

March 20, 2023  
5:15 P.M.  
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order, and the opening prayer was led by Pastor Nick Marsh from First United Methodist 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 West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3754 (Payroll) for \$40,320.48. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3755(Disbursements) for \$347,542.06. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

#### **Public Comments**

Kayla Bare was present to say that \$3,010.00 has been raised for the fireworks display at Mission Lake on Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and asked if the city would like to contribute again this year. Bare said that Jesse Kimmi needs all donations by April 1<sup>st</sup> to have ample time to order and prepare for the display. Any resident who would like to contribute can donate to the Horton 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fund at Union State Bank. Motion by Commissioner Nigh for the city to donate \$1,000 towards the fireworks fund. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All Aye.

#### **Employee Recognition**

Officer David Spain was presented with a Kudos Award from the Commission for going above and beyond on a recent medical call. He was recently observed attempting life saving measures on an individual and transitioned professionally from a Law Enforcement Officer to an Emergency Medical Technician. Although outcomes are not always successful, his dedication, training, and knowledge in EMS is a huge asset to our community and does not go without being recognized.

#### **Recognition of Horton Basketball Team**

The Commission presented the boys basketball team and Coach David Losey and Kertis Keehn with Certificates of Success for being the Class 2A Sub State Basketball Champions and for making it to the state tournament in Manhattan, KS!

#### **Further Discussion on Airport Insurance Premium**

Following up on discussions from the last Commission meeting, the Commission opted to close the municipal airport. West said that the airport is not beneficial to the city as an airport and is worth more in farm ground in his opinion. Mayor Stirton also asked if anyone has contacted the aerial spraying companies. Calhoon will contact the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) to advise them of the

closure and see if there are any policies/procedures that the city needs to follow. Motion by Commissioner Boller to close the airport contingent on regulations that would prohibit it. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. The Commission opted not to renew the airport renewal premium that is due April 1<sup>st</sup> for \$1,775.00 but will reinstate the policy if needed.

### **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. Mayfield provided the Commission with a map of the rotation for the chip seal route for 2023 and upcoming years.

### **Police Department Updates**

Chief Boller said that Nemaha Valley Motors in Seneca called him regarding repairs to the 2016 Dodge Ram police vehicle. Boller said that the vehicle has engine damage due to a lifter issue because the roller was sucked into the intake. The options were for Nemaha Valley Motors to repair the vehicle as is for approximately \$2,000 - \$3,000 and hope for the best or install a remanufactured engine with a 3-year warranty for approximately \$8,594.00. Boller was tasked with finding out if parts and labor are included in the three-year warranty with unlimited mileage. Nigh recommended that the Commission know all the facts before making an informed decision on repairs. The consensus of the Commission was to go with the remanufactured engine with the warranty, provided the quoted price includes parts, labor, and warranty with unlimited mileage. Boller will contact Nemaha Valley Motors for details.

### **Consider Approval of Ordinance No. 1206 for Codification**

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to adopt Ordinance No. 1206, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CODIFICATION OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS, PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN OTHER ORDINANCES NOT INCLUDED THEREIN, EXCEPTING CERTAIN ORDINANCES FROM REPEAL AND SAVING CERTAIN ACCRUED RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

### **City Administrator**

Those interested in participating in the city's 2023 curb cost share program can pick up an application at City Hall. If the cost share application is approved and upon final inspection of work completed, the city agrees to pay 50% to the contractor as per the approved application. Resident(s) are solely responsible for 50% payment to the contractor.

Calhoon drafted a letter to the city's electric consultant Scott Shreve letting him know that the city is going to terminate his \$500 a month contract. The city has been utilizing KMU and KMEA instead. Motion by Commissioner Boller to terminate the monthly agreement with Scott Shreve/Priority Power. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye. Calhoon also stated that the city may still call on Shreve on an as needed basis.

Calhoon will inform Duke Koerperich from Town and Country EMS, LLC and advise him that the governing body decided to request that the IPADS and hotspots that they have in their possession be returned to the city. The city has been paying for the IPADS and hotspots for several years since they had a Subsidy Agreement with the Horton Community Hospital prior to its closure.

Calhoon requested a 5-minute executive session to discuss attorney client privilege after the Commissioners reports.

**Mayor Stirton**

At the beginning of the year Mayor Stirton recommended that the city pay more when an employee earns a water or sewer certification. Stirton feels this will help retain employees who work towards their certification(s). After discussion the consensus of the Commission was that compensation for obtaining your certifications for water or sewer needs to be put in writing in the Employee Personnel Manual and set a precedent on expectations so it's not a guessing game.

**Commissioner Lovelady**

No report.

**Commissioner West**

No report.

**Commissioner Boller**

No report.

**Commissioner Nigh**

Commissioner Nigh asked for a status update on dredging Little Lake. Calhoon will contact Nick Kramer from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The last update he heard is they planned on doing an assessment this year, and possibly dredge next year. Calhoon will see if he can get this expedited.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to go into a 5-minute executive session to discuss attorney client privilege to include the Commission, John Calhoon, and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye. After the executive session no action taken, information only.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to go into a 5-minute executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel to protect the privacy interests of the employee to include the Commission, Kevin Hill, and John Calhoon. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. After the executive session no action taken.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to go into a 10-minute executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel to protect the privacy interests of the employee to include the Commission, Kevin Hill, and John Calhoon. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye. After the executive session no action taken.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to go into a 10-minute executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel to protect the privacy interests of the employee to include the Commission, Kevin Hill, and John Calhoon. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye. After executive session, Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the City Administrator Contract effective March 1, 2023, with a salary of \$79,155.50, which factors in a 3% COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment). Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

**Financial Workshop & Capital Projects Review**

The Commission, Randy Mayfield, City Administrator Calhoon, and Clerk Knudson participated in the financial workshop. Knudson provided the Commission with outstanding bond payment figures, lease purchases, monthly utility receipt revenues, and steady revenue sources for the city. Substation/Electric Grid upgrades, and the spillway/dam at Mission Lake were identified as priority projects for the city. Water infrastructure improvements and replacing doors at the Blue Building were also mentioned as urgencies. The group discussed increased meter charges, and/or increase in electric and water rates to support the projects. The Commission assigned Calhoon with the task of

providing firm numbers of what other cities our size charge for services and meter charges and possible rate studies so they can make an informed decision on potential increases and how long they will be imposed. They also urged Calhoun to continue to seek out grant opportunities for the projects.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

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Kim Knudson, City Clerk

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Bryan Stirton, Mayor