

August 17, 2009
5:15 P.M.
Commission Room

The regularly scheduled meeting for the Horton Commissioners was held on Monday, August 17, 2009 at 5:15 p.m. in the City Hall Commission Room.

Mayor Lentz called the meeting to order and City Clerk Candy Schmitt offered the prayer.

Present: Mayor Lentz, Commissioners Krug, Edwards and Forkenbrock. Commissioner Davies entered the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

The ordinance on propane tanks was changed to before the discussion on the emergency preparedness policy. Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2009 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3041 (Payroll) \$37,977.01. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3042 (Disbursements) \$364,031.66. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Public Hearing on 2010 Budget

Mayor Lentz opened the public hearing on the 2010 budget at 5:20 p.m. There were no comments from the public. The 2010 budget sets the mill levy at 60.777. Mayor Lents closed the hearing at 5:22 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve the 2010 budget as published. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Recess to Review Sewer Equipment

Motion by commissioner Forkenbrock to recess the meeting for 15 minutes to allow Commissioners to go outside and look at a piece of equipment for the sewer department. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye. After reconvening the Commission discussed the trailer mounted sewer cleaner that was available to review. There were bids for 2 different machines and the Commission discussed the differences in the specifications on each one. The Commission requested that staff gather some further information and call a special meeting to make the decision.

Discussion on Options on Selling Property

The City Clerk reported she spoke with Harold Arnold about the process of determining the easement for the waterway on the lots that have been requested. He advised that the City could have a survey done or they could write the easement to designate the number of feet required from the center of the existing waterway. The Commission agreed to make the easement 20' on either side of the center of the waterway. The City Attorney will write the contract and bring it back at the next meeting.

Amendment to Agreement for KPP and Resolution

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve the 1st amendment to the original agreement with Kansas Power Pool and to adopt Resolution 2009-08. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Discussion of Protection of Stream Flow at CDF Site

Mr. Whisenant reported that the original design plan for the dam on the confined disposal facility site will not work. The dam has been reconfigured and now will possibly affect the water supply downstream for the stock on the Thorson property. There are two solutions for the problem. The city could either provide a stock tank and fill it periodically or dig a well with a pump. The Commission agreed to provide a stock tank and have the city crews or fire department fill it as needed.

Discussion of Mowing of Abated Property

The Commission discussed options to the current ordinances on mowing and weeds. The current height limit is 12" and the Commission would like to lower that figure. They directed that the staff check into Hiawatha's policies. The City Attorney advised that when the costs for mowing the properties is not paid the owner should be issued a notice to appear in court—even if they live out of state. If they fail to appear in court there will be a warrant issued and when they return to the area they could be arrested.

Ordinance on Electric Rates

The City Attorney presented a proposed ordinance for the change in electric rates. This ordinance will be on the next agenda for approval.

Approval of Ordinance on Prohibiting Residential Use of Propane Tanks

Mayor Lentz reported he had talked with the firemen and they advised they had no problem with propane tanks being in the City limits. The Commission decided not to pursue this ordinance.

Executive Session

Motion by Commissioner Krug to go into executive session at 6:42 p.m. for 15 minutes to discuss personnel, to include the Commission, City Administrator, City Attorney and City Clerk. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye. Commissioner Davies entered the executive session at 7:52 p.m. There was no action taken in executive session.

Discussion of Emergency Preparedness Policy

Officer Stuart presented the Commission with a copy of the current policy. Commissioner Forkenbrock made some suggestions for changes and clarifications to the policy. Officer Stuart will make the changes and submit the policy to the National Weather Service for approval.

Staff Report

Rex West reported that the crews were moving as the weather allows, there are 5 water leaks to be worked on, the crews are reading meters and the school crosswalks will be worked on this week.

City Administrator's Agenda

The City Administrator reported there has been vandalism to the portable toilets at the lake and to the shelter houses.

An employee and Commission cookout and pool party will be held on August 22.

The cost of the wage study from the League of Municipalities will cost \$575.

There were 10 volunteers working on the Blue Building this last weekend and the roof is $\frac{3}{4}$ done. Work can now begin on the inside of the building.

The next meeting with the State on the Mission Lake project will be August 26. The dredge will be here the last of September or first part of October and a town hall meeting will be held with the dredger. An interesting fact—the dredge will pump 16,000 to 18,000 gallons of water per minute.

Mr. Whisenant is working with RDA to close out the current grant on Harvest Fuel, Inc. in order to be able to look at options to help Harvest Fuel further.

There is a national retailer that is looking to put up a 10,000 square foot building and create 20 new jobs.

Commissioner's Agenda

Commissioner Krug

Commissioner Krug reported on the firing range. The National Rim fire Association has 6 shoots this year. A state shoot is scheduled in October and there have been inquiries from several different states. There will be a regional 4-H shoot on August 29.

Commissioner Forkenbrock

Commissioner Forkenbrock inquired about the progress of the fuel card. The City Clerk will make application.

The dispatchers have completed the EMD class and policies and procedures need to be put in place. The Chief of Police advised that the policies and procedures could not be adopted until the dispatchers had received their certification documents.

Commissioner Edwards

Commissioner Edwards inquired about the progress of Watershed Mitigation Plan and was advised by the Mayor that they are working on it.

A letter was received from Harold K. Scholz Company concerning some repairs that were done at the electric plant. No action was taken.

Commissioner Davies

Commissioner Davies asked if anyone at the City was contacted about the County Commission's decision to give the economic development funds to local groups in Hiawatha, Horton and Sabetha instead of to the RDA as they have in the past. No one from the City was contacted.

There has been an abandoned car behind Lentz Express for some time with no license plate and a flat tire. Nothing has been done about it to date. The Police Department was directed to have it removed.

The school lights need to be repaired.

Commissioner Davies will get with the City offices to come up with a request form to be used when city property is requested to be used for events.

No one has contacted the individual who wishes to donate cement for the shelter at Hickory Point. Commissioner Davies will give the name to the City Clerk and she will contact the donor.

Commissioner Davies will discuss a list of properties for demolition with the Code Enforcement Officer and a report will be given at the next meeting.

Mayor Lentz

Mayor Lentz asked about the house at 1234 3rd Ave. West. This structure had a fire and the owner's son came in and purchased a demolition permit but nothing has been done on the structure. Officer Stuart will follow up on the matter.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

Tim Lentz, Mayor