

September 8, 2020
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order and the opening prayer was led by Father Dan Gardner from St. Leo's Catholic Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Mayor Stirton, Commissioners Wade Edwards, Rex West, Ken Krug, and Richard Lovelady. 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 August 17, 2020 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3624(Payroll) for the amount of \$35,411.83. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3625 (Disbursements) for the amount of \$293,072.34. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Public Comments

None.

Request to be Placed on Agenda

Horton Chamber member Glen Obbards was present to ask for a reduced cost to use the Blue Building for the October Fest Craft & Vendor Show on October 17th. Obbards stated that last year they paid \$50.00 a day for utilities.

West voiced that the Commission should follow the recently updated rate schedule for the Blue Building, which would give them the building for \$450.00. Lovelady and Krug were in favor of the discounted price that Obbards requested. Motion by Commissioner Krug to allow the Chamber use of the Blue Building on October 17th for October Fest and only pay the utility fee (\$50.00 a day). Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. Aye—Mayor Stirton and Commissioners Krug, Edwards and Lovelady. Nay—Commissioner West. Motion carried.

Public Works Updates

Randy Mayfield was present to provide updates to the Commission on Public Works. Randy provided a detailed report showing past and present projects broken down by department.

Edwards voiced concern over the free food programs potentially closing our local grocery store. He said that the program was initially proposed for low to moderate income families, and now there is no limit on income to receive it. Mayor Stirton said that the program is run through the library. Edwards hopes that this program stops and next year the Commission has some input into the impact of such a program on the city, rather than what benefits someone making feelgood programs. Calhoon said that it is a federal program and it would not look good upon the city if they were to shut it down. He suggested that the federal government hand out vouchers that can be spent at the local grocery stores instead of the food handouts. Edwards went on to say that he doesn't want it to be portrayed that he is against people who need the program to get help, he is in favor of that. He is just not in favor of anyone from around the world coming to Horton, KS to pick up free food. He thinks it is wrong to hurt any local business with the free food.

Mayfield said that the Fire Department will handout emergency shelf stable meals on 09/14 to people 60 and older from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. for Brown County residents.

Consider Approval of Ordinance No. 1190 and Resolution No. 2020-004 Authorizing Issuance of Bonds

David Arteberry was present to discuss the issuance of general obligation bonds for Phase III of the sewer project, which allows the city to lock into a 1.125% interest rate for the life of the USDA loan. This low interest rate will save the city close to 1 million dollars over the life of the loan.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve Ordinance No. 1190, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2020, OF THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND COLLECTION OF AN ANNUAL TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS AS THEY BECOME DUE; AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER DOCUMENTS AND ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND MAKING CERTAIN COVENANTS WITH RESPECT THERETO. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve Resolution No. 2020-004, A RESOLUTION PRESCRIBING THE FORM AND DETAILS OF AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SALE AND DELIVERY OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2020, OF THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS, PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCE NO. 1190 OF THE ISSUER; MAKING CERTAIN COVENANTS AND AGREEMENTS TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT AND SECURITY THEREOF; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER DOCUMENTS AND ACTIONS CONNECTED THEREWITH. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Consider Approval of 2019 Audit

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to accept the audit report for fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye. The city audit was conducted by Gordon CPA.

Discuss Payroll Tax Deferral

On August 8, 2020 President Trump issued a presidential memorandum allowing the deferral of the employee portion of Social Security tax for those employees that qualify. This Tax Deferral is optional for employers as well as their employees.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards for the city to not participate in the deferral of payroll tax. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

City Administrator/Chief of Police Calhoon

Calhoon said that an airport inspection was done recently. A report on the inspection should be presented soon.

Calhoon located someone to begin the codification process for the city per a recommendation by The League of Kansas Municipalities. Since the city did not budget for codification until 2021, Calhoon asked the Commission if they were okay with him beginning the codification now, but not invoice the city the \$7,000 until 2021. The city would be able to approve updates digitally as he goes along. He is worried if the city puts it on the back burner, it will not get done. The Commission was in favor of proceeding.

Calhoon received an e-mail from Emergency Management saying that the state did approve roughly \$30,000 in funding, and to go ahead and start spending. Calhoon would like to purchase Zoom

cameras for the Blue Building, Commission Room, and Court Room, and some sneeze guards. Calhoon will bring information on the remaining items that he would like to purchase to the next meeting for further discussion. The money needs to be spent by December 1st.

Calhoon is going to send the cities current janitor to the Police Academy on September 28th. He has shown interest in becoming an officer and is now old enough to go to the academy. Calhoon said that he is having a hard time hiring officers and they are currently down three. The city will look at hiring a part-time janitor to replace him.

Calhoon sent the owners and the contractor an invoice to recover damages that the City of Horton incurred while a contractor was performing tree trimming service on the property located at 130 East 12th. Calhoon received a letter from the owners of the house accepting responsibility, and she offered to pay \$50.00 a month, which she requested that it be added to her utility bill. The Commission would rather see a separate agreement and give her 12 to 18 months to make the payment in full. West suggested the city attorney draw up a payment schedule, and the owner incur the legal costs. If the amount isn't paid in the set timeframe, it would get turned over to our attorney.

Mayor Stirton

Mayor Stirton spoke of two separate property owner complaints he received regarding ruts left in a driveway after tree trimming, and dirt that needs to be replaced after a water leak repair that was done by the city. The Commission also discussed a complaint from Debbie Kidwell regarding her building leaking in the basement when it rains, and the appearance of the wall of her building after the adjoining building was demolished. Calhoon said that he explained to Kidwell what Madget Demolition, Inc. was going to do to her building prior to it being done. The Commission will discuss further.

Mayor Stirton also asked for an update on the insurance claim that was made for the tools that were stolen out of the bucket truck.

Calhoon mentioned that the shed at the cemetery was broken into last week.

Commissioner Lovelady

Lovelady commended the city crews on the pothole repairs in town.

Commissioner West

No report.

Commissioner Edwards

Edwards had a citizen request for a place to walk indoors during the winter, and he suggested the use of the Blue Building. The Commission said that the building would have to be sanitized afterwards and requested that Edwards get hours and times and bring back to the table.

Edwards thanked the police department and the fire department for getting the CDF site burned. West suggested to Calhoon that the city crew's chainsaw the small trees and kill the stumps with Tordon.

Edwards stated that Kim recently paid two bond payments out of the Electric Fund, which brought the cash amount down. Edwards recommended that the city not spend out of the Electric Fund for the rest of the year.

Commissioner Krug

No report.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to adjourn at 6:59p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor