

February 5, 2024  
5:15 P.M.  
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, February 5, 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 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 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 16, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3796 (Payroll) for \$37,509.28. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3797 (Disbursements) for \$144,712.57. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

### **Public Comments**

Sarah Gerving was present and gave a book about rural development to each of the Commissioners welcoming them to 2024 and thanking them for serving the community.

### **Request to be Placed on Agenda Regarding City Owned Property**

Derek Noll was present to inquire about purchasing the city owned property at 00000 7th Avenue West. Based on the pictures that Noll showed on his phone, the Commission wanted to be sure that he was in fact looking at the correct property. They also requested a written plan for the property and a time frame. The city will see if there are any special charges assessed to the property.

### **Baseball Field Updates**

Calhoon said that the city hasn't received any Letters of Interest to serve on the Baseball/Softball Commission, but did receive an application for the position of Recreation Coordinator. Motion by Commissioner Boller for Calhoon to draft an MOU to offer the Recreation Coordinator position to applicant. Seconded by Commissioner White. All aye.

### **10-Minute Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel**

Motion by Commissioner Thornton 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, and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. After executive session no action was taken. Information only.

**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.

**Police Department/Dispatch Updates**

Chief Entrikin announced that dispatcher, Mischele Jordan was hired. Also, current dispatcher Kourtney Liggett rescinded her resignation letter.

Entrikin said that the department is starting to digitize files, which also have backups in the event that something crashes.

There was also a lengthy discussion regarding the importance of school zone presence by the police officers. Entrikin was also questioned about the radar speed limit trailer being used.

Commissioner Boller said she received a call of concern about declining to go to a welfare check because the house had bedbugs and the police department didn't want to be exposed to that, to be on standby for DCF (the Kansas Department for Children and Families). Chief Entrikin said that he is not aware of any call that they would decline to not go.

Commissioner Boller also asked that he provide a final employee evaluation form for his department by the next Commission meeting for approval.

**CCLIP Application for West 15th**

Calhoon discussed the CCLIP (City Connecting Link Improvement Program) application regarding West 15<sup>th</sup> from 15<sup>th</sup> and Central west out to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue West. Calhoon will reach out to the local engineer from KDOT and BG Consultants to try to acquire funding for a full replacement through CCLIP.

**Consider Approval of Lake Rules and Regs for 2024 Camping Season**

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to approve the Lake Rules and Regs for 2024 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye.

Calhoon said that changes to the Lake Rules and Regs for 2024 Camping Season included adding a quiet time at Mission Lake from 10:00 pm. – 7:00 a.m., and increased the monthly minimum electric charge per site from \$8.00 to \$13.00 in addition to any actual electric usage. This coincides with the residential service charge increase that was passed by the governing body in July 2023.

**Storage Building for Senior Citizens**

Calhoon said he had a request from a couple of senior citizens who are interested in acquiring the old storage shed that was at the ballfields to use for storage. Motion by Commissioner Thornton to give the senior citizens the storage building if they want it. Seconded by Commissioner White. All aye.

**Nursing Home Discussion**

Calhoon stated that he heard that Mission Village Living Center which is owned by Anew Healthcare unfortunately is not reopening. He said the facility is privately owned, and the city has no authority.

**Finalize Procedures on 2024 Employee Performance Evaluations**

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the 2024 Employee Evaluation Template for everybody but the police department. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

**City Administrator**

Calhoon recommended that oil changes get performed on each of the engines at the generation plant. He received a quote from Primrose Oil Company, Inc. and provided it to the Commission. He believes the last oil change was done approximately ten years ago.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to authorize the order to purchase oil from Primrose Oil Company, Inc. in the amount of \$24,807.20. Seconded by Commissioner White. All aye.

Calhoon purchased ten nice used wooden picnic tables from Sycamore Springs to put at Mission Lake.

**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, John Calhoon, Kim Knudson, and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. After executive session no action was taken. Information only.

**Mayor Stirton**

Mayor Stirton recommended that if one of the seasonal campers don't come back this year to B's Cove at Mission Lake (B3), that we leave the spot vacant for a year to allow more room for the other campers in the cove.

Mayor Stirton spoke about the possibility of making the parking lots parallel in front of the library to allow more room for traffic on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East. The Commission suggested that Chief Entrikin conduct a study on traffic in the area.

**Commissioner White**

No report.

**Commissioner Thornton**

No report.

**Commissioner Boller**

No report.

**Commissioner Nigh****15-Minute Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel**

Motion by Commissioner Nigh 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, Randy Mayfield, and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye. After executive session Mayor Stirton asked if there was any action that they wanted to discuss or take.

Motion by Commissioner Thornton to go into a 10-minute executive session to discuss attorney client privilege to include the Commission and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. After executive session, Mayor Stirton asked if there were any motions.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh 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, Kim Knudson, Randy Mayfield, and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye. After executive session, Mayor Stirton asked if there were any motions.

Motion by Commissioner Thornton to end the contract of the city administrator (John Calhoon) at this time. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. Aye— Mayor Stirton, Commissioner White, Thornton, and Nigh. Nay—Commissioner Boller. Motion passed.

Kevin Hill said that because it was a termination without listing a cause, under Calhoon's contract there would be 90 days of wages based on current pay, plus any accumulated vacation that does not include sick leave. He also recommended that at this point in time that there be a motion to appoint an interim city administrator pending a decision at the next Commission meeting on where they want to go with the position.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to appoint Kim Knudson as the interim city administrator until the following meeting when the Commission can make decisions on how they plan to proceed. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

The consensus of the Commission was for Calhoon to come in tomorrow morning and get with Knudson to retrieve whatever is in his office that would be personal property, etc., and return any city owned property such as laptop, keys, etc.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

---

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

---

Bryan Stirton, Mayor