

News Release

HAVEN CITY COUNCIL NEWS

July 2, 2007

Mayor Cody Littlestar called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers. Also in attendance were Council Members Kathy Long, Jeff Stringer, Charles Arndt, Don Ford and Mike Scott.

Harlan Foraker of Certified Engineering Design reviewed technical specifications for the 8th Street paving project. The project will pave 8th and 9th Streets and Kansas Ave. and Emporia Ave. north of Sunset Lane. Foraker advised the Council that bids could be ready for review on August 6th. Charles Arndt moved to advertise for bids on the project for opening on August 6th at 2:00 PM in the Council Chambers. Don Ford seconded and the motion carried five to zero.

Charles Wagner, representing the Visioning Committee, renewed his request for funds in the 2008 budget for advertising to promote Haven. The Council discussed several proposed projects including a Web site, advertising in the Reno County Visitor Guide, a television commercial in advance of the Fall Festival and a community owned billboard. Don Ford moved to approve a \$7,500.00 line item for the 2008 budget to be used for community promotion. Charles Arndt seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Individual projects will be approved by the Council.

The annual PRIDE Picnic in the Park will be held at Engweiler Park this year on August 5th. The Council approved the use of the swimming pool and concession stand for the event. The public is invited.

Library Board President Dan Owens advised the Council that the Board's 2008 budget needed to be increased by \$100 in order to maintain state grant funding. Charles Arndt moved to reconsider the Council's previous motion and approve an amended budget of \$48,600.00 for the Haven Library Board. Kathy Long seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

City Administrator Allen Blake advised the Council that the City Attorney and Daniel Friesen had come to agreement on the language of a franchise for providing communications services to Haven. After the Council reviewed the Ordinance, Charles Arndt moved to approve Ordinance #564 providing a franchise to Wildflower Internet. Mike Scott seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Maintenance Supervisor Allen Andresen opened the single bid received for the City's used mosquito fogger. The bid was for \$250.00 from Robert Mandeville of TNT Pest Control in Wellington. The Council recommended that the insecticide remaining in the fogger be used or pumped out for use in the new sprayer and that the new owner sign a release of liability. Jeff Stringer moved to accept the bid, Kathy Long seconded and the motion carried with five yes votes.

Andresen updated the Council on several projects. The new basket ball goals were in the process of being erected on the basketball court at Engweiler Park. Electrical system repairs and upgrades are planned. Alley paving requested by the Methodist Church and repaving requested by the Baptist Church will be considered with bids for street repairs this summer. Street repairs are planned for

Kansas Ave. south of 2nd St. and north of Main St. and railroad crossings on Reno Ave., Kansas Ave. and First Street. Repaving of the 100 block of South Kansas Ave. will be delayed until completion of the new Reno County Fire District No. 9 fire station.

City Administrator Allen Blake discussed the City's options regarding the wholesale purchase of electricity. The City's long-term contract with Westar expires at the end of November. Rates offered by Westar on a new contract and rates offered by Kansas Power Pool are comparable. Westar requires a 20-year contract, however the rates are not fixed but will be adjusted annually. Rates are based on Westar's costs and are projected to increase 5% to 6% per year. Kansas Power Pool membership can be terminated at any time with 2-year notice. The Council agreed to examine rate formulas and documents to be executed prior to considering membership in Kansas Power Pool.

Blake presented a proposed ordinance regulating parades and requiring a permit. The ordinance would authorize a group conducting a parade to establish their own guidelines for parade entries. The City Attorney will review the Ordinance prior to the next meeting. The Administrator also advised the Council that the City's current e-mail addresses would be changing to Embarq.com as a result of Embarq acquiring Sprint and Earthlink. Blake suggested that the City set up their own Web site with a domain of HavenCityHall.org to use for e-mail addresses as well as a public presence. The cost is approximately \$75.00 per year.

Blake also discussed a letter that he sent to landlords regarding delinquent utility bills of tenants. In the past, the City has not held landlords accountable for tenants' utility bills even though it is authorized to do so by City Ordinance. Most tenants pay their utility bills, but the City has a high number of delinquent and uncollectible utility accounts for tenants who move out of rental property and these costs are being passed on to all of the City's customers. This is not fair to residents who pay on time. So, the City will begin to hold landlords jointly liable with their tenants for payment of utility accounts pursuant to Ordinance 480, Section 7, published January 10, 1992. Blake had been contacted by landlords who were concerned about this action. The main complaints were first, that the City's current deposit schedule does not adequately protect the city or the landlord from exposure to loss and second, that implementation should not begin July 10 as stated in the letter but at a later time. The City has charged a deposit of \$75.00 for connection of utilities since 1987. However, delinquent bills may now be substantially more than that amount by the time service can be disconnected following due process. The Council agreed to raise the required deposit to \$150.00 for new customers and delay implementation of landlord liability until the new deposit ordinance is passed and takes effect. As before, a letter of good credit from the customer's previous provider will be accepted in lieu of a deposit and any deposit is returned after 12 consecutive on-time payments to the City.

The Council discussed Resolution #195 providing the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. Charles Arndt moved to approve the resolution, Don Ford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Blake presented a proposed 2008 budget for the Police Department of \$147, 585.00, a 3% decrease from 2007. The budget includes attorney fees and expenditures for Municipal Court. Charles Arndt moved to accept the proposal as presented. Mike Scott seconded and the motion carried five to zero.

At 9:00 PM, Don Ford moved for a 15-minute executive session for the purpose of discussing real estate acquisition. Kathy Long seconded and the motion passed unanimously. At 9:15 the executive session was extended for 10 minutes and the regular session resumed at 9:25 PM.

Minutes of the June 18, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Arndt and a second by Ford. Bills and transfers totaling \$158,655.72 were unanimously approved on a motion by Ford and a second by Scott.

At 9:50 PM, Kathy Long moved for adjournment. Charles Arndt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.