

August 15, 2022
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, August 15, 2022, at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order, and the opening prayer was led by John Calhoon. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Carmela Boller, Rex West, Richard Lovelady, and Tina Nigh. City Administrator John Calhoon and City Attorney Kevin Hill were also present.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adopt the agenda after adding a 3-minute executive session to discuss attorney client privilege. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2022, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3725 (Payroll) for \$44,490.16. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3726 (Disbursements) for \$296,058.46. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Public Comments

Rick and Peggy Schuetz were present to address a letter that was sent to them from the city of Horton regarding their camping spot at Mission Lake. The letter said that it was brought to our attention that they have not yet used their camping spot this camping season, and their spot may be reassigned in 2023. After discussion it was determined that the letter was sent in error. Rick was concerned because there is nothing in writing that specifies how many hours/days that a camper needs to be present at their camping spot. He verified that it was okay that his camper stays at his site even if they aren't camping. The Commission said yes.

Calhoon said that letters have been sent out in the past saying that we understand they have paid for season camping at Mission Lake, however expectations are that the camping spots are utilized throughout the camping season by those that pay and make use of the recreational area (camping spots). Calhoon said that we continue to have many requests from families that would like to have a seasonal spot, and the letter states that their spot could be made available to another individual or family for the following camping season should the Lake Caretaker or the City Administrator continue to notice that they are not utilizing their spot.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Sarah Gerving and James Lednicky of the South Brown County Community Foundation were present to give an update on the first annual Grow South Brown Match Day. Gerving said that 82 people or businesses submitted donations, and 166 donations were given to 25 different funds. The average donor chose two different funds. HIDC provided \$10,000 in matching funds specifically for the ballfield. Gerving said that matching funds gave .86 cents on the dollar. Funds can be donated year-round by going to www.southbrowncountycf.org. Grow South Brown participants and donation totals can also be viewed on the page.

Public Works Updates

Public Works Superintendent Randy Mayfield was present to provide updates to the Commission on the water, sewer, and street departments. Mayfield handed out a detailed report showing past and present projects broken down by department. Mayfield said that he and his team has repaired several water leaks.

Police Department Updates

Chief Boller said that the evening/night officers have been marking streetlights that are out and need bulbs. Boller also said that the school zone lights are functioning properly for now, but some are close to the end of life and may need to be replaced.

Boller forwarded Kevin Hill a list of six houses on the demolition list so he can prepare a Resolution to be considered for approval at the next meeting on September 6th. His hope is to have enough in budgeted funds to demolish four this year.

Boller is conducting interviews for a new police officer since Baxter Defore is no longer employed by the city.

Discuss KMEA EMP3 Increase on July Invoice

Calhoon spoke about the EMP3 invoice for the delivery month of July 2022 from Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA). John Seck, Director of Resource Planning & Development at KMEA informed the city that 'SPP Market resettlements' are relatively high for the second month in a row. This is a result of uplift charges to EMP3 that Evergy Kansas Central is passing through to load on their system via SPP resettlements. Calhoon said that customers will notice an increase in their electric charges on their bill next month and wanted them to be aware. Nigh recommended placing a notice on the cities Facebook page notifying residents of the increase.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Updates

Calhoon said that there were additional funds left on the project, so he received approval from USDA to utilize some of the funds to paint the two existing buildings at the wastewater treatment facility site to match the new building and install additional security cameras. Calhoon is awaiting quotes on both.

Ballfield Updates

Calhoon said that the fencing for field #1 should be completed this week. Tim Lentz shared with Calhoon that the cost for the dugouts has been secured, as well as the concession stand. The city should be receiving a check for \$15,000 for the scoreboards. Calhoon said that the hospital has agreed to donate \$5,000, plus purchase 1000 t-shirts for the city and businesses to sell, and all profits would go towards the new ballfields. Calhoon is recommending selling the shirts for \$20 each.

Appoint a Voting Delegate and Alternate to KCAMP for Annual Meeting

KCAMP requests the Commission to designate a voting delegate and alternate to represent our municipality at the annual meeting that will be held Monday, October 17, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner West to appoint Carmela Boller as voting delegate and Tina Nigh as alternate voting delegate. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

City Administrator

Calhoon asked the Commission to submit their vote to him on the t-shirt design for the fundraiser for the ballfields.

Mayor Stirton

Mayor Stirton asked Calhoon if he has submitted the fire department grant. Calhoon said that he received quotes from Randy Mayfield but has not started the grant yet. The deadline to submit the fire grant is September 1st. Calhoon stated that he is currently working on applying for the Royals Charities Grant.

Commissioner Lovelady

Commissioner Lovelady said that the lake caretaker's son in law is working on constructing public docks for Mission Lake and has also had a hand in other projects at the lake. Lovelady suggested that the city provide him a free month of camping in the winter months to show our appreciation for his work. Motion by Commissioner Nigh to grant a month of camping after the regular camping season for his volunteer hours to make the lake look nicer. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Commissioner West

Commissioner West asked Calhoon to provide an update on pole changeouts. West said that the city budgeted the funds and wanted to know the plans. Calhoon said that he received a quote from RS Electric and wants to speak with Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA) about their apprentice program to change out the three phase power lines. He thinks that KMEA will be the least expensive option. West said that he has been a part of the pole changeouts and would like to see it through using budgeted funds.

Commissioner Boller

Commissioner Boller asked for a follow-up regarding the hospital. She asked Calhoon if he has contacted Amberwell regarding the status of the hospital and said that they are willing to give away their lots that they own to not for profits. Calhoon said that he has made several attempts to set up a meeting with Chief Executive Officer Jeff Perry. Perry asked if it was possible to send somebody in his place. Boller said that she has been asking for over a month now what the plan is and there needs to be a plan in place to do something with it. Boller said that as the city administrator, Calhoon could assist in finding not for profits to provide to Amberwell.

Commissioner Nigh

Commissioner Nigh discussed the option of charging ice cream and food trucks a fee for coming to our town. She mentioned that the vendors take away from businesses in town that offer the same food. The Commission debated and determined that such vendors are seldom in town, and when they are it is normally for a fundraiser. The Commission doesn't feel that the city can price gouge the vendors when they are here for a fundraising event, as it benefits our residents.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to go into a 3-minute executive session to discuss attorney client privilege to include the Commission, John Calhoon, Kim Knudson, and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye. After executive session no action taken, information only.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn at 6:37p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor