

August 21, 2023  
5:15 P.M.  
Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 5:15 p.m. in the City Hall Commission Room.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order. The prayer was led by Ron Cobb. This will be Pastor Cobb's last leading of prayer for the City as he is retiring at the end of September. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Mayor Bryan Stirton, Commissioners Richard Lovelady, Rex West, Carmela Boller and Tina Nigh. City Administrator John Calhoon, City Attorney Kevin Hill and Deputy City Clerk Carol Stirton 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 August 07, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3773 (Payroll) for the amount of \$49,749.84. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3774 (Disbursements) for the amount of \$300,982.87. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

### **Public Comments**

Dennis Ross presented the Commission with a list of the Baseball Commissioners and a list of priorities, including estimated costs totaling \$43,161.00, needed to complete the baseball field to be ready for play for approval. Ross says they would like to see local contractors used. Administrator Calhoon noted that the total does not include the cost of bathrooms or rock for the parking lot and exceeds HIDC funding by \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Tim Lentz stated that Dr. Rebecca Kramer, the school superintendent, is checking to see if the school board would approve assistance with funds for the parking lot in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00. Nick Dowell had spoken with Colton Oswald who would sell his water tractor to the City for \$1,000.00 less than the price estimated on the priority listing. Ross informed everyone that HIDC will meet on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and all are invited to attend.

Nick Dowell also wanted the Commission to know that as he and J.T. Strube have been back to school more full time, that City employee Shane Garrison has been a big help to them at the ballfields.

### **CDBG-COVID Resiliency Program (CDBG-CVR)**

Garrett Nordstrom was not present. The decision for adoption of Resolution #2023-003 was tabled.

### **Request to Be Placed on Agenda**

Sunshine Crismas was present to inform the Commission that she and Josh White were approached by Donnel Groshong to take over the flea market as he is no longer able to. With the Commissioners

approval they intend to continue having the flea market twice a year, the last weekend in March and the first weekend in November. Groshong was present to state that he intends to help with the transfer and to ask that the electric charge for vendors be set as it is needed to know to price out the vendor fees. The electric charge was previously \$12.50. Calhoon recommended leaving the rate at \$12.50 through the next year. It was the consensus of the Commission to leave the electric fee the same and allow the flea market scheduling to continue as well. Administrator Calhoon stated that his only concern was the roping off of the grass. Crismas said that will continue to be done as it always has. Mayor Stirton thanked Mr. Groshong for all of his time and effort he has put into the flea market.

### **Public Works Updates**

Public Works Superintendent Randy Mayfield informed the Commission that we are getting chlorine scales from Lonnie Boller and that AHRS has installed the new valve. The only other thing needed is to program the lift station out front, which they are doing today, to complete the Sewer Plant project.

### **Accept Resignation of Chief Boller**

Chief Jonathan Boller III submitted his letter of resignation on August 11, 2023. His last official day will be Friday, August 25, 2023. Boller gave a statement about his time with the City, his concerns with micro-management and questioning of his departments integrity by certain Commission members which led to his decision, and wished everyone the best.

Motion by Commissioner West to accept the resignation of Jon Boller as Chief of Police and also issue a thank you for the service he has provided for this community. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. Commissioner Boller abstained. Commissioner West and Commissioner Nigh aye. Commissioner Lovelady nay. Motion carried.

### **Consider Appointment of Voting Delegate and Alternate for LKM Annual Conference**

Motion by Commissioner West to elect Commissioner Boller as the cities voting delegate for the League of Kansas Municipalities. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to elect Mayor Stirton as the cities alternate voting delegate for the League of Kansas Municipalities. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. Commissioners West, Nigh, Boller and Lovelady aye. Mayor Stirton abstained. Motion carries.

### **Consider Approval of Ordinance No. 1208 Regarding Speed Limit at Mission Lake**

Commissioner West wanted to clarify that this is the second reading of this ordinance. Kevin Hill said there was previously discussion on what the speed should be set as on Wilson Drive, is all that is left to determine.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Ordinance No. 1208, AN ORDINANCE AMMENDING SECTION 14-219 OF THE HORTON MUNICIPAL CODE SETTING THE SPEED LIMIT ON CERTAIN STREETS WITHIN THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS, AS AUTHORIZED BY K.S.A. 8-1560. It is hereby amended to read as follows: "That the maximum speed limit on Wilson Drive commencing at the intersection of East 15<sup>th</sup> Street and proceeding North 2,640 feet, shall be 30 miles per hour and the maximum speed limit on During Avenue located between East 15<sup>th</sup> and Wilson Drive, shall be 20 miler per hours. The speed limit established as hereinabove authorized shall be effective at all times when appropriate signs giving notice are erected upon such street. Any person convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of "The Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities", adopted by reference by the City of Horton." Section 2. That all previous ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed. Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication in the official City newspaper.

Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

**City Administrator**

Administrator Calhoon and staff were approached about allowing the middle school football team to use the armory for practices the next three days after school as they are not able to practice outside with the excessive heat warning. Calhoon sees no problem as long as NEKCAP doesn't either.

Calhoon does not dispute any of the priorities listed for the ballfield but reiterated that the costs submitted will exceed the HIDC funding by about \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Costs not already included on the list were gravel for the parking lot, concrete work and bathrooms. The Commission discussed the fact that there is \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 that was budgeted, but not used, for curbs this year as there were no applicants. The Commission agrees that those funds could be used towards the completion of the ballfields so that they may start being used in the spring so the kids can play ball. Commissioner West suggested that porta potties could be used short term until bathrooms could be built and that the cost of air conditioning and over seeding may not cost as much as estimated. The water train can be purchased at a lesser price than the estimate as well. The City has the equipment so Randy Mayfield will check in the morning if someone in the City staff can and/or has time to do the grade and slope on the parking lot immediately, otherwise there is a contractor that can begin this week. Calhoon feels we will be really close to being able to take care of everything on the list and to move forward. The press box will be taken care of by a fund raiser.

**Mayor Stirton**

Mayor Stirton asked for suggestions on what the procedure is for hiring a Police Chief and who will be in charge until a Chief is hired. Commissioner West stated that the Assistant Police Chief would take over charge of the department as they have been before in the absence of the Chief of Police. Motion by Commissioner West to start accepting applications and advertise for the position of Chief of Police, and once the applications are received and we do a background check on the individuals and once that's completed and the City Council has time to review together as a whole the results of background checks and the applicants. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Assistant Police Chief Spire asked for clarification as to if he would be considered as Interim Chief, as he thinks there may be some duties he would not be able to complete as only Assistant. Hill and Calhoon believe Spire should be able to handle all duties as Assistant Chief on a temporary basis given the circumstance. The one specific question about position title was CPOST. Hill recommended giving them a call to explain the situation.

Administrator Calhoon asked the Commission who they would like to handle the advertisement for applications. Commissioner West stated that Calhoon should be able to take care of it as he would any other employee even though the Commission, not the Administrator, is directly over that position,

**Commissioner Lovelady**

No report.

**Commissioner West**

No report.

**Commissioner Boller**

No report.

**Commissioner Nigh**

No report.

**2024 Budget Workshop/Consider Approval of 2024 Budget**

Mayor Stirton announced the 2024 Budget Workshop/Consideration of Approval of the 2024 Budget. There were no public comments regarding the proposed 2024 budget. City Clerk Kim Knudson left her update of the Electric to General transfer by about \$72,000.00, which now puts the mill levy equal to the RNR rate of 56.443. Calhoon says another option is to cut demolition funding, however he does not recommend that. The City may also be saving money on the health insurance premium as the projected increase is no more than 5% and we budgeted for 11%, although it will be late September before we know for sure. Also, if we do this transfer and things turn out better than expected, we can always decrease the amount of transfer, we cannot increase it. Calhoon recommends increasing the amount of the transfer from the electric fund. Motion by Commissioner Boller to increase the transfer amount by \$72,000.00 and keep our RNR rate at 56.443 mills. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn at 6:27 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

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Carol Stirton, Deputy City Clerk

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Bryan Stirton, Mayor