

## News Release

### HAVEN CITY COUNCIL NEWS October 6, 2008

In the absence of Mayor Cody Littlestar, Council President Charles Arndt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers. Council members present for the meeting were Amy Hirst, Jeff Stringer, Charles Arndt, Don Ford and Paula Scott.

Bruce Peck, Harland Priddle, and Dave Kerr requested \$7,500 in incentives for Precision Pattern Interiors (PPI), a manufacturer of interior furnishings for "high end" business jets. PPI is expanding its manufacturing operation at the industrial park south of K-96 near Yoder. They are in the process of making improvements to an existing building vacated by Collins Industries and will create at least 57 additional jobs. Haven is expected to benefit through increased retail sales, population, tax base and enrollment for USD 312. Don Ford moved to approve the incentive package in which the City will pay PPI \$2,500 for up front business moving assistance, \$2,500 for performance when the 57 jobs have been added and \$500 per employee who moves to Haven, up to \$2,500. Jeff Stringer seconded the motion, which passed four to zero.

The Merrit Wright family along with Afton Hodo and Bo Galvin requested that the American Staffordshire Terrier be excepted from the City's ordinance prohibiting pit bull dogs. An American Staffordshire Terrier owned by Sarah Wright had been registered and received a City tag in error, as the breed is included as a pit bull by definition and prohibited by City Ordinance. Jeff Stringer moved to table the subject until the next agenda to allow time for research. Paula Scott seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Pit bull dogs have been prohibited in Haven since 1996.

Lloyd Schmidt requested that the Council abandon plans to place a new water well along Arlington Road south of the wastewater treatment lagoons, fearing potential wastewater seepage could affect the City's water supply. Schmidt questioned engineering recommendations on past projects and sees the location of the new well as a long-range problem.

Don Huston advised that the City has no need for an additional water well, as he had researched the total gallons pumped during July, August and September. Huston also believes that the wells could be piped together and filtered to remove the nitrates. He repeated his complaint that trees are not being trimmed out of the power lines fast enough to prevent outages in the event of an ice storm and commented that the worst day for the City of Haven was when Don Huston retired.

According to City Administrator Allen Blake, a third water well is needed to insure both water quality and uninterrupted service in case of mechanical failures. A test well at the proposed site has remained at two parts per million of nitrates for nearly ten years - less than half the level in the City's existing wells. The lagoon addition project currently under way will include monitoring wells to alert the City to any potential problem with

groundwater contamination, which the construction of the lagoons is designed to prevent and which is prohibited by KDHE regulations. The proximity of the proposed well to the wastewater treatment lagoons is over four times the distance required by KDHE from a potential pollution source and has not been a concern to any of the professionals consulted about the project. The City received a permit to appropriate water at the site from the Kansas Department of Agriculture in April 2008.

Maintenance Supervisor Allen Andresen advised the Council that four trees have been removed entirely and about half of the trees growing in power lines have been trimmed. Remaining tree trimming is expected to take three weeks. Two water services have been replaced. The new trash truck is in operation and some warranty work has been completed. Unaccounted water use has been greatly reduced since the replacement of two check valves at City wells. Cold patch asphalt has been purchased through Ferguson Paving so maintenance personnel can repair streets. Asphalt millings will be available after the street project on South Kansas Ave. and East Main Streets and the Council agreed to set the price at \$7.50 per ton. Andresen reported the theft of five transformers from the City shop. The Council agreed to have the building locked during the day to prevent entrance by unauthorized personnel.

City Administrator Allen Blake informed the Council that the lagoon project has been approved by KDHE and is out for bids. The bid opening will be on October 31 and the bids will be presented to the Council on November 17. The Council decided to separate Parks and Recreation into two boards, based on public concerns about City parks and the belief that two boards will be better able to address the needs. Volunteers will be solicited, first from the existing Park and Rec Board and the budget allowance will be determined by the Council at a later date. Blake and Councilman Ford will meet with the board to discuss the details. The Council decided not to adopt a resolution presented by Northern Flyer Alliance supporting new passenger rail service through Wichita and Oklahoma City. The proposed route does not pass through Haven and passenger service is currently available at Newton.

In public comments, Don Huston recommended that the old fire station be used as a storage facility so that the City shop, which is a disgrace, could be cleaned up. Dean Chesnut suggested that asphalt millings should be used by the City to improve alleys or be hauled off by the contractor. Maintenance Supervisor Andresen said that the millings have been tried in alleys and do not work well and that the City has to pay the contractor to have the millings hauled to Hutchinson. Chesnut also stated that City staff should not have accepted an application for zoning variance for 501 E. Main, as there was no difference from the last application. Administrator Blake informed the Council of the reasons the application was accepted and that the public hearing is scheduled for October 23rd. Lloyd Schmidt expressed regret that the Council had not passed a resolution in support of passenger rail service, as residents could benefit from the transportation at no cost to the City. The proposed route would provide service at Wichita rather than Newton.

The Council also discussed maintenance issues at the Library and EMS buildings and a citizen complaint that the Police Chief/City Administrator is not working the 48 hours per week on which his salary is based. Haven Police are salaried and are not paid for overtime worked. Instead they may receive time off to compensate for overtime.

Minutes of the September 15, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved, after a motion by Stringer and a second by Scott. Bills and transfers totaling \$143,245.61 were unanimously approved, after a motion by Scott and a second by Stringer.

At 9:34 PM, Jeff Stringer moved for adjournment. Paula Scott seconded, and the motion carried four to zero.