

News Release

HAVEN CITY COUNCIL NEWS

February 5, 2007

Mayor John Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers. Councilmen Charles Arndt, David Newcomer, Don Ford and Mike Scott were in attendance.

Reno County Commissioner Francis Schoepf requested that the city deed the property on South Kansas Ave. to Fire District #9. Schoepf informed the Council that this needed to be done prior to an architect drawing up plans. Council members indicated their desire to have space for housing Haven Community EMS included as an option in the plans. Schoepf advised that additional space for EMS would be too expensive and would result in failure to obtain bond authority for the project. After further discussion, Commissioner Schoepf agreed that two bids for building plans could be requested, one with and one without EMS. The City's financial participation would be key to EMS being housed in the District #9 station. The Council was also concerned about the type of construction and appearance of the building, as it would impact the business district. Schoepf indicated that the Fire Chief is in charge of determining the District's requirements for a fire station and that the city should give him their input.

Merritt Wright and David Chamberlain with the Parks and Recreation Board discussed pricing and specifications for basketball goals to be added to the concrete court at Engweiler Park. The Council asked that the board select the equipment and relay that information to the Council. David Newcomer moved to appoint Sarah Simon and Kevin Boese to the Parks & Recreation Board, Charles Arndt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Merritt and David agreed to try to find additional members to fill vacancies on the board. The City Clerk will post an announcement on Channel 15 regarding the need for Parks & Rec Board members.

The Haven Community Ambulance Board submitted amended bylaws that expand the board to include representatives from Sumner and Yoder Townships. Charles Arndt moved to approve the new bylaws, Mike Scott seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. David Newcomer moved to appoint Ivan Schrock and Don Bogner to the new positions on the Ambulance Board. Charles Arndt seconded and the motion passed.

Maintenance Supervisor Allen Andresen informed the Council that the Maintenance Department has been putting in some overtime on snow removal. Andresen also advised that three water leaks have been repaired recently. Kenny's Electric assisted in changing out a transformer that failed at Haven Steel Products. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment plans a water system inspection on February 7th. Employees Sandra Trego and Allen Andresen are scheduled for water operator training next month.

City Administrator Allen Blake visited with the Council along with Fire District #9 and EMS officials regarding the fire station project. The Council requested the Administrator to convey the following stipulations on donating property for the fire station:

1. The property will be used for a fire station to be built within three years.
2. The Fire District's architect will include a floor plan providing the space needed to house Haven Community EMS and probable cost estimates that show the cost of the additional space for EMS.
3. The City has the option to house Haven Community EMS in the Reno County Fire District #9 fire station based on the City's participation in any increased construction cost for the inclusion of Haven Community EMS.
4. The City Council will serve as the Architectural Review Board with authority to approve or disapprove application for a building permit based on the suitability of the fire station's design for location in the business district on Kansas Ave.
5. If the previous conditions are not met, the property reverts to the City.

The Council reviewed with Blake a plan and estimate received from architect Kelly McMurphy for remodeling the existing EMS building. A local contractor, Dave Richardson, has also been asked to provide a probable cost estimate on a smaller addition.

Blake informed the Council that Westar had provided an indicative proposal for electric rates on a new contract. The proposal indicates that the rate the city pays for electricity purchased from Westar would be less than 10% higher than current charges. Blake and the Council will meet with a representative from Westar to discuss details of the new contract.

The Mayor provided a letter of support for Reno County Area Transit (RCAT) to the Kansas Dept. of Transportation (KDOT). Blake advised RCAT Director Lisa Loeb that he believes RCAT is underutilized in Haven and suggested that the County and City work to promote the service.

Blake plans to take delivery on a 2005 patrol car from Kansas Highway Patrol surplus at a cost of \$13,900. The Mayor asked the Council to consider screening in the gazebo at Veterans Park. The Mayor also suggested requiring police officers to serve on the fire department and EMS due to a shortage of volunteers. Chief Blake advised that officers already respond to fire and ambulance calls within the city and nearby areas to provide support. Police officers are free to serve as volunteers now, however officers are always subject to call-up for police matters, which would take priority due to the small size of the department. Blake and the Council agreed that familiarization of police officers with fire and EMS equipment and procedures would be helpful.

Minutes of the January 15, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved, after a motion by Arndt and a second by Newcomer. Bills and transfers totaling \$118,910.38 were unanimously approved for payment, after a motion by Newcomer and second by Scott. At 9:10 PM, Charles Arndt moved for adjournment. Don Ford seconded, and the motion passed four to zero.