



City of Haven
Haven City Council SPECIAL Meeting
MINUTES DRAFT
February 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
Haven City Hall, Council Chambers



SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING IN SPECIAL SESSION HELD AT 120 S. KANSAS AVENUE WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM BY MAYOR ADAM WRIGHT. THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE PRESENT:

Council Members: Ciara Powers, Nicole Sander, Sherri Schneider, Corey Brock, Shelli Rettig, and Mayor Adam Wright

Absent:

Others: City Clerk Josephine Harper, City Attorney Scott Ufford, Chief of Police Matt Hayden, and Brendan Umer.

Before getting into agenda items, Mayor Wright informed the council agenda item C., second Executive Session, would not be needed. A motion was made by Schneider to remove item C., second Executive Session, and a second was given by Rettig. Motion carried.

Special Meeting Agenda

A. DISCUSS RECREATION DEPARTMENT BOARD CONCERNS

Nicole discussed how she has been looking into solutions to clarify the governance structure of the Recreation Department / recreation board . She continued by informing the council that the city staff has been unable to find any record that it was established by any ordinance. With this information, she finds that it is best for the council, in the interest of transparency, to make some decision on how to move forward with the recreation board. Sander suggested establishing a recreation department with the Recreation Director as a department head with subject to council oversight. This will allow streamline processes and other cities of the third class operate this way as well. Wright said those cities also employ directors full time. Sander acknowledged his comment and continued to say this would be something to discuss and could look into applying the same expectation of time worked as the city does with the EDC coordinator. Wright responded by saying he is not against that proposal and he continued saying that with the challenges of finding a pool manager he suggested that pool and rec could be combined into one. He suggests the Rec Director could be also the pool manager. Brock asked what would be the danger of having the pool budget in with the recreation budget. Harper informed the council that the pool always operates in the red potentially due to payroll and operating expenses.

Rettig would like to know how the league meeting tomorrow should be handled and has concerns, based off the last recreation meeting, that if everyone walks, who would take on the responsibility of the summer ball. Rettig will be going to the league meeting to gather information for the summer league. She had asked the current Recreation Board Chairperson if they were going to attend and still had not heard anything back from her. Schneider asked what it would take to disband the recreation board. Ufford said that it could be done very quickly but the new job description would restart the 2-week posting timeline for the Recreation Director position.

Schneider asked who would step in when the director is not available at events. All council agreed it was a valid question. Sander said this is something else that will need to have more discussion determining on the direction the council decided to go.

Wright brought up the auditors and separation of duties may need to be discussed.

Brock wanted to know the council's opinion on the recreation board's request to have someone as an interim director.

Sander motion to dissolve the recreation board immediately. Brock second the motion. Wright did a roll call:

Powers - yes
Sander – yes
Rettig – yes
Brock - yes
Schneider - yes

Wright stated he felt it was a poor decision by all council. He then asked how rec ball would be handled. Rettig volunteered to handle summer with the help of City staff.

Sander asked Ufford how the notification should be handled to the board members. Ufford said it should be a call and email. Ufford suggested the Mayor being the one to communicate to them.

Rettig asked about city items that need to be returned. The Mayor will send an email out to the board members and in it should include when to have any city property back to the city.

Wright stated if the city is going to micromanage the recreation board then we should micromanage the library board. Sander did not feel this is micromanaging. Wright continued stating the City gives the rec \$30,000 and the library \$30,000 and the city doesn't know how the \$30,000 is spent and the library is wanting to hire a new employee and the city has no knowledge of that. Sander asked Wright if the library concerns are something that needs to be added to another meeting.

Sander asks that a special meeting on February 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Sander asked the council about their thoughts of the Secretary Treasurer position being eliminated. Schneider looked in the employee handbook, and the position is an at-will employment. Ufford advised the council to have an executive session on this at the next special meeting. Sander asked who the secretary/treasurer report would be in the meantime, and it was decided that she would communicate with the Assistant City Clerk.

Rettig went over what items need to be discussed at the next meeting.

Mayor Wright asked the council to move the meeting to the 25th of February.

The council decided to have the special meeting on Friday February 20 at 6 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sander moved that the Haven City Council recess into executive session with the City Attorney present for consultation with the city attorney to discuss employment-related concerns raised by an individual employee, pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception. The meeting will resume at 7:52 pm. in the Council Chambers. Powers second the motion. Motion carried.

Sander motion to extend the executive session by 5 minutes. Brock seconded. Motion carried.

Returned to regular session with no binding action taken.

Adjournment

At 8:03 PM, adjournment was unanimously approved after motion from Sander and second from Rettig.

Mayor, Adam Wright

Attest:

Josephine Harper, City Clerk