

February 7, 2005  
6:15 P.M.  
City Hall Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 7, 2005 at 6:15 p.m. in the Commission Room at City Hall.

Mayor White opened the meeting and the prayer was given by Pastor Richard Crooks of the First Baptist Church.

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

The discussion of the poles for the baseball field was tabled to the next meeting so that Commissioner Lentz can be present. Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to accept the agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

The minutes of the January 17, 2005 regular meeting were approved as presented.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2806 (Payroll) in the amount of \$29,598.24. Seconded by Commissioner B. Stirton. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner B. Stirton to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2807 (Payroll) in the amount of \$28,104.94. Seconded by Commissioner K. Stirton. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2808 (Disbursements) in the amount of \$69,672.17. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

#### **Discussion of "Help the Needy" Program Using Utility Billing**

City Attorney Hill stated that if the City does not administer the program it could expose the City to liability because of decisions made by others. His preference is for the City to administer the program. An idea was presented to have the ministerial alliance act ask an appointed committee to review applications and making a recommendation to the Commission on how the funds would be spent.

The Ministerial Alliance will present protocol for the application process and policies for selection to the Commission for their review.

#### **Sewer Bonds and Paperwork for the April Election**

Todd Loescher presented the Commission with the paperwork to formalize the ballot question approved by the Commission earlier.

Motion by Commissioner B. Stirton to adopt Ordinance 1058, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE CALLING OF A BOND ELECTION IN THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY THE QUESTION OF ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY AND PROVIDING FOR THE GIVING OF NOTICE OF SAID BOND ELECTION. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Mr. Smith, City Administrator recommended to the Commission that the City issue \$300,000 in bonds to finance repairs and upgrades to the sanitation plant. He also recommended that \$60,000 be transferred from the water fund to the sewer fund until the bonds are issued and then the funds can be returned to the water fund.

Motion by Commissioner Krug to adopt Resolution 05-02, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

IN THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE COSTS THEREOF BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY. Seconded by Commissioner K. Stirton. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Krug to authorize the transfer of \$60,000 from the water fund to the sewer fund and to return the funds when the bonds are received. Seconded by Commissioner K. Stirton. All aye.

### **Discussion of Landscaping at the Library**

Rita Higley, Librarian, was present to inform the Commission that landscaping needs to be done at the Library. The Library Board is not asking the City for funds for this project. They are requesting that they be allowed to hire someone to do the maintenance once the landscaping is completed and permission to install an irrigation system, which will increase the water usage.

The consensus of the Commission is to allow both requests. Mr. Smith stated that the area around City Hall also needs some landscaping done. The Commission instructed that Mr. Smith work with Ms. Higley to coordinate plans for landscaping both areas.

### **Small Lake Restoration and CFAP**

Mr. Smith reported that the City is in the process of a grant application for the small lake restoration program through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

### **Discussion of Metal Building**

The City received two bids for erecting the metal building for the street department.

Kincheloe Construction from Brownwood, Texas	\$22,212.00
Meridian Construction Services from Lawrence, Ks	\$19,500.00

Areas for placing the building were discussed. Some suggestions were 1) south of the Railroad Park. This land belongs to Hammersmith and they may donate it to the City. 2) west of the Civic Center. 3) west of the fire station. The Commission requested that the City Administrator check with Hammersmith first and report back at the next meeting.

### **Bids on Tanks**

Three bids were received on the three large fuel tanks at the Electric Plant.

Tom Lockwood	\$325.00
Buffalo Hallow Farms	\$655.00
Matthew Curless	\$75 each or \$225 for all

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to accept the bid from Buffalo Hallow Farms in the amount of \$655.00. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

### **Bids on Lake Caretaker House**

One bid was received on repairs to the Lake Caretaker's house.

Compton Hardware	\$2,679.00
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Motion by Commissioner B. Stirton to accept the bid from Compton Hardware. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

### **Proclamation for "Welcome Home Week"**

Mayor White read and signed a proclamation declaring the week of February 7<sup>th</sup> Welcome Home Week for the soldiers returning from Iraq.

### **Report on Homecoming Events**

City Administrator Smith reported that the latest information was that the troops would not be coming through Horton. Mr. Smith is contacting officials and trying to get this changed before February 12.

The Commission took a recess for 5 minutes at 8:30 p.m.

### **Report on Employee COLA**

Mr. Smith recommended to the Commission that a cost of living allowance (COLA) in the amount of 1.75% be given to the employees for 2005 and that it be given on the anniversary date when evaluated.

Motion by Commissioner Krug to accept the recommendation of the City Administrator. Seconded by Commissioner K. Stirton. All aye.

Mayor White requested that a wage comparison be done with other City's of comparable size.

### **City Administrator's Agenda**

Charles Merz will be retiring May 1, 2005.

Personnel policies and guidelines were presented for the Commission to review and discuss at the next meeting. It was noted that Holiday time has been counted towards the 40 hours worked in order to compute overtime for that week. The Commission felt this should be changed. It was also brought up that possibly time spent towards education should not be counted towards the hours worked when computing overtime. The City Administrator will check on this.

There was some discussion on the safety clothing provided by the City. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

### **Commissioner's Agenda**

#### **Commissioner Krug**

Commissioner Krug inquired if the City owns curb forms. He was advised that the City does own the forms. The City Administrator is working up a plan for replacing the curbs.

#### **Commissioner B. Stirton**

Commissioner B. Stirton inquired if the brick vent at the Little Lake could be repaired. This will be checked out.

The fire department is working on completing the set up of the brush truck and then they would like to sell the old one and use the money for equipment. The Commission agreed to this.

Commissioner B. Stirton would like to advertise the part-time dispatch position at \$8.00 instead of \$6.90 an hour in order to try and get more applicants. The consensus of the Commission was to allow the change.

#### **Commissioner Lentz**

Not present.

#### **Commissioner K. Stirton**

Commissioner K. Stirton informed the Commission that there is a motor grader available in Iowa for \$15,000. He would like to send the street department to check it out and then purchase it if it is acceptable.

Motion by Commissioner Krug to purchase the motor grader if it passes the approval of the street department, City Administrator and Commissioner K. Stirton. Seconded by Commissioner B. Stirton. All aye.

Commissioner K. Stirton would like to see the main roads patrolled more during the daytime hours. There is a problem with speeding.

**Mayor White**

Mayor White reported that the kitchen staff at the hospital wanted to thank the city employees who helped with the meals on wheels during bad weather.

The Mayor has been speaking with different groups in the community about the proposed lake project and has received support from all of them. Several different groups are putting together support petitions.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

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Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

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Dale A. White, Mayor