



MINUTE RECORD
Regular Council Meeting City of Haven

Meeting: REGULAR

Date: November 17, 2014

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

Council Members: Don Etchison, Jeff Stringer, Adam Wright, and Les Banman.

Absent: None.

Others: Allen Blake, Adam Strunk, Leslie Atherton, Rob Pell, John Mitchell, Don Bogner, Lee Parker, Patricia Parker, Ann Chesnut, Rick White, Shauna Schoepf, Jessica Stussy, Amy Kraft, Doug Murphy, James Schlickau, Shannin Rettig, Wayne Rettig, Chris Scott, Lynn Thalmann, Andrea Williams, Jim Schmidt, Bryce Matteson, Brian Salmans, Tony Troyer.

The meeting was opened with the flag salute and followed with a moment of silence to honor military service men and women. Etchison mentioned specifically local resident, Kenneth Boice, who is currently serving in the National Guard.

Attorney, Lee Parker: KOMA / KORA Training

Attorney Lee Parker was in attendance to provide the governing body and City staff with training on the current laws regarding Kansas Open Meetings Act and Kansas Open Records Act. This lasted approximately one hour.

Public Comment

At 8:00 PM, Mayor Scott offered an opportunity for any other willing individuals to sign up for public comment time.

James Schlickau, President, and Amy Kraft, Vice President of Haven Chamber of Commerce, addressed the governing body. They provided the results of a six question survey they had recently done of Chamber members regarding the EMS building project. There were 35 responses. Seventy four percent of recipients acknowledged the need for an improved facility.

John Mitchell, Haven resident and owner of Mitchell Hardware, pointed out the mill levy versus sales tax funding options. He questioned the involvement of the other townships receiving service from Haven Community Ambulance Service. He suggested revamping the existing building and commented he does not wish to see another vacant building downtown.

Don Bogner, resident of Haven Township and owner of Haven House, is on the Ambulance Board as a representative for the Sumner Township. He expressed disappointment with the article in The Clarion because it did not include the fact that the townships would be participating in the cost-sharing of the facility. In the article, partnering entities were not given any credit for the money they have given to the cause. He noted that because of the way the City bills the townships for ambulance service, the City will only need half the money the article states.

Lynn Thalmann came as a representative for Haven Township.

Approved 12-1-2014.



Doug Murphy also serves on the Ambulance Board. He expressed appreciation to the Council for looking to proceed with the Ambulance Building project in whatever manner they feel is best since the topic has been thrown around for over two years now. He mentioned expanding the current Fire Station to hold Haven Community Ambulance Service.

Discuss Funding Options for EMS Building

At 8:20 PM, public comment ended, and the Council took up the topic of a prospective EMS building and funding options for the same, following the flow chart provided in Council packets.

To begin, EMS Director, Tony Troyer, provided information regarding the preliminary needs study. He stressed the need for proper / separate sleeping quarters, lack of kitchen facilities (other than a microwave), and lack of a training facility. Right now, the building consists of one room that is utilized for everything (training, interviewing prospective employees, sleeping, eating, etc.) Additionally, the bays are not quite large enough for the service's newest ambulance. All of these things decrease the attractiveness of Haven EMS as a prospective employer, increasing the difficulty of recruiting quality personnel. A copy of the Preliminary Architectural Report authored by James C. Putnam, AIA was provided.

Troyer went on to present plans and cost of a proposed EMS building. A copy of an estimate from Prairie Building Systems, Inc. dated October 10, 2012, was provided. The total of the estimate was \$435,000. Troyer commented that the architect still feels the project could be completed for \$450,000. He admitted that it sounds like a large sum of money but he has tried to plan for the long-term future, not for just now.

Next, City Administrator, Allen Blake, took on the topic of funding options that have already been pursued. He acknowledged an agreement between the City and Sumner, Yoder, and Haven Townships to share the cost of the building. He also outlined the process the City went through to see if a Community Development Block Grant was a possible funding source; in the end, the service area did not have enough Low to Moderate Income populace to qualify.

City Clerk, Leslie Atherton, confirmed that at the end of 2014 the City will have \$63,000 set aside for the EMS Building Project. She commented that Mr. Bogner was correct in his public comment that 50% of that was provided by City of Haven, 25% by Haven Township, 12.5% by Sumner Township, and 12.5% by Yoder Township. In a separate bank account, the City has been placing any building donation funds received, and today that account sits at \$10,238, still awaiting a payout of some sort from the Turkey Dinner held at Journey at Yoder.

The City Administrator then outlined the two options available to fund the EMS building: mill levy and / or local sales tax. Either way the City would have to have a loan or a bond issue. A bond issue for an EMS building is exempt from a ballot requirement. Implementation of a sales tax is not. The timeline for placing a sales tax question on the spring ballot was discussed and outlined in a handout provided to the governing body.

Mayor Scott went over what has already been done towards the project -- land purchased for a prospective facility in 2011 or 2012, began setting aside money for building in 2012, fundraising projects, discussion and creation of plans by an architect. This creates an external expectation for something to be done.

Wright asked that the possibility of sharing the Fire Station facility with EMS be addressed. The history of that situation was discussed, and the conclusion was that there are significant barriers to that being a viable solution. Ultimately, to fund an EMS building project, Wright expressed he would rather see a sales tax than a mill levy increase.

Stringer expressed his desire to see the ambulance service continue and thus favored proceeding with the new building project. Banman concurred.



There seemed to be a consensus among the Council that a mill levy increase would be the least desirable way to fund the project. Banman leaned toward a .50% sales tax rate to fund the project. All other members concurred.

Wright moved to pose on the spring ballot (April 2015) the implementation of a .50% sales tax to fund a new EMS building scheduled to sunset when the project has been paid in full. Etchison seconded, and the motion carried four to zero.

The City Attorney will be contacted to draft an Ordinance putting the question on the ballot.

Break

No break was taken.

Minutes

Minutes of the November 3, 2014, meeting were unanimously approved after motion from Etchison and second from Banman. Motion carried.

Accounts Payable

Etchison moved to pay bills, totaling \$143,021.28. Banman seconded, and the motion carried. Wright abstained but gave no reason for the abstention.

Banman moved to pay Adam Wright \$492.20 for equipment rental. Stringer seconded, and the motion carried three to one. Wright abstained because the payable was to him.

Members were provided with a Summary of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Unencumbered Cash for the Month Ended, October 31, 2014. They were also provided with a comparison of actual expenditures through October 31, 2014, to budgeted expenditures for the 2014 year.

Accept Resignation of Sandy Wright

Etchison moved to accept the resignation of long-time Building Inspector, Sandy Wright. Banman seconded, and the motion carried. Adam Wright abstained from the vote because Sandy is his mother.

Recognize Graduation of Officer Brian Salmans

Mayor Scott recognized Brian Salmans's successful completion of the Police Academy. Governing body members congratulated him on his accomplishment, and Salmans thanked them for the opportunity to serve.

Consider Utility Rate Increases

City Administrator Allen Blake presented proposed utility rate increases and provided a handout entitled Proposed Rate Changes for 2015. Kansas Power Pool intends to increase the wholesale base electric rate by 14% though the cost that will be realized by the customer (City of Haven) is 2%. KPP's goal is to roll more of the Energy Cost Adjustment into the base rate so as to better stabilize the rates. Blake proposed the same increase for the City's electric rates.

Wright suggested increasing the utility rates by larger increments less often than every year so people are not faced with an increase every single year. Stringer understood his viewpoint but noted the danger is raising it by a larger increment and then still having to increase it again the next year. City Administrator, Allen Blake, noted that however the utility rates were increased it is still best practice to evaluate the rates every year. He did comment that his experience was that people were more open to an incremental increase each year as opposed to a large jump in price at any one time.



In the end, Etchison moved to adopt Resolution 285, establishing rate charges for electric power, showing roughly a 14% increase. Banman seconded, and motion carried three to one. Next, Etchison moved to adopt Resolution 286, establishing rate charges for the water distribution system, reflecting a 2% increase. Stringer seconded, and motion carried three to one. Finally, Banman moved to adopt Resolution 287, establishing rate charges for sewer service, reflecting a 5% increase. Etchison seconded, and the motion carried three to one. In each instance, Wright cast the opposing vote.

Consider Change Order No. 1 from Envirogen Technologies, Inc.: Price Decrease

Blake went over the Change Order with the governing body. Then Etchison moved to approve Envirogen's Change Order No. 1, pending approval from USDA Rural Development approval. Wright seconded, and the motion carried.

City Clerk, Leslie Atherton, presented for approval the October statement from AquaTech Engineering Consultants for \$2611. Etchison moved to approve payment, pending approval from USDA Rural Development. Wright seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Council Concerns

Council member, Adam Wright, said it was brought to his attention by Reno County Fire District No. 9 that the City was not testing the fire hydrants in a timely fashion, and the Fire Chief, Curly Gingerich, indicated to him they would be taking over the testing. No one saw a problem with this arrangement, but it was noted that the fire hydrant testing would need to be documented.

Agenda Planning: Items for December 1

No items were added to the December 1 agenda at this time.

Adjournment

At 9:30 PM, Etchison moved and Stringer seconded for adjournment. The motion passed unanimously.

/S/
Paula J. Scott, Mayor

Attest:

/S/
Leslie Atherton, City Clerk