

November 20, 2023
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, November 20, 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 after removing HIDC from the agenda until the next meeting on 12/04. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3786 (Payroll) for \$38,933.26. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3787 (Disbursements) for \$123,321.38. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Public Comments

No comments.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

HIDC will attend the next meeting on 12/04.

KPERS 457 Plan and Optional Life Insurance Discussion

Calhoon discussed the option of the city offering a KPERS 457 Plan to the city employees. KPERS 457 is the states deferred compensation plan that offers an additional savings option to help employees supplement their KPERS pension for a sounder retirement. Motion by Commissioner Nigh to adopt Resolution No. 2023-006, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF HORTON IN HORTON, KANSAS. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Consider Approval of Water Fund Budget Amendment

Calhoon explained that the water fund will need to be amended for 2023 because they will be over the budgeted amount at the end of the year. Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the suggested amendment for the water fund. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye. The Budget Hearing will be held on 12/04/2023 @ 5:15 p.m. to hear any objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed amended use of funds. The proposed increased amount was \$12,000.

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 new locate equipment has arrived from Subsurface Solutions. The company will be scheduling training for Horton and Hiawatha within the same day.

Mayfield stated that the fire department is down to two SCBA's (self-contained breathing apparatuses) and would like to purchase two new ones which would cost approximately \$18,573. Mayfield said that if the fire department purchases one, he asked if the city would purchase the other. Motion by Commissioner Boller to purchase SCBA and use money from the ARPA fund. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye. West recommended that in the future the fire department make requests such as these during budget preparations so the city isn't hit with unbudgeted items.

Police Department/Dispatch Updates

There was an extensive discussion regarding potential on call pay for police officers and officers taking a vehicle home if short staffed. Chief Entrikin brought it up to avoid a last-minute decision. West feels that it is an option that they need to look into and suggested utilizing the same on-call policy that the public works department uses. He is in favor of an on-call policy when we are shorthanded, only if the shift cannot be covered by scheduling. He doesn't support it being the norm with every midnight shift being an on-call shift, or if we have officers doubled up during the day. West said at this point if we are going to do it, we should follow the same already established procedure as the public works department and not allow a take home vehicle until we see how short staffed the department will be, and for how long.

Boller asked that Chief Entrikin provide them with call volume so they can distinguish high/low call volume times.

Nigh isn't in favor of deciding if vehicles should be taken home until Chief Entrikin provides further details. She said 5-10 minutes can mean a lot in an emergency situation. Entrikin was tasked with submitting a proposal of every aspect affected with on call pay and all expenses that could be incurred with taking a vehicle home.

Chief Entrikin also provided updates on house on the demolition list. Entrikin stated that the property at 245 East 10th has showed no progress in repairs, and that somebody is currently living there. Entrikin said that everything that put the property at 240 East 6th on the demolition list has been repaired, however there are several other code violations. Kevin Hill said the Commission would need to decide whether or not to proceed with demolition of that property.

10-minute Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Property

Motion by Commissioner Boller to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss possible acquisition of property to include the Commission, Calhoon, and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye. No action taken after session. Information only.

City Administrator

Calhoon said that the city will facilitate a meeting that KMEA is hosting on December 7th at the Blue Building. It is a regional discussion to cover topics related to the industry and also allow for neighboring communities to network. Some other discussions will include grants, and regional lineman services.

Calhoon requested the Commissioners backing in gathering letters of support from various entities for grants that he is preparing.

Calhoon has received concerns of boat trailers being damaged on the boat ramp at Mission Lake. There is signage at the ramp that says it is a 30 ft ramp. Calhoon said that it is need of repair but the city doesn't have the equipment to adequately mend it. PJ Aller would like to develop three camping spots at the very north end of the west side of Mission Lake. Calhoon has spoke to him about doing to boat ramp repairs since he has the equipment. Calhoon believes it would be worth negotiating with Aller 2-3 years of free camping fees in return of repairs to the boat ramp, plus install riprap. He feels it would be a pretty good tradeoff. Aller would still be responsible for electricity fees while camping. Nigh would like time to take a look at the proposed site before she decides.

Mayor Stirton

Mayor Stirton asked if there was an update regarding Steve Dickinson's concern with the city's employment application. Stirton suggested that the city omit the portion of the concerns on the application until further review from Calhoon and attorneys. Some of the concerns that Dickinson has involves credit checks, and date and place of birth questions on the application.

Mayor Stirton also asked for a status in job positions within the city that are still vacant, and suggested that the city Commission discuss bonuses before the end of the year.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

No report.

Commissioner Boller

Commissioner Boller submitted a proposal for city employees to receive bonuses, preferably soon for the holiday season, to be paid out of the remaining ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. The following is what Boller proposed:

-\$2,000 bonus – employees employed since 2020

-\$1,000 bonus -full-time/part-time employees employed before 2020 (Tara Speer, Andrew Jones, Mike Cline)

-\$750.00 bonus - employees employed under a year

-\$300.00 bonus – seasonal employees

The Commission and Kevin Hill recommended that Calhoon and Clerk Knudson verify with the city's auditor that ARPA funds can be utilized for employee bonuses. Knudson will prepare a spreadsheet to be considered for approval at the next Commission meeting showing totals if paid out of ARPA funds, and also a breakdown if it decided that they be paid out the respective department budgets.

Commissioner Nigh

Nigh asked Calhoon for direction on planning the celebration of Mission Lake being 100-year old in 2024.

Motion by Commissioner West to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor