

March 1, 2004
6:15 P.M.
City Hall Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 1, 2004 at 6:15 p.m. in the Commission Room at City Hall.

Mayor White opened the meeting and the prayer was given by Pastor Tom Stone of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Pastor Stone also led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes were corrected to show that Mayor White spoke with 2 representatives from Kansas Department of Commerce, one of which deals with recruitment of businesses and the other with expansion and retention of businesses. Motion by Commissioner Lentz to approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Commissioner Stirton. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner McClain to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2757 (Payroll) in the amount of \$28,142.99. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner McClain to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2758 (Disbursements) in the amount of \$73,085.79. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Discussions with Park Board

Susan Hundley and Randy Fassnacht, members of the Park Board were present at the request of the Commission. It was pointed out that the school projects presented by Dr. Davies were approved by the Commission and that Dr. Davies met with the Park Board and explained the projects.

Mayor White explained that a Strategic Plan had been developed and that as part of that process the Commission would like the Park Board to put together a master plan for all of the parks and recreation areas showing what the City currently has in place and what needs to be done in the future. The Park Board will then make recommendations to the Commission. It was reaffirmed that Mission Lake is still a secondary water source as well as a recreation area. A study is currently being done by an engineering firm to determine the needs of the Lake. The Commission would like to see the Park Board attend the next public meeting for the lake study. This study is needed before the City can seek funding.

Sale of Water

Mr. Leighton presented a written report from Dawn Succi, Water Plant Operator, that explained the amount of daily and monthly usages by the City. It was noted that KDHE requires 100/gallons per person served be in reserve and this is approximately 210,000/day.

Ms. Succi reported that the current wells can be rejuvenated by an acidizing process. This could be done after the new wells are in service.

Mr. Leighton presented an application for purchase of miscellaneous water to the Commission for their approval. The Commission would like to see a policy that states the amounts of water that can be sold during the different seasons of the year.

Discussion of Homestead Project

Mr. Leighton reported that an application has been created and lots chosen for the first giveaway. Mr. Leighton is trying to get a hold of owners of vacant lots to see if they are willing to sell or donate lots. A

map showing lots owned by the City was given to the Commissioners. Commissioner Lentz pointed out that the lots chosen for the first giveaway have a storm sewer running through them.

The committee still needs to be appointed. Mr. Leighton will advertise for 3 at large positions. The committee should be completed by the next meeting.

Bids on Idle Funds

Mr. Leighton advised the Commission that the City's funds are invested in CDs and the Municipal Investment Pool. The Commission instructed Mr. Leighton to check with other cities to see if they invest in more than just CDs (i.e. mutual funds, treasury bonds, money markets, etc.) Mr. Leighton stated he would prepare financials for the next meeting.

Feasibility Study

Horton Industrial Development Corporation (HIDC) has taken over this project. An economic development profile will be developed.

Director of Economic Revitalization

As part of the strategic plan, the committee recommended to hire someone to oversee the plan and to write grants. Mr. Leighton has advertised for this position in the Kansas Journal and with an online service. Mayor White presented a proposed agreement for the position of director of economic revitalization. The Commission will review and discuss at the next meeting. Commissioner Stirton inquired if some of the duties outlined could be done by the City Administrator. It was determined that this should be someone independent of the City Administrator that would report directly to the Commission. There was some discussion about the cost of this position and where the funds could be found. Commissioner McClain stated that he did not vote for this position and he requested that no funds be taken from the infrastructure needs to finance the position.

Commissioner Smith recommended that changes be made to the ordinances dealing with appointed positions and that they be presented at the next meeting.

Community Lake Assistance Program

This program provides funds to assist with projects that will improve the lakes. The Fish and Game Club recommended that the east wall at the Little Lake be repaired. Motion by Commissioner Lentz to have the City Administrator submit a grant for repairing the wall at the Little Lake. Seconded by Commissioner McClain. All aye.

City Administrator's Agenda

Mr. Leighton reported that he has requested estimates from Mark Compton and John Kreider for repairs at the Blue Building.

Concerning the mapping project, Mr. Leighton reported that the maps of water and sewer lines would be completed in about 1 ½ weeks. He advised that KRWA would be sending a bill for their portion of this project. The Commission directed Mr. Leighton to find out if Mr. Duryea is bonded and insured. Mr. Leighton advised that he would deliver the maps to KRWA so they could review the maps.

A letter was sent to Ross Robins requesting plans for the firing range that show the corrections. Mr. Leighton reported that they would not send plans.

City cleanup week will be March 29-April 3. A proclamation will be presented next week.

Commissioner's Agenda

Commissioner Smith

Commissioner Smith reported that Brown County received the Micro-Loan Program.

Commissioner Stirton

Commissioner Stirton presented the Commission with a questionnaire from Emergency Medical Services and asked them to fill it out and return it to them.

Commissioner Lentz

Commissioner Lentz asked about the progress on the Library building. The exits have been corrected. Topeka Mud jacking will be coming next week to inspect the basement walls.

The current Sewer Plant Operator will be retiring this year. Commissioner Lentz expressed concern that someone be hired for the sewer department. Mr. Leighton stated that someone would be hired mid-year for that purpose and that Mr. Meyers will be kept on as a consultant.

Commissioner McClain

Commissioner McClain requested that the engineer on the generation project be contacted concerning the manual for the new generator.

Commissioner McClain brought the possibility of purchasing a used skid steer loader.

Commissioner McClain requested that a lid be put on the manhole at the water tower. The debris needs to be cleaned out of the manhole first.

Mayor White

Mayor White inquired about the snow removal policy. Mr. Leighton will develop a policy and will inform the librarian by letter.

It was decided that Commissioner Lentz would contact Hammersmith about using some of their land for the carnival this year.

Mayor White asked about the progress of the recycling program. Mr. Leighton reported that he is working on this project.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

Dale A. White, Mayor