

March 6, 2023
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order, and the opening prayer was led by Pastor Nick Marsh from First United Methodist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Richard Lovelady, Rex West, Carmela Boller, 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 15-minute executive session to discuss non-elected personnel and approval of Resolution No. 2023-001 to the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3752 (Payroll) for \$36,438.69. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3753(Disbursements) for \$114,013.73. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Public Comments

No comments.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Kinsey Boller was present to ask the Commission on behalf of the Horton Chamber if they will allow beer sales at Mission Lake on Saturday, May 13th from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. K. Boller said that the event would take place at Hickory Point. Kevin Hill said that the Commission would need to designate Hickory Point as an authorized camping spot for the event. Hill also said that the Chamber would need to apply for a temporary permit with the City Clerk at least 7 days prior to the event. Upon presentation of a state temporary permit, payment of the city's temporary permit fee and a written application, the City Clerk shall issue a local temporary permit to the applicant.

K. Boller said that the Chamber will also host a car show on 06/03, and Octoberfest on 10/07.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to designate Hickory Point as an authorized camping spot on Saturday, May 13th from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. Aye— Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Nigh, West, and Lovelady. Abstain—Commissioner Boller.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Gary Miller was present to speak on behalf of the Fair Board about the restrooms at the civic center. Miller said that since the Fair Board utilizes the civic center, they would be in favor of assisting in updating anything that is needed in the bathrooms. Miller will schedule a time to meet with the city crews to evaluate what is needed at the restrooms.

Consider Approval of Ordinance No. 2023-001

Since the City of Horton has elected to enroll a local PRIDE committee through the Kansas Pride Program, members are required to make local government aware via Resolution that the community is now part of the PRIDE program. Then community members will identify what they wish to preserve, create, or improve. Then, working with the resources of K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Department of Commerce, community volunteers identify strategies to achieve their goals.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Resolution No. 2023-001, WHEREAS local municipal government has a responsibility to develop the capacity to undertake a viable community development effort; and WHEREAS community development needs and problems can best be determined and solved through a cooperative effort between elected officials and those citizens they represent; and WHEREAS the Kansas PRIDE Program, co-administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce and K-State Research and Extension, has been reviewed and found to be a means to improve our community, and WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council do herewith pledge their full support, endorsement, and cooperation in carrying out the requirements of the Kansas PRIDE Program. The community of the City of Horton urges its citizens to join this effort and hereby declares this city to be an official entrant in the PRIDE Program. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Discuss Acquisition of Power Plant Substation with KMEA

The Commission discussed the Letter of Engagement and the Bill of Sale from Evergy regarding acquisition of our substation. Mike Solida was present from Evergy to field any questions. Upon agreement by both parties, the City of Horton will acquire the assets listed in the letter and shown in the map for ten dollars. Evergy will transfer the Horton Interconnect substation to the City of Horton after Evergy removes the metering, signs, and padlocks from the substation. The City of Horton will own and maintain the substation assets along with the conductor over Highway 73 north of Evergy's new metering point. Evergy will construct a new 34.5 kV metering point for the City of Horton south of the Horton Interconnect substation. Evergy will own and maintain the new metering point. The estimated cost to the City of Horton is \$17,000. Upon completion and energization of the new 34.5 kV metering point, the City of Horton will be responsible for all assets downstream from the metering point including the Horton Interconnect Substation and all sub-transmission assets as described. In the event there is an equipment failure at the Horton Interconnect substation before Evergy energizes the new 34.5kV metering point, the Letter of Agreement will become null and void. Each party would then discuss and determine next steps. Motion by Commissioner Boller to acquire the power plant substation from Evergy and approve the mayor to sign the Letter of Engagement and Bill of Sale drafted by Evergy. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

The Commission discussed imposing an increase to resident's electric bill or an increase in the meter charge to compensate the cost.

Revisit Water Tower Maintenance Bids Received

The Commission discussed the revised water maintenance contracts from Maguire Iron, Inc., and Utility Service Co., Inc. Tony Grant from Maguire Iron, Inc. was present again to provide a brief overview of their contract and field any questions from the Commission. After further dialogue, Boller said that she is not comfortable with either offer due to the eminent repairs needed at the dam and substation. Boller said that the maintenance plans received are Cadillac versions when the city has a Honda budget. Tony Grant offered to draft a 5-year Contract for Services for the Commission to review where Maguire Iron, Inc. would perform two inspections, and after the first inspection they identify some priorities that need to be taken care of such as touch up on the interior. This would extend the life of the interior coating until the city is in a better position budget wise to enter into a maintenance agreement. In the interim Nigh asked Calhoon to collect bids from additional water tower companies.

Kickapoo Emergency Water Agreement

Matthew LaForest, Engineer Consultant for the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service asked Calhoon to provide a written response to the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas describing the City of Horton's position on proceeding, or not proceeding, with the Emergency Water Supply Contract to the Kickapoo Tribe. LaForest also attached the signed Memorandum of Agreements and Project Summaries describing the projects and the responsibilities for each party.

Kevin Hill assisted Calhoon with a draft response for him to provide to Kickapoo Tribal Chairman, Lester Randall.

Itron Meter Discussion

Calhoon and Clerk Knudson recommended that the city upgrade the mobile collector system for water and electric meters due to the current version being outdated. The proposal from Itron was for \$24,670.00, which includes setup fees and the upgraded drive by mobile collector. Clerk Knudson advised that the city proceed tonight since it is 8-10 months out from manufacturing. Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the quote for the Itron mobile collector system upgrade. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Consider Approval of Ordinance No. 1206 for Codification

The Commission was presented with the first reading of Ordinance No. 1206 for the revised Horton Code of Ordinances. Kevin Hill recommended that the Commission let the front office know of any changes prior to the next meeting on 03/20 when the Ordinance will be considered for approval.

Public Works Updates

Public Works Superintendent Randy Mayfield was present to provide updates to the Commission on the water, sewer, and street departments. Detailed reports showing the summary of work orders created, and the status of work orders by department were provided. Calhoon said that he is going to propose weekly meetings with AHRS Construction Inc., and BG Consultants until the remaining items for Phase III of the wastewater treatment facility are completed.

Per the request of C. Boller, Mayfield said that he has a plan for repairing potholes and patching streets. Mayfield also said that his crew would get the new fire hydrant installed and the hole filled at the four corners downtown when they have the manpower.

Police Department Updates

Chief provided the Commission with February 2023 Dispatch Calls by Service Type and an updated Code Enforcement list.

John Pietrzak will graduate from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center on March 17th and will be back full time with the Horton Police Department.

Commissioner Boller would like to recognize Officer Dave Spain for his efforts during an emergency last week. Boller said she cannot speak enough for Spain's quick response and reaction in an emergency, and his professionalism. Boller voiced that time matters in those trauma situations. The Commission would like to recognize Spain at the next Commission meeting and present him with a kudos per the city's newly implemented recognition program.

City Administrator

The City of Horton is offering the opportunity to get rid of your clutter. There will be roll off dumpsters in the vacant lot at the corner of 1st Avenue East and 7th Street (south of City Hall) beginning Friday May 5th until Monday May 15th. This Citywide Spring Cleanup is sponsored by the City of Horton for its residents. If you have any questions, call City Hall at 486-2681.

Due to a recent resignation, the Parks and Recreation Board is seeking members to fill the board. The advisory board meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Calhoon would like to recognize the Horton boys' basketball team at the next meeting for their efforts in making it to the state tournament in Manhattan.

The Commission will hold a financial meeting at the end of the regular meeting on 03/20 to review the cities debt and capital improvement projects etc.

Mayor Stirton

Mayor Stirton asked if the ballfields will be playable in time for scheduled games. Calhoon said he is reluctant to say at this time due to the grass not coming in as expected and other items not finished at the fields.

Calhoon said that the city is still awaiting a definite answer from the county on whether the city of Horton will receive the requested \$50,000 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds from them. If received, the city will use the funds to purchase lighting for the ballfields.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

No report.

Commissioner Boller

Commissioner Boller would like to terminate the city's contract with Scott Shreve. Shreve has served as our electric consultant for over ten years. Boller said that the city will continue to utilize KMEA (Kansas Municipal Energy Agency) instead.

Boller feels that the city should consider rezoning the airport as industrial in hopes of having an area designated to bring an industry to town. She feels that the city continues to pay for something that they don't use.

Commissioner Nigh

No report.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to go into a 15-minute executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel to protect the privacy interests of the employee to include the Commission, Kevin Hill, and John Calhoon. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. After executive session no action taken.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor