

MINUTE RECORD
Regular Council Meeting City of Haven

Meeting: REGULAR

Date: August 17, 2009

THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM BY CODY R. LITTLESTAR, MAYOR WITH THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Council Member: Amy Hirst

Council Member: Jeff Stringer

Council Member: John Mitchell

Council Member: Don Ford

Council Member: Paula Scott

ABSENT: None.

Others: Sonia Yutzy, Cheryl Savaiano, Leslie Warden, Ryan McCrory, Allen Blake, Willis Scobee, Zach Farmer, Allen Andresen, and Tony Troyer.

Vehicle Use Policy:

This policy was approved at Council's last session, but required re-addressing for clarification.

Jeff Stringer began the discussion by telling the Council that after some further consideration he is not ready to tie down the policy unless some provisions can be made. In his opinion, supervisors who are on call at all times of the day and night should have a vehicle to take home, especially in light of the fact that allowing the same to happen would cost the City little to nothing. Mayor Littlestar agreed, noting that surrounding smaller towns, specifically Mt. Hope, allow their maintenance crews to take vehicles home.

John Mitchell staunchly disagreed and said the council would hear it from everywhere if this were allowed to happen. He said the issue is not cost; it's propriety. Furthermore, if the maintenance crew has to clock in and out at the shop, there really is no reason for a work vehicle to go home. He said that is currently what happens, unless we are going to no longer require the maintenance crew to clock in and out. Stringer and Littlestar noted that in a case where an emergency situation must be immediately tended to a clock in may not occur. Hirst, Stringer, and Littlestar agreed that if we cannot trust our employees to write in their times then we should fire them.

Allen Andresen, maintenance supervisor, communicated that he breaks when the workload permits, and that most contractors call him over the noon hour while he is on his lunch break. He asked the council if he could start charging the City for the phone calls he receives on his personal cell phone. Stringer agreed that something should be worked out in regard to that. Mayor Littlestar admitted that Allen Andresen puts more into the City than what is seen.

Amy Hirst expressed that she is very grateful to live in the City of Haven where people know and care about you, where in her recent experience the City's maintenance crew was on scene within seven minutes of notification of an electricity outage. That happens almost nowhere else, she furthered.

Further discussion ensued regarding break times and the use of vehicles over breaks. John Mitchell said the work vehicles should only be used over breaks if those breaks were taken at standard break times, that we need to be accountable. Paula Scott responded that the City is not a factory, and therefore, the maintenance crewmembers must break when work permits. Chances are, she furthered, that while they are on break they would probably be faced with a question, comment, or demand regarding the City. However, if there is a pattern of abuse by an employee, it should be reported and the Council should take care of it.

City Administrator Allen Blake summarized the discussion well by saying that we (City employees) do not want to give the public the appearance that we are goofing off or misusing City property. However, for the maintenance crew, working odd hours is a reality, and that leads to odd break times. It would be unrealistic to try to make break times comply with 10am and 3pm.

Finally, it was agreed that maintenance could take vehicles home over the lunch hour if it was prudent and could take the vehicles home at night if it was deemed there was potential for an after-hours call out (i.e. due to weather).

It was also pointed out that mileage reimbursement for being called back to town for an after-hours call is part of the City's vehicle use policy. The rate of mileage reimbursement is equal to the Federal mileage reimbursement rate.

Maintenance Updates:

Fire Hydrants:

Allen Andresen informed the Council that we have 7 used fire hydrants ready for sale. It was agreed the City would take sealed bids on these as done previously and would advertise the same in the Mt. Hope Clarion.

Millings:

Andresen noted that the millings are gone, as Bill Guhl purchased what remained.

Request for Cell Phone Allowance:

Because he used 700 minutes on his personal cell phone last month for City business alone, Andresen asked the Council to consider paying a portion of his cell phone bill. Purchasing a City cell phone for him was discussed, though he indicated he would prefer a monthly allowance instead. The Mayor felt this would be the simplest solution. Allen Blake agreed to look into cell phone options and then the Council would revisit the idea.

Deutz Allis Tractor:

The 1987 Deutz Allis tractor primarily used for mowing and snow removal is deteriorating. It has weak brakes, bad joystick, and a broken window to say the least. Schmidt's estimated it would cost \$4,500 to fix these problems, and as Jeff Stringer noted, a few years ago according to Pancratz, the Deutz Allis was barely worth \$2,500. Andresen noted that a used, comparable John Deere would cost around \$35,000. The Council noted that replacing this equipment is not budgeted for this year or 2010. The Mayor expressed his desire to obtain bids from the larger vendors on a new replacement. Amy Hirst said that she would like to know all options. However, Allen Blake noted that because of the budget the Council may have to consider spending the \$4,500 to repair the Deutz Allis, even though it may not be the wisest investment. Paula Scott conceded that in the future the Council must do a better job of budgeting and connecting the Capital Improvement Plan with the budget.

At 8:15PM, Jeff Stringer moved that the Council enter into a fifteen minute executive session to discuss acquisition of real property. John Mitchell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. At 8:30PM, regular session resumed and the following action was taken.

Acquisition of Property:

John Mitchell moved that the Council purchase 120 N. Kansas Avenue, Lots 29 – 32 of Block 12 for \$8,700 plus appropriate fees. Jeff Stringer seconded the motion, and it passed five to zero.

City Administrator Project Updates:

1997 Crown Victoria:

City Administrator, Allen Blake, said he had received two sealed bids for the 1997 Crown Victoria. The top bid was for \$1,000 from C.M. Crile, Jr. Paula Scott moved that the council accept the high bid for the vehicle. Jeff Stringer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Curb Ramps:

Blake spoke to Winter Concrete about converting more of the curb ramps, and they agreed they would do 7 more at the previously agreed upon price of \$1,050 a piece. Paula Scott moved that the Council install 7 new curb ramps not to exceed \$7,700.00 total. Don Ford seconded Scott's motion, and it carried five to zero.

Amending Ordinance No. 583 To Include Other Vehicles:

Because of the recent passage of Ordinance No. 583, several people have approached Blake recently about work site utility vehicles, which are similar to the vehicle Willis Scobee has been driving around. It is not an ATV, but it is a low speed cargo vehicle. Blake noted that we could allow them as we have done with golf carts. They will go a little faster than a golf cart, but Blake is not concerned about law enforcement in that regard. The Mayor noted that the City might some day want to utilize a mini truck for maintenance. They only cost about \$4,000 - \$5,000 and are more fuel-efficient. The Council agreed that allowing ATVs would not be a good idea, but indicated an interest in amending Ordinance No. 583 to include work site utility vehicles, like mules, and mini trucks. Blake said he would look into it and the Council would then revisit the issue.

K96 Corridor:

Blake informed the Council that the K96 Corridor group has received a grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce for marketing. They will be holding a meeting on Friday, August 21, 2009, at 7:00 PM at the Community Building to obtain input from citizens regarding development of the corridor and promotion of Haven.

Darling Drilling has now completed the drilling of the monitoring wells. Testing is still being done, and we have not yet received authorization for release of the 5% disbursement.

Council Concerns:

Engweiler Park:

Photographs of Engweiler Park were passed around as John Mitchell noted how terrible the restrooms there look. The doors need replacing, and the water hydrant there should be locked. Blake noted that it is locked in the winter. Council agreed that the restrooms look bad and the doors need replacing. However, each time the knobs are replaced, the doors are kicked in the first time they are locked. Because activities at Engweiler Park have subsided, Blake thought it best to wait until next Spring before making any renovations or repairs.

Paul Moore Estate:

Don Ford updated the Council on the park board's ideas for the money from the Paul Moore Estate. The Park Board's initial recommendations appear to be for a Nature Park in Veterans Park, complete with a walking path, plants, grasses, bushes, vines, and bird houses. The next park board meeting is August 18, 2009.

Other Issues:

Paula Scott requested a clarification regarding the City making repairs within someone's home because a citizen who was concerned that damage within his home had occurred due to the water outage recently contacted her. Allen Blake said that the City should investigate to the point of determining whether or not the problem is ours. If it is not a problem on the City's end, nothing should be done beyond that; the problem should be left to the home or property owner.

Mayor Littlestar suggested we talk to Jeremiah Hobbs about allowing the shop class to weld some shelving and such for the storage room at the pool.

With regard to replacing the Haven signs, Don Ford mentioned that Kingman had a unique looking sign that consisted of black metal letters on limestone. Ryan McCrory noted that the school does have a table laser / plasma cutter that may be able to help accomplish something similar.

Cody Littlestar and Paula Scott both received phone calls regarding a pit bull at 204 S. Topeka. Allen Blake indicated that he had addressed the issue earlier in the day by advising the residents they would have to get rid of the dog. Follow-up will be done to ensure that happens.

The Council would next like to tour the shop, well houses, and lift station.

At 9:10PM, John Mitchell moved that the Council enter into executive session regarding non-elected personnel. Don Ford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. At 9:40PM, regular session resumed and the following action was taken.

Meter Reader:

Paula Scott moved that the Council offer the meter reader position to Erin Peterson at the established rate. Amy Hirst seconded, and the motion passed five to zero.

Minutes:

Minutes from the August 3, 2009, council meeting were approved by a motion from Paula Scott and a second by Jeff Stringer. The motion passed five to zero.

Accounts Payable:

Paula Scott moved for the approval of the accounts payable totaling \$280,104.90. Don Ford seconded Scott's motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Members were provided a financial statement dated July 31, 2009, a comparison of fund balances to the 2009 budget, and a summary reconciling receipts between the Jayhawk and Quicken computer programs.

The final topic of discussion was regarding a junk Volkswagen sitting on John Mitchell's property on Main Street, which the Mayor had received many calls about. Mitchell said it is sold and would be gone Wednesday.

Adjournment:

At 9:50 PM, Jeff Stringer moved for adjournment. Amy Hirst seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

S/S
Cody R. Littlestar, Mayor

S/S
Leslie Warden, City Clerk