

September 18, 2023
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

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

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

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adopt the agenda after Commissioner West requested that a 15-minute executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel be added. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3777 (Payroll) for \$43,733.96. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3778(Disbursements) for \$478,738.31. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Public Comments

Sarah Gerving was present on behalf of the South Brown County Community Foundation to update the Commission on grants that they have received. \$500.00 was received for the Horton Aquatic Park, so that brings the fund to \$2,627.91 for any future needs at the aquatic park to help offset costs. \$500.00 was received for the South Brown County Community Health and Wellness Center, which is still in its infancy planning. They were asked to apply from Kansas Health.org for a \$300,000 grant that Jackie Petersen and Gerving finished and submitted this morning. \$500.00 was also received for the Horton Municipal Airport.

Demolition Hearing for Resolution No. 2023-002

The public hearing was opened by Mayor Stirton. City Attorney, Kevin Hill provided current photos and a summary of the current condition of each of the properties that were listed in Resolution 2023-002.

Robert Becker, Henryetta Holman, and Melissa Razo were present to show cause why their property, structure or structures should not be condemned as being an unsafe or dangerous property or structure.

After public hearing was closed, Motion by Commissioner West to have a finding that the properties at 245 East 10th and 240 East 6th Street should be condemned as unsafe and dangerous and injurious to the health, safety or general welfare of the community or detrimental to adjoining properties, the neighborhood or the city and ordered either

repaired or demolished as determined by the city. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to allow a 30-day stay on the remaining properties on Resolution No. 2023-002 to allow owners to visit with the assistant chief of police to remedy whatever conditions led to them being a nuisance. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Properties on Resolution 2023-002 that were granted a 30-day stay were, 1570 Central Ave, 303 E 9th, 318 E. 12th St., 1530 Central Ave., 1540 Central Ave., 216 E. 5th, 222 East 4th St., and 337 West 10th St.

2024 Budget Hearing

The public hearing was opened by Mayor Stirton. There were no public questions or comments during the 2024 Budget Hearing, so the hearing was closed.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adopt the 2024 budget as published. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Bobby Bacon was present to voice his opinion that there is favoritism to some residents in town regarding code enforcement.

Present August Kudos Award

City employees Donnie Garrison and Corbin Masuch were presented kudos awards by Mayor Stirton. Mayor Stirton read aloud the kudos drafted by Calhoon which highlighted why they were deserving of receiving it. They were also each given a \$60 gift card.

The kudos program was established as a way to say thank you for the hard work that the city staff does, and let said employee know their hard work is recognized.

Discussion on Dispatch Agreement

Motion by Commissioner West to approve the MOA between the Horton Police Department and the KS 911 Coordinating Council. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to authorize the MOA between the Brown County Sheriff's Office and the Horton Police Department that gives us the authority to answer 911 calls that go unanswered for a period of 30 seconds, or the equivalent of 6 rings. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Consider Approval of Standard Traffic Ordinance No.1209, and Uniform Public Offense Code No.1210

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Ordinance No. 1209, AN ORDINANCE REGULATING TRAFFIC WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS; INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE "STANDARD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE FOR KANSAS CITIES," 50th EDITION PROVIDING CERTAIN PENALTIES AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NUMBER 1196. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Ordinance No. 1210, AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PUBLIC OFFENSES WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS; INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE "UNIFORM PUBLIC OFFENSE CODE FOR KANSAS CITIES," 39th EDITION. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Housing Assessment Update

Garrett Nordstrom from Governmental Assistance Services will attend the next Commission meeting on 10/02 to provide updates on the Housing Improvements Project & Assessment Study. The Housing Assessment Tool has been completed and Nordstrom is scheduling a training session with local contractors and an environmental firm that can certify them to do work on the housing rehabilitations. Nordstrom is hoping to have a date scheduled for contractors by early next week.

Consider Approval of 2022 Audit

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the 2022 Audit as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Authorize Signatory for MOA Between the Police Department and the KS 911 Coordinating Council

This topic was covered under Discussion on Dispatch Agreement.

Public Works Updates

Public Works Superintendent Randy Mayfield was present to provide updates to the Commission on the water, sewer, electric, and street departments, and field any questions from the Commission.

City Administrator

Calhoon said that the fixtures and light poles for the ballfield will arrive this week. The city crews will begin digging holes for the poles, while coordinating for a crane to be moved in to set the poles.

Calhoon discussed the potential of designating and declaring our city website as our official publication for a newspaper in lieu of the Horton Headlight. He said it is a hot topic and he is just throwing it out there because a lot of city's are doing it. There are some items statutorily that would have to still be published in the newspaper.

Chip sealing is tentatively scheduled to begin September 26th or 27th.

Calhoon will prepare an RFP to submit to give the local banks an opportunity to bid on the city's CD renewals.

Mayor Stirton

No report.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

Commissioner West asked Kevin Hill for an update on CPOST (Commission on Peace Officers) regarding the requirements of having an interim or acting police chief. Hill stated that they would accept signatures from the mayor or assistant chief. West requested that the department remains the same until a new Chief of Police is hired.

Commissioner Boller

Calhoon said the Horton Fish & Game Club will meet on 10/04 to determine a date to operate the newly purchased Neptune Rake and portable winch system at the Little Lake. The Neptune Rake that was purchased by the city will remove weeds, overgrown lily pads, and detritus from the lake(s).

C. Boller also asked for updates from Calhoon about kayak rentals at Mission Lake and feedback from the school regarding painting a mural on a potential building in town.

Commissioner Nigh

Commissioner Nigh asked if there were any updates on Mission Lake Dam repairs. Calhoon said he has no update to provide.

Nigh (and Sarah Gerving) recommended that the city contact Hewins Sawmill to see if there are any valuable trees on city owned properties that they could cut and pay the city for the lumber. This would also clear the properties for potential new housing or development.

Motion by Commissioner West 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 and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye. After executive session no action taken, information only.

Motion by Commissioner West to go into a 10-minute executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel to protect the privacy interests of the employee to include the Commission and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye. After executive session, Motion by Commissioner West to authorize the city administrator to contact applicants for the Chief of Police position and invite them in for interviews on 10/02/2023 following the Commission meeting, and authorize the city administrator to contact a suitable agency outside of Brown County to conduct background checks (and see the cost involved) on in advance on applicants so they are available on 10/02/2023. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor