

January 2, 2024  
5:15 P.M.  
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 5:15 p.m.

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

Present: Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Tina Nigh, and Carmela Boller. City Administrator John Calhoon and City Attorney Kevin Hill were also present. Commissioner West and Lovelady were not 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 December 18, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3792 (Payroll) for \$35,739.56. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3793 (Disbursements) for \$232,943.01. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

#### **Swear in Bryan Stirton, Josh White, and Avery Thornton**

City Clerk, Kim Knudson individually swore in Bryan Stirton as Mayor for another term, Josh White as Parks & Recreation Commissioner, and Avery Thornton as Police Commissioner. White and Thornton joined the table to participate with the existing Commissioners after being sworn in.

#### **Public Comments**

Steve Dickinson was present again to check on the status of his concern dealing specifically with information requested on the city's employment application. Some of the concerns that Dickinson pertained to date and place of birth questions on the application. Calhoon said that the 2<sup>nd</sup> page that asks for that information has since been removed. Kevin Hill said that since Dickinson was not on the agenda that the Commission was not required to comment, and would accept his public comment.

#### **HIDC – Baseball Commission Discussion**

No members of HIDC were present. Commissioner White stated that he and Calhoon were invited by the school board to attend a meeting regarding the ball program. White said that the Everest Ball Association would be in charge once the school functions are done for the season, and that they are not interested in maintaining the fields. Boller feels strongly that Letters of Interest need to be submitted to fill the vacancies on the Baseball Commission and By-Laws need to be approved by the Commission. She said that the city put a lot of money and time into the fields and there needs to be a chain of command in place. Motion by Commissioner Thornton to request for Letters of Interest for the Horton Ball Association until Friday, January 12th in the city newspaper (and Facebook). Seconded by Commissioner White. All aye.

**Open Street Material and Hauling Bids for 2024**

2024 Invitation for Bids for hauling city street materials and city street materials & aggregate purchasing were sent to the common bidders. Two bids were received and read aloud by Calhoon, one for hauling city street materials, and one for city street materials & aggregate purchasing.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to accept the hauling bid from Stirton Bros. Trucking for 0.20 cents per ton per loaded mile. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. The bid for street materials was received from HAMM Companies and they bid \$19.04 per ton for 3" crusher run (grey), and \$18.76 per ton for AB3 rock. The Commission did not award the bid for street materials, and will get materials as needed throughout the year.

**Accept Request for Proposal for CDBG-CVR Administration**

Clerk Knudson stated that the City of Horton solicited interest in submitting proposals for administrative services since they were awarded Community Development Block Grant funds for a CVR project. The selected firm will assist the city with the administration of the project. Knudson said that two bids were received. One was from Governmental Assistance Services for the amount of \$14,164, and the other was from Mo-Kan for the amount of \$15,000, or 10% of CDBG funds requested, whichever is lower. Motion by Commissioner Boller to accept the bid for administrative services from Governmental Assistance Services for the amount of \$14,164. Seconded by Commissioner White. All aye.

**Designate New Signer for City Checks**

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to designate Avery Thornton as a designated signer for city of Horton checks. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

**Revisit Proposal from Josh White Regarding Pumping out Porta Pot/Outhouses at Lake**

At the last Commission meeting Josh White 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. Randy Mayfield read aloud what it would cost the city to maintain the porta pots once a week, and maintain the vault toilets annually. Since Josh White is now the Parks & Recreation Commissioner, Kevin Hill will investigate further on whether it is legal and ethical for the city to award the bid to White. The city also discussed advertising for other bidders.

**Discuss Interest in Vacant Properties**

Calhoon said that in the past the city has waived special assessments, or portions of them for vacant properties, and that we are pretty inconsistent. Calhoon recommended putting a Contract for Deed in place, which would hold the buyer accountable and ensure what they are going to do with the property within a certain timeframe. Boller said she isn't in favor of waiving special assessments any longer, and agrees of having something across the board. The Commission and Kevin Hill agreed that having general guidelines in place is good, but realize that every property situation is different and not prime real estate, so we need to be flexible.

**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 public works department is utilizing the RD7200 GPS locator kit and Subsurface Maps from Subsurface Solutions and mapping out sewer, water, meter pits, and electric lines. The RD7200 is a cable and pipe locator with innovative features that deliver accurate, reliable locates for all utilities. Mayfield said there is also a work order function to use. Mayfield said that it will be beneficial in the long run in showing history of the lines and water leaks and said it was a good investment. Boller provided Calhoon with a list for the city crews to get the streets swept.

**Police Department/Dispatch Updates**

Chief Entrikin said that he is in the early stages of starting the process for the Dispatch Agreement between the City of Horton and the Kickapoo Tribe. Calhoon said that he spoke with Gail Cheatham today and said that BIA will be here next Tuesday to consult with them about negotiating the agreement.

**City Administrator**

Evergy has been working on their substation by the Catholic Cemetery and will be doing a final cutover in the near future which will require the city to generate power for approximately two full days. Josh Haverkamp has agreed to assist in generating with proper notice.

Calhoon has completed and submitted both the T-Mobile Hometown and 40101(d) Grants prior to the deadline. Calhoon is still looking for the right fit for a grant/funding opportunity for the Mission Lake spillway that will cost approximately 12-15 million dollars.

**Mayor Stirton**

No report.

**Commissioner White**

No report.

**Commissioner Thornton**

Commissioner Thornton asked for copies of the contracts for all contract employees, which include John Calhoon, Andrew Jones, and Mike Cline.

**Commissioner Boller**

No report.

**Commissioner Nigh**

Thornton spoke with Kevin Berger with The Recreational Aviation Foundation (The RAF) regarding requesting a fire pit and mowing specs for the airstrip. Thornton said that if a restroom gets put out there, that his company would donate the fire pit. Nigh also wants to find volunteers or donations to mow the airport.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

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Kim Knudson, City Clerk

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Bryan Stirton, Mayor