

**CITY OF HELEN
COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 21, 2015
3:00 P.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 JULY 7, 2015
6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
7. ALPINE HELEN/WHITE COUNTY CVB MONTHLY REPORT
8. HELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MONTHLY REPORT
9. ADMINISTRATIVE;
 - A. DISCUSSION OF RIVERSIDE PARK REGULATIONS
 - B. CONSIDERATION OF ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION FOR TOD M. HANOVER D/B/A HELEN CELLAR, LOCATED AT 8056 SOUTH MAIN STREET FOR BEER PACKAGE, WINE PACKAGE, LIQUOR PACKAGE.
 - C. FINANCIAL REPORT
 - D. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL WATER/SEWER RATE INCREASE AS RECOMMENDED PER THE PREVIOUS RATE STUDY TO KEEP UP WITH THE RISING COST OF SUPPLY & DEMAND
 - E. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ALLOWING HELEN IMPORT DAY ON AUGUST 29, 2015 TO USE RIVERSIDE PARK FOR A CAR SHOW EVENT
10. POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT
11. FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT
12. PUBLIC WORKS, WATER AND WASTE WATER MONTHLY REPORT

13. BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

14. PURCHASES AND BIDS

15. ORDINANCES

16. RESOLUTIONS

17. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED JULY 17, 2015 AT 11:00 A.M.

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The Helen City Commission met on Tuesday July 21, 2015 in the Commission Chambers at Helen City Hall with Mayor Dona K Burke calling the meeting to order at 3:00 p.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 arrived at 3:10 p.m. Absent was Commissioner Jeff Ash. Also attending were; City Manager Jerry Elkins, City Attorney Carl Free, City Clerk Marilyn Chastain, Investigator Brian Stephens, Fire Captain Lee Poteat, Public Works Director Ross Hewell, Building & Zoning Director Larry Krul. Absent was Finance Officer Debbie Gerchman.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Approval of Agenda; Motion to Amend by adding as item A under Petitions and Communications from the Public, Nancy Ackerman with an update on the Helen Arts & Heritage Center, and approve the Agenda made by Commissioner Helen Wilkins, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Approval of Minutes from July 7, 2015; Motion to approve made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

Petitions and Communications from the Public;

A. Nancy Ackerman, update on the Helen Arts & Heritage Center. Ms. Ackerman informed the Commission on the progress of the remodeling and the Grand Opening for the new addition on July 30, 2015 at 11:30 a.m., and of classes being offered at the center, especially of the new classes being offered to our Veterans, also of the \$10,000.00 grant the Arts center had received.

Mayor Dona K Burke asked if anyone else from the Public wanted to speak and to please state their name for the record. Ann Whitlock addressed the Commission stating that she had gotten 136 signatures on a petition to see the Park become a Public Park again, next was Jody Shahan that presented her ideas for use of the Park with a detailed layout that she had prepared, Jim Leach stated that he will not go to the Park if it cannot be used, Steve Flower stated he thinks the change is good, Ashley Bush stated Communication is needed, Rick Ackerman stated he thinks changes were needed, Jody Shahan stated she had given her input which did not seem to go over well and left the meeting, Geff McAllister suggested a River Walk type area that other Cities such as Savannah have, Austin Echols stated the Commission corrected a problem, that not all were happy about the Commissions solution, but it helped, that it was a horrible situation the damage that had been done and of how the park had been being used.

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Cinnamon Spurlock brought in a petition with 70 signatures to get the tables put back in the Park and suggested putting signs with Park rules where they would be more visible by people using the park, others speaking out did not give their names. Commissioner Fred Garmon told of the money that had been spent to repair the restrooms at the park due to damage, and of the plumbing problems that had been intentionally caused. He also gave figures of the revenue generated by the tourist that come to town and thinks everyone should be able to use the Park. City Manager Jerry Elkins stated the original purchase of the property was because the City was out of room to have events, that the pavilion was built so the citizens could use it for birthday parties and family reunions as well, he also stated he is ashamed at the condition the restrooms get into. Commissioner Helen Wilkins stated she has seen an improvement of how the park is being used since the tables were removed, also that she would like to see more swings and benches put in the Park. Mayor Dona K Burke stated she is thankful for the input from the citizens, and wants to keep the Park nice. It was decided to have more discussion of the park at the Called Meeting to set the Millage rate on July 30, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Alpine Helen/White County Monthly Report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Director Jerry Brown gave a verbal report on the financials, on the current advertisements being run, and on the number of visitors to the Welcome center.

Helen Chamber of Commerce Monthly Report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Director Renee Chacon was not present.

Administrative;

A. Discussion of Riverside Park Regulations. Mayor Dona K Burke stated there had already been discussion of the Park.

B. Consideration of Alcohol License Application for Tod M. Hanover D/B/A Helen Cellar, located at 8056 South Main Street for Beer Package, Wine Package, Liquor Package. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Helen Wilkins, 2nd by Commissioner Judy Holloway. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

C. Financial Report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes.

D. Discussion and Consideration of Annual Water/Sewer rate increase as recommended per the pervious Rate Study to keep up with the rising cost of supply & demand; Motion to approve an increase of .10 cents per 1000 gallons for water and .15 cents per 1000 gallons of sewage to begin on August 1, 2015 made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd

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by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

E. Discussion and Consideration of allowing Helen Import Day on August 29, 2015 and to use Riverside Park for a Car Show Event; Event coordinator Jay Kim was present for the meeting and asked that the date be changed back to the original requested date of August 8, 2015 due to attendee's hotel reservations not being able to be changed. Director Larry Krul explained the discussion at the PDRB meeting had been there are expected 500 to 600 participants come for the car show. Mr. Kim stated there were to be 24 cars, and 10 vendors in the park area, that it will be a 1 day event from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and that they will also have portable restrooms available. After discussion, a motion to approve the event and the date changed to August 8, 2015 made by Commissioner Helen Wilkins, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a majority vote of the Commission present. Commissioner Judy Holloway voted no.

Police Department Monthly Report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Investigator Brian Stephens gave a verbal report of the activity from the past weekend, he also informed the Commission that the new Patrol car was in stock at Jacky Jones Ford and ready to be picked up.

Fire Department Monthly Report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Fire Captain Lee Poteat was present and stated the department had been rather busy.

Public Works, Water and Waste Water Monthly Report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Director Ross Hewell was present and informed the Commission that the work in front of the Welcome Center was looking good, that the street lights in Phase 2 of the Island area project were being installed, that the new bucket truck is expected to be delivered this week.

Building and Zoning Department Monthly Report; Report included as an integral part of the Minutes. Director Larry Krul told the Commission that the latest design for the retaining wall at United Community Bank was designed out of decorative Allen Block, but that he has not been able to discuss it with the Bank president yet, that dirt is expected to be moved at the Holiday Inn this week and that the plans are the original 84 rooms, also that the retaining wall at the Helen Cellar is being worked on, and that the Red Roof Inn Plus owner and Insurance Company are working on their disagreements. He also informed the Commission that he had been to the Hofbrau Haus Motel and stated it is in bad shape and has many problems and he had informed the owner he would be back in 2 weeks to look at again.

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Purchases and Bids; None

Ordinances; None

Resolutions; None

City Commission Comments; None

Adjournment; Motion to adjourn at 4:47 p.m. made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Helen Wilkins. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

RESPECTFULLY PREPARED BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN