

June 19, 2023  
5:15 P.M.  
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, June 19, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order, and the opening prayer was led by Pastor Bud Elliott from Zion Lutheran Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Richard Lovelady, Carmela Boller, and Tina Nigh. City Administrator John Calhoon was also present. City Attorney Kevin Hill and Rex West were absent.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adopt the agenda after adding Nick Dowell after Public Comments. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3767 (Payroll) for \$51,369.42. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3768(Disbursements) for \$119,982.50. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

#### **Public Comments**

No comments.

Recreation Coordinator, Nick Dowell was present to provide updates on the ballfields. Dowell said that the fields have been being watered since May 22<sup>nd</sup> and there are three water trains in operation for the new grass seed that was planted. He said he has a concern that after hard rains, water comes off of the driveway and goes through the baseball field. He doesn't want to put anymore work into the fields until the rain water can be diverted to the north somehow. A possible blockage in the storm drain was one of the possible issues that was discussed. Mayfield and Calhoon will look into borrowing a camera to view any blockage in the storm drain.

#### **Request to be Placed on Agenda**

Krissy Torkelson was present to discuss the Brown County Community Foundation Match Days. Torkelson said this year's Grow South Brown Match Day is July 11th through July 14th! They are excited to announce they have received a matching grant from the Patterson Family Foundation to match up to \$70,000 in gifts made during this event. Help them maximize our community impact by helping them reach \$70,000 in gifts to receive the full grant! Visit [GrowSouthBrown.com](http://GrowSouthBrown.com) to learn about your giving options.

#### **Kayak Rental Discussion at Lake(s)**

Per the request of Commissioner Boller, Calhoon received a bid from Rent.Fun for kayak rentals at Mission Lake and the Little Lake. The city would pay a one-time activation fee of \$15,000 which includes installation and activation of smart locker equipped with

kayaks / paddleboards / lifejackets / paddle; locker signage. The city would receive 40% of the rental revenue generated during the term. The city can choose what rental fees to charge. They also provide the insurance and liability coverage; the city would be added as additionally insured under their policy. A 5-year service agreement guarantees that we'll have the program for 5 years. At the end of the 5-year term, we have the option to renew the program at no cost. The Commission will now consider if this is something they want to budget for 2024. C. Boller feels that this is something to attract people to the community.

#### **Set WWTF Open House Date**

After further discussion, the Commission decided to have the Open House at the new Wastewater Treatment Facility on Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The Open House will provide some education to the residents on the facility and they can also see where their tax dollars are going. The Open House will include representatives from AHRS Construction, BG Consultants, USDA, and other dignitaries who were involved in making the project successful.

#### **Discuss Releasing Retainage Amount to AHRS Construction for Final Pay App for WWTF**

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to pay AHRS Construction \$250,000 of the last payment to them for the WWTF improvements. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye. The city will hold the final estimated \$40,000 owed to them until last minute items at the plant are finalized.

#### **Mowers/AC Unit for Blue Building**

Calhoon stated that he did an inventory of the city owned mowers and some of them are older. He said that he plans on purchasing two mowers this year since they were budgeted. Calhoon has also been getting quotes for a new A/C unit at the Blue Building.

#### **Review First Reading of Ordinance No. 1207 (Electric Service Charge Increase)**

The Commission conducted the first reading of Ordinance No. 1207, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 15-207(a) and (b) OF THE HORTON MUNICIPAL CODE BY AMENDING THE RATES CHARGED TO CONSUMERS FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL USE BY THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS. The Ordinance will be considered for approval at the next Commission meeting on 07/03.

#### **Discussion on Sale Price of Surplus Street Poles**

Calhoon said that the city has approximately 15-20 cast iron light poles on hand and recommended to the Commission that we sell them. Calhoon said that salvage prices are down and based on his Google searches the price ranged from \$200 - \$1,250. Motion by Commissioner Boller to sell the light poles for \$200 each if the buyer loads the pole(s) themselves, and \$300.00 if the city crews load. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

#### **Public Works Updates**

Public Works Superintendent Randy Mayfield was present to provide updates to the Commission on the water, sewer, electric, and street departments. Detailed reports showing the summary of work orders created, and the status of work orders by department were provided.

**City Administrator**

Calhoon said that The Recreational Aviation Foundation (The RAF) is wanting to organize some sort of fly in at the Horton Municipal Airport next month.

Per the request of Commissioner Nigh, the following excerpts have been in recent minutes regarding the repairs needed at the Mission Lake spillway.

Calhoon and the Commission tasked Brian Kingsley from BG Consultants with obtaining funding opportunities for the spillway/dam. The spillway/dam at Mission Lake were identified as priority projects for the city. Commissioner Boller would like to get USDA into a meeting to discuss the spillway at Mission Lake. She would like them to attend a meeting and talk to the Commission because if the spillway goes, the whole lake goes.

Calhoon said he has been told that the Department of Agriculture has the best opportunity/source for funding and will try to get someone here. After conversation it was decided that the Mission Lake spillway repairs will take precedence over dredging the Little Lake.

Calhoon will continue to work with Christy Davis, State Director for Kansas to help locate funding opportunities for the Mission Lake Dam engineering design.

Nigh asked Calhoon for the status of the spillway repairs at Mission Lake. Abby Mills from BG Consultants called Calhoon to say that RFP's were due back by May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and they didn't receive a single response, which is very unheard of. Most of the contractors are backlogged with work at this time. BG Consultants will solicit bids for Request for Proposals again beginning that Friday and would give contractors a month to respond.

**Mayor Stirton**

Mayor Stirton asked if the Public Works employees were going to go to summer hours since it is forecasted to get hot in the coming weeks. Calhoon will discuss further with Randy Mayfield. Mayfield said only two employees have questioned starting earlier.

**Commissioner Lovelady**

No report.

**Commissioner West**

Not present.

**Commissioner Boller**

C. Boller recommended that as part of the Kansas PRIDE Program that the city involve the community and the school kids in deciding on a mural that represents Horton. She said this ties into what the program is supposed to be. Boller said it is a way to give the kids ownership, and is another way for people to take pride in their community. There were several locations discussed for where the mural could be placed, including the Armory, and the electric shed. C. Boller would like give the community the opportunity to submit drawings for vote.

**Commissioner Nigh**

Nigh said that she is receiving several complaints about residents not mowing their lawns. C. Boller asked if the complaints are being relayed further to the correct contacts. Nigh said that she assumed we are paying someone to do that job.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

**2024 Budget Workshop**

The Commission held the first of several 2024 Budget Workshops. The next workshop will be held after adjournment of the meeting on 07/03.

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Kim Knudson, City Clerk

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Bryan Stirton, Mayor