

August 3, 2020
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, August 3, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order and the opening prayer was led by Pastor Young from the First United Methodist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Mayor Stirton, Commissioners Wade Edwards, Rex West, Richard Lovelady, and Ken Krug. City Administrator John Calhoon and Attorney Kevin Hill were also present.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to adopt the agenda after getting clarification regarding the 2021 budget hearing. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2020 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3620(Payroll) for the amount of \$42,726.95. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3621 (Disbursements) for the amount of \$124,058.82. 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.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Horton Library Director Jessica Buhrman was present to discuss the budget amount that was requested by the library from the city. Buhrman said that she submitted a budget request in the amount of \$64,165, but \$59,360 was approved. She said that the increase was based on the need of payroll increases due to federal guidelines, needs that have arisen due to COVID-19, and for basement leak repairs needed at the library. Buhrman has applied for multiple grants for additional funding, including SPARK (Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas) funds. Commissioner Edwards asked how many savings accounts that the library has, and their amounts. Buhrman said there is a capital improvement fund that is earmarked for building improvements or replacement. Edwards also asked if the library board has given thought to reducing expenditures. He said that Horton is a poor city that has had to cut budgets because there is not enough cash to satisfy the requests of all the departments. Edwards is concerned that there will be more and more money requested from the library, yet they aren't cutting expenditures. Commissioner Krug suggested that the Commission wait and revisit the additional \$4,800 request from the library until they see what they receive from grants that they have applied for. Motion by Commissioner Edwards to table the request from the library for an additional \$4,800 pending information regarding grant money that they may or may not receive, and reconsider request at a later date. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Natasha Gladden and Amanda Thacker were present to discuss a location to place a tiny house in Horton. Gladden stated that Chuck Nioce said they could place it on his lot at 140 East 6th Street, but the property is currently zoned residential, and not for manufactured homes. Natasha and Amanda will come into city hall to discuss the possibility of purchasing a property that is currently owned by the city. If utilities are not present at the said property, the front office will discuss additional fees that will be charged. Another option discussed is to request rezoning the property at 140 East 6th Street to accommodate manufactured homes, but there would also be a cost incurred with that option.

Discuss CDBG-CV Business Grant Disbursements

Ten business applications have been received for assistance from the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act under the Community Development Block Grant Program. CDBG-CV Economic Development grants provide communities with funding to help local businesses retain jobs for low-to-moderate income people. The City of Horton was awarded \$117,000 for Economic Development, and \$35,000 for Meal Programs.

After discussing different criteria on how to best disburse the funds the Commission decided to distribute the funds evenly. Motion by Commissioner West to evenly distribute \$117,000 between the total number of fulltime employees of the businesses that applied, provided they meet the requirements of the grant administrator. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Discuss Health Insurance Employee Rates after Renewal

A 6.9% increase in city employee healthcare will take effect on October 1, 2020. Calhoon asked the Commission if they want to pass the cost to the employee or the city eat the cost. Commissioner West is not a fan of the employees eating the cost without prior knowledge. The Commission discussed the increase possibly alleviating an employee bonus for 2020, but some didn't feel that was fair. Calhoon suggested that come the next renewal for October of 2021, if premiums go up, the Commission needs to let the city employees know that their portion may increase.

The Commission will discuss bonuses, raises, and a potential health insurance increase at the 1st meeting in December.

Commissioner Edwards stated that the Commission works very hard at trying to make sure that the city employees are treated well.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards for the city to maintain the current 90/10 and cover the increased cost of health insurance, with discussions at the first meeting in December to decide what the Commission wants to do the following year. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

City Administrator/Chief of Police Calhoon

Calhoon shared items that he has requested from the SPARKS Committee for Horton's share of the 1.9 million that the county received for expenses directly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Calhoon said it doesn't look too favorable in what he has asked for, and that the committee is getting swamped with requests. Some of the items requested by Calhoon include:

- Laptops in the event staff members need to work from home
- IPADS
- Porta Pots with sinks and hand sanitizing stations
- Portable sneeze guards
- Sneeze guard stations for the Commission room
- Zoom camera systems for the Blue Building, Commission Room, and Court Room

Mayor Stirton

Mayor Stirton addressed fisherman leaving trash at the Little Lake along the highway. The Commission discussed officers patrolling more, adding another trash receptacle, and hanging signage.

Mayor Stirton is going to request to be removed from the Library Board e-mail chain.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

West asked if any expenses were collected for the electrical outage that was caused at 130 East 12th Street while trimming tree limbs. Calhoon said that nothing has been collected. An expenditure report from the city crews has been received. West requested to have it turned over to Kevin Hill for collection.

West would like to see the shelter houses at Mission Lake painted. He asked Calhoon if he has someone who has community service hours that could paint them. Calhoon said that the school was looking for some projects to do around town, but nothing came to fruition.

Commissioner West discussed the prior Water Supply Contract that Rodney Paden signed stating that he has one year to locate the line and set a meter pit at 1527 120th Street, at their cost, so the city can install their meter. If he plans on selling the house within prior to the one year, the meter pit would need to be installed prior. Once that is done the Water Supply Contract that was drafted would be followed 100%. West would like Calhoon to offer a friendly reminder that this needs to be done, as the agreement was signed some time ago.

Commissioner Edwards

Edwards said that today is the start date for the new Wastewater Treatment Facility. The contractor is moving in and going to begin work.

Edwards talked about the shelter house near the pool, and the wraparound of tin that was supposed to be installed. Compton's said they would bend the tin, but Calhoon said he hasn't hounded them too much to get it done. He will remind them.

Edwards addressed the weeds out by his house on East 4th Street. He said that if the weeds are not going to be mowed there or around town, they need to be sprayed. He said the city needs to clean up their own back yard since they are asking residents to.

Commissioner Krug

Krug talked about addressing residents blowing grass clippings in the street. He also requested that the city not do it either.

The City of Hiawatha has been placing collection notices in their newspaper, and Krug thinks it is something the city should look into. Kevin thinks they hired a new collections attorney to collect past due utility bills.

Krug recommended that the city give recognition in memory of Stephen Finger via Letter of Recognition, and/or a plaque. He served on the Horton Volunteer Fire Department for over 27 years, and was a Range Safety Officer for the city.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to adjourn at 7:10p.m. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor