

June 21, 2003
8:00 a.m.
City Hall Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a special meeting on Saturday, June 21, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. at the Senior Citizen's Center.

Mayor White called the meeting to order.

Present: Mayor White, Commissioners Smith and McClain.

Absent: Commissioners Stirton and Lentz.

A public hearing on the condemnation of structures within the City of Horton was held. Mr. Leighton reported that there had been no response from the owners of the properties being considered. Motion by Commissioner Smith to condemn the structures at 802 W. 12th, 600 W. 13th, 431 W. 10th and 531 W. 9th. Seconded by Commissioner McClain. All aye. Commissioner McClain stated that the property located at 726 Central needs to be cleaned up and repaired.

Several items were discussed by the Commission with comments from citizens who were present. The idea of building a skateboard park was presented to Mayor White by some youth in the community. Commissioner Lentz will be talking with them and the Park Board concerning this project. Mayor White stated that if they can get things together and get funding it would be a good deal.

A cooling system has been purchased for cooling the west end of the community building. This should be beneficial during the fair as well as other events during the summer months. Some type of ventilation in the ceiling is still needed. Mayor White stated that the community building and the civic center are important assets for the City.

Mayor White reported that the Kickapoo Nation and the Sac & Fox are trying to build a resort in Kansas City and will use the current casinos to finance the project. A proclamation was presented to the Kickapoo Nation in appreciation for the economic impact they have had on the community. They employ 400 people and receive several hundred thousand visitors a year. This is a good opportunity for the Tribes and the City to work together for economic development.

Lee Greenwood visited the firing range on June 20 and was the first person to use the facility.

People are needed to serve on the Firing Range Advisory Board. The City will be training at least 10 safety officers and the range will not be open unless someone who is trained is on the site.

A city survey will be sent out soon. David Ross has been asked to review the survey and make suggestions if changes are needed.

New welcome to Horton signs will be put up on June 23. Mitchell Fassnacht put the lettering on the signs and did a very good job.

The City is looking for suggestions for a motto or slogan to be put on the new signs. So far, three suggestions have been submitted.

Insurance coverage on the Library has been increased to cover the contents. Work has been done on the guttering and the drainage around the building. Painting will be done on the inside of the Library. There was some vandalism on the book drop recently.

Mayor White reported that there adults have been arrested on recent vandalism of properties in the City. The Police Department is trying to be as aggressive as appropriate. There has also been a crack down on noise violations and the situation has improved.

The City is talking with the Chamber of Commerce about maintaining a website for the City of Horton.

A building survey of available commercial style buildings needs to be completed.

A Community Assessment Tool Survey needs to be completed. This assists the Kansas Department of Commerce in assessing where a community is as far as economic development. Comprehensive development grants are available and this survey is the first step.

The enterprise facilitator, Janet Griesel will be at City Hall on July 7 at 4:00 p.m. to meet citizens. She will also attend the Commission meeting that evening. Ms. Griesel administers a project to assist new businesses as they get started or existing businesses to expand.

Some suggestions for improving the atmosphere of Horton were made by those present. It was suggested that when business make improvements there should be before and after pictures to show the difference that is made. All citizens need to have a positive attitude. It was also suggested that murals be painted on the walls downtown, articles be written about successful hometown businesses and that regular articles be written to keep the public aware of changes being made.

Mayor White and the Commissioners thanked those who attended the meeting for their comments and ideas.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

Dale A. White, Mayor