

March 4, 2019
5:15 P.M.
Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 5:15 p.m. in the City Hall Commission Room.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order and the prayer was led by John Calhoon. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Mayor Bryan Stirton, Commissioner Wade Edwards, Rex West, Bobby Bacon, and Ken Krug. City Attorney Kevin Hill and Administrator/Police Chief John Calhoon were also present.

Motion by Commissioner West to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Bacon. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2019 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3548(Payroll) for the amount of \$34,631.00. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3549 (Disbursements) for the amount of \$56,524.20. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Public Comments

Tim Ross hopes that the city will stay local when reviewing bid proposals for liability insurance premiums if possible. He stated that it will help keep the storefront of a business downtown, rather than spend the money out of town. He said if the city would compare the proposals apples to apples that they would find a good reason to keep it local.

KMEA SPA Extension Update/Discuss Solar Options

Scott Shreve was presented a Solar Power Memorandum of Understanding and wanted to discuss the concept and get the Commission's reaction to signing the MOU.

Westar Energy is interested in developing a small scaled solar project of less than 10 MW AC to be located on the local distribution system with an anticipated commercial operating date to be determined. The city would need to have five to ten acres of land to put it on. Westar would insure and maintain. The city would have a Purchase Power Agreement with Westar (PPA) and they would put all the money up front, install it and the city would pay it back. After year 7 the city would have the opportunity to buy out the power. The city would have a \$5000.00 commitment to get an engineer involved to conduct the study. The project has to be 5% started in 2019, with a decision by the city by the 2nd or 3rd quarter. Commissioner Edwards stated that since this an unbudgeted item, the city would need time to discuss funding.

KMEA has been working with SPA (Southwestern Power Administration) on a 15 year power supply contract extension. The cities current SPA agreement is scheduled to expire on May 31, 2019. KMEA has been in contact with SPA over the past several months—expressing their sense of urgency on behalf of our KMEA SPA Members. As soon as they receive the final agreement from SPA, they will distribute the City agreements for our review. KMEA's goal is to get each city an executable agreement and City resolution for our April 2019 Commission meeting. Scott Shreve recommends that the city approve it.

Hiawatha Hospital Interim CEO

John Broberg started interim work with the Hiawatha Hospital on February 8th. He has worked with Hiawatha Hospital before, and was asked to come back on an interim basis. He is a retired CEO from Manhattan and love consulting and working with organizations.

John Broberg updated the Commission on what the joint city/county committee discussed in Monday's meeting. The county will be asking for a 10 year county-wide ½ cent sales tax increase that would require voter approval. The hospital is requesting \$2 million bond for financial support to be paid back over ten years. The hospital will be also looking into hiring a management firm.

He wanted the city to know that the committee supports Horton and have proposed a rural health clinic in the event that the Horton Hospital closes.

Board members – each of the organizations (city of Horton, Hiawatha, and the county) will have designated spots on the committee. Of the 10 board members there will be three positions appointed to each Horton, Hiawatha, and the county.

John would like to come to Horton regularly and provide updates to the city.

Calhoon is concerned that the residents of Horton may not be in favor of the county-wide sales tax increase unless the sales tax increase assures that the Horton Hospital will get support as well in the event that it closes.

Review Insurance Proposals and Consider Recommendation

The city solicited proposals for property, casualty, and general liability insurance to include a boiler and machinery coverage policy as well as equipment breakdown and property coverage at the Municipal Power Plant. Proposals were to be submitted to the city my March 4th. Bids were received from KCAMP and Maximum Insurance, LLC.

Stuart Mathewson and Tom Simmer were present to ask the Commission to access the proposal from KCAMP since no RFP's were given at bid time; they want to compare apples to apples and see what they are proposing. Maximum Insurance would not change their premium from what has already been submitted to the city.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to allow KCAMP and Maximum Insurance, LLC to share the information on each other's proposals. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Calhoon and selected staff/Commissioner(s) will review the proposals and make a recommendation to the Commission on 03/18/19.

Open Airport Farm Ground Bids

Sealed bids were open for approximately 41.1 acres of farm ground at the airport. The term of this lease is for a period of one (3) year which shall be from March 1, 2019 and terminate on March 1, 2022 unless sooner terminated. Motion by Commissioner Krug to award the high bid to Matthew Geiger for the sum of \$6,165.00 per year. Seconded by Commissioner Bacon. All aye.

Bids were also received by Ron Sextro and Tanner Campbell.

Revised Ordinance for CMB Sales

The first reading of the Ordinance was done. The CMB Ordinance REGULATING THE SALE OF ENHANCED CEREAL MALT BEVERAGES and/or BEER CONTAINING NOT MORE THAN 6% ALCOHOL will be considered for approval at the next meeting on 03/18/19. Kevin Hill asked the Commission if they would like the section pertaining to Minors on Premises to be added to the amended Ordinance.

Little League Program Discussion

Toby Stevens inquired about using the ballfields in Horton for overabundance of in Everest Little League teams. Calhoon informed him that they would be responsible for field prep and maintenance other than mowing and weed eating. Mayor Stirton said that he would like to see an agreement between the city and Little League if they are going to utilize our fields. The Commission directed Calhoon to draft an agreement for approval, and make contact to make sure nobody local is interested.

Hospital Utilities Discussion

Several Horton Hospital employees were in attendance to voice concerns about the utilities being disconnected by the city before the potential closing of the hospital.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to discontinue services in the hospital at noon on Friday, March 8th pending no action by employees. Seconded by Commissioner West. Aye- Commissioner West, Edwards, and Bacon. Nay- Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Krug. Motion passed. This will allow employees ample time to get their belongings out, get hospital supplies in order, and secure items. The consensus of the employees was that if they aren't paid in full by Friday, March 8th they are going to walk.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards that if the Horton Hospital employees get paid in full by Friday, March 8th, the Commission would give Calhoon discretion to leave utilities active until the Commission meets again to discuss. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Review Calhoon Contract

The Commission reviewed John Calhoon's employment agreement that was prepared by Kevin Hill for use with John's employment as chief of police and city administrator. The agreement was amended to add part D to "Section 3: Compensation" of the agreement. Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve the agreement with the addition of paragraph D. Seconded by Commissioner Bacon. All aye.

City Administrator/Chief of Police Calhoon

There are two new hires at the city, Ivy Stone and Chasity Sinclair. Ivy will replace Candy Schmitt as Court Clerk after her retirement in June, and Chasity is training to be the midnight dispatcher.

The sewer plant is having some issues with a couple pumps. The city is trying to get one of the pumps refurbished by Douglas Pump, but may not have a choice but to buy a new one.

There are 10-12 camping spots available for signup at the Blue Building on March 15th at 6:00 p.m.

The Parks & Recreation Board met and recommended to the Commission that Bruce Whetstine, from Troy, be appointed as a new member, and Andrew Monson be removed from the board since he is never in attendance of the meetings.

Motion by Commissioner West to appoint Bruce Whetstine to the Parks & Recreation Board. Seconded by Commissioner Bacon. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to remove Andrew Monson from the Parks & Recreation Board to ratify the recommendation of the board. Seconded by Commissioner Bacon. All aye.

Due to inclement weather, the school board did not use of the Blue Building on February 20th and 27th 2019 for ACT testing for juniors and seniors. They will work with John to set new dates.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to direct Calhoon to draft Ray Foster a letter for tax purposes valuating the land that he donated to the city. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Mayor Stirton

Mayor Stirton read aloud a Proclamation of Appreciation celebrating the 60th wedding anniversary of Wade and Donna Edwards.

The Scooters 3rd Annual Rally will be on May 4th at 8:00 a.m. at Country Crossing – 1225 120th in Horton. The Rally is for bikers against drowning-always swim safely. Motion by Commissioner Edwards for Mayor Stirton to draft a Proclamation for the rally. Seconded by Commissioner Bacon. All aye.

10 Minute Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to go into a 10 minute executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel to protect the privacy interests of the employee to include Mayor Stirton, Commissioners Edwards, Bacon, West, and Krug, Kevin Hill, Kim Knudson, and John Calhoon. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye. Returned after 1 minute because it was not a subject that can be discussed in executive session, so no discussion took place.

Mayor Stirton voiced concern over people not associated with the city calling in and asking questions about a specific utility that they have no financial interest in it. Kevin Hill suggested that we have those requests go through the city procedures of an open meeting request, by charging accordingly, and having them sign something saying that the information will not be used for a commercial purpose. He said it may alleviate third party's calling in. Also, Mayor Stirton wanted to make sure that non-city personnel are not calling Kevin Hill for legal advice, and the city is getting charged.

Commissioner Bacon

No report.

Commissioner West

No report.

Commissioner Edwards

No report.

Commissioner Krug

No report.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Bacon. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor