Carl Free to clean up the existing Ordinance to reflect this motion, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Board.

Police Department Operations; Police Chief Jim Couch stated his department is getting ready for the Fourth of July weekend and has traffic plans in place, also that he has submitted the COPS Grant application that will help pay the salary for an additional officer and should know within 3 months if approved, he stated that there is a possibility of getting a grant that would pay for emergency generators for some of the City buildings with the City only having to match 15% and will be getting that application together.

Fire Department Operations; None

Public Works, Water and Waste Water Operations; Public Works Director Ross Hewell stated his department had been cutting grass and getting ready for the Fourth, also that all his employees are scheduled to come in on Saturday after the fourth to help with clean up after the Fireworks.

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Building and Zoning Operations; Building and Zoning Director Larry Krul stated he had met with property owners and Architect for the new Holiday Inn Express, their plans are to be open by July 1, 2015 with approximately 84 rooms. Commissioner Fred Garmon asked when a copy of the rendering was to be submitted. Building and Zoning Director Larry Krul stated in 2 to 3 weeks and will go to the Planning, Design and Review Board for consideration, also that Safe Build will be reviewing the plans for compliance which will be paid for by the owner, and Ace Hardware is still working on getting moved to the old Bear Park location, but has not closed with the Bank yet.

Purchases and Bids; None

Ordinance;

A. First reading of Ordinance 14-07-01; 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 3, Standards and Requirements for Shadow Box Signs; City Manager Jerry Elkins read the Ordinance and suggested changing the wording to Reflect Restaurants only that sell prepared food. Motion to approve the First reading made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Resolutions; None

Executive Session for the purpose of Property Acquisition; Motion to go into Executive Session at 10:40 a.m. made by Commissioner Dona D Burke, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Motion to end the Executive Session at 10:49 a.m. made by Commissioner Helen Wilkins, 2nd by Commissioner Dona K Burke. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

No motions were made as a result of the Executive Session.

City Commission Comments; None

Adjournment; Motion to adjourn at 11:00 a. m. made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission.

RESPECTFULLY PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN