



City of Helena

CITY OF HELENA
City-County Joint Work Session
March 4, 2025 - 4:00 PM

City - County Building Room 326 / Zoom Online Meeting; <https://zoom.helenamt.gov/j/36053471/publicmeetings>

1. **Call To Joint Work Session, Introductions**
2. **Commission Comments, Questions**
3. **Minutes**
 - A. February 4, 2025 JWS Minutes
4. **Board Appointments**
 - A. Airport Authority Board of Adjustment Discussion
5. **Joint Discussion**
 - A. Joint Work Session Meeting Frequency & Format Discussion
6. **Public Comment**
7. **Adjournment**

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CITY OF HELENA - LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY

February 4, 2025

4:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting: City-County Building Room 326 and via Zoom

Call to Order

Commissioner Candace Payne called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Those attending all or a portion of the meeting included: Mayor Wilmot Collins; City Manager Tim Burton; City Commissioners Emily Dean, Sean Logan, Melinda Reed, Andy Shirliff; County Commissioners Tom Rolfe, Andy Hunthausen; County Chief Administrative Officer Roger Baltz; County Chief Financial Officer Frank Cornwell; City Finance Director Sheila Danielson; Jayson Zander, Helena PD; City Clerk Dannai Clayborn; and Nadine McCarty. Recording Secretary.

Those attending via Zoom included: Jon Campbell, Zach Slattery, David Knoepke, Amanda Opitz, Chris Couey, Betsy Kirkeby, Chris Brink, Jacob Garcin, Stefani Reinhardt, JoVonne Wagner, Dr. G; Christine Compton.

Minutes

[0:01:20] The minutes for December 3, 2024, were approved as submitted.

Airport Authority Board of Adjustment Discussion

[0:01:26] Dannai Clayborn gave an overview of what she found after some research, of the Airport Authority Board of Adjustment including the resolution that created said board and that it consisted of five members, three appointed by Lewis and Clark County and two members appointed by the City of Helena. They are three-year terms with continual service until they are no longer on the Board. There are currently no existing members on the Board of Adjustment. According to the 2011 revision current Airport Authority Board members cannot be a member of the Board of Adjustment.

[0:06:10] Commissioner Dean asked if the board is really necessary.

[0:07:58] Commissioner Logan read from city code that references the MCA regarding the duties of the Board of Adjustment that included hearings and decision-making regarding appeals on decisions made by the Airport Authority Board with the possibility of establishing variances.

[0:10:30] Roger Baltz stated the topic originated from an email sent by Helena Regional Airport Director Jeff Wadekamper asking about the status of the Board of Adjustment. The understanding is that someone approached Mr. Wadekamper regarding some type of development and a noise influence area that surrounds the airport.

[0:12:48] Commissioner Reed asked if the Airport Authority hears variances and the answer was no.

[0:13:30] Commissioner Dean suggested it might be helpful to see if the Board of Adjustment complies with the Land Use Planning Act.

[0:14:30] Commissioner Hunthausen suggested staff and attorneys look into it a little more and what about interaction with the FAA.

[0:15:38] Tim Burton suggested meeting with Mr. Wadekamper to see if there is a specific reason for the question; he suspects it's about future developments around the airport.

[0:16:24] Commissioner Rolfe suggested the item be put on the March Joint Work Session meeting.

Discussion of Reappointment Application Received from Gary Myers for the IT&S Board

[0:17:29] Dannai Clayborn stated this is an opportunity for both commissions to discuss the reappointment application of Mr. Myers to the joint board. Each entity would go to their individual meetings for action.

Public Comment

[0:19:24] Dannai Clayborn stated there has been some discussion about the format of the Joint Work Session meetings and frequency, if agreeable by City Manager Burton and CAO Baltz she would like to request some direction from the governing bodies. There had been discussion about swapping out annually.

[0:20:16] Mayor Collins stated when he was approached, he commented that he wouldn't mind six months each, but not a full year.

[0:20:57] Commissioner Reed suggested there be standing items on the agenda as there is enough going on with the two entities. Commissioners Shirliff and Dean agreed with standing items with updates.

[0:23:09] Commissioner Hunthausen stated scheduling the meetings is important. He discussed the system, the investment put into it and the frustration that occurs for staff. He agrees with the six months consecutively for each as it gives staff members more consistency on the system. This room and 309 seem to have consistent challenges.

[0:27:14] Tim Burton stated the joint meeting is important and he suggested each entity discuss what standing items they would like to see on the agenda. It sounds like everyone is okay with 6 months for each.

[0:29:10] Dannai Clayborn stated the procedure and operation of the meetings will run and look differently depending on which entity is running the meeting.

[0:30:36] Commissioner Rolfe suggested the 6 months be the City runs the meeting January through June and the County runs it July through December.

[0:31:25] Discussion occurred regarding the time of the meeting, duration, the possibility of holding later meetings, and the two-hour joint budget meeting every May.

[0:34:17] It was agreed that the discussion be an item on the March agenda.

No public comment was received.

Agenda items for Tuesday, March 4, 2025. Contact Stefani Reinhardt X 8427

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.