

October 16, 2023
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

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

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

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

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3781 (Payroll) for \$40,462.67. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3782(Disbursements) for \$342,103.98. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Public Comments

No comments.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Rick Clement was present to say that he has gotten to know the lake caretaker, Mike Cline in a short period of time and he was appalled when he heard that he was going to resign because of the backstabbing on Facebook, and everything else regarding the shower house issue. Clement said that Cline is one of the best caretakers that the city has had in forever. Calhoon went on to say that Cline is not resigning as lake caretaker.

Consider Approval of 2% Decrease for 2024 Employee Health Insurance

Calhoon said that following the KMIT Association Health Plans decision to proceed with BCBS coverage for next year, the employee rates for 2024 stayed the same at nearly 2% under the 2023 rates. Calhoon said that BCBS has agreed to cap any rate increase for 2025 at 15%. Motion by Commissioner Boller to accept the KMIT Association Health Plan for 2024. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Update Commission on Resignation(s)

Calhoon announced four recent resignations which included full-time dispatchers, Kourtney Liggett and Kindra Moyer, Electric Generation Operator, Josh Haverkamp, and Recreation Coordinator, Nick Dowell. Calhoon is drafting an agreement to keep Josh Haverkamp on call as needed for power outages, and is also working to fill other vacant positions within the city.

City Administrator

Calhoon said that Mission Lake will be 100 years old in May 2024 and would like to have a huge celebration.

Calhoon said that he will proceed with applying for the T-Mobile Hometown Grant as suggested by Commissioner Nigh. Each town could receive up to \$50k.

Calhoon is awaiting a concept design for a mural in town from the same company that is painting the mural at the Veterans Memorial site. The mural could range from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Motion by Commissioner West for the city to pay remaining invoices for the ballfields totaling \$12,781.80 out of the fund that was budgeted for the curb cost share program. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye. The three unpaid invoices were from Stirton Trucking, Whetrock Inc, and NEK Drainage Supply.

Calhoon drafted a policy for the city staff of the Public Works Department to be eligible for pay increases and/or promotion opportunities for the completion of state and federal approved certification classes in Water/Wastewater, as well as obtaining their Commercial Driver's License. Other certifications will be considered upon annual performance evaluations. Rate of pay will be determined for certifications already held by newly hired or promoted employees. Any certifications obtained after their initial hiring shall be eligible for the incentives.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to adopt the Public Works Incentive Plan updating the Water I and Wastewater I to \$1.00 per hour. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye. Calhoon had initially proposed a \$.75 increase for Water I and Wastewater I.

The new plan states that the following certifications will receive the pay increase for each:

-Water 1- \$1.00 per hour Water 2- \$1.00 per hour Water 3- \$1.00 per hour

-Wastewater 1- \$1.00 per hour Wastewater 2- \$1.00 per hour Wastewater 3- \$1.00 per hour

-Commercial Driver's License- \$1.00 per hour

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. Mayfield believes that the transmission went out on the 2007 Blanchat fire truck. The department is looking into costs to fix it.

Mayor Stirton

Since the keypad at the shower house at Mission Lake has been removed, Mayor Stirton reminded the Commission that at the last meeting a motion was made that effective immediately the shower house remains open during daylight posted hours to the public, and the campers can use the key codes to gain access afterhours. Mayor Stirton requested that the keypad be reinstalled at the shower house since that is what the motion specified.

Officer William Entrikin provided the Commission with updates and photos on some of the properties that are on the most recent demolition list. 303 East 9th, 1540 Central Ave, 240 East 6th, 1530 Central, and 318 East 12th are all in the midst of repairing the

exterior conditions that were in violation. The Commission determined that the property at 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, so they wanted Kevin Hill's opinion on how to proceed with that property.

Mayor Stirton requested a 10-minute recess at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to go into a 5-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 Nigh. All aye. After executive session no action was taken. Information only.

Discussion on Dispatch Coverage

With the recent resignations of two dispatchers, Calhoon invited Brown County Sheriff, John Merchant to the meeting to discuss the possibility of the county aiding in coverage. Brown County Commissioner Richard Lehmkuhl was also present. Calhoon said that the only option he sees is to run the two existing dispatchers from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and ask the county to rollover calls from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Mayor Stirton said that he has two people interested in applying for part time, and mentioned utilizing officer Gruber on an as needed basis at her police officer salary. Merchant said that Midwest Mobile would have to come in to make some changes for the landlines to talk to each other, etc. and the turnaround time is at least two weeks, and it would be costly. Merchant also said that he needs to speak to his existing dispatchers because he doesn't want them to get overwhelmed in the process. The Commission tasked Calhoon and Chief Entrikin with staying in communication with Merchant while he provides figures to provide coverage to Horton.

15-Minute Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel

Motion by Commissioner Nigh 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 Lovelady. All aye. After executive session no action was taken. Information only.

10-Minute Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel

Motion by Commissioner Boller 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, Dennis Entrikin (via telephone), and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. After executive session no action was taken. Information only.

Mayor Stirton stated that the city had put out an offer to Dennis Entrikin for the chief of police position. Dennis Entrikin was on speaker phone and accepted the position at a salary of \$53,196.00 subject to the job description, the city code, and state law and performance. D. Entrikin will begin his position with the city on 10/18 at 8:00 a.m.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

Commissioner West asked if Calhoon has contacted the owners and/or insurance company of the apartments that burnt on the 1000 block of West 11th. West is concerned that they will collect the insurance money and walk away and the city would have to foot the cost to clean up the property.

Commissioner Boller

Motion by Commissioner Boller for the city to donate \$5,000 to the Veterans Memorial out of the electric fund. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Boller said this group has worked really hard to do things for the city and thinks of the park as something special to our community.

Motion by Commissioner Boller for the city administrator to organize a meeting with local municipalities to discuss wants and needs and ways to improve and help each other. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye. Boller requested that Calhoon hold a meeting with other local communities and have a discussion with their administrator and see how we can all work together as a community in northeast Kansas to make our communities better.

Commissioner Nigh

Commissioner Nigh touched on what Garrett Nordstrom from Governmental Assistance Services spoke about at the last meeting regarding the housing assessment and asked about rehabilitation and cleanup of our community and who is responsible for putting that plan together. Nigh also received a recommendation from a community member that prior to the elections that we have "Meet the Candidates" in the newspaper for new candidates. Mayor Stirton said that the Horton Headlight is in the process of conducting interviews with the contenders.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor