

MINUTE RECORD
Regular Council Meeting City of Haven

Meeting: REGULAR

Date: February 15, 2010

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: Don Ford

Council Member: Jeff Stringer

Council Member: Amy Hirst

Council Member: John Mitchell

Council member: Paula Scott

ABSENT: None.

Others: Sonia Yutzy, Leslie Warden, Allen Blake, Allen Andresen, Dean Chesnut, Tony Troyer, Gary Meaghers, Randy Henderson, Arthur Allen.

No additions to the agenda were requested.

During public comment time, citizen, Arthur Allen, addressed the Council regarding the numerous times he has been refused employment by the City. He said he has applied eight or nine times but has never been hired. Furthermore, he doubted that his applications ever made it in front of the Council. Council member Jeff Stringer assured him he had seen his application. Still, Allen begged to know why he had been refused employment so many times. Following a lengthy silence, Stringer responded that each time a position is open, the Council simply hires the person they feel is best for the job. Allen understood but went on to list what he had to offer the City, including a "whole briefcase full of qualifications," a certificate from Wichita State University "for supervising employees," and certificates vouching for his superb attendance record at previous employers. Allen thanked the Council for their time and asked for their consideration.

Introduction of County Administrator, Gary Meaghers

At 7:05 PM, Reno County Sheriff Randy Henderson introduced Reno County Administrator, Gary Meaghers to the Council. Meaghers thanked the Council for the opportunity address them, noting he planned to visit all of the cities and townships within the county. He offered a brief background, noting he was hired in August of 2009 and has 36 years of city / county government experience from Kansas and Colorado. Mayor Cody Littlestar mentioned that they had met previously at a meeting of the Reno County Growth Coalition.

Upon Meaghers' opening for questions, Mayor Littlestar inquired about the possibility of the Reno County Ambulance Service being taken over by the City of Hutchinson. Meaghers advised that the county commissioners had asked him to look into the idea, and he had been examining several models, focusing mainly on the Rogers, AR model, a fire-based EMS service. Currently, Promise Regional Medical Center / Reno County Ambulance Service provides free supplies and \$100 per call to the Haven Community Ambulance Service. This is significant support from the City's viewpoint. Meaghers said he didn't think a takeover by the City of Hutchinson would change any of that, that those services and relationships would continue. Basically, the change or possibility of change is in the infancy stage, and while there is continuing dialogue, no decisions have been made. Thanks were exchanged between Meaghers and the Council.

Code of Procedure – Ordinance 587

Council member Paula Scott asked if a code of procedure must be enacted via Ordinance and if the City currently has an ordinance in place outlining code of procedure for council meetings. Blake responded yes

and no, respectively. A brief discussion took place regarding the difference between an Ordinance and all the other decisions the Council makes. Mayor Littlestar felt that a written code of procedure would be a good safeguard, and Scott felt that enacting a code of procedure would be consistent with what other Cities have done. With no further discussion, Scott moved and John Mitchell seconded for the passage of Ordinance 587, establishing a code of procedure for council meetings. The motion passed five to zero.

Committee to Update Capital Improvement Plan

City administrator, Allen Blake, advised that he had neither come up with nor received any recommendations for individuals to serve on the committee. Scott asked if there was any reason those who had served previously could not serve again. Blake said that was entirely up to the Council. The item was tabled.

Maintenance Project Updates

At 7:18 PM, maintenance supervisor, Allen Andresen, provided the following updates:

- He and Chris Scott earned their CDLs with air brakes restriction removal.
- The welder that was purchased from the school needs to be added to the inventory list provided to the Council.
- In regard to 2010 street improvements, APAC advised there would be a 2-3% cost increase from last year. Last year we spend about \$118,000.
- The trash truck underwent repairs in Wichita for the check engine light and an air leak. The repair shop is waiting on a call back from Cummings for approval to look into the check engine light.
- He fixed the anti-freeze leak on the trash truck himself.
- The City is hauling about half a ton of recyclable materials to Stutzman's per week. Our recycling trailer has begun to accumulate a lot of shredded paper, which Stutzman's does not accept shredded paper because it clogs their glass machine. Council member, Amy Hirst, suggested the City add a "No Shredded Paper" sign to the trailer.
- City Administrator, Allen Blake, was recently informed that Stutzman's will no longer pick up recyclable materials from the school anymore now that the City has a recycling trailer. The school and City both are searching for an appropriate solution.
- Because the maintenance crew is down to two working people, the light at the highway still is not fixed.

EMS Update

Around 7:30 PM, Tony Troyer addressed the council regarding Critical Care Transfer, which now has trucks in Great Bend and Dodge City. Troyer learned from Kevin and Debra, the owners of CCT, that they have also added a fixed wing service through Wichita. Because of the close proximity to the airport, they agreed on a place in Haysville. Though they have not ruled Haven out, the prospect of housing CCT here now seems much less promising.

Mayor Littlestar recommended that we proceed with building the building we need. Troyer advised he had looked into some grants but had hit a wall. Blake provided him with another source.

The Council asked Troyer how he felt about Meaghers' answers regarding EMS service. Troyer said that it still appeared no one really had an answer as to whether a changeover would occur. He also was troubled by the fact that Meaghers says the commissioners asked him to look into it because County Commissioner, James Schlickau, indicated to several people that he didn't know anything about it.

City Administrator Project Updates

At 7:35 PM, Blake delivered a few brief updates:

- Christopher Scott and Allen Andresen are now licensed to drive and operate the trash truck. Jay Mattison remains unqualified for the same at this time.
- He suggested we obtain bids for street improvements from more than just APAC, especially since we may not be able to afford the same type of improvements we made last year.
- The advertisement for the open maintenance position has been placed, and we have already received a few applications.

- Though no bids have been received yet, several people have indicated an interest in the demolition of 120 N. Kansas.

Water Project:

Kansas Department of Health & Environment does not like any of our proposed well sites. The site must be out of the flood zone and contain water that is not under the influence of Gar Creek. Therefore, the newly proposed site is south of Arlington Road and a ½ mile east of Haven on Don Huston's land. He has provided verbal permission for the City to drill a test site. The plan is for Homer Gilson to stake the well area and Darling Drilling to drill the test well. Blake requested the Council's approval. Scott moved for the approval of Homer Gilson, surveyor, to stake the well area, providing the work would not exceed \$900. Stringer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session Regarding Non-Elected Personnel

Blake advised he had nothing requiring an executive session.

Employee Health Insurance

Pursuant to the 4% decrease in the health insurance rates for the City's employees, Scott moved to approve the bid from BlueCross BlueShield. Mitchell wanted to know what the City's future plans were for increases in health insurance rates. Blake advised that one employee meeting had been held regarding this but he felt that the issue should be looked at year to year. Scott concurred. Ford said it would be nice if a policy was in place before an increase happened so employees could prepare financially. Hirst was interested in what the employees had to say at the employee meeting. Blake said everyone agreed that health insurance was an important benefit, and of course, preferred the City continue paying the full premium. Stringer said it would be difficult for someone making \$11 – 12 per hour to pay for his or her health insurance premiums, in full or part. Ford agreed and said if benefits were removed or reduced then there would have to be salary increases.

Liability, Property, and Work Comp Insurance Policy

Blake advised that we have not yet received a firm bid, but March is our renewal time. The Council agreed to table the issue.

Legal Description of City's Boundaries – Ordinance 588

The engineer and surveyor both mapped the City's boundaries following the Ordinance, and the resulting maps looked the same, according to Blake. At 7:50 PM, Scott moved for the approval of Ordinance 588, establishing and defining the boundaries of the City of Haven. Ford seconded, and the motion passed five to zero.

Appointments to Planning Commission

City Clerk, Leslie Warden, received an email from Julie Stade indicating her desire to resign from the Planning Commission. Scott moved to accept Stade's resignation with thanks for her years of service. Stringer seconded, and the motion passed with five "yes" votes. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Planning Commission, Ford moved and Stringer seconded to appoint Jeremiah Hobbs to the Planning Commission for a three-year term. Also, Scott moved and Ford seconded to appoint Thomas Blankenship to the Planning Commission for a two-year term. Both motions passed unanimously.

Minutes:

Minutes from the January 18, 2010, council meeting were unanimously approved with a motion from Stringer and a second by Hirst. The February 1, 2010, minutes were also approved with a motion by Stringer and a second by Scott. Five "yes" votes were counted.

Executive Session Regarding Non-Elected Personnel

At 7:55 PM, Stringer moved that the Council recess into a 15-minute executive session under the non-elected personnel exception. Ford seconded, and the motion carried five to zero.

At 8:10 PM, normal session resumed with no action taken during the executive session.

Accounts Payable

Stringer moved for the approval of the payables (excluding those to Mitchell Hardware) totaling \$89,466.13; Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Stringer also moved for the approval of the payables to Mitchell Hardware totaling \$423.47. Hirst seconded, and the motion carried five to zero.

Members were provided a financial summary dated January 31, 2010, a report comparing expenditures to the 2010 Budget, and a summary comparing receipts between the Jayhawk and Quickbooks computer programs.

Council Concerns:

Warden received an email from Erin Peterson asking if the City would be willing to donate a family pool pass for the PRIDE's Easter Eggstravaganza. The Council responded affirmatively.

Warden also advised that according to Myron and Sue Miller, the Farm Service Agency needs a copy of minutes showing that Mayor Littlestar may sign FSA documents on behalf of the City of Haven. Scott moved to give Mayor Littlestar the authority to sign on behalf of the City on FSA documents. Stringer seconded, and the motion passed with five "yes" votes.

Mitchell brought a catalog showing a machine he thought would be ideal for street cleaning in the City. The \$2900 item is a debris blower / vacuum with a 13-horse motor with a chute to channel collected material ideally to the back of a truck. Mayor Littlestar said that rather than spending \$3000 on a small machine he would prefer to put it toward a new street sweeper. Ford pointed out that a new street sweeper would cost much more than \$3000, and Blake noted that without some sort of filtration or water system dust could be a big problem. Mayor Littlestar and Council member, Paula Scott, thought it would be best to have Allen Andresen look at it.

On the spreadsheet of work orders, Mitchell recounted that Andresen wrote he waited three hours for Mitchell Hardware to open. Although Mitchell didn't want to get into an argument, he alleged he had a sign in his window that said he would be back at 8:00 a.m., meaning 8:00 a.m. the next morning. Mitchell said Andresen was spiting him. Council members, Scott, Stringer, and Ford interpreted Andresen's comment differently. Mayor Littlestar thought the comment simply provided the reason he ended up purchasing the needed supplies at Yoder Hardware. Hirst agreed but commented that Andresen could have simply stated Mitchell Hardware was closed.

Adjournment:

At 8:30 PM, Stringer moved for adjournment. Ford seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

S/S
Cody R. Littlestar, Mayor

Attest:

S/S
Leslie Warden, City Clerk