

March 18, 2024
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024, 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 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 4, 2024, regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3802 (Payroll) for \$40,643.21. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3803 (Disbursements) for \$233,338.95. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

Public Comments

No comments.

Consider Approval of Lake Caretaker Contract and Contemplate Selecting Candidate for Lake Caretaker Position

Clerk Knudson presented the Commission with a draft of the Mission & Little Lake Caretaker Duties. Motion by Commissioner White to approve the Mission & Little Lake Caretaker Duties with the exception of pick up and dispose of trash at Hickory Point grounds on an as needed basis, and employee will be provided with internet access as compensation. Seconded by Commissioner Boller. All aye. Kim Knudson and Randy Mayfield will select the candidate for caretaker.

Consider Approval of MOU for Technology Coordinator

Kevin Hill provided the Commission with a draft of an Independent Contractor Agreement between the City of Horton and IT Coordinator, Andrew Jones. The Commission asked to table consideration of approval until the next meeting so they have time to review. Jones would also still remain an employee of USD #430 and the city would continue to pay Jones a lump sum. Hill recommended that Jones report to interim city administrator Knudson.

Consider Approval of KPERS Optional Group Life Insurance

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the KPERS Affiliation for Optional Group Life Insurance. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye. Clerk Knudson shared that the city has not yet affiliated to actually make this an option for employees. Affiliation by resolution allows employees the option to enroll in payroll deductions for additional life

insurance on themselves and their spouses. The premium is covered entirely by the employee. This is optional per employee, it is not mandatory. Enrollment will begin on October 1, 2024, with coverage beginning on January 1, 2025.

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 stated the bucket truck needs repairs and will cost approximately \$2,600.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to approve the purchase of poles from HPT Pole (Huxford Pole & Timber Co.) for \$19,997.25 for 42 poles. Seconded by Commissioner White. All aye.

Mayfield also provided quotes for new and used skid loaders since the city is down to one skid steer and one backhoe. Mayfield said that the skid steer is the most used equipment.

Lease price for a new Bobcat would be \$75,670.06 for \$13,500 for three years, with the option to buy at end of lease.

Lease price for a new John Deere would be \$93,919.74 with different lease options. Boller said that as of now this is not a necessity to make this kind of a purchase with a lot of expenses on the horizon that are a must, while this purchase is a want. White, Thornton, and Mayor Stirton were in favor of the lease option. It was decided that the Commission would revisit the discussion later in the year.

Police Department/Dispatch Updates

Chief Entrikin said that he will have the requested inventory of his departments available in the packets for the next Commission meeting. Entrikin said that the department started on code enforcement and are focusing on the bigger structure issues and distributing letters.

Nigh asked for an update on the school zone patrols since a lot of people are worked up over it. Entrikin said that he met with Dr. Kramer and Damon Bowen, Transportation Director/Bus Supervisor to brainstorm, look for more ideas like using the speed trailer and other options. The police department still hasn't made it to the point of doing consistent patrolling. Knudson stated that she wasn't sure what we are brainstorming, that police officer presence every day would solve the issue all together.

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

Per Kevin Hills suggestion, Motion by Commissioner Thornton to authorize him to prepare an Ordinance repealing the position of the City Administrator and look at modifying the duties of the City Clerk and City Superintendent positions to have ready for the next Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. Aye— Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Nigh, Thornton, and White. Nay—Commissioner Boller. Motion passed. Boller voiced that she feels that the city needs a City Administrator and has never wavered from that decision. Nigh said she is in favor of the city running things without a City Administrator.

Consider Approval of Appointment to the Horton Housing Authority (Lin Cameron)

Motion by Commissioner Boller to appoint Lin Cameron to the Board of Commissioners for the Horton Housing Authority for reappointment of a 4-year term. Seconded by Commissioner Nigh. All aye.

Consider Approval of KMEA Board of Directors #2 and Alternate

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to appoint Josh White as alternate to Kansas Municipal Energy Agency Board of Directors. Seconded by Commissioners Thornton. Aye— Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Nigh, Thornton, and Boller. Abstain—Commissioner White.

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to appoint Avery Thornton as Director 2 to Kansas Municipal Energy Agency Board of Directors. Seconded by Commissioners Boller. Aye— Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Nigh, Boller, and White. Abstain—Commissioner Thornton.

Administrative Updates

Knudson said that Garrett Nordstrom from Governmental Assistance Services submitted the Build Kansas Fund Fiscal Year 2024 Application and was able to increase the budget to include administration.

The Mission Lake camper lottery will be this Friday at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. There are currently 13 spots available.

Pool Manager Tara Speer recommended that the city paint the pool this year. We are awaiting pool contractor recommendation on paint.

Knudson has been working with the Parks and Recreation Coordinator to get him established with any questions he has in the newly created position.

Knudson also asked Kevin Hill if there has been a firm date set for a county tax sale. Hill predicts that a date will be set in the coming months.

Mayor Stirton

Mayor Stirton asked for a copy of the baseball/softball schedules from the school from Dr. Kramer so the city can schedule the contractor to complete remaining concrete work at the fields.

Mayor Stirton was contacted by one of the ballfield donors regarding a shade structure at the fields. Stirton said we will keep the donor in the loop as we progress.

Commissioner White

Commissioner White received numerous calls over the weekend about the shower house restrooms not being open to the public. The Commission discusses and agreed that the shower house restrooms would be open to the public during the day from April 1st – October 31st during regular camping season, and be available to the campers at Mission Lake after hours via keypad access. White will also address this with the Parks & Recreation Board at their next meeting.

White also voiced that a camper was allowed to pay for his/her spot after the camper fee deadline. Knudson assured White that the camping site in question will go into the lottery drawing on 03/22/2024.

Commissioner Thornton

Mayfield said that the parallel parking spots in front of the library will be painted this week.

Thornton stated that since the city is having a hard time hiring people because of what we pay, he thinks he found room in the budget for what he wants to propose. Kevin Hill recommended that he send the proposal to Clerk Knudson and she can pass it along to the other Commissioners for information only.

Commissioner Boller

Commissioner Boller said that unfortunately other than CCLIP, there aren't many other opportunities for grants for resurfacing/redoing roads. Unfortunately, with an entity of our size we are on our own.

Boller found her packet from BG Consultants pertaining to the Mission Lake dam repairs and saw how we are at a 1/3 bore, and we need to be at a 3 bore to be compliant with our dam, and the 10-15 million dollars that it will take to get us there. Abby Mills from BG Consultants says she is still looking for grants that would potentially work for this, but there are none out there. Just something to keep in mind when we are talking about budget.

Commissioner Nigh

Commissioner Nigh was approached by Rick Clement asking again if the city would gift a small portion of property at the First Baptist Church at 400 East 16th. Clement said that he would let the Horton Fish & Game use for a wildflower area. Nigh said that we don't necessarily have to gift the land in order for Fish & Game to use it.

Nigh said that roughly \$3,500 has been received in fireworks donations so far.

20-Minute Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel

Motion by Commissioner Nigh to go into a 20-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 Boller. All aye. After executive session no action taken. Information only.

Motion by Commissioner Boller to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Thornton. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor