

April 1, 2024
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, April 1, 2024, at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order, and the opening prayer was led by Pastor John Kress from the Horton First Baptist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Josh White, Avery Thornton, Carmela Boller, and Tina Nigh. City Attorney Kevin Hill was 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 March 18, 2024, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3804 (Payroll) for \$38,631.04. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3805 (Disbursements) for \$64,921.47. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Public Comments

No comments.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Becky Wahwasuck was present to ask approval and/or make the city aware of the USD #430 JOM (Johnson O'Malley Program) Glo Walk on the streets by the high school from approximately 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on April 27th. Wahwasuck handed a map of the walk route to Chief EntriKin. They will also have a movie night after the walk.

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 provided the Commission with a copy of an Energy Assessment that was conducted by The Kansas Rural Water Association for their review. The energy efficiency assessment evaluates current and past energy use, classifies primary energy-consuming components, and identifies methods to lower energy use and costs. At the conclusion of the Energy Assessment it was suggested that installing a variable frequency drive (VFD) for a high-service pump and adjusting the current drive are impactful tactics for the city of Horton to improve energy efficiency. Mayfield will report back to the Commission on what a VFD would cost for one of the high-service pumps.

Police Department/Dispatch Updates

Chief Entrikin said that a new dispatcher will begin this Friday. Officer Holtz submitted her resignation to Chief Entrikin effective 04/02/2024.

Chief Entrikin will reach out to Historical Societies to see if they have any interest in taking possession of the jail cells at City Hall. Entrikin would like to use the room for investigative work and to house evidence.

Chief Entrikin and Andrew Jones provided the Commission with an update on the speed trailer, and also presented options for purchasing a new one.

Review Revised Ordinance Pertaining to Job Duties (Mayfield & Knudson)

Kevin Hill prepared three Ordinances for the Commission for the 1st reading.

Ordinance No. 1211, AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 1-316 OF THE HORTON CITY CODE BY ELIMINATING THE POSITION OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR; AND AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE HORTON MUNICIPAL CODE BY DELETING REFERENCE TO THE POSITION OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR THEREIN.

Ordinance No. 1212, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1-305 OF THE HORTON CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE DUTIES OF CITY CLERK.

Ordinance No. 1213, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1-303 OF THE HORTON CITY CODE PERTAINING TO REMOVAL OF APPOINTED OFFICERS OR CITY EMPLOYEES.

Hill asked the Commission to review and send suggested revisions prior to the next Commission meeting where they will be considered for approval.

Proposed Payroll Increase Discussion

Thornton presented an employee bonus pitch to the Commission and said that the city is not going to get any applicants if we don't raise salaries. Commissioner Boller said that we are in the middle of a budget year and have already budgeted a 3% increase for employees. The city also gave pretty substantial Christmas bonuses. Boller is for us increasing wages for employees, but doesn't think we can give them currently outside of what has been budgeted. Clerk Knudson echoed this sentiment. The majority of the Commission were in favor of the raises despite opposition from Clerk Knudson and Commissioner Boller. Nigh said that the city has to be competitive and she has been on the receiving end of being short staffed. Mayor Stirton stated that the money being used was already budgeted for the city administrator, and the 3% increase was budgeted as well. He said there is always going to be unforeseen expenditures.

Motion by Commissioner Thornton that raises for \$20,000 be allocated to the police department, \$10,000 to dispatch, \$20,904 to public works, and \$8,252 for front office personnel for a total of \$59,156.00. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. Aye— Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Nigh, Thornton, and White. Nay—Commissioner Boller. Motion passed. The department heads will break down the raises as they see fit within their departments.

Discussion on Fishing Boat Rates on Mission Lake

The discussion will be addressed at the next Commission meeting as to whether or not boats are allowed at Mission Lake at no charge for the purpose of fishing.

Discussion on No Parking on Side Streets (West 13th, and West 11th street)

Mayor Stirton encountered a couple of complaints and wanted to bring awareness to the Commission that this is a problem. Two areas in particular on West 13th between 1st and 2nd Avenue West, and on West 11th between 1st Avenue West and 2nd Avenue. Since people are parked on both sides, it hinders emergency vehicles from entering. The Commission suggested that the city put out a public service announcement asking the

residents to be cordial when parking out in front of your property to try and offset with your neighbor so larger vehicles can pass through.

15-Minute Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel

Motion by Commissioner Boller to go into a 15-minute executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel to protect the privacy interests of the employee to include the Commission, Kim Knudson, and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. After executive session no action taken. Information only.

Consider Approval of Contract for Technology Coordinator

Kevin Hill stated that he received a call from Dr. Kramer today regarding the old MOU that the previous superintendent and city administrator drafted. Their attorney through KASB agrees that there are definitely some deficiencies in the MOU and they are highly recommending that it be revised because of the deficiencies. Dr. Kramer has asked their legal council to prepare a revised MOU for consideration. They will forward to Hill once it is completed for review. Motion by Commissioner Boller to table the discussion until the revised MOU has been received. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

Administrative Updates

Knudson said that she attended an employee insurance meeting via Zoom last week, and informed the Commission that 2025 renewal rates will be available in September. Knudson said that she and Mayfield hired Andrew Monson as the new lake caretaker. He began his duties today.

Knudson provided updates on the CCLIP application and the US-73 Surface Preservation Project FY2024.

Mayor Stirton

After the opening game(s) at the ballfields there are a few safety issues that Mayor Stirton says need to be addressed such as putting nets up to stop fly balls.

Derek Richardson met with Michael Lanter to discuss the possibility of the Everest Little League (ELL) having practice/games down at the ball fields. He believes they sorted through the majority of the logistics, but asked for clarification from the city on some items. Mayor Stirton said that the bathrooms for the ballfields are behind schedule and will be built in the summertime. The Commission also discusses concrete work that is left to be done at the ballfields. There was 25 yards of concrete donated from the plant in Holton. Initially they were going to pour pads between the bleachers that were there, but that plan needs to change because one of those pads is going to be on the northeast corner of the baseball field and there are electric lines and stuff buried there. Mayfield made mention that there is a second half of bleachers that goes to two sets to extend them up and double the seating. Mayor Stirton asked if it was okay to reallocate the concrete to behind the existing bleachers on the baseball field so we can extend the bleachers up. The Commission also discussed placing decorative river rock in the square section by the lightpole since it would be cheaper than concrete.

Natasha Gladden was present to talk about the property that she owns at 445 East 13th Street. She said there has always been a camper or a tiny home on the property. Gladden said there is a concrete pad there, and water, electric, and sewer. Shawn Mercer lived in a camper on the property with the city's approval, but has since relocated. Gladden has someone else interested in moving their camper in today and was told by the city he could only be there for 30 days.

It was determined that the Commission would need to have time to review Zoning Regulations and Ordinances before providing an answer. Chief Entriakin will deliver the information to Clerk Knudson to distribute to the Commission and Kevin Hill so they have time to review prior to the next meeting.

Commissioner White

Commissioner White has received several compliments regarding the newly installed camping spots, gravel additions, and new rock at the boat ramp at Mission Lake. White also said that the Parks & Recreation Board agreed that the shower house at Mission Lake be closed from October 31st to April 1st, which runs parallel with the seasonal camping dates.

Commissioner Thornton

Thornton said that a sign request will eventually be coming for in front of the library. This will show the tenants of the apartments across the street the hours of operation so they don't park in front of the library during those times. Boller said that the sign would need to be approved by KDOT since it is considered a highway.

Commissioner Boller

Commissioner Boller said that the city has reached out to the Congressman's (LaTurner) office before regarding the City of Horton dam and structural/seepage issues with the dam. The USDA Rural Development office in Topeka has indicated that they feel that the dam is eligible for funding under USDA-RD's Community Facilities Grant program. Garrett Nordstrom is helping the city navigate this, even though there is no guarantee in receiving funding. It is a step in the city hopefully receiving some money for the Mission Lake Dam repairs.

Boller would like to keep the Kansas PRIDE Program going since the Hiawatha Masonic Lodge #35 presented the city with a \$500 check as a donation as part of the PRIDE efforts to start the PRIDE Program. A mural was initially on the radar and she would like to keep this moving.

Kevin Hill addressed the Commission and cautioned them that if there is anything involving city business or policy decisions that they go through official city channels with our City Clerk, and not post city business on social media to avoid creating confusion.

Commissioner Nigh

Commissioner Nigh said that \$5,700 was raised in donations for the fireworks display at Mission Lake this year. Nigh named all of the donors aloud who contributed. Nigh said that she would like to discuss adding a possible \$5.00 charge to the seasonal campers for fireworks in the future.

Nigh asked if a porta pot could be placed at the soccer field area, which led to the discussion of the city purchasing new or used additional porta pots. Mayfield is also awaiting a bid on an ADA portable toilet.

The Farmers Market would like to move to the west side of the Armory rather than downtown this year. Nigh will stipulate that the Commission agreed as long as the Armory is not in use at the time.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor