

News Release

## HAVEN CITY COUNCIL NEWS

April 7, 2008

Mayor Cody Littlestar called a Special Public Hearing to order in the Council Chambers at 6:40 PM with Council Members Kathy Long, Jeff Stringer, Charles Arndt, and Paula Scott present.

A Public Hearing was called to address a request by USD #312 for a special use permit to construct a 160' communication tower west of Haven High School for the purpose of expanding Internet access for the district. Community members Lloyd Schmidt and Glenna Norris spoke against the proposal and Elizabeth Shank spoke in favor. With no further public comment the Public Hearing was closed.

A second Public Hearing was called to address a request by Sean Hartung of K&S Truck Sales for a special use permit to conduct retail sales of modified four-wheel drive trucks in an area zoned agricultural and country home. Sean is currently modifying the trucks but would like to obtain a dealer's license. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed.

At 7:02 PM, the Mayor announced the close of the Special Public Hearing and the opening of the regular session. With limited discussion, Charles Arndt moved to return the application for special use to USD #312 for consideration of a different location for the tower. Jeff Stringer seconded the motion, which carried with yes votes from Long, Stringer, and Arndt and a not vote from Scott. Paula Scott moved to approve a special use permit for K&S Truck Sales. Kathy Long seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 7:15 PM, Charles Arndt moved for a ten-minute executive session with Brian Morgan present for the purpose of discussing acquisition of real estate. Jeff Stringer seconded the motion, which carried with four yes votes. At 7:25 PM regular session resumed with no action taken.

The Council reviewed applications for seasonal pool managers and lifeguards. Paula Scott moved to hire Mark Robinson as Swim Pool Manager at the rate of \$385 per week and allow him to hire lifeguards as required. Charles Arndt seconded, and the motion passed four to zero. Paula Scott moved to hire Rachel Thalmann as Assistant Swim Pool Manager at the rate of \$305 per week. Kathy Long seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Council agreed to change hours at the burn site to accommodate daylight savings time. The site will be open from 1:00 PM to 8: PM on Wednesdays and 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturdays. Administrator Allen Blake provided a draft of a revised Substance Abuse Policy and advised that a Disciplinary Policy should also be drafted and adopted in conjunction with the Substance Abuse Policy. The Council instructed him to

proceed with that project. Blake also presented a proposed resolution that would initiate an electric rate increase to offset the Distribution Facilities Charge (DFC) of over \$8,000 per month that is currently being charged by Westar. This charge is the result of federal deregulation of the industry and unbundling of rates. The City believes the amount of DFC is unreasonable and expects the Kansas Power Pool (KPP) to address this issue with Westar and with the Kansas Corporation Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission if necessary. A residential customer with an average bill of 1200 kWh would see an increase from \$96.89 at the current rates, to \$116.16 under the proposed rates – a difference of \$19.27. Paula Scott moved to approve Resolution #206 regarding electric rates. Charles Arndt seconded and the motion passed with four yes votes.

The Administrator also advised the Council that in order to secure a contract for lower rates in the summer months, KPP members who had not been required to contribute cash working capital would have to do so or prepay on their bill. This is due to KPP being required to prepay on certain lower rate base load contracts. The KPP will make a decision on how to address this problem at their April 17 meeting.

Blake also updated the Council on the Building and Zoning code update project and the progress of the Capital Improvement Committee.

Maintenance Supervisor Allen Andresen advised that a volunteer workday had been held with parents of Head Start students participating. New bleachers were assembled, fire hydrants painted and landscaping done at the Community Building. The group wishes to hold another workday in the fall and spring. Members of Haven FFA also requested a summer project. The Council agreed that Andresen could offer projects to Head Start and FFA volunteers.

Mid-Kansas Coop experienced an electrical fire on April 4. Kenny's Electric had done repair work for the City and a transformer was aquired from Ark Valley Electric. Except for Elevator #2, the Coop was back on line the same day. Internal re-wiring will need to be completed by Mid-Kansas.

Andresen advised the Council that the Laurel Cemetery board requested that the City donate and deliver asphalt millings for the driveways at the Cemetery. The Council agreed that the City would furnish and load the millings but preferred to have the board make other arrangements for delivery. A safety valve has been installed on the bucket truck at no charge under a recall by Hi-Ranger. Andresen plans to bid on a replacement welder at an auction in the near future. Jay Mattison received certification as a Wastewater Operator. The Council members wish to extend their thanks to Jay for his work in becoming certified through the State of Kansas as both a Water and Wastewater Operator.

The Council reviewed two bids for construction of ADA sidewalk curb ramps. Charles Arndt moved to accept the bid of Winter Concrete at not to exceed \$1,050 per ramp at a minimum quantity of six ramps. Paula Scott seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Minutes of the March 17, 2008 Meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Scott and a second by Long. Bills and transfers totaling \$164,293.21 were approved, with a payment pending to Cheney Door following completion of a contract. Motion was made by Scott, seconded by Long and passed unanimously.

A test using a garden tractor to pull the new drag at the ball diamonds showed that the tractor had ample power but not enough traction to pull the drag. The Council reemphasized that if a four-wheeler was used to pull the drag, it should be hauled to the site on a trailer.

At 8:30 PM, Charles Arndt moved for adjournment. Paula Scott seconded, and the motion passed with four yes votes.