

News Release

HAVEN CITY COUNCIL NEWS  
August 4, 2008

Mayor Cody Littlestar called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers. Council members present for the meeting were Amy Hirst, Jeff Stringer, Charles Arndt, Don Ford and Paula Scott.

A public hearing was opened for the purpose of considering the proposed 2009 budget. The budget called for a 10.22 increase in the mill levy. Public comment included the belief that the increase was too much at one time and that the needed funds could come from utility rate increases rather than tax increases. Also that the maintenance department is inefficient and the Administrator, Mayor and Council are responsible for correcting this. The public hearing was closed at 7:38 PM.

When the regular meeting began, Don Ford moved to approve the 2009 budget as presented. Jeff Stringer seconded. The Council discussed the issues brought up in the hearing. The budget is a compromise that falls \$65,000 short of funding all of the capital improvements that are needed. The Council had already chosen not to add an additional 6 mills to support the Library in lieu of transferring funds from the electric utility. The motion approving the budget passed five to zero.

The Council agreed to allow free swimming at the August 24th Picnic in the Park, sponsored by the PRIDE Committee, contingent on the availability of lifeguards. The Council also agreed to have the maintenance department proceed with a list of preparations and repairs presented by Charles Wagner of the PRIDE Committee.

Don Huston requested the removal of a utility pole and the replacement of 12 feet of curbing at 109 N. Topeka. The Council agreed to have the maintenance department remove the pole and to bid the curb replacement with the next phase of concrete work.

John Mitchell sharply criticized the Council for the poor condition of landscaping at Veterans Park. He had taken photos, which he presented in support. Last year the City used contract labor to maintain the flowers and shrubs around the Community Building. That has not been done this year. John, along with Lloyd Schmidt and Don Huston, also criticized the maintenance department in several areas including the burn site.

City Administrator Allen Blake reviewed the status of several projects. Electrical work to accommodate new air conditioners is completed at Haven Grade School. A check valve at #4 water well has been replaced to help control water loss. A water leak on South Emporia has been repaired. The consensus of the Council and Administrator was to have City personnel begin making more street repairs rather than hiring contract labor. Crosswalks have been painted in preparation for school. Areas needing work included lights at the community building, electrical work at the Coop and ruts to be filled at Hindman Trailer Park. The first draft of the engineering study on the City water system

has been completed. The proposal for expanding the waste treatment lagoons is still awaiting approval from KDHE before it can be put out for bids. Eight more curb ramps have been completed along with replacement of an alley approach and curbing repair on North Emporia.

The Council agreed to deny a request to partially pay for the removal of a tree on private property. The Council also agreed that an oversight occurred regarding maintenance of landscaping at the community building and discussed the possibility of asking for volunteer help. Paula Scott moved to correct the July 7, 2008 minutes to read, "501 E. Main" rather than "501 E. 2nd". Charles Arndt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Paula Scott moved to approve minutes of the July 21, 2008 meeting. Jeff Stringer seconded and the motion carried with five yes votes. Bills and transfers totaling \$173,860.88 were unanimously approved for payment, after a motion by Scott and a second by Ford.

The Council was informed that All Sports Liquor requested permission to have a beer garden in conjunction with the Fall Festival. The City Attorney will be contacted to outline the proper procedure for this if approved by the Council. The Council agreed not to take over the Chamber of Commerce contract for rental of the highway sign west of Yoder at a cost of \$225 per month for 24 months. The Council decided that, in the event of continued electrical repairs caused by a problem on the customer side, the customer can be billed.

At the recommendation of the Library Board, Charles Arndt moved to approve the appointment of Erin Peterson to complete the term of Amy Hirst. Paula Scott seconded and the motion passed with five yes votes.

The Council conferred about the problem of disorder at their meetings when discussion with and between public observers gets out of control. The Council agreed to enforce the five-minute time limit per person for public comment and to designate a place in the room from which citizens may address the Council.

At 9:38 PM, Charles Arndt moved for adjournment. Jeff Stringer seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.