

October 20, 2003
6:15 P.M.
City Hall Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 20, 2003 at 6:15 p.m. in the Commission Room at City Hall.

Pastor Tom Stone of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ opened the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor White, Commissioners Smith, Lentz and McClain.

Absent: Commissioner Stirton.

Item number 8 was moved to position 4 on the agenda.

The minutes of the previous meeting were corrected to show that Commissioner Smith instructed the Administrator to proceed with the grant on the walking trail and that Mayor White inquired about the Main Street Project and instructed the Administrator to submit the grant. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2738 (Payroll) in the amount of \$27,925.01. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye. Motion by Commissioner Smith to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2739 (Disbursements) in the amount of \$237,965.10. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

Discussion of Plum Creek Reservoir—Watershed Representative and Kickapoo Tribe Representative

The representatives present from the Watershed Board were Wayne Heininger, Glen Henneger, Rodney Lierz and Mr. Ploeger. An engineering firm was hired and a plan developed in which 21 sites were originally selected. The plan was approved by Congress in 1998. The purpose of the watershed program is to control floodwaters and it is funded by property tax on agricultural land.

The representatives present from the Kickapoo Tribe were Steve Cadue, Emily Conklin, Nellie Cadue and Damen Williams. The Tribe needs development of all infrastructures on the reservation. They approached the watershed to be involved in the plan for the reservoir. The cost of the plan was \$200,000 and \$150,000 was given by the BIA so that the tribe could be involved. When they began to implement the plan, it was discovered that the Department of Agriculture required an imminent domain authority. The tribe does not have this authority but the watershed board does. The Delaware River has run dry for 2 out of the last 3 years and the tribe has to haul water in by truck from the City of Atchison. The selected site for the reservoir is approximately 1200 acres in size and the tribe owns 400 acres of this section. The purpose of the reservoir is for flood control, potable water and recreational facilities.

Mayor White explained the Commission is trying to understand the project as we are neighbors to the Kickapoo Tribe and to be able to answer any questions brought to them.

Commissioner Smith inquired as to who would pay for the land purchased and was advised that the tribe would be responsible to buy the properties. The total estimated cost of the project is \$7,000,000. Letters have been sent to landowners to get title and appraisal information and then the tribe will meet with the landowners individually.

Mr. Cadue requested that the Commission review the situation and provide a letter of support for the project. Commissioner Lentz stated he would like to see a copy of the plan.

Presentation to Raven Hundley

Mayor White presented Raven Hundley an Honest Citizen Award. Raven found \$1,200 in cash and returned it to the Police Department so that the owner could be found and the money returned. Raven is 7 years old.

Carolyn Gaston--Sprint

Ms. Gaston presented the quarterly franchise check to the City Clerk and explained the changes to the definition of gross receipts.

Commissioner Smith stated that internet services are needed in rural communities to be able to attract businesses for economic development. Ms. Gaston reported that it is in the plan to provide DSL internet services for the City of Horton but a definite date is unavailable at this time. She will know something by December and will return to the Commission in January with information concerning DSL. Ms. Gaston suggested a customer information day be setup where she would come to Horton and meet with residents to answer any questions and try to solve problems they are experiencing with the service.

Motion by Commissioner Smith that a letter be sent to Rainbow Telephone Company to urge them to get with KCC and get authority to come into Horton with their services. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye. Mr. Leighton will prepare the letter for the Mayor's signature.

Louis Funk—Bartlett and West Engineers—Update on Water Wells

Mr. Funk reported that there had been a problem with well number three. It is being built on a terrace and they had tried several different options to try to move it off of the terrace but when test wells were dug in the area it was discovered that the well would have to be at the terrace. The project is about 1 ½ months behind schedule but it should be completed by January 1. The well building should be started this week.

Discussion of Homestead Program

The Commission needs to decide if they want to proceed with the homestead program. If they do, parameters are going to have to be set. The City Attorney was instructed to draft a set of parameters for the program and to look into setting up a 501c3 for the City. A meeting will be set up for November 18 at 3:30 p.m. with the banking institutions, Gary Satter and the City.

Charter Ordinance for Library Board

Motion by Commissioner Smith to adopt Charter Ordinance Number 17, A CHARTER ORDINANCE AMENDING CHARTER ORDINANCE NUMBER 16 EXEMPTING THE CITY OF HORTON, FROM THE PROVISIONS OF K.S.A. 12-1222, RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENT THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD SHALL BE A RESIDENT OF THE CITY OF HORTON, KANSAS. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye. This ordinance will allow two members of the library board to be from outside the city limits.

City Administrator's Agenda

Mr. Leighton reported he is working on a map of vacant lots for the Commission. There will be a dedication ceremony for the firing range on October 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner's Agenda

Commissioner Smith

No report

Commissioner Stirton

Not present.

Commissioner Lentz

Commissioner Lentz stated he wanted to recognize the employees who worked on the firing range for a good job.

Commissioner McClain

Commissioner McClain reported he was taking the Range Safety Officer training. He would like a sign to be placed at the firing range that dedicates it to the veterans.

Mayor White

Mayor White reported that he and the Administrator had attended the annual meeting in Topeka. The next planning committee meeting will be November 4. The committee will soon submit a draft plan of action on the goals for the City.

The Mayor would like the commission to setup a retreat sometime between now and February to discuss the plan that is developed by the planning committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

Dale A. White, Mayor