

MINUTE RECORD
Regular and Special Council Meetings City of Haven

Meeting: REGULAR

Date: May 4, 2009

THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CODY R. LITTLESTAR, MAYOR WITH THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Council Member:

Council Member: Jeff Stringer

Council Member: Charles Arndt

Council Member: Don Ford

Council Member: Paula Scott

ABSENT: Amy Hirst

Others: Jennifer Vierthaler, William Thomas, Dean and Ann Chesnut, Lloyd Schmidt, Allen Andresen, Allen Blake, and Cheryl Savaiano

Mayor Littlestar called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers. No additions were added to the agenda.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING MEMBER:

Mayor Littlestar presented a plaque to outgoing Council Member Charles Arndt in appreciation of 15 years of service to the City of Haven. Charles indicated his enjoyment in working with the Council, and current members shared their appreciation for his leadership.

SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCIL:

The city clerk took an oath of office from newly elected council members Don Ford, John Mitchell, and Paula Scott.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

With limited discussion, Paula Scott moved to approve the mayor's appointment of Don Ford as Council President. Jeff Stringer seconded. Motion passed.

WELLNESS CENTER:

Jennifer Vierthaler reported on the progress of renovating 116 S. Kansas for use as a community Wellness Center. Even though a state-funded grant had been approved, \$24,000 in cash, services, and "sweat equity" were required prior to distribution of the money. Fund raising was being planned as well as a membership drive. Jennifer shared sketches illustrating improvements to the front doors and construction of bathroom facilities. Final decisions regarding ceiling and floor were pending. Volunteer labor would be solicited, with designated volunteers, each in charge of a specific project. Donated materials would also be accepted.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT:

Maintenance Supervisor Allen Andresen presented two bids for sealing cracks on six different streets in town. After some discussion Jeff Stringer moved to accept the bid of Holland Paving at \$12,892.94. After extended discussion, the motion died for lack of a second, pending research on alternative methods for completion of the project.

With limited discussion, John Mitchell moved to purchase a safety device for the swim pool drains with electronic backup from Jim's Water & Woods at \$1500. Don Ford seconded, and motion passed four to zero.

Mark Goertzen with Inman Excavating planned to bid on repair of seven fire hydrants.

The paved waterway leading to the sewer lagoons was in need of improvements.

Replacement shingles were needed at the community building as well as a new north door. Members agreed to solicit a general contractor for needed renovations.

Allen planned to be in Kingman on May 5th for a workshop regarding KDHE regulations for water wells.

Kansas Rural Water Association would be in town on May 6th for sludge testing at the sewer ponds.

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Mosquito treatment had begun. Council agreed to caution residents regarding breeding grounds for mosquitoes; namely, old tires and containers collecting water.

City personnel could be asked to hand deliver light bulbs as part of the "Take Charge" program.

Members agreed to visit with Swim Pool Manager Mark Robinson at the May 18th meeting. Council asked Allen to update the list of swim pool repairs.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Allen Blake presented several volumes of building code books, from the International Code Council. He briefly reviewed some of the changes from the city's 1985 edition and indicated more detailed specifications than before. An ordinance to adopt the 2009 code would be available at the May 18th meeting for the Council to consider.

In an effort to improve communications for emergency services, Reno County would be changing its medium to 800mh radios. The city could participate in the upgrade at a cost of approximately \$1700 per year on a lease-purchase agreement. Members agreed to add the cost to the 2010 Police Department budget. Reno County would purchase the units maintained for paging emergency personnel.

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS:

At 8:20 PM, after review of the appointments to be considered, John Mitchell moved for a 15-minute executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Don Ford seconded, and motion passed with four yes votes. At 8:35 PM regular session resumed with the following action taken.

Paula Scott moved to approve the mayor's appointment of Allen Blake as Police Chief/City Administrator; Larry Bolton as City Attorney; Stanley Juhnke as Municipal Court Judge; Gladys Dodds as Treasurer; and Cheryl Savaiano as City Clerk. John Mitchell seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

RETIREMENT:

Members also reviewed a letter from Cheryl Savaiano indicating retirement plans effective September 1, 2009. Members agreed to place ads in The Clarion and the Kansas Government Journal to seek candidates for city clerk.

SEWER LAGOON PROJECT:

Progress on the sewer lagoon project had been hampered due to wet weather. A request for partial payment in the amount of \$65,461.32 had been received from the contractor. With limited discussion, Don Ford moved to pay Reed Dozing LLC the requested amount contingent on the city's reimbursement from the State of Kansas.

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:

Efforts were still in progress to obtain a 40-year loan for water system improvements. A proposed schedule of payments was forthcoming from USD Rural Development.

SALE OF VEHICLES:

The 1988 ambulance had been sold at a price of \$5,000. Council agreed to sell the 1997 patrol car, with sealed bids solicited through a classified ad.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:47 PM Jeff Stringer moved for a 15-minute executive session for the purpose of discussing acquisition of real estate. Paula Scott seconded, and motion passed four to zero. At 9:03 PM, regular session resumed. Paula Scott moved for an additional 15-minute extension to the session for the same purpose. John Mitchell seconded, and motion carried with four yes votes. At 9:18 PM regular session resumed with no action taken.

OVERGROWN GRASS AND WEEDS:

Council reviewed with Allen Blake the due process required when residents allow yards to grow out of control. After a written notice and a 14-day waiting period, the city can mow the yard and charge the property owner. If the practice becomes habitual, the owner may be cited to municipal court.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lloyd Schmidt displayed a sample weed growing along a fence row on the south side of town and advised that no one should be cited for overgrown lawns until the city took care of the problem. Members agreed to check on weed control through the local Coop. Lloyd also felt that building code books should be held at the Library for individuals to study.

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He advised that maintenance personnel had left trimmed tree limbs in alley right of way, making it difficult for residents to maintain their yards. Specific locations were undisclosed.

MINUTES:

Paula Scott moved to approve minutes of the April 20, 2009 meeting. John Mitchell seconded, and motion carried four to zero.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Bills and transfers totaling \$173,419.21 were unanimously approved, after a motion by Scott and a second by Mitchell.

COUNCIL CONCERNS:

Members agreed that a citywide cleanup should take place in the Fall. A breakdown of regular and overtime hours from the payroll register was requested.

Betty Waggoner with the Climate & Energy Project had sent correspondence requesting the city to purchase an additional light bulb per home and to turn off every third street light along Industrial Drive as conservation efforts. Members agreed to check the availability of bulbs from KPP and to check with customers on the west end of Industrial Drive prior to turning off streetlights.

John Mitchell expressed concern regarding employee use of city vehicles for personal errands and the lack of cleanliness of the city trucks. Bill Thomas also advised that employees were using city vehicles to transport family members. Ann Chesnut indicated that employees were using city trucks to go out of town.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dean Chesnut was extremely concerned that the case regarding the accessory building owned by Mayor Littlestar had been appealed to a higher court. The building had been declared illegal in two district court cases and would eventually become a matter of case law for the State of Kansas. Dean felt that the building project never should have been allowed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:04 PM Don Ford moved for adjournment. Jeff Stringer seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

Cody R. Littlestar, Mayor

Cheryl Savaiano, City Clerk