

December 19, 2022  
5:15 P.M.  
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, December 19, 2022.

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 was also present. City Attorney Kevin Hill was not present.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2022, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3742 (Payroll) for \$38,360.56. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3743(Disbursements) for \$92,266.27. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

#### **Public Comments**

No comments.

#### **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 AHRs Construction, Inc. hasn't been back to finish up items at the wastewater treatment facility so that Phase III of the sewer project can be closed out. Mayfield thinks that most of the remaining work needs to be completed by the subcontractor. Calhoon will get with Paul from BG Consultants and USDA to assist in finalizing the project.

Mayfield stated that the sewer inspection that was supposed to be conducted today by KDHE got rescheduled to this Thursday.

#### **Police Department Updates**

Chief Boller said that the demolition of 1041 2nd Ave West, 120 W. 9<sup>th</sup>, 321 E. 9<sup>th</sup>, and 433 W. 12<sup>th</sup> are still on track for the end of the month.

The 2016 Dodge Ram went in for exterior repairs today.

Chief Boller said that the city budgeted for a sixth officer for 2023 and he asked for the consensus of the Commission to move forward with hiring someone. Boller said that he has a female dispatcher who is interested in going to the academy.

Commissioner West said that he doesn't support hiring a sixth officer at this time to be able to fulfill code enforcement. He is in favor of Officer Spain taking on the responsibilities as primary code enforcement and a patrolman secondary. West said he told Boller that he doesn't answer to him, he answers to the Commission, and they would decide.

Chief Boller stated that police officers generally don't go through the police academy to do code enforcement. He said it is a lengthy process, and there are a lot of legalities. After discussion amongst the Commission, it was the consensus to allow hiring the sixth officer since it was budgeted, and they would see how it goes. If they are not satisfied or receive slack, they would have to make a change. Nigh said that the Commission needs to see a lot more progress than what they are seeing now. Chief Boller said that Spain would work four ten-hour days: Friday, Saturday, Sunday day shift, and second shift on Monday for court. Boller said that there wouldn't be three officers on duty during the day at one time.

Boller said that it has come to his attention recently that there have been complaints about the police department that have never made it to him until he questioned it. He wants to make sure that complaints are forwarded to him so he can deal with them as they come.

### **Consider Approval of Ordinance No. 1205 Regarding City Pay Scale**

The Commission did the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance No. 1205 regarding the employee pay scale. The Commission didn't approve last year's pay scale as an Ordinance. Calhoon said that he adjusted the maximum column by 8.7%, which is the current cost of living index.

### **Discussion of MOU with USD #430**

Calhoon stated that the Memorandum of Understanding with USD 430 and the City of Horton to hire a Recreation Coordinator was approved at the Board of Education Meeting on 12/14/2022. Calhoon read aloud the minimal revisions that the board recommended at their meeting. Nigh said that it was brought to her attention by several board members that they were told if they did not approve the MOU, the city would be charging the school \$25,000 - \$30,000 a year to utilize the ballfields, and that the Commission said that was okay. Nigh said those words never came out of her mouth and she never remembers agreeing to that. Calhoon said there was \$25,000 - \$30,000 mentioned and he said at that time that he was optimistic that the MOU would be worked out with school board. C. Boller said she remembers a conversation that was had that if the city is footing the bill, we can't expect to do it for free. If the school doesn't want to work with the city for having to create a new position to maintain the facilities, yet we are charging NEK-CAP a set fee monthly to use just one building, so why should we allow the school to utilize all our facilities at no cost. She thinks that is where the estimated number came from. The Commission never voted one way or the other on the \$25,000 - \$30,000 ballpark figure, but it was thrown out there that the city wasn't going to do it for free. Motion by Commissioner Boller to pass the amended MOU with USD #430. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Calhoon said that Kevin Hill agreed with the proposed revisions.

### **City Administrator**

Calhoon provided the Commission with a highlighted portion of the 01/21/2020 minutes when Calhoon asked for clarification from the Commission on treatment of the city streets after a snow or ice event. Calhoon stated that if he isn't in town and there is inclement weather, the police officers will alert the dispatchers if they feel a street needs to be treated, and he makes the decision to call the city crew(s) out. The Commission would like to keep the snow policy the same, that the city plows after 2" on the designated routes. After lengthy discussion the consensus of the Commission was to leave the treating of the streets during/after an ice event to the discretion of the City Administrator. Calhoon recommended putting a reminder on the city Facebook page stating the emergency snow routes per Ordinance and remind citizens that the city doesn't plow or treat side streets and to choose their routes carefully.

Chief Boller also determined that only side by sides, or under will be permitted to clear snow off sidewalks. This includes 4 wheelers (trailer in), and lawn mowers.

**Mayor Stirton**

Mayor Stirton asked Calhoon if the city has received any new applicants. Calhoon hasn't received any.

Mayor Stirton asked for an update on the fuel smell downtown. Calhoon said that KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment) took core samples today and performed a smoke test last week. They are still going to camera the sewer lines in the area as well.

**Commissioner Lovelady**

No report.

**Commissioner West**

West suggest that the lake caretaker load and haul riprap to the banks around the lake that have been identified by the city as time permits, and the city crews can push it over in the spring. Calhoon said that Mike is currently painting at the shower house.

**Commissioner Boller**

Boller asked Calhoon if the health assessment on the transformers has been receive from Evergy. Calhoon said he has not heard.

Calhoon and C. Boller met last week with KMEA (Kansas Municipal Energy Agency) to discuss alternative energy sources. They discussed community solar and the city buying into the big solar field, which is still in the planning phases. Boller feels that it is very well worth looking into. Boller would like KMEA and Scott Shreve to attend a Commission meeting to discuss as there are lots of incentives coming down the pike.

The Commission also discussed the city purchasing prepaid fuel from Ag Partners.

**Commissioner Nigh**

Commissioner Nigh said that legislation is trying to pass an act that would make daylight savings time permanent starting in 2023, ending the twice-annual changing of clocks. Nigh asked the Commission to be proactive in preparing by adding lights to the poles where the crossing guards are since in the fall it will be dark.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

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Kim Knudson, City Clerk

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Bryan Stirton, Mayor