

News Release

HAVEN CITY COUNCIL NEWS  
October 20, 2008

Mayor Cody Littlestar called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers with Council Members Amy Hirst, Jeff Stringer, Charles Arndt, Don Ford and Paula Scott present.

Bruce Trapp advised that a resolution was imminent regarding availability of a used dump truck. The purchase of the used truck is planned in the 2009 budget.

Scott Loyd with Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk and Loyd presented the City's 2007 audit report and review of material weaknesses and control deficiencies. Due to recent cases of corporate fraud, control mechanisms have been put into place to separate the responsibilities of auditor and City management, thus protecting the public interest.

Representatives of Layne Western Co. presented options for treating the City's water supply should it become necessary to reduce nitrate levels. Several types of systems were discussed and compared as to price, operational expense and the amount of waste produced.

Don Huston requested that a sewer charge of \$16.50 be removed from his account at 109 N. Topeka, as he had used water for the lawn but had not used the sewer system. The Council agreed to review the City's policy for sewer charges at the next meeting. The current policy is to assess a sewer charge for customers with sewer service when the water is on, as there is no way to verify how much of the water used is going down the sewer.

Harland Priddle advised that Reno County, Hutchinson Community College, and USD 312 had agreed to partner with the City in promoting new construction and renovation of existing properties through a neighborhood revitalization tax incentive program. Charles Arndt moved to approve Resolution #210 providing for a public hearing on November 3, 2008 at 7:00 PM to consider a neighborhood revitalization plan. Jeff Stringer seconded, and the motion carried five to zero.

Dean Chesnut asked that Council President Charles Arndt take the chair of the meeting while he discussed a zoning setback variance requested by Cody Littlestar at 501 E. Main. Paula Scott moved to allow the Council President to act as chairman for the zoning subject, due to a conflict of interest for the mayor. Don Ford seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Chesnut spoke out against the validity of the application and requested that a public hearing of the Board of Zoning Appeals on October 23rd be canceled. At the end of the discussion, Jeff Stringer moved to have Mayor Littlestar preside over the meeting. Paula Scott seconded, and the motion carried with five yes votes.

Maintenance Supervisor Allen Andresen presented an inventory of equipment, tools and material totaling \$432,125.00. Andresen advised that The Fall Festival went well with no major utility outages. The Council agreed to place electrical service on a pole in the alley east of the hardware store in order to meet future vendor requirements and avoid driving on private property. The Council agreed to replace the American flags for downtown display as needed and to have maintenance weld brackets to the poles for more secure placement. The maintenance department is still mowing and treating mosquitoes. Two water leaks were repaired and more trees trimmed. The new trash truck is performing well.

The Council discussed changing City Ordinance to allow American Staffordshire Terriers, a breed currently defined as a Pit Bull and prohibited. City Administrator Allen Blake advised that area cities were mixed in their regulation of Pit Bull dogs. The Council agreed to consider an ordinance that addresses but does not ban, potentially dangerous dogs.

Administrator Blake updated the Council on the status of the Paul Moore estate. The Council agreed that property involved be transferred to the City as soon as possible, with any additional legal expenses to be paid by the former executor. Blake also advised the Council that the Hutchinson Animal Shelter had notified the City that stray animals would only be accepted between the hours of 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM Tuesday through Sunday and then only if they were not full to capacity, which they usually are. Due to this policy and the fact that the Hutchinson Animal Shelter recently changed their policy and sent the City a bill for animals housed for the previous six months, the Police Department may again need to use the Humane Society or seek other resources for stray animals.

The Council discussed the use of the old fire station. They are waiting to hear from EMS before making a final decision. The Council agreed to seek bids for employee health insurance coverage. Bid opening for the lagoon project is scheduled for October 31st, with bids presented to the Council on November 17th. The Council discussed the City's long range water system plan, which does include possible future treatment. Further discussion on the matter would include the City's engineer, Willis Wilson with AquaTech Engineering. Members requested copies of the judge's decision regarding the zoning variance at 501 E. Main.

At 9:27 PM, Jeff Stringer moved for a 15-minute executive session to discuss personnel. Charles Arndt seconded and the motion passed five to zero. At 9:42 PM, regular session resumed with no action taken.

In public comments, Don Huston expressed that the Council is discouraging home ownership due to a high mill levy. He complained that brush and debris had accumulated at the Gar Creed Bridge on Arlington Road east of the City. He recommended that, to save costs, the City should disconnect some lights on Industrial Drive and utilize maintenance personnel to patch streets. Dean Chesnut stated that the City Attorney did not properly respond to the points presented by his attorney in the suit over the variance

at 501 E. Main. He questioned the fairness of a second hearing on the issue and suggested that the Planning Commission take time to read and understand the zoning code, so as to take a more active approach to zoning matters.

Minutes of the October 6, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved, after a motion by Scott and a second by Arndt. Bills and transfers totaling \$129,237.77 were unanimously approved for payment, after a motion by Scott and a second by Stringer. At 10:00 PM, Paula Scott moved for adjournment. Jeff Stringer seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.