



**MINUTE RECORD**  
**Regular Council Meeting City of Haven**

Meeting: REGULAR

Date: July 21, 2014

**THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM BY MIKE ALFERS, MAYOR. THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:**

**Council Members: Don Etchison, Les Banman, Dan Loop, Paula Scott, and Adam Wright.**

**Others: Allen Blake, John Mitchell, Joey Young, Leslie Warden, Steve Ellingboe, Christopher Scott, Rob Pell, Larry Bolton, Steve Carmichael, Jessica Hoskinson, Nita Johnston, Jan Nolde, Brian Finan, Connie Soto, Jose Soto.**

There were no additions to the agenda, and no one had signed up for public comment.

**Jan Nolde, Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd, LLC: Draft of 2015 City Budget**

Nolde presented the draft 2015 City budget and went through it page-by-page with the governing body. She noted that the City plans to close out the Employee Benefits Fund as it is no longer statutorily required. Now employee benefits will simply be budgeted under the respective heading to which it belongs.

She pointed out that the cash balances in some of the funds are getting quite low. This caused the discussion to turn to the General Fund in particular. Mayor Alferts suggested levying an additional 45 mills to meet the accounting firm's guidelines for cash carryover. Scott suggested raising it incrementally and keeping an eye on it. Scott moved to levy an additional 5 mills for the 2015 budget. Her motion died for lack of a second. Then Banman moved to increase the mill levy by 7 mills. It also died for lack of a second. Next, Loop made a motion to levy an additional 10 mills. No one seconded it either. Scott then moved to increase the mill levy by 7 mills. Banman seconded, and the motion carried with four "yes" votes. Loop abstained from voting.

The public hearing on the budget will take place on Monday, August 18, 2014, at 7:00 PM.

**Nita Johnston, Haven Insurance Agency: Consider Quotes on Environmental Insurance**

Johnston presented quotes for insurance that would cover the City against any pollution exposures stemming from the water treatment plant and the underground piping. Wright suggested adding the sewer pipes crossing the same field to the policy. Johnston advised she could get a quote on that and re-present at the next Council meeting.

**Larry Bolton, City Attorney: Answer Questions about Placing Refuse Question on Ballot**

Bolton advised the governing body that the refuse question could not be placed on the ballot because it is an advisory question. The City has authorization to contract out the trash service on its own; no additional voter "permission" is necessary. However, the question could be posed to voters if a Special Election were held. Special elections tend to be costly because they have to be held at somewhere other than the polling place and staffed by your own people. In response to a question from Banman, Bolton said nothing would preclude the City from mailing out a survey.

**Detailed Review of 2013 Refuse Financials**

Mayor Alferts went through a detailed spreadsheet of the expenses associated with the trash service and refuse fund. Scott felt that the apportionment of wages and benefits was arbitrary and commented she'd like to see a time study done. She also found it unfair to treat the recycling and burn site costs as an "expense" without giving it an opportunity to earn revenue on the other side.



Loop pointed out that no one had said how the City would benefit by continuing to operate the trash service.

Scott said she would like to see an outside source evaluate the trash service numbers and asked to move to the next agenda item.

**John Mitchell, Citizen: City Budget and Expenditures Affecting Refuse / Recycling Contracting**

(Sponsored by Council Member, Paula Scott)

Mitchell presented a copy of the Profit & Loss Statement on the Disposal / Refuse Fund showing 2013 and 2012. He posed several questions regarding payroll, and in the end urged the Council to seek an outside audit of the trash service numbers. He noted a lot of the expenses funded by the trash fund will continue even if the trash is contracted out.

**Discuss Possibility of Hiring Consultant for Refuse Service**

Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd, LLC, and City of Medicine Lodge highly recommend hiring Jim Heinecke to review the trash operations and financials. Mayor Alfors made contact with him, and he would charge \$4200 for said service. Loop commented that that seems like a lot of money and moved to simply go ahead and contract out the trash service to either Waste Connections or Nisly Brothers. Motion died.

Wright moved to pursue hiring a consultant. Etchison seconded, and the motion carried four to one with Loop casting the opposing vote.

The Council tentatively scheduled a special meeting to interview Jim Heinecke for July 24 at 7:00 PM.

**City Administrator / Public Works Director Project Updates**

Allen Blake presented the following:

- A bid to repair the City's deficient sidewalks. Blake sent a request for bids out to eight contractors. Four of them came and reviewed the work to be done, but only one bid came in before the deadline. That bid was for a total of \$12,125.25 from Vogts-Parga. Banman moved and Etchison seconded to approve the expenditure. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Council said they would like to consider offering an additional stipend to those who have an ADA ramp to install when repairing deficient sidewalks. Blake will research what amount will be fair and present at the next meeting.

**Chief of Police Updates**

Chief Pell had nothing to report.

**Minutes**

Minutes from the meetings of July 10 and July 14 were unanimously approved by motion from Wright and second from Etchison.

**Accounts Payable**

Banman moved to approve payment of bills totaling \$898,090.67. Loop seconded, and the motion carried five to zero.

**Council Concerns**

None.



**Adjournment**

At 8:52 PM, Loop moved and Banman seconded for adjournment. The motion passed unanimously.

/s/

Mike H. Alferts, Mayor

Attest:

/s/

Leslie Warden, City Clerk