

News Release

HAVEN CITY COUNCIL NEWS
June 2, 2008

Mayor Cody Littlestar called a special public hearing to order at 6:45 PM in the City Council Chambers with Council Members Jeff Stringer, Charles Arndt, Don Ford and Paula Scott present.

The public hearing was to consider a special use permit for USD 312 to construct a 160-foot communications tower. The amended application proposed a location north of Haven Middle School, which was rejected by the Planning Commission in favor of the original location west of Haven High School. In discussion, residents and the Council discussed alternative locations and additional expenses, mechanical details and aesthetic and safety concerns. At approximately 7:30 PM, the special public hearing was closed.

In regular session, Don Ford moved to approve Site #2, placing the communications tower north of Haven Middle School. Paula Scott seconded; however a tie vote ensued with yes votes from Ford and Scott and no votes from Stringer and Arndt. The motion was approved after a yes vote from Mayor Littlestar.

Dan Owens presented a 2009 Library Board Budget proposal totaling \$48,854, a \$354 increase from 2008. Charles Arndt moved to approve the proposal as presented. Don Ford seconded. In discussion, the Council reviewed procedures for approving the various board proposals in relation to the overall budget. The motion carried with four yes votes.

Stephanie Carlson requested a \$13,000 Tree Board budget for 2009. Members discussed the need to remove a pine tree between Salina Drive and Second Street at Haven Road. Charles Arndt Moved to approve the proposal as presented. Jeff Stringer seconded, and the motion passed four to zero.

Bruce Trapp advised that the City still has an opportunity to acquire a used dump truck that was repossessed from a customer of the bank for which he is working. As an ambulance board member, Trapp discussed plans to remodel the old fire station for EMS.

Maintenance Supervisor Allen Andresen spoke with the Council about several issues. Two dead elm trees at the south lift station need to be removed. The Ball diamonds have been sprayed for weeds. Water loss at the swimming pool has been brought under control. Assembly of the solar blankets for the pool is in process.

The Council decided not to order more polykarts at this time in spite of a predicted 15% price increase, due to budget limits in the refuse fund. The placement of benches on downtown sidewalks by Haven PRIDE must be reevaluated due to regulations in the Americans with Disabilities Act. A bid for street repaving is expected by the June 16th meeting. Citywide cleanup for residential customers will include collection of appliances, tires, paint, oil and lumber (no trees or brush).

Swim lessons at the pool are scheduled for June 16-27, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, at a cost of \$5.00 per child. Also at the pool, a doorknob needs repair and a request was made for chairs for adults. The Haven Food Bank donated a refrigerator for concessions.

At 8:50 PM Charles Arndt moved for a 20-minute executive session for the purpose of discussing acquisition of real property. Jeff Stringer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. At 9:05 PM, Regular session resumed with no action taken. The Council agreed to obtain pricing for replacing sidewalk and gutter across an alley on N. Emporia. The Council asked Administrator Allen Blake about the status of a zoning variance at 501 E. Main that had been appealed to district court several months ago. Blake agreed to check with the City Attorney.

Minutes of the May 19, 2008 meeting were approved after a motion by Stringer and a second by Arndt. Bills and Transfers totaling \$69,698.10 were approved after a motion by Scott and a second by Stringer.

The Council agreed to reconsider reconnect fees at the rates of \$50 for residential and \$100 for commercial. A resolution will be forthcoming. New employee Jared Batt will be evaluated after completion of his probationary period.

At 9:27 PM, Paula Scott moved for adjournment. Jeff Stringer seconded, and the motion passed four to zero.