

News Release

## HAVEN CITY COUNCIL NEWS

January 7, 2008

Mayor Cody Littlestar called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers at 7:00 PM with Council Members Kathy Long, Jeff Stringer, Don Ford and Charles Arndt present.

Ken Fairchild with Olsson Associates presented a proposal to map the City's electrical distribution system. The computer-generated map would help in day-to-day maintenance, serve as a basis for future system planning and document the existing system in case of a natural disaster. Fairchild showed examples of maps that could be produced through this proposal. Olsson Associates has an agreement with the Kansas Power Pool to provide this service to member cities at a reduced cost.

Harland Priddle discussed several economic development topics with the Council. The Council agreed to have City Administrator Allen Blake continue serving as the City's representative on the K-96 Corridor Association Board of Directors. Priddle encouraged the Council to appoint a task force to study and make recommendations for economic development. One example is a neighborhood revitalization program based on tax incentives. Priddle advised the Council that he would present them with an agreement allowing the Chamber of Commerce to talk to prospective business and individuals on behalf of the City. The Chamber would make non-binding recommendations to the Council. Haven's Visioning Committee will be presenting its plan for utilizing the \$7,500 previously earmarked in the 2008 budget. The Chamber's annual meeting will be held January 24, with former Lieutenant Governor Gary Shearer as guest speaker.

The Council and a group of City landlords discussed problems associated with collecting delinquent utility bills and the current policy of holding landlords liable for delinquent accounts of tenants. All parties agreed to discontinue the policy, as a new state statute prohibits the practice. Instead, the utility deposit for tenants will be raised to \$250 or three months' average bill, whichever is the lower. The City Attorney will recommend an ordinance authorizing the changes.

Maintenance Supervisor Allen Andresen advised the Council of several issues. Cost estimates for re-siding water well houses may need to be re-bid. Some radios need repair or replacement. In light of recent mechanical failures and disrupted trash service, a new trash truck is a priority over a dump truck. Mayor Littlestar requested cost analysis for trash service fees and comparison with contractors. Andresen reviewed an inventory of shop equipment with the Council and discussed the use of the salt spreader.

City Administrator Allen Blake informed the Council about the state sponsored KANCAP training sessions available to Council Members. The Council did not wish to host a training session but would like to be notified if there is a class in the area. The Council agreed to appoint a committee to formulate a capital improvement plan for future equipment and infrastructure needs. Names submitted were Cody Littlestar, Jeff Stringer, Allen Blake, Allen Andresen, Dean Chesnut and Lloyd Schmidt. The Administrator

recommended approval of the annual permit for Hindman Trailer Park based on discussion with the owner regarding an abandoned mobile home in the park. Charles Arndt moved to approve the 2008 permit for Hindman Trailer Park. Kathy Long seconded and the motion passed four to zero. The ordinance allowing Sunday liquor sales is still pending from the attorney, as is written verification from KPERS regarding the vesting of former employee, Sandra Trego. Concerns and commendations were discussed regarding street clearing after the recent snowstorms.

At 9:03 PM, Charles Arndt moved for an executive session until 9:40 PM regarding personnel issues to discuss employee evaluations and wages. Jeff Stringer seconded, and motion carried unanimously. At 9:33 PM regular session resumed.

Bills and transfers totaling \$119,348.07 were unanimously approved for payment, after a motion by Arndt and a second by Ford. Minutes of the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Stringer and second by Long.

Don Ford moved to approve Resolution #204 adjusting wages for certain City employees. Charles Arndt seconded and the motion carried with four yes votes. Charles Arndt moved to approve Ordinance #570 adjusting wages for the City Clerk and Police Chief. Kathy Long seconded and the motion carried four to zero.

Mayor Littlestar indicated his intention to offer the empty Council seat to Paula Scott. The Council discussed an agreement to trim trees adjacent to the utility easement on Sunset Lane. They were also updated on electrical upgrades at the grade school and football field and electrical requirements for the new District #9 fire station.

At 10:00 PM, Jeff Stringer moved for adjournment. Don Ford seconded and the motion passed unanimously.