

October 6, 2008
5:15 P.M.
Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 6, 2008 at 5:15 p.m. in the City Hall Commission Room.

Mayor Lentz called the meeting to order and the prayer was given by Pastor Richard Crooks of the First Baptist Church.

Present: Mayor Lentz, Commissioners Krug, Forkenbrock, and Davies

Absent: Commissioner Luscombe.

The presentation of an award for Officer Tom Williams was added to the agenda. Motion by Commissioner Davies to adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2008 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2008 special meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2993 (payroll) \$31,260.44. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2994 (Disbursements) \$100,679.43. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Report on the Flag Contest

Rita Higley, Chamber President, reported to the Commission that they had received 39 entries in the Design a Flag contest. The Chamber chose 4 finalist and there are voting boxes in different areas around the city to allow the residents to vote. The Chamber requested that the City Commissioners vote for their favorite design. A written ballot was taken and the majority of votes went for entry #3. Commissioner Forkenbrock abstained from voting.

Quarterly Report on Tri-County Manor

The Manor administrator, Mary Brown, was ill and unable to attend the meeting. She will attend the next meeting to give her report.

Discussion of Letter from Code Enforcement Officer to Citizen about a Building

Bill Shufflebarger was present to talk with the Commission about a letter he received. Mr. Shufflebarger owns a metal building that is in a dilapidated condition with missing tin, broken windows and rotted wood. He received a notification from the Code Enforcement Officer requiring him to make the repairs necessary or to receive a notice to appear in court. Mr. Shufflebarger advised the Commission that he does not have the funds to make any repairs to the building. He has a possible buyer for the property but the buyer would not have the money to make the purchase until next summer. Commissioner Davies advised that he would have some people who would help to make the repairs.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to extend the time to make repairs to July 2009 and Commissioner Davies will fix the open hole on the southwest corner of the building. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye. The City Attorney emphasized that the hole on the southwest corner of the building has to be repaired as soon as possible because it is a harbor for rodents and small animals.

Lifesaver Award

Commissioner Forkenbrock presented Officer Tom Williams a Lifesaver Award from the Emergency Medical Services. This award was due to an incident on September 4, 2008 where Officer Williams responded to a call for a premature birth and because of his quick response and actions the infant survived.

Code Enforcement Report

Code Enforcement Officer Jim Stuart gave a report showing activity from April to the present. This report will be updated monthly.

Bids for Police Truck

Bids were received on a patrol truck for the Police Department. There was some discussion that the bids seemed high. Commissioner Krug stated he wants to know how the vehicle will be used, is a crew cab necessary and are all of the extra options necessary or a luxury. He would like to have a report on this information before making a decision. Motion by Commissioner Davies to reject the bids and for the City Administrator to work with the Police Chief to put together a package and bring back to the Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Forkenbrock to send the second patrol vehicle to Stan Boos to be analyzed for anything that might need to be repaired and obtaining an estimate for those repairs if there are any. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. After some discussion about having this done locally, Commissioner Forkenbrock rescinded his motion.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to have the Police Chief put together a check list of items to be inspected on the patrol vehicle and to have the City Administrator and Police Chief to work with the local mechanics to have the inspection done and estimates prepared for repairs. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Discussion of Organizational Structure and the Chief of Police Responsibilities

Earlier this year the position of Chief of Police was taken out from under the authority of the City Administrator and placed directly under the authority of the Commission. This included the hiring and firing authority in the Police Department.

Motion by Commissioner Forkenbrock to reaffirm the City Administrator's powers and duties are as set out in the City Code, Section 1-310 and Ordinance #1055. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye.

Discussion of Speed Limit on Central Avenue

The Commission received 5 written opinions on whether or not to change the speed limit from 20 to 30 mph. 3 of those were in favor of changing the speed limit and 2 were not. Don and Lorene Winchell were present and expressed their opinion that the speed limit should stay at 20 mph. Commissioner Davies advised he had talked with approximately 40 people and the majority were in favor of leaving the speed limit at 20 mph. Motion by Commissioner Davies to leave the speed limit at 20 mph on Central Avenue between 10th and 15th Streets. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Approval of Documents for Rural Development Loan/Grant on Fire Truck and Storm Sirens

The City previously submitted a pre-application for a loan/grant for the purchase of a fire truck and 2 storm sirens. The application paperwork was received and needed to be approved. Motion by Commissioner Krug to authorize the Mayor to sign the application paperwork for the loan/grant. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye.

Discussion of Tax Research and Recovery Proposal

The City Clerk checked with Don Moler from the League of Municipalities about the company. He had not heard of them and suggested getting references. The company provided 2 cities in Kansas that they had done work for. One of those cities responded with a good reference. The consensus of the Commission was to not participate at this time and possibly check into it during the winter months.

The Commission directed the City Administrator and Rex West to check into purchasing bulk fuel for off road vehicles.

Discussion of Engineering on Mission Lake Project

There is some confusion about the permitting process and who is responsible for each part of that process. The City Administrator will be talking with the State and with the engineers to sort out the information.

Report from Rex West

Uretek will be here in 2 weeks to repair E. 8th Street. The staff has installed the water main for Sweet Pro, they are gathering the surplus material for salvage, the 7200 line is in progress, and the no hunting signs are up. The owner of the Superstore is looking to expand the parking lot which will require a curb cut.

City Administrator's Agenda

The City Administrator requested permission to look at establishing a relationship with an engineering firm and putting them on retainer as a city engineer. The Commission agreed to proceed with the process.

There were approximately 20 people at the meeting of volunteers for the KAN STEP project. The City will be getting a crane and will begin taking down the framework and removing the concrete floor and foundation.

The utility staff worked with Sweet Pro to get the utilities planned for the expansion. The City Administrator would like to look at extending the concrete street in front of the business.

Commissioner's Agenda

Commissioner Krug

Commissioner Krug inquired about the electric study and stated that the City needs to get that done.

The firing range is being used by several groups including law enforcement, 4-H and Boy Scouts. There will be night shooting from 5:30-8:30 sometime the first week in December. Commissioner Krug will present a report at a later date.

Commissioner Forkenbrock

Commissioner Forkenbrock requested that Rex West be moved to the top of the agenda in the future so he doesn't have to stay for the whole meeting.

The golf course has entered into an agreement with a fitness company that currently manages 6 other golf courses. The plan to have a fitness center as well as the golf course and will sell memberships. It will be a 5 year lease for \$1/year with an option to buy. There was a question about whether or not they will have water available from the lake during the dredging process. Currently the Country Club pumps water from the lake to water the greens. The City Clerk will try to find an agreement or action that might have been taken in the minutes.

Commissioner Davies

Commissioner Davies has a Scout that would like to clean and paint the rocks on Mission Lake dam. There also is an Eagle Scout that would like to redo the shelters around the lake and paint picnic tables.

There will be a meeting on the pool Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

There is a need for a new mower in the Parks Department.

There are 51 seniors who each have 24 hours of community service to accomplish.

Commissioner Davies inquired about possibly extending the fishing piers at the Little Lake with the concrete material that will be torn out at the old Blue Building site.

Commissioner Luscombe


Not present.


Mayor Lentz

Mayor Lentz had received a call from Carol Reese. She had a water leak after a company worked on her water softener and was requesting an adjustment. The consensus of the Commission was not to adjust the bill.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel to include the Commission, City Attorney, City Administrator and City Clerk. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye. No action was taken in executive session.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.


Candy Schmitt, City Clerk


Tim Lentz, Mayor