

**CITY OF HELEN
CALLED MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2020
10:00 A.M.
AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR STEVE FOWLER
2. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK MARILYN CHASTAIN
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
5. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING OKTOBERFEST EVENTS AND PARADE
6. ADJOURNMENT

**THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED AUGUST 12, 2020 @ 11:45 A.M.
THE MEETING AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND IS NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE
CITY OF HELEN COMMISSION AT THE COMMISSION MEETING STATED HEREIN.**

**CITY OF HELEN
CALLED COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2020
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Helen City Commission met on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 in the Commission Chambers at Helen City Hall with Mayor Steve Fowler calling the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Attending were Mayor Steve Fowler, Commissioner Geneva Elwell, Commissioner Lee Landress, and Commissioner Fred Garmon. Also attending were City Manager Jerry Elkins, City Attorney Carl Free, Fire Chief Jody Prickett, Building & Zoning Director Darrell Westmoreland, and Deputy Clerk Mirinda Dispain. Absent were Commissioner Jeff Ash, City Clerk Marilyn Chastain, Police Chief Brian Stephens, and Public Works Director Ross Hewell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve made by Commissioner Lee Landress, 2nd by Commissioner Fred Garmon. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of those present.

DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING OKTOBERFEST EVENTS AND PARADE: Mayor Steve Fowler began by telling those in attendance that the details were being worked out, but the Oktoberfest Parade was going to happen. The City would provide signage throughout the parade to encourage the attendees to follow socially distancing guidelines. He then updated those in attendance regarding the Executive Order Governor Kemp had signed into law. He explained that a street dance falls under the category of a "venue". Under the order, there are thirty-five elements the City would have to follow to have a dance. He said that the City could not be responsible to ensure everyone was adhering to the requirements, therefore, it could not host a street dance. The Executive Order was set to expire August 31, 2020, and he hoped requirements would be relaxed, and the idea could be revisited. He said that the City intended to have extra Oktoberfest decorations to add to the celebration and allow business owners to have extra banners to encourage a festive environment.

Motion to make Commissioner Lee Landress in charge of decorations and German attire during Oktoberfest made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Geneva Elwell. Motion was approved by a majority vote of the Commission with Commissioner Fred Garmon, Commissioner Geneva Elwell, and Mayor Steve Fowler voting in favor of the motion. Commissioner Lee Landress opposed it.

Josh Garrison of Alpine Dispensary asked the Commission to consider allowing open containers of alcohol during Oktoberfest. Commissioner Lee Landress said he was concerned alcohol would be brought in from places other than our businesses if open containers were allowed. Mayor Steve Fowler said he would not be in favor of open containers because of the tendency of people to turn the celebration into tailgate parties in parking lots not in our establishments.

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Commissioner Fred Garmon said he was in favor of waiving the fees for special event permits and expediting the time frame for approval. This would ease in allowing the use of tents and to allow businesses to house more people with the social distancing constraints.

Other business owners discussed various ideas to make the city more festive. Ideas included an extra presentation of German attire and music, duck race, volksmarch, river parade, private street dances, sidewalk parade, pub crawls, et cetera.

Mayor Steve Fowler discussed measures the city would be taking to insure people were safe during the parade. Signs would be in various locations, and mask would be provided.

Jerry Brown with the Alpine Helen/White County Convention & Visitor Bureau stated he was working with others to find a way to have the "tapping of the keg". They were also working together to be able to sell Oktoberfest merchandise, including pins and steins.

Commissioner Fred Garmon reassured the audience that the commission would do everything they could do to ensure a successful Oktoberfest, but on November 1, 2020 he said the city would need to return back to normal guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 10:57 a.m. made by Commissioner Fred Garmon, 2nd by Commissioner Lee Landress. Motion approved with a unanimous vote of the Commission present.

RESPECTFULLY PREPARED BY DEPUTY CLERK MIRINDA DISPAIN