

February 3, 2020
5:15 P.M.
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Stirton called the meeting to order and the opening prayer was led by Pastor Young. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Present: Mayor Stirton, Commissioners Wade Edwards, Rex West, Richard Lovelady, and Ken Krug. City Administrator John Calhoon and Attorney Kevin Hill were also present.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2020 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3595(Payroll) for the amount of \$33,564.33. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3596 (Disbursements) for the amount of \$67,625.97. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye.

Public Comments

Randy Mayfield and Karl Gaskell were present to share that The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is now accepting applications for the Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) program. The application period will close on Friday, March 13, 2020. Funds from FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program can be used for training, equipment, vehicles and other improvements to local fire departments. The Horton fire department would like to apply for the grant to receive funding for full bunker gear and a fire truck. When serving a jurisdiction of 20,000 residents or fewer, the applicant shall agree to make available non-federal funds in an amount equal to not less than 5%of the grant awarded. Krug stated that it is a long shot, but worth applying for. Motion by Commissioner Krug to pursue grants for funding equipment and a vehicle for the fire department. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Ronald Thacker, a Recruiting Assistant for the 2020 Census was present to stress the importance of participation in the 2020 Census. The U.S. census counts every resident in the United States. It is mandated and takes place every 10 years. The data collected by the census determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities.

Ronald suggested that anyone interested in applying to be a census worker complete an application and answer assessment questions at 2020census.gov/jobs. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, and access to a vehicle. You must be available to work flexible hours, which can include days, evenings, and weekends. Hired census workers will be paid \$15.00 an hour plus mileage reimbursement.

Hiawatha Hospital Updates

Jacque Kerl presented the Hiawatha Community Hospital Leadership Report for Commissioners. Commissioner West stated that it is nice for Hiawatha Hospital to provide this information on a monthly basis, but asked what the Commission is supposed to do with the information provided. Jacque said that it is their commitment to transparency to the communities that they serve.

Atchison Account Management Follow-Up

Follow-up discussion was tabled until Calhoon's agenda.

Revised Animal Ordinance

The first reading of Ordinance #1186 was presented by city attorney Kevin Hill. The Ordinance will be considered for approval at the next Commission meeting on 02/18.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to go into a 5minute executive session to discuss attorney client privilege to include Mayor Stirton, Commissioners Edwards, Krug, West, and Lovelady, John Calhoon, Kim Knudson, and Kevin Hill. Seconded by Commissioner Lovelady. All aye. After executive session no action taken.

City Administrator/Chief of Police Calhoon

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to table discussion regarding Atchison Account Management indefinitely. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Mayor Stirton, Commissioner Edwards, and John Calhoon met with the Atchison Hospital CEO this week. Calhoon is optimistic that as of today the hospital property belongs to Atchison Hospital. The CEO will tentatively attend the February 18th meeting to provide further updates. Potentially prior to the opening they would like to have an open house. They discussed calling a special meeting for the Commission - and adjourn from city hall afterward to attend open house at the clinic. Calhoon will coordinate with Atchison Hospital CEO Jeff Perry and the public will be invited.

Last Friday, the 31st, Calhoon did a short presentation in front of the selection committee for the Heritage Trust Grant that the city applied for. Individual grant awards could not exceed \$90,000 and a portion must have been matched by the grant recipient. The grants were awarded on Saturday and the city did not get the grant. There were 56 applicants across the state, and 13 were granted. The 13 awards totaled \$899,938 in proposed grant funding, and there was well over 4 million dollars in requests. However, the Horton Civic Center was approved to be eligible for the National Historic Landmark.

Kevin was presented the Opinion of Counsel Relative to Rights-Of-Way document to review and sign for Phase III of the wastewater treatment improvements. Sam Johnson said that documents are being finalized and bids will be potentially let at the end of February or March. Motion by Commissioner West to authorize publishing of bid documents pending KDHE and USDA approval. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

The Commission revisited the power pole upgrade discussion. RS Electric Utility Services submitted a bid for \$23,659.60 to replace 5 poles that are critical to the city's infrastructure. Poles will also need to be purchased for around \$7,700. The city will purchase additional poles since it is cheaper to purchase in bulk. Motion by Commissioner Edwards to move forward with scheduling the pole project and take funds from the electric department. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Mayor Stirton

No report.

Commissioner Lovelady

No report.

Commissioner West

Since the CDBG Community Facility Application was recently denied for funding for the new ballfields, HIDC would like to attend the Commission meeting on February 18th to discuss the next step for the ballfields so it doesn't fall through the cracks.

Commissioner Edwards

Commissioner Edwards asked if the city crews were on pothole patrol. He suggested that they look at 8th Avenue between the two roads going to the cemetery since they are almost impassable.

Edwards asked Calhoon for an update on the painting of the floor at the generation plant. Calhoon said that it was supposed to be done in the month of January but he hasn't heard back from Robert Senn. Edwards said that he would appreciate Calhoon staying in contact with Senn until the work is completed.

The League of Kansas Municipalities has formed a partnership with the National League of Cities (NLC) Service Line Warranty Program, administered by Utility Service Partners, Inc. The program educates homeowners about their service line responsibilities and offers affordable protection from unanticipated service line repair costs. Motion by Commissioner Edwards to authorize the city to prepare the Resolution and get a copy of the agreement from the League of Kansas Municipalities for future action. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Commissioner Krug

Commissioner Krug presented a letter from Matt Geiger, who currently farms the crop ground at the airport. His letter stated that if it is mutually agreeable, he will apply ag lime to the airport tillable acres in exchange for extending the current contract by five years. Kevin Hill will amend the current Airport Contractual Lease Agreement with changes and present at the next meeting for review.

Commissioner Krug would like to have a local contractor signup at the beginning of each year for anticipated projects throughout the year.

Krug would like to get business owners in town together with the Commission for an informational meeting regarding cleaning up their properties. A letter has been drafted and Officer Boller has served several business owners that are in violation to attend the Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 18th. The goal is to see what their suggestions are from their end and help the Commission make out a solution. This gives an opportunity to say what their thoughts are and why, and for the Commissioner to get input in a public meeting. This will be a positive step before any enforcement action is necessary by the Police Department.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Kim Knudson, City Clerk

Bryan Stirton, Mayor