

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

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, December 18, 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, and Richard Lovelady. City Administrator John Calhoon and City Attorney Kevin Hill were also present. Carmela Boller was absent.

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

Motion by Commissioner West to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2023, special meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3790 (Payroll) for \$76,195.22. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3791 (Disbursements) for \$117,317.90. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Public Comments

No comments.

Public Hearing for 2023 Budget Amendment

Mayor Stirton opened the 2023 public hearing which is for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed amended use of funds. There were no public comments, so the hearing was closed by Mayor Stirton. Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve the 2023 amended budget of the water fund. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye. The water budget was increased by \$12,000.

Housing Assessment Updates

Garrett Nordstrom from Governmental Assistance Services was present to provide updates to the Commission on the Housing Assessment. He hopes to get the contractors in a class to certify them to do work on the housing rehabilitations in late January, early February 2024. Nordstrom also provided an update on the award of a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$141,642 that the city was awarded through the Kansas Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Supplement program, administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce Community Development Division. Nordstrom spoke to business owners prior to submitting the application, and said the funds will help the assisted living facility, grocery store, and restaurants in town to remain resilient in case of another shut down due to a pandemic.

HIDC – Baseball Commission Discussion

Dennis Ross was present on behalf of HIDC to discuss establishing a Baseball Commission. Calhoon provided the Commission with a draft of the Baseball/Softball Commission By-Laws that he prepared. West reiterated that the City of Horton has no business being involved in the baseball program. He doesn't think we have the funds, budget, or opportunity to create a budget big enough to support it. He thinks whatever it takes for it to be a standalone entity, and be able to be self-funded, the city needs to take the steps to do that. He thinks it is important for them to be a non-profit organization so they can take advantage of grant opportunities. After discussion Kevin Hill said that it needs to be determined if the Baseball Commission would be appointed by the city Commission, or it would be its own separate legal entity. Dennis Ross said that it will be tough to find board members if they have to mow the grass and pay the electric bill, etc. He said that the city currently subsidizes the pool and the lake. Mayor Stirton said that we still have a lot of ground to cover including collaborating with the school. The discussion was tabled until the essential people receive and have time to review the By-Laws drafted by Calhoon.

Kickapoo Tribe Updates

Gail Cheatham was present and stated that as of Monday, December 4th the entire Kickapoo Police force resigned, with the exception of one who gave his two weeks' notice. The council had been engaged with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement Division requesting technical assistance and a comprehensive assessment of their police department. When they showed up, the police force walked out. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) and the Brown County Sheriff's Department are currently patrolling the Kickapoo Reservation. Cheatham said that the Kickapoo Fire Department are all EMS certified, so anytime there is a call on the Kickapoo Reservation their department will run along. If it is a criminal call they will be on call for law enforcement. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will be onsite soon to assist in the process of conducting interviews for police officers.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Josh White was present and submitted estimates to pump, deodorize, wash, and sanitize the outhouses and porta pots at Mission Lake. White, who owns and operates NEK Cleaning Solutions submitted estimates based on the entire season, or on an as needed basis. West voiced that his only concern is that budgets are already tight, and have already been set for 2024.

Consider Approval of 2024 CMB License for Snakatak #37

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve the 2024 Cereal Malt Beverage (CMB) License for Snakatak #37. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Consider Approval of 2024 City Calendar

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve the 2024 City of Horton Calendar as presented. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye. The calendar shows Commission Meeting, court, and payroll dates, as well as holidays.

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 thanked the Commissioners for the employee bonuses on behalf of the Public Works employees.

Police Department/Dispatch Updates

Chief Entrikin thanked the Commissioners for the employee bonuses on behalf of the police and communications departments.

Entrikin received a verbal quote from Martin Construction to demolish the property at 245 East 10th. The quote was \$11,000 if they demolish by the end of the year (2023), or \$9,000 to invoice this year and give them some leeway. Calhoon suggested that Chief Entrikin also contact the Kickapoo Tribe, as they have assisted in the past. Motion by Commissioner West to authorize Martin Construction to demolish the property at 245 East 10th for \$9,000 and invoice in 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

City Administrator

Calhoon presented estimates received from Aller's, LLC for Mission Lake boat ramp improvements for \$4,712.00. The estimate included the donating of their equipment and the time for boat ramp repairs, along with the large expense of expanding for three more camping spots on the northwest side of the lake. They requested three years of waived camping rent for the three camping spots they are building. Motion by Commissioner Lovelady to approve the estimate received from Aller's, LLC. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Calhoon said that he would also like to utilize Aller's, LLC to dredge the north end of the Little Lake, and the city haul away the silt. West was concerned if the city crews would have time to haul the silt. Calhoon suggested that lake caretaker, Mike Cline could haul it away. Calhoon said that he needs to contact KDHE to make sure the city could dispose of the silt prior to dredging. Motion by Commissioner Lovelady to approve up to \$3,000 for Aller's, LLC to perform silt removal at the north end of the Little Lake. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Calhoon drafted an agreement to allow ANEW Healthcare Nursing Home in Horton, Kansas to borrow and store 50 stackable red chairs within their facility located at 1840 Euclid Ave. The chairs are not to be used on a daily basis and are solely to be used for special events held on behalf of the nursing home. Chairs are the property of the City of Horton and shall be returned to the City of Horton prior to any change of ownership or management of the facility, unless prior approval is given to allow the chairs to remain at ANEW Healthcare.

Calhoon purchased two flammable liquid safety cabinets through the KCAMP Risk Avoidance Grant Program for \$1,950.00. They will be placed at the street barn and wastewater treatment facility.

Calhoon spoke with a representative from AG Partners Coop to amend the cities contract and roll it into 2024 since the city didn't purchase the minimum amount of fuel required in the contract.

Calhoon is working diligently to complete both the T-Mobile Hometown and 40101(d) Grants prior to the deadline. Calhoon said that grant of \$9,904.00 was awarded to the City of Horton to support baseball/softball field renovations, as outlined in his application. The funds will be used to purchase red shale (or something comparable to it), and infield dirt. Since HIDC committed to paying for the shale, West asked Dennis Ross if they would contribute to the hauling cost if need be.

With this being the final full meeting for Richard Lovelady and Rex West, Calhoon wished them both well and thanked them for their support during their terms.

Mayor Stirton

No report.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

No report.

Commissioner Boller

Not present.

Commissioner Nigh

Commissioner Nigh has received positive feedback regarding the city Commission meetings being live via YouTube. The only complaint is that people have trouble hearing sometimes. Clerk Knudson said she is working with Andrew Jones to hopefully get the issue resolved.

Motion by Commissioner West to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor