

November 6, 2023
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, November 6, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order, and the opening prayer was led by Pastor Bud Elliott from Zion Lutheran 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 Calhoon and City Attorney Kevin Hill were also present.

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

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3783 (Payroll) for \$38,441.72. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3784 (Payroll) for \$41,139.50. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3785 (Disbursements) for \$167,030.62. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Public Comments

Steve Dickinson was present to state that he feels strongly that the city needs to keep our law enforcement dispatch here in Horton. Dickinson also pointed out several items of concern dealing specifically with information requested on the city's job application. He suggested that the city Commission and city attorney review the application to ensure it follows state and federal guidelines.

The Annual Christmas Luminaries will be held on Sunday, December 3rd. Father Dan Gardner was present on behalf of the South Brown County Ministry to ask for assistance from the city on providing the road blocks and electricity cut as they normally do.

Rita Boller and Jon Boller III were both present to address a Facebook message that was drafted by Commissioner Nigh regarding Jon Boller III. Rita said that the message disparaged him as a volunteer. Rita doesn't think this is a precedent we want to set, for a Commissioner to be able to speak about an employee, or an ex-employee regarding city business. Rita felt that because it involves an election and involves a city Commissioner, that the city should make a statement on Jon Boller III's behalf clarifying that the statement made by the city Commissioner does not reflect the views of the city, and asked that the city make a motion tonight to that effect, so that it is public to clear his reputation.

Jon Boller III stated that the message that was sent to him that was from Commissioner Nigh, who sat right here in this chair when he resigned and said that she didn't question his integrity. He believes that that post from Commissioner Nigh regarding him was slanderous. J. Boller said that he would appreciate some sort of public comment from the

city because, contrary to what Nigh stated in her post, he said the city Commission had no problem with his budget while employed with the city.

Mayor Stirton read the following statement aloud: Do I agree with some of the personal statements that have been made over the past few weeks by individuals associated with the city, I do not. The statements that have been mentioned appear to have been made by people who were not in a public meeting at the time they made them, and were not made through official city communications. As Mayor, I cannot regulate what someone says in a private conversation with other individuals. I can remind everyone that as elected officials, we should try to set a good example so that community members and those outside our community can see our city in a favorable light.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Several members of the South Brown County Community Foundation were in attendance to promote National Community Foundation Week. Mayor Stirton read aloud the Proclamation hereby proclaiming November 12-18, 2023, as National Community Foundation Week. Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the Proclamation. Seconded by Commissioner West. 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, and field any questions from the Commission.

Mayfield said that the Office of the State Fire Marshal has approved a grant of \$6,256.00 through the Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant (KFRSG) program. The funds will be used to purchase two sets of bunker gear.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the purchase of a RD7200 GPS locator kit and Subsurface Maps from Subsurface Solutions and use ARPA funds totaling \$10,806.00. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye. Subsurface Solutions provided a demonstration of the equipment to Mayfield and Calhoon today. The RD7200 is a cable and pipe locator with innovative features that deliver accurate, reliable locates for all utilities. Subsurface Maps collects features with the press of a button with an RD8100 Locator. Points and Line features upload straight to the web map. It's all designed to put GPS and map making in our own hands.

Police Department/Dispatch Updates

Police Chief Dennis Entrikin stated that Officer Madelyn Grubers last day with the city will be November 19th. Per the request of Gruber, Chief Entrikin read aloud her resignation letter thanking past and present employees, and the citizens of Horton for contributing to her growth and development in her journey. Per state statute, the agency that Madelyn will be employed with will reimburse the city for her time at the academy since she hasn't been in her position for a year since graduating.

Dispatcher Kourtney Liggett, who recently resigned as a dispatcher effective early November, will now remain employed with the city until after the first of the year.

West reminded Chief Entrikin to assure that the night officers are reporting street lights that are out to the front office.

Chief Entrikin said that 80 doses of Narcan have been received from the Brown County Health Department. He will set some aside for the Kickapoo PD.

Chief Entrikin provided an update on a few of the properties on the demolition list.

The Commission had determined that the properties at 240 East 6th Street and 245 East 10th 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. Entrikin said that the owner(s) at 240 East 6th is making a little progress with the roof, however a large amount of work is still needed. West requested that Entrikin proceed with quotes to demolish the properties, and also visit with the owners of the properties to determine if substantial improvements have been made, or if they are trying. Entrikin will provide updates to the Commission at the next meeting on 11/20.

Chief Entrikin ended by saying how Kim, Carol, and John have been extremely helpful and speedy in providing information he has requested of them. He said it is appreciated while making his transition in his new position.

KPERS 457 Plan and Optional Life Insurance Discussion

Calhoon discusses the option of offering a KPERS 457 Plan and Optional Life Insurance to employees. The Commission will discuss further at the next Commission meeting.

City Administrator

Calhoon provided updates on structures @ 700 West 11th and 205 East 10th due to fires. Alex Blanton has been hired to demolish the property at 700 West 11th and weather permitting, should have it completed by December 15th. Calhoon is still awaiting word on the property at 205 East 10th, as they had minimal insurance.

The city crews will begin putting up Christmas decorations downtown this week and take advantage of the warmer weather.

Conversations continued regarding the keypad at the shower house at Mission Lake. Mayor Stirton would like to see the shower house remain open for the next few weeks during the day for people playing at Hickory Point. Lake Caretaker Mike Cline voiced that since it is the off season, there is no reason for the shower house to remain open. He feels that the winter campers will have keypad access if needed. Motion by Commissioner West to leave the shower house heated for winter campers who have keypad access, and leave it locked the remainder of the time during winter months. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. Aye—Commissioner Boller, West, and Lovelady. Nay—Mayor Stirton and Commissioner Nigh. Motion passed.

Calhoon said that the new ballfield lights will be placed in the upright position with a crane on 11/07. KMEA will be here on Thursday, 11/09 to explore options for transformers for the ballfields and discuss the substation.

Calhoon said that Lentz Express has sold and the new owner is requesting a CMB License for Snakatak #37. Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the CMB License. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye. Tim Lentz is listed as the Manager or Agent on the CMB application during the transition process.

Mayor Stirton

No report.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

Commissioner West wanted to point out to Calhoon that there are 480-240 Volt 3 Phase transformers at the elevator that could possibly be used for the ballfields if they aren't using them.

Commissioner Boller

Commissioner Boller stated that she and Calhoon are working with KMEA for a large infrastructure grant that just became available. Tyson McGreer with KMEA is gathering more information, but he believes it is a good one that the city will qualify for. The grant has a large match, but if we qualify for the grant, we qualify for 100% match from the infrastructure bill that is currently out there.

Commissioner Nigh

No report.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor