

News Release

## **HAVEN CITY COUNCIL NEWS**

March 19, 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.

Nita Johnson with Haven Insurance Agency presented a bid for 2007-2008 coverage through EMC Insurance Companies including general liability, property, business auto, workers compensation, inland marine, public officials and umbrella. Don Ford moved to accept the bid of \$42,007. Charles Arndt seconded the motion, which carried four to zero.

Dorothy Barnett, recently appointed coordinator for the 2020 Growth Coalition, introduced herself and reviewed projects and activities designed to stimulate growth in Reno County. The Coalition has established an office at 111 N. Walnut in Hutchinson. Barnett left promotional materials for members to review.

Haven Community EMS Board Chairman Emil Savaiano and Director Tony Troyer visited with the Council regarding the possible use of the existing fire station at 116 S. Kansas Ave. by EMS, once the building was vacated. The option of remodeling the station with volunteer labor may be the most economical and involve the least inconvenience for the service. Council members agreed that the EMS Board should report back to the Council with price estimates for materials. No further cost estimates for remodeling the 101 S. Kansas location have been received.

Maintenance Supervisor Allen Andresen informed the Council of the purchase of a 1998 Hi-Ranger bucket truck. It is scheduled for certification the last week in March. The Council agreed to sell the 1978 unit by sealed bid, with bids to be opened on April 16. Andresen also advised that service on the ball diamond lights had been completed. Tornado sirens had been tested and repair is proceeding on the northeast unit in the 400 block of East 5<sup>th</sup>. The steps to be used at the shallow end of the swimming pool did not fit well or meet requirements. Members agreed to get estimates for constructing permanent concrete steps. Asphalt has been ordered for street repairs.

The Council entered an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss personnel at 8:00 PM and the session was extended by 20 minutes at 8:30 PM. The regular session resumed at 8:50 PM. The Council agreed to have Administrator Blake offer a part-time janitor position to an applicant.

City Administrator Allen Blake shared the draft copy of a letter to the Reno County Commission, as requested by the Council, to respond to errors in a letter from County Counselor O'Sullivan regarding the proposed donation of City owned land for the new District 9 fire station. Members agreed to send the letter. Blake informed the Council that the lagoon evaluation had been reviewed and Engineer Harlan Foraker had been notified of revisions that were needed. Blake also advised the Council that City Attorney Larry Bolton filed a motion and represented the City at a hearing in Salina in order to acquire a listing of property for the Paul Moore estate.

Administrator Blake presented a petition for street improvements from residents in the 8<sup>th</sup> Street area along with a resolution to authorize those improvements. Charles Arndt moved to approve Resolution #07-193. Mike Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The Council agreed to ask Engineer Harlan Foraker for a price on engineering the paving project.

Blake had attended a Westar meeting in Topeka and updated the Council on proposed electric rates from Westar. The City's electric contract with Westar expires in November 2007. Proposed unbundled, "cost-based" rates would start out at virtually the same expense to the City as current rates but are projected by Westar to rise 6% to 7% annually in June. Blake also attended a meeting of the Kansas Power Pool but did not yet have a cost comparison from that organization.

Three sealed bids were presented for the purchase of the 1996 police car. After review, Charles Arndt moved to accept the high bid of \$875.00 from Darrell Rankin of All Parts Auto Salvage, Inc. David Newcomer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Minutes of the March 5, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved, on a motion by Newcomer and a second by Scott. Bills and transfers totaling \$49, 467.21 were unanimously approved, after a motion by Newcomer and a second by Arndt.

Members discussed future expansion of the City and requested that the City Administrator contact the Kansas Department of Transportation about the possibility of an interchange at K-96 and Haven Rd. The Council also asked Blake to check on future plans for the natural gas pipeline north of town, as expansion of the city limits could involve growth to the north.

Basketball goals for Engweiler Park have been ordered. The Council agreed to have the Parks and Recreation Board select a contractor to maintain landscaping at the Community Building. The Board is seeking additional members to complete its roster. The Library Board is reviewing applications for a librarian to replace Kathy Regier who is retiring. Thank you notes were read from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Haven High After Prom Committee and Leona Silvers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM on a motion from Charles Arndt and second by Mike Scott. The motion carried unanimously.