

**MINUTE RECORD**  
Regular and Special Council Meetings City of Haven

Meeting: REGULAR

Date: December 15, 2008

**THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT CHARLES ARNDT WITH THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Council Member: Amy Hirst

Council Member: Jeff Stringer

Council Member: Charles Arndt

Council Member: Don Ford

Council Member: Paula Scott

ABSENT: Cody Littlestar

**OTHERS:** Willis Wilson, Jim Jackson, John Mitchell, Merritt, Sandy, and Sarah Wright, Bo Galvin, Mary Andresen, Lloyd Schmidt, Dean and Ann Chesnut, Bill Thomas, Mike Wells, Trudy Cauble, Gary Cox, Tony Brauer, Allen Andresen, Allen Blake, and Cheryl Savaiano

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In the absence of Mayor Littlestar, Council President Charles Arndt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers.

**PUBLIC HEARING – BUDGET AMENDMENT:**

A public hearing was opened to hear comments regarding an additional \$200,000 expense in the electric utility fund due to unexpected high electric bills from Kansas Power Pool. John Mitchell asked if the same problem would apply to the 2009 budget. Rates had already been set by KPP for 2009, and the outlook for more reasonable bills in the future was favorable. With no further comment, the hearing was closed at 7:10 PM.

**MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDED BUDGET:**

Paula Scott moved to approve the amended 2008 budget as published. Don Ford seconded, and motion carried four to zero.

**AQUATECH ENGINEERING – WATER PLANS:**

Willis Wilson reviewed a recently updated water plan for the city including maps illustrating current infrastructure as well as proposed changes in service lines and shut off valves. With two of the city's wells out of service, the council could consider construction of a new well or mechanical treatment of the existing water supply. Cost estimates were also presented, which could be financed over a 30-year period. No official action was taken.

**NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN:**

Jim Jackson, a private consultant, reviewed a list of options for revising the city's NRP in view of Reno County Commission's rejection of the plan submitted by Harland Priddle. Jim indicated the original intent of state statute was to apply the NRP to specific areas of a municipal rather than an entire city. Over time, the NRP had been used as an economic development tool for smaller cities. The county rejected the plan because all of Haven's city limits were included. Council agreed to review the options and consider an alternate proposal.

**ORDINANCE REGULATING ANIMALS:**

John Mitchell requested that the council enforce the city's current ordinance prohibiting pit bull dogs, as he had collected 127 signatures of residents also supporting current ordinance. At the prompting of Sarah Wright and her family, members had agreed to consider a revised ordinance at the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting; however, council members had received numerous phone calls, all opposing any change. Merritt, Sandy, and Sarah Wright wanted the revision from breed-specific prohibition, as Sarah's American Staffordshire Terrier was defined in ordinance as a derivative of the pit bull. Council reserved the topic for further discussion.

**HAVEN PARK BOARD:**

Mary Andresen presented a list of prospective members for the Haven Park Board. With limited discussion, Paula Scott moved to appoint Jennifer Vierthaler, Kristi Chamberlain, Debbie McGrane, Linda Cheers, and Mary Andresen to the committee. Jeff Stringer seconded the motion, which carried four to zero.

**ANNUAL LICENSES:**

Paula Scott moved to approve cereal malt beverage licenses for Haven Foodliner and Kwik Shop. Don Ford seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

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Don Ford moved to approve mobile home park licenses for Reynolds Trailer Park and Elliott Courts. Paula Scott seconded, and motion passed with four yes votes. City Administrator Allen Blake agreed to visit with Brian Morgan regarding the licensing of Hindman Trailer Park, as no application had been received.

Jeff Stringer moved to approve an occupancy permit for All Sports Liquor. Don Ford seconded, and motion carried four to zero.

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT:**

Allen Andresen reviewed a list of surplus equipment that needed to be sold. Members discussed the option of soliciting sealed bids or using Internet services to transact sales. They agreed to hold discussion until the January 5<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Members of the Wellness Committee had requested that solar panels and fire implements be moved from the vacant fire station to the old drug store. Council agreed to hold off any action until more appropriate storage was available.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR:**

Allen Blake advised that the electrical mapping project was complete. Computer software had also been purchased to apply revisions to the system as needed.

With limited discussion, Paula Scott moved to allow the mayor to sign a contract for sewer lagoon improvements pending approval of format by the city attorney. Don Ford seconded, and motion passed four to zero.

A resolution in support of the Haven Wellness Center had been submitted. Jeff Stringer moved to approve resolution #212 as presented. Any Hirst seconded. In discussion, Paula Scott questioned the action, as the council was uninformed regarding content of a grant application by the Wellness Committee. After discussion, the motion passed four to zero.

**UTILITY RATE INCREASES:**

Allen Blake explained that KPP 2009 electric rates had been raised by \$.01 per kWh and the energy fuel adjustment had been adjusted down by the same amount. In order to maintain the current profit margin, the city would need to raise rates by \$.01 per kWh. With the reduction in the fuel adjustment, bills would remain steady. Additional KPP had doubled its purchase of power on the futures market, indicating more reasonable bills in the summer months. At the end of discussion, Paula Scott moved to approve Resolution #213 adjusting electric utility rates. Jeff Stringer seconded, and motion passed four to zero.

Due to the increase in maintenance expenses and inflation, Allen recommended incremental increases in water, sewer, and refuse service as well. Adjusted rates for each area of service were reviewed. Don Ford moved to approve Resolution #214 adjusting rates for disposal refuse service. Any Hirst seconded, and motion passed unanimously. Jeff Stringer moved to approve Resolution #215 adjusting rates for wastewater services. Paula Scott seconded, and motion carried with four yes votes. Paula Scott moved to approve resolution #216 adjusting rates for water services. Amy Hirst seconded, and motion passed four to zero.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 9:15 PM, Don Ford moved for a 30-minute executive session to discuss personnel and employee evaluations. Jeff Stringer seconded, and motion passed unanimously. Council agreed to have Allen Andresen in the session. At 9:45 PM, regular session resumed with no action taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Lloyd Schmidt questioned the reason for the raise in electric rates and the advantages of a neighborhood revitalization plan. Allen Blake and members revisited the topics.

**MINUTES:**

Minutes of the November 17, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved, after a motion by Scott and a second by Stringer.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

Bills and transfers for November 18, through December 1, totaling \$61,033.68 were unanimously approved for payment, after a motion by Stringer and a second by Scott. Bills and transfers for December 2, through December 15, totaling \$243,742.94 were unanimously approved, after a motion by Scott and a second by Ford. Members were provided a financial report dated November 30, 2008, a summary comparing expenses to

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the 2008 budget and a comparison of receipts between the Jayhawk and Quicken computer programs.

**COUNCIL CONCERNS:**

A new ambulance for Haven EMS had been ordered.

Based on public response, council agreed to enforce the current ordinance regulating dogs. Allen Blake agreed to correspond with Sarah Wright regarding the decision.

After some discussion, Jeff Stringer moved to pay a \$200 Christmas bonus to each full-time employee with an employee serving a partial year receiving a prorated amount. Don Ford seconded, and motion carried unanimously

The clerk advised that three council positions would be open for the 2009 election. Filing applications would be available at the city office.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Dean Chesnut complimented the council on some actions taken and offered suggestions for improvement on basic protocol and conducting business.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 10:27 PM, Jeff Stringer moved for adjournment. Amy Hirst seconded, and motion passed four to zero.