

November 21, 2022  
5:15 P.M.  
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, November 21, 2022.

Tina Nigh called the meeting to order, and the opening prayer was led by Pastor Bud Elliott from Zion Lutheran Church. 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 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2022, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3738 (Payroll) for \$37,522.59. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3739 (Disbursements) for \$152,190.90. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Mayor Stirton arrived at 5:31 p.m. and took over conducted the meeting.

#### **Public Comments**

No comments.

#### **School Zone Light Update**

Andrew Jones was present to provide updates regarding the school zone lights that are not functioning correctly. Jones provided a demonstration on how the school zone lights will work with parts costing under \$50.00 for the flasher relay, digital timer, and relay for each school zone light. He is going to test out the longevity of the new parts, which will be drastically cheaper than replacing the circuit boards in the school zone lights for approximately \$11,700.

Andrew Jones received a bid back from Jerad Enneking at Rainbow to run fiber to the wastewater treatment facility for \$5,000.00. This is for materials and labor to get 100 Mbps internet to the plant, and Rainbow will charge the city \$100 a month once installed. Several Commissioners voiced that it is a no brainer especially since service with CenturyLink has been untrustworthy in the past months.

#### **Consider Appointment to the Horton Housing Authority**

Motion by Commissioner West to appoint Lin Cameron to fill the unexpired term of Sherry Vanderslices term as a member of the Horton Housing Authority. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

#### **Public Works Updates**

Public Works Superintendent Randy Mayfield was present to provide updates to the Commission on the water, sewer, electric, and street departments. Mayfield handed out detailed reports showing the summary of work orders created, and the status of work orders by department. Mayfield said that AHR Construction, Inc. has most of the fence installed around the equalization basin at the

wastewater treatment facility. Calhoon said that some warranty issues need to be addressed before Phase III of the sewer project can be closed out. Calhoon said that KMEA completed pole replacements in town, and the city crews have started hanging Christmas decorations downtown.

### **Police Department Updates**

Chief Boller was not present.

### **Review Tribal Emergency Water Agreement**

Kevin Hill provided progress updates on the Kickapoo Water System Emergency Water Connection between the tribe and the city. Hill asked for guidance from Calhoon and the Commission on several items on the agreement. Hill will make updates accordingly and present at the next meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Consideration of 2022 Bonuses and 2023 COLA/Employee Raises**

Per the recommendation of Nigh and Calhoon the Commission discussed approving bonuses for city employees. Funding for the proposed bonuses will come from the American Rescue Plan Act funds awarded to the city. Eligible uses of ARPA funds include providing premium pay for essential workers. The proposed bonus amounts were \$1,500 for full-time employees, and \$750 for part-time who have been employed with the city for all (the majority of) of 2022. Other employee bonus amounts were prorated based on the number of months employed with the city during 2022. Motion by Commissioner Nigh to follow the 2022 Bonus Proposal that was presented and approve bonuses for city employees to the tune of \$36,914.00 to be paid out of the American Rescue Plan Act funds. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. Aye—Mayor Stirton, Commissioners West, Nigh, and Lovelady. Abstain—Commissioner Boller. Motion carried. Checks will be disbursed at the next payroll. Calhoon also recommended that each employee receive a 3% COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment) effective January 1, 2023, in lieu of a merit increase. Calhoon said due to the rise in prices to live this is a bad year to give lower raises to some. The Commission was on board because the 3% increase was budgeted for 2023.

Beginning on January 1, 2024, the city administrator will conduct performance evaluations on each employee on their anniversary date and consider a raise at that time, as opposed to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

### **City Administrator**

The Annual Christmas Luminaries will be held on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Calhoon apologized for himself for not attending the Veterans Day presentation this year. He was notified that no city officials or employees attended. Calhoon and Nigh said that the Veterans Day activities were not well advertised this year. Nigh said they will try to do better next year.

### **Mayor Stirton**

No report.

### **Commissioner Lovelady**

Commissioner Lovelady received a request from an individual that would like to remove the old stone fire pit at Hickory point by the carport and install a new one at his cost. West said that the two fire pits at Hickory Point have been there for over 100 years and he is not in favor of removing them. After further discussion West suggested that we replace the fire pit by the carport and use the parts from that to repair the other one on the east side. Calhoon mentioned contacting a mason to get a quote. Motion by Commissioner Lovelady to approve the individual to replace the fire pit on the

northwest side of the carport and keep the fire pit on the east side of Hickory Point. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

**Commissioner West**

No report.

**Commissioner Boller**

No report.

**Commissioner Nigh**

No report.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

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Kim Knudson, City Clerk

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Bryan Stirton, Mayor