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New Theater Proposal Could be on Fall Ballot

(KNZA)--Hiawatha voters could face another sales tax proposal this fall for the construction of a city-owned movie theater.

Local resident Matthew Haws addressed the Hiawatha City Commission Monday evening about putting a new proposal on the November general election ballot with one change—a sunset provision on the proposed sales tax. Haws said he believes the number one reason the original proposal failed was due to voter's uneasiness about the never ending sales tax.

Haws said he would be willingly to take the lead in rallying the community to support a new initiative for a theater.

Mayor Crosby Gernon told Haws he could circulate a petition to put a proposal on the ballot, which would have to be signed by 10 percent of the registered voters in the last city election. He said there are certain timelines that would have to be met to place the issue on the November ballot.

Hiawatha voters on April 1st defeated a proposed a half-cent sales tax increase to fund the construction of a new three screen theater by a more than 140-vote margin. The sales tax also would have been used for recreational and economic development purposes.

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