

August 18, 2003
6:00 P.M.
City Hall Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 18, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Room at City Hall.

Pastor Tom Stone of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ opened the meeting with prayer at 6:20 p.m..

Present: Mayor White, Commissioners Smith, and Lentz

Absent: Commissioners Stirton and McClain.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the July 31, 2003 meeting were corrected as follows: It was suggested to discuss with Brown County the possibility of sharing dispatch.... That the city possibly budget for or look for grants for a new basketball court. Instead of an equipment inventory, Mayor White would like to have a capital budget with a replacement plan. Motion by Commissioner Lentz to approve the minutes for the July 31, 2003 special meeting as corrected. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. All ayes.

The minutes of the August 2, 2003 meeting were corrected as follows: The planning committee will set and prioritize goals and set due dates for the goals to be accomplished. The City may look at setting up a cemetery district. Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve the minutes for the August 4, 2003 special meeting as corrected. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All ayes.

The minutes of the August 4, 2003 meeting were corrected as follows: Mayor White requested the auditor's opinion in writing stating that waiving GAP would not affect the City being in compliance with grant requirements. Mayor White and Commissioner Smith recommended that the specific amounts be put in the budget and that the city put a freeze on new hires unless approved by the Commission. Motion by Commissioner Lentz to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2003 regular meeting as corrected. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2729 (Payroll) in the amount of \$35,060.04. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Lentz to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2728 (Disbursements) in the amount of \$144,998.68. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. All aye.

Public Hearing--Budget

Mayor White opened the public hearing on the 2004 budget at 6:32 p.m. Two employees were present to inquire about comments they had heard concerning health insurance. The employees were informed that the Commission intended to have employees pay some of their health insurance premium. They were informed that Mayor White and Commissioner Smith were recommending that the City pay 100% of the employee portion of the premium and 90% of the dependent portion of the premium. Nothing has been decided at this point. Mayor White stated that in talking with citizens concerning the budget that he felt the people want to see something for the increase in taxes, they want visible results. Most people feel that it is more than worth it if they see results. There being no further comments on the budget the hearing was closed at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to adopt the 2004 budget as submitted. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

It was again stated that the Commission wants to approve any new hires whether full or part time. Mr. Leighton stated that he would like to streamline the organizational structure. This would include a rank structure in the police department and combining some of the departments in public works.

Economic Development Meeting at Fisher Center

Hiawatha is hosting another economic development meeting with the City of Horton and the Brown County Commissioners. This meeting will be held on September 23, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fisher Center in Hiawatha. The Micro loan program will be on the agenda. Commissioner Smith advised that he would call the County Attorney and discuss this program with him.

Hydrant Flushing

The City will be flushing fire hydrants on August 26 and 27.

Blue Building

The Blue Building is scheduled for repairs.

Update on Sewer Plant

The City crews are cleaning up and painting at the sanitation plant. 2 ½ truckloads of materials have been hauled away to the landfill.

Report on Semi Trucks Parking on Side Streets

The City Attorney, Tim Keck, made some changes to the proposed ordinance. The ordinance will be retyped and presented at the next meeting for the first reading.

Mosquito Spraying

Mr. Leighton has contacted Valley Falls and they won't respond about renting the spraying machine to the City of Horton. The Commission directed Mr. Leighton to call KDHE, see what their recommendation is, and then spray if they recommend.

City Administrator's Agenda

Nothing to report.

Commissioner's Agenda

Commissioner Smith

Motion by Commissioner Smith to cancel the third meeting, when it occurs, until further notice. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Commissioner Smith reported that the City of Marquette and Ellsworth County have developed a give away of lots with the stipulation that a new house of at least 1,000 square feet be built on the lots within a 2-year period. Commissioner Smith would like to develop and present a plan for the City of Horton to have a similar program and present the idea at a later time.

The City Attorney was directed to research derelict property and the options available to the City of Horton to gain possession.

Commissioner Stirton

Not present

Commissioner Lentz

No report.

Commissioner McClain

Not present

Mayor White

Mayor White and Commissioner Smith met with the Powwow Committee and the City was asked to help support the event. Banners will be put at each entrance to the City and these banners will be purchased by Pepsi. The City will hand out flyers around town and to the Chamber.

Chairman Cadue asked if the City would sponsor the dance. Mayor White recommended that the City sponsor one special for each category.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to sponsor one special for each category at the Kickapoo Powwow in the amount of \$100 each for a total of \$500. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Executive Session

Motion by Commissioner Smith to go into executive session for 20 minutes to discuss none elected personnel. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye. Upon reconvening, Mayor White stated that no action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

Dale A. White, Mayor