

January 17, 2005
6:15 P.M.
City Hall Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, January 17, 2005 at 6:15 p.m. in the Commission Room at City Hall.

Mayor White opened the meeting and the prayer was given by Candy Schmitt, City Clerk.

Present: Mayor White and Commissioners Krug, B. Stirton, Lentz and K. Stirton.

Mayor White recognized that today was the celebration of Martin Luther King Day and reminded everyone that when Dr. King was trying to bring about a peaceable change he stated, "keep your eye on the prize". Mayor White stated this would be a good motto for this Commission in what they are trying to accomplish. Another inspirational quote from Dr. King is "darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate only love can do that."

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the January 3, 2005 regular meeting were approved as presented. The minutes of the January 10, 2005 special meeting were approved as presented.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2804 (Payroll) in the amount of \$35,184.09. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Lentz to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2805 (Disbursements) in the amount of \$114,314.23. Seconded by Commissioner K. Stirton. All aye.

Further Discussion of CFAP Program

Mr. Tjelmeland was not present and no further information has been received on the status of the City's application for the CFAP program.

Mr. Tjelmeland was also supposed to provide information on the small lake restoration program. This topic was tabled to the next meeting.

Discussion of Lake Project Special Question and Bond Issue

Todd Loescher from Stifel, Nicolaus and Company was present to discuss the bonds for the lake project. Mr. Loescher gave the pros and cons on water revenue bonds backed by general obligation versus straight general obligation bonds. It was noted that the water rates would probably have to be doubled.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to place the following question on the April 5, 2005 ballot "Shall the City of Horton, Kansas, issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 to pay a portion of the estimated \$6,000,000 costs to dredge and increase the depth of Mission Lake in the City; all pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 12-1024a? The City intends to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds from water system revenues, but, if the Bonds are not so paid, the Bonds, as general obligations, will be payable from taxation. The undertaking of the project is contingent upon, and the balance of project costs will be paid from, funding available from state and federal agencies." Seconded by commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Preliminary Discussion, Sewer Plant Options

Pat Cox, BG Consultants, was present to discuss the sewer plant. The December ammonia levels were above the limits. It was discovered that the trickling filter is not working properly and it must circulate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in order to spread its water evenly over the treatment media.

A seal is leaking and the parts have been ordered to repair. Sludge from another treatment plant (Hiawatha) to rejuvenate the bacteria in the City's plant.

Mr. Cox explained a chemical treatment called breakpoint chlorination, which could be done on a short-term basis to reduce the ammonia. This would have to be approved by KDHE prior to beginning the process. This process can be expensive but is effective.

The consensus of the Commission is to direct the City Administrator to write Mr. Geisler with KDHE and explain what has been done and that the repairs will be done to the trickling filter seals. Test at the end of January and then see if the results are below the limits.

The Commission recessed for 10 minutes at 8:35 p.m.

Discussion of "Help the Needy" Utility Billings; "Entanglement" Concerns

Kevin Hill, City Attorney, expressed his concerns with the City participating in the project proposed by the South Brown County Ministerial Alliance. Mr. Hill's recommendation is that if the City were to participate they should administer the program. The Commission requested that a representative of the Ministerial Alliance be present at the next meeting.

Report, Homecoming Events, 130th Field Artillery

Ron Smith, City Administrator, reported on the plans for the return of the troops from Iraq. The tentative date of their arrival is February 18. The troops will be in Horton for approximately 1 ½ hours. A gathering at the high school auditorium is being planned for that time. Those on the planning committee are Connie Werner, Cassie Small, Paula Jacobs and Ron Smith. They will meet on January 18 to plan the local activities.

The troops will leave Horton and go to Atchison and then to Troy.

The Commission would like to put something in the newspaper requesting the names of local citizens who are in the military. These names can then be put on the website in addition to the ones already listed.

Discussion of Ball field Lights

Mr. Smith reported that the City is waiting on new price quotes on the poles because the price of steel has gone up. The Commission requested that three price quotes be presented at the next meeting.

Executive Session for Personnel

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to go into executive session to discuss personnel for 20 minutes and to include the Commission, City Administrator and City Attorney. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to extend the executive session for 15 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to extend the executive session for 20 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to extend the executive session for 5 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to extend the executive session for 10 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Upon reconvening, Mayor White stated that additional information was brought to the attention of the Commission concerning Bobby Coots related to his position as sewer plant operator.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to demote Bobby Coots from Plant Operator to Sewer Maintenance Operator and to adjust his pay according to the scale and his years of service. Seconded by Commissioner B. Stirton. All aye.

The City Administrator will decide on whom to place in the acting plant operator position. The Commission requested that another plant operator check over the plant.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to amend the ordinance to allow the City Attorney to hire and fire department heads. Seconded by Commissioner B. Stirton. After discussion, Commissioner K. Stirton withdrew the motion and asked that the ordinance be put on the next agenda.

City Administrator's Agenda

Mr. Smith reported that he had applied for a grant to buy tactical vests for the police department. The grant will pay half of the cost. Two vests have been ordered at \$1,150 each.

One bid was received for the 718K Grasshopper mower. The bid was from Strahm Sales and Service in the amount of \$625. Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to accept the bid from Strahm Sales and Service. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

The City has three large tanks at the electric plant that are not being used. The Commission agreed to put the tanks up for bids.

Commissioner's Agenda

Commissioner Krug

No report.

Commissioner B. Stirton

No report.

Commissioner Lentz

No report.

Commissioner K. Stirton

No report.

Mayor White

No report.

The meeting was adjourned.

Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

Dale A. White, Mayor

