

May 15, 2023
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

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

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order, and the opening prayer was led by Father Dan Gardner from St. Leo's Catholic 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 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2023, regular meeting after requesting the following amendments regarding Discussion Regarding Amendments to Bylaws and/or Articles of Incorporation of Mission Village: Motion by Commissioner Nigh to consent to the amendment of the Articles of Incorporation that were filed on 03/18/2021 with Mission Village with the State. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye. Kevin Hill stated that with that motion the City has consented to the amended Articles of Incorporation that the Board of Directors of Mission Village filed with the Secretary of State on 03 / 18 / 2021 making their board the sole member of the corporation. With that, the city would not, under the statute, need to consent to any sale of the Manor at this point in time. It remains a Mission Village board issue on to whom it is sold to, if it is sold at all. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3762 (Payroll) for \$43,248.25. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3763(Disbursements) for \$74,069.70. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Public Comments

No comments.

Present Employee Service Awards

Two longevity of service bonus awards were presented by Mayor Stirton. Carol Stirton was presented with an award for 25 years (over 26 years) of dedicated service, and Kim Knudson was presented with an award for 10 years of dedicated service.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Bobby Bacon was present to ask for the Commission to consider some type of compensation for when he donated his time to paint the backstops at the ballfields back in 2019. Bacon said he had a \$300.00 budget for paint and supplies from the city, and also contributed money out of pocket. Nigh voiced that she wasn't in agreement because it would set a precedence for any volunteer to come to the Commission and ask for

reimbursement, and voiced concern that he is requesting this three years later. The Commission left the decision to the City Administrator on whether to give Bacon a reduced rate or free rental for the Blue Building for his 25th wedding anniversary.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Kinsey Boller was present to ask for porta pots, trash cans, and street closure in the block of West 8th Street in front of the Pizza Bakery on June 3rd for the Summer Fest Car Show. Calhoon recommended that she get in touch with the Chief of Police for the street closure.

Ballfield Updates

Calhoon said that a week ago Sunday all of the ballfields have been sprayed to kill the existing grass/weeds. Once the fields dry up a little from the rain Oswald Lawn Services will reseed the fields. Things were worked out between Calhoon, the contractor, and BG Consultants to immediately get started on the reseeding of the fields, but it did do away with the warranty period stated in the initial contract. Calhoon said the city did work out a compromise to get the seeding started now and thought that the risk was a lot greater if we waited until after September 16th. Calhoon said we can over seed in the fall if needed at a cheaper cost if needed. A Change Order was drafted by BG Consultants with protocols in place for all involved in the project to adhere to. Calhoon wanted to make it clear that mother nature could still harm us. On the city's behalf, Nick Dowell has agreed to oversee the contractual obligation of the City of Horton to irrigate the fields.

Public Works Updates

Public Works Superintendent Randy Mayfield was present to provide updates to the Commission on the water, sewer, electric, and street departments. Detailed reports showing the summary of work orders created, and the status of work orders by department were provided. The final walkthrough for construction of the new wastewater treatment facility was last Friday. There were a couple of minute things found that are warranty issues that need to be resolved. The city will hold a small percentage of the final payment to AHRS Construction until those items are rectified. There are talks of having an open house at the new wastewater treatment facility potentially in July.

Consider Reappointment of Horton Housing Authority Board Member

Motion by Commissioner Boller to reappoint Helen Ashton to the board of Commissioners for the Horton Housing Authority. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Reconsider Closure of Airport

Calhoon said he has received several contacts in the past weeks regarding the closure of the Horton Municipal Airport. Todd Banks, Kansas liaison for The Recreational Aviation Foundation (The RAF), was present to say that their mission is to preserve recreational use airstrips. Banks said occasionally, RAF can help alleviate whatever constraints or resources that might be needed to keep airstrips operational. Banks requested a month or two to see what kind of support there would be for keeping the airport open, and if there are some kind of grants or recourses that RAF could provide the city to help support keeping the facility open. The Commission stated that they are definitely open to possibilities and gave the consent for Banks to come up with a plan and bring back to them.

Matt Dorssom was also present to say that he utilizes the airport about a half a dozen times a year and would hate to see it close.

Discuss Seasonal Lake Contract

The Commission revisited discussion regarding the hiring of Betty Cline to assist with mowing at the lake(s). Calhoon said that he informed the Parks and Recreation Board on Monday evening that we would likely need to be preparing to replace our Lake Caretaker for next season, if not earlier. They were informed of prior discussion with the governing body about Betty Cline assisting with the mowing etc. Upon conclusion of the boards in-depth discussion, Karl Gaskell made a motion to recommend to the Commission that the city pay Betty half of what Mike's monthly salary is, which would be \$850.00 per month during the months of May thru September. The motion passed unanimously. Calhoon prepared a Lake Mower Assistant Contract for the Commissioners review. Calhoon told the Commission that Mike Cline said if he didn't get any help with mowing at the lake that this would likely be his last year as caretaker. C. Boller said that this is a City Administrator decision and she is not sure why the Commission is addressing it again. Mayor Stirton and Nigh agreed that they thought the Commission had already addressed the topic, and Nigh agreed that the Clines do a great job, she just worries that we have people at the lake who have a place to live, have all of their utilities paid, etc., and we didn't offer this job to anyone else. We just decided that we were going to give it to Mike Cline and it looks like we have a buddy system going here, and that doesn't look good in the public eye. West said that he did the math and it would be cheaper to pay Betty the requested salary than to hire another seasonal mower. Calhoon said that an additional seasonal mower would not be needed if the city hires Betty.

Mayor Stirton prefers that the city pay Betty \$11.00 an hour and she punch a timeclock. Other than salaried employees, every other city employee punches a timeclock. Stirton said that he wishes we used this much effort to fill vacant public works positions. He feels that other employees have walked for less money than this. Calhoon said that he and Randy Mayfield have received applications, and conducted several interviews for the public works positions.

City Administrator

No report.

Mayor Stirton

Mayor Stirton asked Calhoon what fund that the contract employee, Betty Cline will be paid out of. Calhoon said it would come out of the Parks budget to start with.

Mayor Stirton asked Calhoon if he has a status on the water tower maintenance contract(s). Calhoon said he does not.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

No report.

Commissioner Boller

No report.

Commissioner Nigh

Nigh asked Calhoon for the status of the spillway repairs at Mission Lake. Abby Mills from BG Consultants called Calhoon to say that RFP's were due back by May 7th and they didn't receive a single response, which is very unheard of. Most of the contractors are backlogged with work at this time. BG Consultants will solicit bids for Request for Proposals again beginning this Friday and give contractors a month to respond.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor