

**Leslie Allen-Daniel (adpce.ad)**

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**From:** mayor@helena-westhelena.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 5:17 PM  
**To:** Allen-Daniel, Leslie  
**Cc:** Helen Halbert; Ken Weiland  
**Subject:** Sewer Line Break

Leslie -- I am sending this email to document our initial phone call regarding the sewer line break/leak in the Helena sewage distribution lines managed by the Helena-West Helena Water & Sewer Department.

Friday, February 18th, 2022, I scheduled a special meeting of the HWH City Council (the governing body of the HWY Water and Sewer Dept) for today, Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 12 Noon at City Hall, regarding the sewer leak and line-break in the Oak Forest area of our Helena system. It is actually located in a wooded area near the Oak Forest subdivision. However, it appears to be located in a natural storm water drainage system/ditch that ultimately leads through town and to a final spot south of the city. We had received a call from a constituent several weeks/months earlier, during which time our department was working towards a solution. I was advised that all appropriate notifications to the State had been reported at the time our sewer crew had confirmed the break.

The purpose of the city council meeting today, at noon, was to ask the city council to waive bidding regarding the lowest of two estimates given to me Friday regarding the repair of the sewer main. Jeff Patterson, our water manager, gave a briefing and took questions regarding the break.

The conclusion of today's meeting was that the city council made a motion for us to take bids on the break repair, and award it accordingly. Of course, this will require more time and expense due to the formality of a bidding process. It was said at the council meeting that "since this is not an emergency" and since it has taken so long already that we have time to bid out the work. My question is whether or not we as a city should move forward with the lower estimate in question, in order to stop the leak as soon as possible, or should we go ahead and bid it out as requested by the city council?

At any rate, per our conversation, and per your request, I am emailing you to begin the process of documenting this significant public safety hazard, and to request your assistance as well.

As a possible third alternative, I am asking our civil engineer Ken Weiland to go assess the issue as well, and report to all parties asap. Meanwhile, I will try to report more to

you on this, with photos and so forth, tomorrow. Any recommendations and or guidance, etc... will be appreciated.

Thank you,

Kevin A Smith  
Mayor  
Helena-West Helena