

January 6, 2020  
5:15 P.M.  
City Hall

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regular meeting on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall.

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

Present: Mayor Stirton, Commissioners Wade Edwards, Rex West, 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 West. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2019 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve the minutes from the December 30, 2019 special meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3589 (Payroll) for the amount of \$31,986.48. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3590(Payroll) for the amount of \$43,309.17. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3591 (Disbursements) for the amount of \$98,433.32. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner West to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3592 (Disbursements) for the amount of \$232,473.38. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

### **Public Comments**

None.

### **Swear in Richard Lovelady**

Richard Lovelady was out ill. Prior to the next meeting City Clerk, Kim Knudson will swear in Lovelady, who is the new Parks and Recreation Commissioner.

### **Request to be Placed on Agenda**

John Broberg went over the Hiawatha Community Hospital Leadership Report with the Commission.

### **City Website Update Discussion**

Brianna Dowell discussed three options for a new website developer for the city. Brianna discussed the current city website's functionality and said that it is outdated. The new website would provide ADA compliance, automatic calendar changes, emergency alerts, a search engine, and mobile friendly accessibility among other things. The different pricing options were also discussed.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to table the discussion about the city website until the next meeting on 01/20. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

**Open Rock & Hauling Bids**

Motion by Commissioner West to accept the 2020 hauling bid from Stirton Bros. Trucking for 15.9 cents per ton, per loaded mile. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. Aye – Commissioners West, Edwards, and Krug. Abstain – Mayor Stirton.

Since bids were offered by the city for materials and nobody responded, Calhoon will call around to past bidders to see what price they can give for the year on an as needed basis.

**Consider New Signer for City Checks**

Motion by Commissioner West for Richard Lovelady to sign checks for the city contingent on him accepting the responsibility. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

**Discuss Downtown Buildings Recently Demolished**

\$81,000 was paid to Madget Demolition for the tear down of the building's downtown, and \$1,415.18 was paid in landfill fees. The county assisted in hauling local dirt to the site once the buildings were down. Madget also provided an additional proposal to fill all of the brick holes on the existing building, mend the front corner, and sawcut the back to make it look better.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve Calhoon to reach a contract with Madget Demolition for wall repair filling holes, mudding the northwest corner, and saw cutting the southwest corner of the demolished buildings, not to exceed \$4,000. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

Madget Demolition recommended that the city hire a structural engineer to look at the existing connecting building, but the Commission opted not to.

Calhoon has been in contact with the owners of the buildings that were demolished. One out of the two owners verbally stated that they would Quit Claim Deed the property over to the city. Calhoon hasn't gotten ahold of the other owner yet.

**Discuss Recent Fire Structures**

The house at 326 East 8<sup>th</sup> (Allen's) that was recently affected by fire will be demolished and hauled away by Austin Martin Construction within the next two weeks.

The second house affected located at 334 East 8<sup>th</sup> is currently owned by Todd & Jody Horton, and they are no longer in the area.

The owner of the third house at 342 East 8<sup>th</sup> is willing to sign the property over to the city. Calhoon feels that the owners should be responsible for the cleanup of the properties and will try to locate the owners and discuss at the next meeting.

**City Administrator/Chief of Police Calhoon**

Calhoon will provide updates for a reorganization meeting and look at evaluating rental fees and designated holidays for the year, etc. at the next meeting.

At no request from any of the Commissioners, Calhoon feels that the Mayor and Commissioners should receive a reimbursement for the gas and time spent for attending city meetings and helping the city. Calhoon recommended that the Mayor receive \$150 a month, and the Commissioners receive \$100 a month. Motion by Commissioner Edwards to raise the current fees to \$150 a month for the Mayor, and \$100 a month for the Commissioners effective 02/01/2020. Motion died for lack of second.

Calhoon is close to informing Waste Management that the city wishes to terminate using their services for city provided dumpsters. He wants to make sure they have what the city needs for dumpsters. This change will save the city approximately \$6,600 annually.

Calhoon received an estimate to replace wood flooring with aluminum deck plating in the generation plant. Krug would like Calhoon to get more bids before the Commission proceeds. No estimate was given to the Commissioners until quotes are received from a couple other local businesses.

The Commission agreed to let the city of Whiting utilize the cities jetter truck this week. West would like there to be a stipulation that if the jetter gets stuck they would be responsible for digging the sewer up to unstick our jetter.

#### **5 Minute Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel**

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to go into a 5-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, West, and Krug, Kevin Hill, Kim Knudson, and John Calhoon. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye. No action taken after executive session.

The Commission discussed the possibility of rehiring an employee that worked for the city previously. Based on his certifications and knowledge of the city and its departments, the Commission was on board for consideration.

#### **Mayor Stirton**

Mayor Stirton recommended that new Christmas banners for the town entrances be considered for replacement at budget time.

Stirton asked who was responsible for the tree trimming on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East and Central. Calhoon said it on the agenda for the city crews.

The Commission discussed running a water line to Otho and Tim Stevens building downtown. Calhoon said the holdup is deciding the best option to run the line without tearing up streets or sidewalks. Edwards and West will meet with Calhoon on Wednesday to review maps and discuss further.

#### **Commissioner West**

West would like to see the proposed rental fee schedule for city owned buildings presented at the next Commission meeting.

#### **Commissioner Edwards**

Edwards asked about the results of the rate analysis that was performed by KRWA for the city. Calhoon has not heard back from them, but will follow up with Greg Duryea.

Edwards requested that the city doesn't plow the gravel road to the north of him when it snows, as it only pushes the gravel into the ditches.

#### **Commissioner Krug**

No updates.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner West. All aye.

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Kim Knudson, City Clerk

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Bryan Stirton, Mayor