

December 4, 2023
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order, and the opening prayer was led by Father Dan Gardner from St. Leo's Catholic 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 Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3788 (Payroll) for \$40,951.10. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3789 (Disbursements) for \$35,087.34. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. 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. Sarah Gerving applied for three Grain Belt Express Grants. The following funds on the SBCCF site will receive \$500: Civic Center Project (Maxine Rice and Tim Ross are the organizers of this fund) HIDC (Tim Lentz will be receiving this on behalf of HIDC) SBCCF General Fund (to be used for rural enhancement projects) The Horton Aquatic Park, Horton Health and Wellness Fund, and Powhattan Beautification and Improvement all received funding in prior quarters this year. Grain Belt express will not fund little league baseball or church affiliated funds. One person can apply for multiple funding. (Example: City officials can apply for each department for funding-ball field, police dept, fire department, etc. Chamber of Commerce can also apply for project funding too. The South Brown County Health and Wellness Fund is now its own 501(c)(3). This is in order to apply for grants on a larger scale. This fund will always be listed on their SBCCF site to receive donations. The SBCCF Board is comprised of twelve members: Sarah Gerving (Board Chair) Jason Smith (Vice-Chair) Krissy Torkelson (Secretary) Derek Richardson (Treasurer) & members: Jackie Petersen, Ivy Stone, Mitch Gerving, Paul Simon, Kristin Fassnacht, Joy Knudson, Sherry Wellman, and Adam Rogers. They are working towards defining the Health and Wellness center project which will be constructed on the old hospital grounds.

Steve Chartier was present to provide updates on the 31st Annual Christmas Luminaries that took place on Sunday, December 3rd. Chartier stated that 228 cars drove through which consisted of approximately 756 people. A couple minor concerns included barricades not being placed across the streets, and police presence. Chartier said to let them know in the future to help to avoid any hiccups in coming years.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Dennis Ross was present on behalf of HIDC to ask the Commission for a status on establishing a Baseball Commission. Calhoon said that procedures need to be set in place so teams are ready to play in the spring. West said that by-laws need to be established they can govern how the Baseball Commission will be operated, and the Commission will select members. Rather than reinventing the wheel, Boller instructed Calhoon to reach out to neighboring cities for their by-laws and tweak them to fit our city and bring to the Commission. Dennis Ross was invited to attend the next Commission meeting on December 18th.

Consider Approval of Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the following 2024 CMB license requests. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

- Dollar General
- Horton Pool Hall
- Horton Super Store
- El Cazador Mexican Grill & Cantina
- Horton Thriftway

Revisit 2023 Employee Bonus Discussion

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve premium pay to eligible employees for essential work performed during the pandemic, recognizing the risks associated with that, and contact they had with the public as outlined on the spreadsheet prepared by Clerk Knudson. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. Bonuses will be paid out of the remaining ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. Bonuses will be given as followed:

- \$2,000 bonus – employees employed since 2020
- \$1,000 bonus -full-time/part-time employees employed before 2020
- \$750.00 bonus - employees employed under a year
- \$300.00 bonus – seasonal employees

West spoke about streets in need of repair and water lines that need to be installed and asked if there was any consideration of using ARPA funds for these projects. He said these projects were on the radar, but seem to have fallen through the cracks.

Mayor Stirton feels more comfortable with the bonuses being paid out of remaining ARPA funds so that it doesn't affect the overall budget. He said that the bonuses are equivalent to a raise, but is paid out in one lump sum.

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 and training to use the equipment will take place on Monday, December 11th. Mayfield also said there was a major water leak today, which resulted in 200,000 of water loss. The leak has since been repaired.

Police Department/Dispatch Updates

Chief Entrikin informed the Commission that the Horton officers will be assisting the Kickapoo Police Department in emergency situations due to them being short staffed. They will also be utilizing Brown County.

The FBI has stated that effective January 1, 2024 any radio purchased for public safety will be required to have encryption requirements. In the future, with the new rule that

applies only to law enforcement will require that all radio traffic that disseminates criminal justice information such as names, DOB, driver's license/license plate information, etc. has to be encrypted.

Chief Entrikin is in the process of contacting demolition companies for bids to demolish 245 East 10th yet this year. The Commission gave Calhoon permission to authorize the demolition if needed before the next Commission meeting. Chief Entrikin spoke to the occupant at the property today and gave him 48 hours to vacate.

The Commission and Chief Entrikin continued talks about an on-call policy for the police officers. West again recommended that the police department follow the on-call policy that the public works department currently practices. There was also more discussion on whether or not to allow the police officers to take home police vehicles while on call.

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 provided an update on the ballfields and said that the transformer, power lines for the light poles, and lights have been installed. There is some trenching and some volunteer work left to do, otherwise the fields are ready to play ball.

Mayor Stirton

Mayor Stirton said that The Recreational Aviation Foundation (The RAF) is still interested in organizing some sort of fly in at the Horton Municipal Airport. He suggested that the RAF be invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

No report.

Commissioner Boller

No report.

Commissioner Nigh

No report.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor