

December 16, 2002
6:00 P.M.
Horton High School Auditorium

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 16, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the Horton High School Auditorium.

Pastor David Glavin from the First Baptist Church opened the meeting with prayer.

Present: Mayor Thomas and Commissioners Stirton, Dave McClain, Lentz and John McClain.

Motion by Commissioner Lentz to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2002 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner John McClain. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Dave McClain to approve appropriation ordinances #2693 (Payroll) in the amount of \$28,999.26 and #2694 (Disbursements) in the amount of \$121,707.26. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Discussion of Tri-County Manor

Robert Gaskell, Chairman of the Manor Board and Dean Strahm, Administrator of the Manor, presented information concerning the financial situation of the Manor. Past administration had caused several debts to remain unpaid and one of those was a utility bill from the City of Horton. When Mr. Strahm assumed office the bill was in excess of \$54,000. Since that time they have managed to make payments and the amount now owed is a little over \$32,000. Due to Medicaid cuts in payments the Manor is now losing \$18,000 a month from those funds. They are requesting some relief from the City of Horton on the utility bill. Previously the Manor had requested that the City forgive the entire amount but now are asking for time to pay and for the City to forgive the penalties. Several citizens were present to ask questions and express their concerns and opinions. Mr. Leighton, City Administrator, stated that if the bill were forgiven it would not have a negative impact on the budget. Mayor Thomas stated that she felt the City should help any way that they could. Commissioner Dave McClain stated that he would not be in favor of forgiving the whole debt but may be in favor of forgiving the penalties.

Motion by Mayor Thomas to have the Tri-County Manor submit a written proposal of viable options and that the matter be tabled without prejudice to a later date. Seconded by Commissioner John McClain. All aye.

City Administrator's Agenda

Mr. Leighton reported that the City could stand to lose approximately \$40,000 from demand transfers in 2003. The Governor has ceased all or portions of the demand transfers from the State of Kansas. The League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Association of Counties will be filing a law suit against the Governor. Motion by Commissioner Dave McClain to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter stating the City of Horton wishes to be named as a litigant in the law suit. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Mr. Leighton announced that a call from Senator Brownback's office had been received stating that the Fire Department had received a grant from FEMA in the amount of \$61,674 to purchase equipment.

Commissioner's Agenda Commissioner Stirton

Commissioner Stirton thanked the public who had attended the meeting for their interest.

Commissioner Stirton announced that the Police Department had received a donation from Wal-Mart in the amount of \$500.

Commissioner Stirton expressed concern that a Dodge Durango had been ordered and was not brought before the Commission for approval first. He inquired about who had ordered the vehicle. Mr. Leighton advised that he had approved the purchase because he thought since it was budgeted it was permissible to make the purchase. He stated that he intends to cancel the order the next day.

Motion by Commissioner Stirton to implement a ride-a-long program, which would be at the officers discretion. The rider would have to sign a waiver of liability and a sign-up sheet showing the dates and times they rode with the officer. All riders would have to be 18 years old or older. Seconded by Mayor Thomas. All aye. Mayor Thomas suggested that the City Administrator check with the City of Topeka about their "Family Night" ride-a-long program.

Commissioner Lentz

Commissioner Lentz requested that rock be put on the roads on the east side of Mission Lake. Mr. Leighton advised that it would be done after the first of the year.

Mayor Thomas

Mayor Thomas had received a letter from Irene Mydland expressing her concern about the fire department having enough water tanks for fires out in the country. It was noted that the fire department is looking into getting another water tank. Commissioner Stirton also reported that there is not much pressure on the fire hydrant at 7th and 1st Ave. E.

Motion by Mayor Thomas to go into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss personnel. Seconded by Commissioner Stirton. All aye. Upon reconvening, Mayor Thomas stated that no action was taken.

Motion by Mayor Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Dave McClain. All aye.

Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

Jeanne Thomas, Mayor