

February 3, 2004
6:15 P.M.
City Hall Court Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2004 at 6:15 p.m. in the Court Room at City Hall.

Candy Schmitt opened the meeting with prayer.

Present: Mayor White, Commissioners Smith and Lentz.

Absent: Commissioners Stirton and McClain.

The agenda was approved as delivered.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2004 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2753 (Payroll) in the amount of \$27,604.12. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Lentz to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2754 (Disbursements) in the amount of \$55,563.12. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. All aye.

Potential Apartment Complex

Jerry Aday was present to request the Commission approve a resolution to support the development of housing in the community. Mr. Aday is preparing an application for tax credits to build a 48 unit apartment complex on the west side of Horton. This process began through the enterprise facilitation program. The developer is Tracy Oliver and the builder is Duane Wadley. Mr. Wadley will use local subcontractors whenever possible. The Holton National Bank and one other bank may purchase the tax credits and provide the construction loan. The developer will run curb and guttering around the property

Mr. Aday advised that every community gives different incentives. Mayor White stated that tax abatement is not on the table but that possibly the City would buy the land and process through the Homestead Program and forgive the utility hookups. The incentives can be discussed at a later time. The application is due February 6, 2004 and the announcement of award will be May 14.

Several corrections were made to the resolution that was presented. Motion by Commissioner Smith to adopt Resolution 04-22, as amended, in support of the housing development. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Discussion with Library Board

Mayor White explained that when he took office he was made aware of insurance issues and problems with the exterior guttering and paint. These issues have all been resolved by the City. He had received a letter from the Librarian stating that the Mayor or Commission declined to do repairs to the library. He wanted to clarify that this was not said. The librarian, Rita Higley, read the letter she had written which stated that in a conversation with the City Administrator, Mike Leighton, she was told that he had talked with the Mayor and he concurred that no action would be taken to repair the library in 2004.

Mr. Leighton responded that he had stated that no funds had been budgeted in 2004 to do extensive repairs at the library. He has contacted someone to get a bid on repairing the basement but they have not been able to do so because of the weather. Mayor White stated "I would not make a decision without Commission approval" It was noted that a safety issue with the basement doors could be corrected with release bars being installed.

Commissioner Smith requested that this issue be left on the agenda until it is resolved.

Contracts on Sanitation Plant Study

Pat Cox, BG Consultants, was present with the contracts for the engineering study on the wastewater treatment plant. The contract lists the tasks to be accomplished. The study will include the short-term problems to address immediately and the long-term issues dealing with regulatory requirements and population projections. The cost is not to exceed \$26,585. A study is necessary to receive funding from state agencies. KDHE will sign off on the report. Mr. Cox informed the Commission that Mr. Leighton will be asked to attend meetings with Mr. Cox and KDHE.

Mayor White signed the contracts.

Report on Strategic Plan

Mayor White reported on the plan that was developed through a committee of approximately 30 individuals. The meetings were facilitated by Dr. Fanning. The committee decided on 8 areas that needed to be addressed. The final plan was presented to the Commission for adoption. The High School students will be asked to take on the area of recreation for the youth. The task force recommended that a position be created that would report back to the Commission. This would mean that someone with experience and knowledge would need to be hired to get the work done and organize the committees. A suggested budget of \$60,000 for salary and expenses was discussed. Mayor White recommended on behalf of the Planning Committee that the plan be adopted including a budget to hire a coordinator.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to adopt the Community Strategic Plan as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Mayor White thanked those who were involved in the process.

Discussion of Homestead Project

The City Attorney, Tim Keck, was unable to attend the meeting. This will be on the next agenda.

Letter of Support for Juvenile Justice Program—Kickapoo Tribal District Court

Mayor White reported that he had written a letter of support for a grant that was being applied for by the Kickapoo Tribal District Court for their Juvenile Justice program. This is a \$100,000 grant to purchase office equipment, computers and to help pay for legal representation for offenders.

City Administrator's Agenda

No report.

Commissioner's Agenda

Commissioner Smith

Commissioner Smith suggested that certificates be given to the participants in the community planning process and that something be given to Dr. Fanning. Suggestions for Dr. Fanning were a plaque or gift certificates from the local businesses.

Commissioner Stirton

Not present

Commissioner Lentz

Commissioner Lentz requested that Mr. Leighton recognize the street crew for the long hours put in for snow removal.

Commissioner Lentz inquired about the progress of the firearms grant. Mr. Leighton reported that the weapons had been ordered and that a projector and computer were ordered for training purposes.

Commissioner Lentz inquired if bids were taken and Mr. Leighton assured that they were.

Commissioner McClain

Not present.

Mayor White

Mayor White asked about the firing range. Mr. Leighton reported that the back berm needs to be raised 5' by using boards. Several of the baffles need to be corrected. The City is waiting for plans from the State.

Mayor White inquired about the feasibility studies. Mr. Leighton reported that he has information for the Commission and HIDC to review before going out for bids.

Mayor White asked that these topics be left on the agenda until completed.

Mayor White read a proclamation declaring February 8-14 as Scouting Anniversary Week.

It was announced that February 14 a legislative forum will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Senior Citizen's Center. Bruce Larkin and Ed Pugh will be there.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

Dale A. White, Mayor