

February 6, 2023
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, February 6, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

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

Present: Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Richard Lovelady, Rex West, Carmela Boller, and Tina Nigh. 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 January 17, 2022, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3748 (Payroll) for \$38,099.45. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3749(Disbursements) for \$205,097.21. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Public Comments

Bobby Bacon stated that David Spain is doing a great job at code enforcement, and he would like to see the town get back to the way it was 20-25 years ago.

Acquisition of Power Plant Substation with KMEA

Tom Saitta, Gerry Bieker, and Mike Schmaderer were present from KMEA, and Mike Solida was present from Evergy to discuss the current state of our substation and what the cities options are for the desperate need of upgrades/improvements.

The Commission (and Wade Edwards) requested an MOU (memorandum of understanding) from Evergy, outlining acquisition of the substation and the impact that this will have on our consumers. With the cost that the city will have to pay for the upgrade, we would need to address financing options and see the impact that the consumers will bear before a motion is considered. Evergy will draft an MOU to exchange at the next meeting. The Commission will readdress this at that time.

Water Tower Maintenance Bids Received

Calhoon received two contracts for water tower maintenance for the Commission to review. One was from Maguire Iron, Inc., and the other was from Utility Service Co., Inc. Tony Grant from Maguire Iron, Inc. was present to provide a brief overview of their contract and field any questions from the Commission. Kevin Hill asked Grant for some of the language in their contract to be revised. Nigh asked for more time to review the contracts so this will be revisited at the meeting on 02/21/2023.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Lisa Becker and Trudy Wischropp were present to ask if the speakers for the press box can be strapped to the light poles. Wischropp said that Baker Electric, LLC would install. The Commission agreed that the speakers could be strapped to the poles.

Public Works Updates

Public Works Superintendent Randy Mayfield was present to provide updates to the Commission on the water, sewer, and street departments. Detailed reports showing the summary of work orders created, and the status of work orders by department were provided. The final walkthrough with USDA for grant closure at the wastewater treatment facility will take place on 02/24/2023 @ 2:30 p.m. Mayfield is awaiting prices on a new hydrant for the 4 corners downtown. The consensus of the Commission was to replace the hydrant and not replace any lines beyond it.

Police Department Updates

Chief Boller provided the Commission with January 2023 Dispatch Calls by Service Type and a list of code violations issued by David Spain. Also, Chief said that the striping has been installed on the new police vehicle.

Ratify Motion for New Fire Truck Lease Purchase Agreement

At the last Commission meeting Clerk Knudson recommended that since a new vehicle for the fire department was not budgeted for 2023, she suggested that the city request quotes from our three local banks on a lease purchase option to purchase the 2002 GMC C7500 Water Tender/Truck with the first annual payment in January 2024 (if possible).

Since that meeting Clerk Knudson reached out to the three local banks for a lease purchase option to purchase the vehicle for \$49,000 on a 4 year note with the first annual payment in January 2024 (if possible).

GNBank came back with a 48-month lease option with the first payment due at closing, then annually each year in January as requested) with a 4.66% fixed rate.

First Option Bank offered a tax-free interest rate of 4.8% for a term of 4 annual payments, with the first payment starting on January 20, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to accept the lease purchase quote from GNBANK with a 4.66% fixed rate. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Revisit Ordinance No. 1093 Regarding the Horton Municipal Code

The Commission discussed 8-301 - 8-313 of the Horton Municipal Code concerning situations in which motor vehicles constitute nuisances on private property. West disputes that residents can drive over their curb and park in their front yard and would like to see this enforced by the officers. Kevin Hill said that it is state statute to allow the resident 10 days from the date of serving the notice to abate the condition(s). Should the person fail to comply with the notice to abate the nuisance, the officer may file a complaint in municipal court.

Drainage Study for Mission Lake/Discuss Next Steps for Mission Lake Dam

The Commission was provided with a copy of the Drainage Study for Mission Lake that was prepared by BG Consultants at the last meeting. Calhoon said the next step is for BG Consultants to advertise for RFP's (request for proposal). Calhoon said with the Ballfield and Phase III Sewer projects wrapping up, the Mission Lake Dam needs to be a priority.

Christy Davis, State Director for Kansas, reached out to Calhoon saying that she has contacted Congressmen and is attempting to help locate funding for the Mission Lake Dam repairs and/or engineering services. Calhoon said that it is good to know that she is trying to help.

Revisit Employee Recognition Program

C. Boller and Calhoon worked together to provide an updated draft of the Employee Recognition Program for the Commission to review. Calhoon specified for the Commission which employees in 2023 it would affect for the longevity of service bonus. Calhoon asked to also include Carol Stirton for her 25+ years of service since the cap on the proposal is 25 years and she has been with the city beyond that. The employees recognized for longevity or for earned kudos will be recognized during a Commission meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to accept the new employee recognition program with longevity and kudos awards, with taxes being paid so the employee will receive the actual amount of the bonus.

Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Appoint Housing Advisory Board

Calhoon provided names of local stakeholders to serve as an informal housing advisory board and represent the city in front of the Housing Inter-Agency Commission in the early spring. Calhoon provided names of 4 members who agreed to serve on the board which included Kelsee Hirsch, John Scott, Colton Oswald, and Janice Crider. Richard Lovelady will also serve as the elected official on the board. Motion by Commissioner Nigh to appoint Kelsee Hirsch, John Scott, Colton Oswald, Janice Crider, and Richard Lovelady to the housing advisory board per Department of Commerce guidelines. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Approve 2023 Camping Rules & Regs

After reviewing the 2023 Camping Rules & Regs, Commissioner Nigh said that page 3, number 12, and page 8, number 4 regarding allowing others to camp in their spot contradict each other and one needs to be removed or reworded. Kevin Hill also suggested that carrying or possessing any firearm thereon be removed. The Commission will consider approval of the 2023 Camping Rules & Regs on 02/21/2023 once suggested changes are made.

Calhoon said that Mission Lake Camper signups will take place at City Hall this year on March 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Approve 2023 City Fees

The city fees were revisited and two were increased for 2023. Accident reports through the police department will go from \$5.00 to \$10.00 (up to 5 pages), and a uranalysis will go from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the 2023 city fees. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

City Administrator

Calhoon will attend a meeting at the Hiawatha Masonic Lodge on 02/07/2023. One of the first things with the Kansas Pride Program is to find a Masonic Lodge to partner with. The masons provide help in beatifying the town with flowerpots, purchasing flags, or donating money towards a specified small project that the city requests.

Nick Dowell was hired as the Recreation Coordinator and began his position on February 1st. Calhoon thinks that he is the only person that applied. According to the MOU it had to be a school employee. Calhoon said that his duties are spelled out in the MOU which was approved by the city and the school district, and he has no intention of micromanaging Dowell. He asked Dowell to keep him informed on what is going on as he has a lot of things in the works. Since it is a new program, Calhoon

recommended that Dowell hold a community meeting at the auditorium at the high school to clarify with parents what his intentions are. Calhoon hopes that the community approaches Dowell with respect and he is receptive to the parents' concerns. Calhoon asked Nick not to infringe upon the Everest Ball Association since they have a great program in place.

Calhoon informed the Commission that the Horton Hospital will be demolished in approximately four weeks. He will provide a more in-depth timeline once he receives it.

Mayor Stirton

Mayor Stirton asked for sources of obtaining an AED device and training for the fire department.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

No report.

Commissioner Boller

No report.

Commissioner Nigh

Commissioner Nigh said that Steve Hochstetler approached her again about his drainage system on 1st Avenue East and wanted to know when the city is going to fix.

Nigh also said that Melissa Mitchell is interested in having a farmers' market somewhere in the downtown area. Calhoon said it is just a matter of selecting a safe place to have it.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor