

HAVEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 18, 2008

PRESENT: Cody Littlestar, Amy Hirst, Jeff Stringer, Charles Arndt, Don Ford, and Paula Scott

OTHERS: Harland Priddle, Lois Schlickau, Jennifer Vierthaler, Lisa Vierthaler, Don Huston, Lloyd Schmidt, Bill Thomas, Dean Chesnut, Allen Andresen, Allen Blake, and Cheryl Savaiano

Mayor Littlestar called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers. No additional items were added to the agenda, and residents were asked to limit comments to five minutes per agenda item.

2008 FALL FESTIVAL:

Harland Priddle reviewed plans for the Haven Fall Festival scheduled for October 11th and 12th. The committee had selected the theme, "Fall in Love with Haven." Activities would include:

- A community church service at Veterans Park on October 12th, featuring former Judge Steven Becker,
- Carnival rides located behind the stage area and operated by Showalter Fireworks,
- A car show along South Kansas Avenue,
- A barbecue cook off, and
- A parade to include decorated bicycles.

As in past years, the city would be asked to furnish traffic control, electrical service, and picnic tables in the downtown area. Harland also asked that the former drug store at 101 S. Kansas be used as Chamber of Commerce headquarters and that the city continue its financial support of the event to include \$2,000 from the fireworks sales permit and \$2,500 in additional city funds. The Chamber expected to raise approximately \$7,000 of its own resource from donations and button sales and ride tickets.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN:

Harland asked members to agree to the concept of a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan and authorize the coordination of a coalition with Reno County, USD 312 and Hutchinson Community College to validate tax rebates. The purpose of the program was to stimulate community growth, and encourage homeowners to make construction improvements. In addition, the plan was generally accepted by other municipals. Harland also suggested the formation of an Economic Development Advisory Board to oversee the rebate application process and promote economic health in the city. The Mayor would appoint members with consent by the Council.

MOTION TO APPROVE:

Paula Scott moved to approve the concept of a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan and establish coordination with participating entities, so that the program could go forward. Jeff Stringer seconded, and motion carried with five yes votes. By general consensus, members agreed to ask Harland Priddle to spearhead the program on behalf of the city.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT:

Maintenance Supervisor Allen Andresen reviewed the following maintenance activities.

- A hydraulic line had been replaced in the bucket truck creating some down time for electric service and the enlistment of Mt. Hope's truck as a substitute resource.

- Street repairs, due to excavation from water leaks, had been delayed because of the contractor's schedule. Members discussed with Allen the option of replacing broken water lines with polypipe material rather than using clamps.
- Delivery of the new trash truck had been backed up to August 27, and the paving project for Main Street and Kansas Avenue was scheduled for the second week in September. Kansas Gas Service had been advised of the plans, so as to avoid the digging up of new pavement.
- A timer switch on the outside lights at the community building had been replaced.
- A tent for the August 24th picnic would be placed in the parking lot of Engweiler Park.
- Tree trimming all over town was scheduled for the week of August 25th.

Members discussed the difference between the recently constructed handicap ramps and the earlier units. The newer ramps had been built to specifications required by the Americans' with Disabilities Act and the Kansas Department of Transportation to include bricks in the center portion of each ramp.

Removal of the pole at 109 N. Topeka was still on the schedule, the maintenance schedule for the August 24th picnic had been received, and an electrical line at Mid-Kansas Coop had been replaced.

WELLNESS CENTER:

Jennifer Vierthaler discussed with Council options for funding the proposed Wellness Center in the fire station at 116 S. Kansas. The city did not qualify for a 5013c non-profit status, and no funds were in the budget for remodeling the facility. Members suggested enlisting the services of the Hutchinson Community Foundation, researching grants specific to the committee's needs, and soliciting donations during the Fall Festival.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Allen Blake advised that as long as the Wellness Committee was operating under the Parks and Recreation Board, donations for the program should be given through the city.

A Council tour of maintenance facilities would be scheduled for September 2nd. Approval of the city's sewer lagoon project was expected any time.

Members reviewed a water study completed by Aqua Tech Engineering. Two separate phases of improvements extended through 2058 and included a summary of costs for priorities. Council also reviewed maps illustrating the upgrades.

Members agreed that utilizing the drug store during Fall Festival would offer good exposure to the public. A possible grand opening for the new fire station could also be featured.

Council agreed to direct maintenance personnel to implement polypipe in the repair of broken water lines and to use city employees rather than contract labor to repair streets.

A resident had expressed concerns about dead animals in the culvert at 5th and Reno.

Arrangements had been made to clean and service the restrooms at the gazebo at Veterans Park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Don Huston shared pictures illustrating tree limbs in power lines, which resulted in loss of electricity and public safety issues. He felt that broken water lines should be pulled rather than excavated and that inefficient maintenance practices were costing the city a lot of money. He also felt there was inappropriate application of priorities and that personnel should take advantage of opportunities for effective maintenance.

Lloyd Schmidt was concerned about inefficient mowing practices at the ball diamonds. He felt that tree-trimming services should be contracted.

Bill Thomas was also concerned about maintenance practices with regard to the bucket truck. His water meter can at 205 E. Main needed to be leveled.

Dean Chesnut questioned the need to raise the city's mill levy in view of the fire department expenses being transferred to the county. Levy amounts from 2006 were reviewed.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the August 4, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved, after a motion by Ford and a second by Arndt.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Bills and transfers totaling \$174,308.56 were unanimously approved for payment, after a motion by Scott and a second by Arndt.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Amy Hirst shared a letter of complaint against the Library. The board's policy had been reviewed, and no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:15 PM, Paula Scott moved for adjournment. Jeff Stringer seconded, and motion carried with five yes votes.