

December 15, 2003
6:15 P.M.
City Hall Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 15, 2003 at 6:15 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 and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor White, Commissioners Smith, Lentz and McClain.

Absent: Commissioner Stirton

Discussion of the Homestead Program was added to the agenda after the approval of the CMB licenses. The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the December 1, 2003 regular meeting were corrected as follows: at the bottom of the first page add "excess over \$31,123" to the motion and the words "after some discussion". On the second pages, second paragraph add "from the future policy and pay overtime for overtime hours". The minutes were approved as corrected.

Motion by Commissioner McClain to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2746 (Payroll) in the amount of \$30,801.73. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye. Motion by Commissioner Lentz to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2747 (Disbursements) in the amount of \$70,588.90. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. All aye.

Public Hearing—2003 Budget Amendment

Mayor White opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. There were no comments from the public and the public hearing was closed at 6:31 p.m. The consensus of the Commission was to approve the amendment to the 2003 budget as it was published.

Personnel Manual

Mr. Leighton recommended that compensation time be allowed and that it be used within 30 days of accrual or pay as overtime. Motion by Commissioner Smith that the City adopt the personnel policy as amended to use compensation time within 30 days of accrual. Seconded by Commissioner McClain. All aye. It was noted that any current accumulation of compensation time would be used within the next 6 months.

Resolution—Enterprise Zone

Motion by Commissioner Lentz to adopt Resolution #03-1215, A RESOLUTION RECONFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE QUALIFYING REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN AND REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE REAPPROVE THE COUNTY OF BROWN AS A KANSAS ENTERPRISE ZONE DESIGNATED NONMETROPOLITAN BUSINESS REGION. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. All aye.

Discussion of Rodeo at the Airport

David Jones, the marketing director for the Golden Eagle Casino, had contacted Mr. Leighton about possibly having a rodeo in June at the airport. A potential site was found and the farmer who leases the ground has been contacted. The only possible problem would be the lack of a water source at the location. Water would have to be trucked in. The Commission requested that the City Administrator continue to work with the Kickapoo Tribe on this event.

Letter of Support fro Plum Creek Project

Rodney Lierz, one of the landowners involved in the Plum Creek Project, was present to speak with the Commission. He stated that ½ of the landowners are not interested in selling their land. In addition, that 5 out of the 13 owners have not been contacted by the Kickapoo Tribe except for one letter saying the project is going to happen. Mr. Lierz stated that there is a site that would work for the project and there are no residences on that site. The Commission was informed that there is a Watershed Board meeting on January 21, 2004 to discuss imminent domain.

After much discussion, it was decided to have the City Attorney write a letter to include the following information. Given the current controversy with the Plum Creek Project and the vast amount of information associated with the project it is impossible for the Commission to sort through the facts to come to a conclusion for that project. However, we do support their need and will support their efforts to the best of our ability to find adequate drinking water sources.

Discussion of Fire Contract with Sac & Fox Tribe

Mr. Leighton and Gary Behrnes, Fire Chief, discussed the fact that the Horton Fire Department occasionally responds to fire calls at the Sac & Fox Casino and Service Station. Mr. Leighton sent a contract to the Chairperson of the Tribe and has received no response so far. A copy of the contract was presented to the Commission for their information. The Commission instructed Mr. Leighton to contact the Tribal Chairperson by telephone.

Discussion of Proposed Weed Ordinance

It was decided that this ordinance was not necessary as the City already has a similar ordinance in effect.

Discussion of December Work Schedule

Mr. Leighton advised that a weekly schedule would be completed by January 1. Mayor White stated that he had met with the City Administrator they had a very productive meeting and came to an agreement on what is needed as far as work schedules. The Mayor stated that he would like projects to remain on the Agenda until they have been completed.

Approval of Cereal Malt Beverage Licenses

Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve cereal malt beverage licenses for the following individuals:

Lyle Kirlin	The Super Store
Tammie Diebolt	Charger Stop
Mary Ann Bontrager	The Wagon Wheel Restaurant
Melinda Meyers	Pat's Thriftway

The motion was seconded by Commissioner McClain. All aye.

Discussion of the Homestead Program

The City Attorney was instructed to prepare a policy using the questionnaire that the Commission will fill out and return to him. An ordinance will need to be approved to adopt the plan.

There was some discussion on who would administer the program. It was suggested that HIDC be asked or that a committee be appointed.

During this discussion, Mr. Leighton was instructed to ask HIDC if they would do a feasibility study on a motel and an apartment complex.

City Administrator's Agenda

Bids on the sewer plant study are to be in to the City Hall offices by December 18th and will be brought to the Commission after the first of the year.

Bids on street material for next year will be in by January.

Mr. Leighton called Ross Robins about the firing range and he has not heard from the engineer yet.

Commissioner's Agenda

Commissioner Smith

Commissioner Smith reported that the County Commission approved the Micro Loan Program application.

Commissioner Stirton

Not present.

Commissioner Lentz

Commissioner Lentz inquired if the baseball restrooms and shower house have been winterized.

Commissioner Lentz asked who would be taking over as Code Enforcement Officer and Mr. Leighton advised it would be Kevin Swenson and Mr. Leighton.

Commissioner McClain

The generator is in place and the project is 76% complete.

Inco sent a bill for more storage of the generator and there is some disagreement on the amount. Mr. Leighton and Commissioner McClain will get together and make a recommendation to the Commission on payment of this bill.

Mayor White

Mayor White reported that the enterprise facilitation program is working and the first dedication of a new business will be in Holton.

The Community Planning Committee will meet in January and go over the draft of the strategic plan.

Mayor White suggested that the City give the employees a gift certificate in the amount of \$15 from Horton Thriftway for Christmas to be used towards the purchase of a ham or turkey. The Commission agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

Dale A. White, Mayor