

News Release

## HAVEN CITY COUNCIL NEWS

March 17, 2008

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

Harlan Foraker with Certified Engineering Design discussed progress on plans to expand the City waste treatment lagoon system and requested approval of a contract for engineering services. Don Ford moved to approve a contract for engineering services for the waste treatment project with Certified Engineering Design at a cost of \$59,832.00. Kathy Long seconded the motion, which carried with five yes votes.

Nita Johnston with Haven Insurance Agency reviewed a quotation for the City's 2008-2009 insurance coverage in the amount of \$39,112.00, a reduction of approximately \$3,600 from the previous contract. Johnston agreed to check on Council questions regarding sports related injuries for USD 312 and the City, occurring on each other's property. Charles Arndt moved to renew insurance coverage through Haven Insurance Agency as quoted. Paula Scott seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The City did request and receive a bid from Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT) for workers' compensation insurance, however the price was \$3,600 higher than the Haven Insurance quote. The Council agreed to seek competitive bids early in 2009.

Maintenance Supervisor Allen Andresen updated the Council on the following projects: Improvements to chlorine sheds and water well houses are complete. Electrical improvements for Haven Grade School are installed. Three loads of asphalt millings were hauled to the golf course, with a request for more. Tornado sirens were tested and repairs completed on two units. Maintenance is complete on the lights at the ball diamond. Fencing at Veterans Park has been repaired and water turned on at the restrooms. A check valve at the sewer lift station has been repaired. A new toilet has been installed at the library. Employee Jay Mattison will be attending the Kansas Rural Water Association conference and testing for wastewater operator certification. Jared Batt has begun employment on March 6, and will take over as refuse driver March 24. Testing is planned to determine if a riding mower will pull the new drag at the ball diamonds. The Council agreed that if a four-wheeler is used it should be hauled to the site on a trailer.

There was an electrical problem the north side of West 6<sup>th</sup> Street and maintenance could not get to it because the utility easement has been blocked by homeowners' trees and fences. The City received permission to access the problem through the adjoining field but the Council discussed options to address the issue in the future.

Charles Arndt moved to approve Resolution #206 supporting the PRIDE Program for the City of Haven. Jeff Stringer seconded and the motion passed with five yes votes. Members were provided information regarding the Paul Moore Estate.

Westar representatives have indicated that Westar has initiated its Distribution Facilities Charge (DFC) of \$8,348.76 per month for the City of Haven. This charge is part of the “unbundled” rate structure resulting from federal deregulation. It is charged to all wholesale customers who receive distribution through Westar, regardless of their electrical supplier. The DFC is intended to provide a way to recover costs for substations and power lines used to supply electricity to wholesale customers. The City believes the amount of the DFC is unreasonably high because the City will be paying for 100 percent of the value of the facilities every four years and two months. The Kansas Power Pool is in discussions with Westar about this issue and will represent the City before the Kansas Corporation Commission or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission if necessary. The DFC amounts to about an 18 percent increase in the City’s wholesale cost for electricity. The City will need to offset this cost through a user fee or rate increase. Haven’s last electrical rate increase was in 1985.

The Council agreed to discuss the Paul Moore estate during its April 7<sup>th</sup> agenda. A resident requested more police patrol on North Hutchinson Ave. due to a flattened tire. A complaint regarding the fire department was referred to the Reno County Commission.

The Council was informed about two public hearings for special use permits that are to be held on April 7. USD #312 is seeking permission to install a 160-foot communications tower on the west side of the high school building. K&S Truck Sales is requesting a special use permit for retail sales of 4-wheel drive modified trucks at Haven Road and Greenfield.

Minutes of the March 3, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Arndt and a second by Long. Bills and transfers totaling \$76,612.26 were unanimously approved after a motion by Scott and a second by Long.

At 9:23 PM, Kathy Long moved for adjournment. Charles Arndt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.