

**CITY OF HELEN  
COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 19, 2016  
3:00 P.M.  
AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR FRED GARMON
2. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 5, 2016 AND FROM SPECIAL CALLED MEETING DECEMBER 30, 2015
6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
7. WHITE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR DAVID MURPHY TO RECGONIZE THE HELEN FIRE DEPARTMENT AS BEING A GEMA CERTIFIED RESCUE UNIT
8. ALPINE HELEN/WHITE COUNTY CVB MONTHLY REPORT
9. HELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY REPORT
10. ADMINISTRATIVE
  - A. FINANCIAL REPORT
11. POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT
12. FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT
13. PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTE WATER MONTHLY REPORT
  - A. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT PROJECTS
14. BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT
  - A. DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENT CONCERNING SALE SIGNS, AND BANNERS
15. PURCHASES AND BIDS
16. ORDINANCES
17. RESOLUTIONS

18. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

19. ADJOURNMENT

**THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED JANUARY 15, 2016 AT 11:00 A.M.**

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The Helen City Commission met on Tuesday January 19, 2106 in the Commission Chambers at Helen City Hall with Mayor Fred Garmon calling the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

City Clerk Marilyn Chastain called the roll and the following were present; Commissioner Cinnamon Spurlock, Mayor Fred Garmon, Commissioner Judy Holloway, Commissioner Jeff Ash. Commissioner Helen Wilkins was absent.

Also attending were City Manager Jerry Elkins, City Attorney Carl Free, City Clerk Marilyn Chastain, Police Sergeant Jason Arrington , Fire Chief Jody Prickett, Public Works Director Ross Hewell. Absent were; Building & Zoning Director Larry Krul, Finance Officer Debbie Gerchman, Police Chief Brian Stephens.

Motion to Amend the Agenda to include as item B, under Administrative the addition of discussion to allow the Victory Motorcycle rally use of and closure of City streets Narr Weg to Edelweiss Strasse on June 1-5 2016, and approve the amended Agenda made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Judy Holloway. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the January 5, 2016 Commission meeting and Minutes from the Special Called Meeting of December 30, 2015 made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Cinnamon Spurlock. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Mayor Fred Garmon asked if there were any Petitions and Communications from the Public; Nancy Johnson came to the Podium and stated she is not a business owner but would like to ask the Commission to reconsider changing at least one of the Commission meetings to a night meeting to allow Citizens that would like to attend and are not able to because of the meeting being held during normal working hours. Each Commissioner voiced their view on why the night time meetings had not worked in the past, but did state they would consider her request.

White County EMS Director David Murphy recognized the Helen Fire Department for becoming a GEMA Certified Rescue Unit by awarding Fire Chief Jody Prickett a Certificate Honoring the Fire Department. The Certificate reads as follows; from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency Office of Homeland Security, A License is hereby Granted to City of Helen Fire Rescue, This organization has met the requirements as set forth in the Georgia Emergency Management Agency Rules, Regulations and Standards

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for RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS and is eligible to perform search, rescue and recovery missions in accordance with the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, as amended. This organization is authorized to work under the direction and control of: Director White County Emergency Management Agency.

Alpine Helen/White County CVB Monthly Report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. CVB Director Jerry Brown verbally went over the report stating that there were 518 more visitors to the Welcome Center than during the same time last year.

Commissioner Cinnamon Spurlock asked about the recent parade and how people were invited to participate and enter a float into the parade. Director Jerry Brown stated that participants are limited to members of the CVB and are notified.

Commissioner Jeff Ash asked if the CVB could possibly help collect data and compile numbers on the amount of bed taxes each hotel pays for the new Motor Vehicle Tax so that a study could be done on these figures to ask the Legislators that voted the Bill in, for some of these funds to be spent on local projects that would benefit the town on money that is collected here and contributes to the Motor Vehicle Tax. Director Jerry Brown stated he would be happy to help.

Helen Chamber of Commerce monthly report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Director Renee Chacon verbally went over the report. She stated that the Chamber had their annual meeting last week and informed of upcoming events being held at the Fest hall this year.

**Administrative;**

A. Financial Report; City Manager Jerry Elkins went over the report by stating that the General Fund, Sales Tax, Hotel/Motel Tax, Police Department Revenues, Property Taxes, figures are all up and in place and that financially the City is in great shape. Mayor Fred Garmon stated that the Revenues are the highest they have ever been. Motion to approve the Financial Report made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Judy Holloway. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

B. Discussion of allowing the Victory Motorcycle Rally to use City Property. City Manager Jerry Elkins stated that the event is a private event that the Victory Motorcycle club puts on each year at the Country Inn & Suites and that this will be their 10th year coming to Helen, but that the event has grown and needs more space, and have asked for the City to consider allowing them use of and closing streets Narr Weg to Edelseiss on June 1-5,

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2016 for their event. Lindsey Holt owner of Bigg Daddys was present and asked if the City did allow the event on the City Street next to her business that the Commission ask that the Dyno- machine be moved further down the street so the noise from it would not affect her restaurant business on the open deck next to the event, and asked that delivery trucks be allowed thru the street to make their deliveries. Motion to approve allowing use of City Streets Narr Weg to Edelweiss Strasse on June 1-5 2016 by event provided moving the Dyno-machine further away from Bigg Daddys, and allowing delivery trucks thru the closed streets made by Commissioner Jeff Ash, 2nd by Commissioner Cinnamon Spurlock. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Police Department Monthly Report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Police Sergeant Jason Arrington was present and gave the report stating that December had been pretty quite with no issues with the parade, or from New Years Eve noise or fireworks. He also informed the Commission that the new Patrol vehicle had been delivered and are waiting on the final bid to install the outfitting and stripes.

Fire Department Monthly Report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Fire Chief Jody Prickett went over the report stating that December was not very exciting, but there was a water rescue they had assisted on during the heavy rains, and that he did appreciate the Fire Department being recognized for becoming certified.

Public Works, Water and Waste Water monthly report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Public Works Director Ross Hewell was present. City Manager Jerry Elkins stated he wanted to go over the list of current City projects which are; The Willow Pond Sewer Line project, the Alpine Crest Lift Station, will ask for bids for the Hamby Street Water Line project to Ridge Road, the Sidewalk being installed from Betty's store to the City Limits as far as possible, and that the Mayor is working on a new building project for the Dandy Lane property.

Building and Zoning Department Monthly Report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes.

A. Discussion of Ordinance Amendment Concerning Sale Signs and Banners; City Manager Jerry Elkins went over a list items that he and Building and Zoning Director Larry Krul had discussed and asked for comments from the Commission. Commissioner Jeff Ash asked PDRB member Geff McAllister that was present if these were items that had been recommended by their Board, he stated no they have not gone over a list yet, but that the items mentioned did sound good. City Attorney Carl Free warned the

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Commission that they be Content Neutral on signs. It was discussed to wait for recommendations from the PDRB, and to look at their ideas before proposed changes are made to the current Ordinance.

Purchases and Bids; None

Ordinances; None

Resolutions; None

City Commission Comments; Commissioner Jeff Ash congratulated the Fire Department on their Certification. Commissioner Judy Holloway thanked the Commission and Employees for the plant sent after the loss of a family member. Commissioner Cinnamon Spurlock would like to get information on additional places to Post the Agenda. Mayor Fred Garmon stated the Financial Report is the best he has seen and stated that the new Hotels would also add jobs.

Adjourn; Commissioner Judy Holloway made a motion to adjourn at 4:08 p.m., 2nd by Commissioner Jeff Ash. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

**RESPECTFULLY PREPARED BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN**