

July 20, 2020
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall.

Commissioner Krug called the meeting to order and the opening prayer was led by Pastor Ronald Cobb. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Commissioners Wade Edwards, Rex West, Richard Lovelady, and Ken Krug. City Administrator John Calhoon was also present.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2020 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3618(Payroll) for the amount of \$41,783.31. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3619 (Disbursements) for the amount of \$132,080.83. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Public Comments

None.

Public Works Updates

Randy Mayfield was present to provide updates to the Commission on Public Works. Randy handed out a detailed report showing past and present projects broken down by department. The Commission asked Randy several other questions pertaining to the report that he provided, including spraying weeds and the condition of the fish feeders at the lakes. Randy said that three new meters have been ordered for the wells, and said that if they are in stock, they should be here by the end of the week.

Consider Approval of 2021 Budget

Edwards stated that this is the best budget he has seen since he has been on the Commission. The city was able to put money into Capital Improvement and Equipment Reserve funds, and the building demolition fund, which gives the city the opportunity to make needed improvements. There is also \$3,300 budgeted for Economic Development so the Commission can decide if they want to give it, if at all. Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve the 2021 budget for publication with a mill levy of 67.787. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Discuss CDBG-CV Business Grant Disbursements

Nine, possibly ten business applications have been received for the CDBG-CV Grant Funds. Calhoon asked the Commission to come up with options on how they would like to distribute the \$117,000 in funds. Edwards asked how the grant administration fee is established, and if the Meal Program money has been determined.

Calhoon stated that the CDBG-CV program can pay for a grant administrator as part of the funding at a 10% maximum of the total application.
Grant disbursements will be discussed again at the next Commission meeting on 08/03.

City Administrator/Chief of Police Calhoon

The SPARKS Committee met this morning and the school districts (Horton and Hiawatha) submitted their requests for their share of the 1.9 million that the county received for expenses directly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Calhoon also submitted items for the city of Horton.

The Committee will meet weekly until the money is disbursed. The County Commission has final approval. The money needs to be spent by December 31st.

Calhoon said that the churches could benefit from a sanitizing system, and he is working with the committee to get one for the County Ministerial Alliances.

Edwards encouraged Calhoon not to delay in getting items to the county for approval before all of the money is earmarked.

Calhoon submitted two more dock requests for Mission Lake. The Commission said that if the dock requests continue at the pace that they have been, they may need to limit them. They also discussed requiring material specs for the docks and leaving a radius around them for swimming.

Edwards asked if the pool concessions were being purchased locally. Calhoon said that approximately 80-90% of the concessions are being purchased locally.

Depending on rain, Calhoon hopes that the city crews can finish cleaning up the house that was demolished on East 8th. Calhoon asked the Commission to decide if they wanted the property deeded over to the city. West said that if the city is going to mow it; they just as well own it.

Edwards requested some way to give away the vacant properties that the city owns if someone will build a code satisfying structure on them. Edwards suggested coming up with a program where the city markets the lots that we own. Edwards asked for a map about a year ago and hasn't received. The city currently does not advertise the properties on their website that are available.

Calhoon suggested working with people, and make the transfer of the deed conditional on a structure or cleaning of property within a one-year period of time. This will get tax money coming in on the properties instead of the city mowing them.

Police Officer Mike Reynolds submitted his resignation. His last day will be on 07/23.

A young man who currently works as a mower for the city wants to apply for the police officer position. Calhoon said there is an application process he would have to go through, and pass a police officer exam. Calhoon said usually if he hires someone who has never been police officer, he has them take the standardized police exam, because if they can't pass that they aren't going to pass the academy.

Mayor Stirton

Not present.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

No report.

Commissioner Edwards

Commissioner Edwards said that the copy of the letter from Mission Village that was provided to the Commission today was given to Mayor Stirton a few meetings ago. Edwards concern is why the Commissioners didn't receive a copy of the letter at the same time as the Mayor, since it was addressed to Mayor Stirton and the Commissioners.

Commissioner Krug

Commissioner Krug was bewildered the other day after hearing that the city hired a new Chief of Police and was giving him a \$6,000 - \$8,000 raise. Krug called Calhoon to confirm it was not true. Krug wonders how matters that were discussed during budget preparations already got out on the street when he didn't even know.

Krug also inquired about the letter that was received from HIDC (Horton Industrial Development Inc.) endorsing Atchison Hospital as the buyer of Mission Village Living Center. Krug said he is really not interested in what's going on until the Mission Village Board would present something to the Commission indicating that they were in the process of trying to sell. Krug stated that they can spend a lot of time and get worked up over something that hasn't happened yet.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to adjourn at 6:04p.m. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor