

July 17, 2023  
5:15 P.M.  
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

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

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

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

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3767 (Payroll) for \$51,369.42. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3768 (Payroll) for \$46,750.19. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3769 (Payroll) for \$50,382.93. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3770(Disbursements) for \$326,416.23. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

### **Public Comments**

Bobby Bacon asked for clarification pertaining to a comment that Commissioner Nigh made at the last meeting regarding the west side of town looking like trash. He wanted to know if it was being specified only to the west side, or the entire community. Bacon wanted to assure that residents in the west side weren't being targeted. The Commission reassured Bacon that it isn't only the west side that needs cleaned up.

### **Horton Industrial Development Corporation (HIDC) Discussion on Ballfields**

Discussions will be tabled until the next Commission meeting on 08/07/2023 when members from the Horton Industrial Development Corporation are able to attend.

### **Request to be Placed on Agenda - County Comprehensive Committee**

Bill Sechler was present to provide an overview and objectives of the Brown County Planning Commission. The board is in the early stages and currently consists of six (volunteer) members, with one at large. Sechler asked if he could attend future meetings to keep the Commission up to date on progress.

### **Mission Lake Speed Limit Discussion**

West recommended that the city amend Ordinance No. 1174 to say that the maximum speed limit on Wilson Drive located between East 15th Street shall be back to 30 miles per hour. West feels that the Ordinance currently says 20 miles per hour and it is too slow and it is hard to stay at that speed without riding your brakes. Kevin Hill said that Statute 8-1560 requires city staff to show that a traffic investigation has been done and that a reasonable and safe speed limit is 30 mph. Hill said that the public works or the police department could conduct the traffic investigation.

Motion by Commissioner West to authorize an Ordinance to be prepared for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading at the next Commission meeting following the traffic investigation by the Horton Police Department to increase the speed limit from 20 mph to 30 mph from 15<sup>th</sup> Street north on Wilson Drive up to the 20-mph speed limit sign at the volleyball court. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. 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. Detailed reports showing the summary of work orders created, and the status of work orders by department were provided. Mayfield said that JCI came and brought the other pump and put the battery backup back in, so everything is done at the new wastewater treatment facility except for repair of the valve at the headworks, and fix a programming issue with the lift station at the administrative building.

### **Police/Dispatch Updates**

Chief Boller said that the 45-day letters have elapsed on houses that are set to be placed on a Resolution for demolition. Boller said he has a list of eight houses and two garages and he is hoping that with the budgeted funds that five can be tore down this year.

The officers are still battling tall weeds and grass with residents in town. Boller said that the grass has to be 12 inches tall to issue a ten-day letter (one per calendar year) before the city can mow the property.

Kevin Hill had a Resolution prepared for cleanup of a yard at 1570 Central Ave. Kevin Hill recommended that rather than publish a Resolution with one address on it, we wait until we receive the full list from Chief Boller and publish all at once. Boller said he could have a list to Kevin Hill by tomorrow. Since the Commission doesn't meet again until 08/07, they opted to have a Special Meeting on 07/24/2023 at 4:00 p.m. to consider approval of the Resolution.

C. Boller stated that she is not in favor of the city crews cleaning up yards. She feels we are setting a terrible precedent for people to not clean their yards and then the city is expected to come in and clean them. She feels that using taxpayer money to clean somebody's yard is awful, because if we do it for one, we will be expected to do it for others. C. Boller said that the Commission is already having difficulties cutting expenses from the 2024 budget.

### **Discuss Resolutions for Homeless Encampment/2023 Demolition Properties**

Motion by Commissioner West to table discussion until the Special Meeting on 07/24/2023 at 4:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

**Consider Approval of Notice to County Clerk of Intent to Exceed RNR (Revenue Neutral Rate)**

Motion by Commissioner Nigh for the city to send the Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) Intent to the County Clerk saying that we intend to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate and our proposed mill levy rate is 71.273. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye. The city will hold a RNR hearing on September 5th at 5:15 p.m.

**Approve Ordinance No. 1207 Regarding Electric Service Charge Increase**

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Ordinance No. 1207, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 15-207(a) and (b) OF THE HORTON MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING THE RATES CHARGED TO CONSUMERS FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL USE BY THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Residential customers will see an increase in the monthly service charge in increments of \$5.00 each year for three consecutive years. Commercial customers will see an increase in the monthly service charge in increments of \$6.00 each year for three consecutive years. Increases will begin on August 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023. The rates will also affect customers outside of the city limits and large commercial users. The money generated from this will be earmarked for the substation and infrastructure improvements towards the bond payments of those.

**Consider Appointment of Horton Public Library Trustee**

Motion by Commissioner Boller to appoint Kourtney Liggett to the Board of the Horton Public Library. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

**City Administrator**

Calhoon said the Open House at the new Wastewater Treatment Facility has been rescheduled to Tuesday, August 1st from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Calhoon is awaiting additional bids to replace an AC unit at the Blue Building. He has received one thus far.

The State of Kansas, Community Development Block Grant – COVID Resiliency (CDBG-CVR) program has been awarded \$2.0 million from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Awards will be made to cities or counties to administer to local businesses for innovative solutions to become more resilient to pandemics like COVID-19. This is a competitive CDBG grant. Garrett Nordstrom will attend the next meeting on 08/07 to discuss with the Commissioners.

Calhoon is working with Butler & Associates to get an aggressive negotiation contract for collection of past due utilities, court fines, and special assessments to present to the Commission.

**Mayor Stirton**

Mayor Stirton thanked Josh Haverkamp and Randy Mayfield for installing a new transformer in B Cove over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

**Commissioner Lovelady**

No report.

**Commissioner West**

No report.

**Commissioner Boller**

Motion by Commissioner Boller for the city to purchase a Neptune Rake for \$5,339.00, along with the portable winch system for \$1,595.00. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. The Neptune Rake will remove weeds, lily pads, and detritus from the Little Lake. Mayor Stirton's only concern is finding someone to run it, since the city crew's workload is heavy already. The Commission mentioned asking the Fish and Game Club to assist.

**Commissioner Nigh**

Nigh asked if the city could reactivate electricity to the shelter house closest to the road between the two stairways at the Civic Center prior the fair next year.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

**2024 Budget Workshop**

The Commission held the second 2024 Budget Workshop. Another workshop will be held after adjournment of the Commission meeting on 08/07/2023.

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Kim Knudson, City Clerk

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Bryan Stirton, Mayor