

December 1, 2008
5:15 P.M.
Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 1, 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 Forkenbrock, Davies and Commissioner Luscombe. Commissioner Krug entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2008 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3001 (payroll) \$31,245.88. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3002 (Disbursements) \$144,895.56. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Discussion of High Water Usage

Nancy Burns was present to request either a reduction in her water/sewer bill or extended payment arrangements. She received a utility bill with high water usage and discovered a toilet that was running constantly. She contacted her landlord and they came and repaired the toilet. The Commission suggested she ask her landlord to assist with the utility bill and then talk with the City Administrator and City Clerk about making payment arrangement if necessary. Since the water was provided and went through the sewer system there would not be a reduction in the billing amounts.

Adoption of the GAAP Waiver

The State Statutes require that municipalities abide by the General Acceptable Accounting Practices. The statute does allow for smaller cities to waive out from under this rule. A resolution to this effect is required each year.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to adopt Resolution 2008-009 to waive the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) as they apply to the City of Horton for the year ended 2008. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Contract for Audit Services

Motion by Commissioner Forkenbrock to enter into a contract with Lowenthal, Singleton, Webb and Wilson for the 2008 audit. Seconded by Commissioner Luscombe. All aye.

Ordinance on Fuel Adjustment for the Electric Utility Billing

An ordinance to establish a rolling 12 month average for the fuel adjustment on the utility billing was presented. Motion by Commissioner Davies to adopt Ordinance 1090, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 15-204 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE BY PROVIDING FOR AN ENERGY COST ADJUSTMENT FEE ALONG WITH OTHER RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL FEES AND

RATES CURRENTLY CHARGED BY THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Recommendation of Planning and Zoning Board to Rezone 605 Central from C2 to R1

Michelle Anschuetz gave the Commission the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Board to allow 605 Central to be zoned R1 instead of C2. The structure was previously used as a church and has been purchased for the purpose of a residence. There are other residences in the immediate area. Motion by Commissioner Davies to follow the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board and to rezone 605 Central as an R1 district. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Commission Decisions on Blue Building Features

Several items were presented to the Commission for final decision in preparation for the construction of the Blue Building. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Davies to approve making the building all electric, purchasing an electric furnace, installing a power assisted entry door on the south side, a metal awning, overhead beam support for the future moveable wall/partitions and installing a mechanical switch on the electrical layout for emergency power using a generator. They chose not to use “on demand” water heaters but to use standard hot water heaters and not to use a third door on the south entrance but to install the power assist entry on the main door. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. Aye—Mayor Lentz, Commissioners Forkenbrock and Davies. Nay—Commissioner Luscombe. Commissioner Luscombe requested that the record show he feels the City is spending too much money. There was discussion that these expenses would probably have to come out of transfers from the electric fund.

Staff Report

Rex West reported that Uretex repaired the street on East 8th Street last week, soil samples were taken for the Blue Building site and the crews will work on completing the dirt work as the weather permits, a vehicle inventory has been completed, repairs are needed on the John Deere Backhoe and the JCB Backhoe, the Water Department is investigating an increase in water usage of 14,000 to 15,000 gallons of water a day, they are locating the valves and analyzing their performance, the street crews are picking up leaves and sweeping the streets and will patching potholes as the weather allows, the sewer department needs to have repairs made to the jetter truck and their generator, the generator at City Hall also needs repairs, and the electric department will continue to work on the 2400 line.

The City Administrator reported that the Fire Department and Police Department will prepare vehicle inventories and then a replacement program will be put together.

Police Chief Luzier reported that the traffic control for the annual Luminaries is ready.

The City Administrator recommended that the part-time dispatcher, Mindy Meyers, be moved to full time to fill a vacancy. The Commissioners agreed.

City Administrator's Agenda

Interviews for the sewer maintenance operator I position have taken place and the City Administrator will have a recommendation at the next meeting. There were five people interviewed for this position.

USDA/RD has been contacted and it is a possibility that the city may be able to put the 1st payment on a new fire truck and storm sirens off until 2010. Other financing options are being looked into.

Mr. Whisenant reminded the Commission of the pre-bid conference for the Mission Lake Project on December 4 at 1-3 p.m.

Commissioner Krug entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Whisenant reported on the responses from businesses on the energy assessments or audits.

Commissioner's Agenda

Commissioner Krug

Commissioner Krug advised that he and the Mayor met with Tom Stirton concerning a broken waterway on the farm ground that is leased to Mr. Stirton. Commissioner Krug suggested that a dry dam be put in and Mr. Stirton advised he would do the work if the City would take \$1,000 off of the rental on the farm ground. Motion by Commissioner Davies to reduce the rent by \$1,000 in order for Tom Stirton to do terrace work and dry dam work. Seconded by Commissioner Luscombe. All aye.

Commissioner Krug asked that the land that was rented by Compton Brothers be put out for bids again this year. It was decided to advertise for two weeks and open the bids on December 29th. Commissioner Krug will mark the map as to the proper ground to be rented out.

Commissioner Forkenbrock

Commissioner Forkenbrock asked about a frayed flag on a flag pole at 9th and Central. The City Clerk advised that she had contacted the owner and they will replace the flag.

Commissioner Forkenbrock reported that one of the officers had been bitten by a skunk while trying to capture it. He questioned whether or not the officers should be dealing with wild animals. The staff will check with other possible agencies to see if there are any other options.

There was discussion about citizens parking in their front yards. Commissioner Forkenbrock would like to see an ordinance prohibiting such action unless there is a driveway. Commissioner Krug would also like to see the Police Department enforce the parking violations (i.e. parking on the wrong side of the street).

Commissioner Davies

Commissioner Davies has a list of students wishing to work at the pool this summer.

The buoys at Mission Lake need to be pulled out and stored for the winter.

There are dogs running at large around the schools in the mornings. The Police Department will be informed to watch for them.

The doors in the restrooms at City Hall need to be installed to open outward instead of inward for safety.

The Senior Class will be working at the base of the dam to cut brush and burn it and to cut the trees out of the creek channel for up to 200 yards.

Commissioner Luscombe

No report.

Mayor Lentz

Mayor Lentz reminded everyone that the lighting of the Christmas tree will be held on Saturday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Forkenbrock to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Luscombe. All aye.

Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

Tim Lentz, Mayor