

October 4, 2004  
6:15 P.M.  
City Hall Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 4, 2004 at 6:15 p.m. in the Commission Room at City Hall.

Mayor White opened the meeting and the prayer was given by Pastor Richard Crooks of the First Baptist Church.

Present: Mayor White and Commissioners B. Stirton, Lentz and K. Stirton.

The new City Administrator, Ron Smith, was also present.

Motion by Commissioner Lentz to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner K. Sitrton. All aye.

The minutes of the September 20, 2004 meeting were approved as presented.

The minutes of the September 29, 2004 meeting were amended to state that Ron Smith was hired as the City Administrator/Economic Development Coordinator. The minutes were approved as amended.

Motion by Commissioner Lentz to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2788 (Payroll) in the amount of \$28,199.94. Seconded by Commissioner K. Stirton. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2789 (Disbursements) in the amount of \$79,238.22. Seconded by Commissioner Lentz. All aye.

### **Resolution for KMEA**

Bob Polys, a representative from KMEA, was present to answer questions and explain the resolution. KMEA has 68 members Federal hydropower is being purchased from Colorado and brought in to Kansas. The power is inexpensive but the transmission of the power is where the cost is great. There are 43 allocatees in Kansas and Horton is one of those; however, it is too expensive to transmit the power to Horton. Horton's allocation is sold to someone else, the money is put into an escrow account, and Horton can apply for grants from that account. This would help fund projects such as new baseball field lights. The resolution states that Horton agrees to be in the power pool and to participate in the grant process each year.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to adopt Resolution 04-104. Seconded by Commissioner B. Stirton. All aye.

\*Commissioner Lentz left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

### **On-the Job Training and Apprenticeship Programs**

Tony Floyd, representative of Kansas Commission of Veteran Affairs, was present to explain the JOT program for veterans. An outline is required that shows the training steps and amount of time required for each one. It has to be a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 2 years. There is a supervisory review one time each year to review the paperwork.

Motion by Commissioner B. Stirton to approve the application to the JOT program through the Veterans Administration for the police department. Seconded by Commissioner K. Stirton. All aye.

## **Report on Sewer Plant Study**

Pat Cox and Karen Weathers from BG Consultants were present to make the final report on the completed study for the sanitation plant. The facilities plan was submitted to KDHE and a letter was received from them approving the plan. The engineers recommended a new sewage lagoon because they felt it was the most cost effective.

The Commission explained that they do not want to build a new facility but want to make renovations to the current facility. It was noted that the study was commissioned because the plant had been out of compliance for several months and KDHE requested a study be done. The ammonia levels were high and the study showed that the waste hauling had not been carried out as required. This error was corrected and now the plant is in compliance for the last couple of months.

KDHE is requiring a schedule of the City's plan be submitted to them by October 8, 2004.

Mr. Smith will work with BG Consultants to draft a response to KDHE.

Mr. Cox pointed out that if a State revolving loan is obtained by the City the payback starts 2 years after the first drawdown.

The Commission directed that a schedule be developed with the plant operator to carry out the operational recommendations of the engineers in the study.

## **Discussion of New Business and Benefits**

Peg Wilkerson appeared before the Commission to inform them that she and Chris Long purchased the Paden property on Central and will be opening a restaurant in that building. Their plan is to eventually restore the Masonic Hall to its original condition. She inquired about any assistance that the City provides for new businesses. She was advised of the Neighborhood Revitalization Act, the enterprise zone and the benefits of speaking with the Enterprise Facilitator. She was also advised to contact Connie Werner with the Chamber of Commerce and Jerry Walker with HIDC to see what help they would have available.

## **Discussion of Cutting Trees at Mission Lake**

Mr. Green was not present.

## **Discussion of Work Being Done on the East Side of Mission Lake**

Louis Sohn was present to inform the Commission that he had applied for a permit from KDHE to move dirt around his property on the east side of Mission Lake. His plan is to put in a RV park with 20 pads. The Commission had some concern about the drainage into the lake and possible siltation. Mr. Sohn advised he would be building a silting pond to prevent this from happening.

## **Discussion of Zoning Jurisdiction**

The City Attorney reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances for the City of Horton. Currently the City does not zone the 3 miles outside the City limits that is authorized by State Statute. He reported that the majority of cities do exercise their authority to zone within 3 miles of the city limits. The Zoning Board will meet on October 21 and will discuss the jurisdiction issue at that time and will make a recommendation to the Commission.

## **Website Contract**

The original contract shows that the city owns the website. The new contract needs to show a maintenance amount and set a ceiling amount that will require prior approval before going beyond that amount. Mr. Smith will visit with Candace Siebenmorgen.

## **Municipal Investment Pool Resolution**

Tabled to the next meeting.

## **Report on Lake Project**

Mayor White reported that a letter of interest was submitted to the Department of Conservation for the pilot project for lakes.

## **Report on Firing Range**

The weeds on the berms were cut and the grass mowed around the fence line. A concrete pad is needed around the shed and the portable toilet to allow for handicap accessibility.

A 10-minute recess was called and the meeting resumed at 8:52.

## **City Administrator's Agenda**

The department heads are meeting with Mr. Smith first thing in the mornings during the week. They are working on an inventory of fixed assets.

Mr. Smith will go out for bids on the concrete work to E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street since only one bid was made available by the street department.

Mr. Smith presented a resolution that was passed in 1992 for incentives on utilities for businesses creating 10 jobs or more. Mr. Smith would like to suggest a decrease in the amount of jobs that have to be created to get the incentive. Mr. Smith will bring back a recommendation to the Commission.

Mr. Smith will rework the ordinance or policy on the cost of an electric pole when a citizen wants a space light. Currently they pay \$25 to have a pole set.

Mr. Smith reported that he would be buying new Christmas garland at a cost of about \$300.

Mrs. Leroy Paden had made a complaint about the smell when the tree dump is burned. It was noted that the City will watch the wind direction as much as possible and will notify the Paden's before burning. It was also asked that the police patrol the tree dump for unauthorized dumping and that it be published in the paper that there should be no plastic bags left at the tree dump.

A note was made that when the swimming pool is sandblasted in the spring that one of the basins at the water plant also needs to be sandblasted.

Mr. Smith was instructed to get 3 bids for a crane being used to remove the tornado siren from the roof of the high school.

Mr. Smith reported that he will be trying to implement a valve identification and exercise program for the water and sewer departments.

A no smoking policy has been implemented at City Hall and all other city buildings.

David and Teresa Franzen are requesting to purchase land on E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The County list the owner as the City of Horton but there is some question as to who actually owns the property. The City will be getting a title search done. They also asked that the alley behind this property be rocked so they can park their semi-truck in the alley. The Commission wants further information before making a decision.

**Commissioner's Agenda**

**Commissioner B. Stirton**

No report

**Commissioner Lentz**

Not present.

**Commissioner K. Stirton**

No report.

**Mayor White**

It was reported that the brush truck in the Fire Department is running better.

Mayor White requested that the staff check on the progress of the molding on the library.

Mayor White inquired about the previous policy on helping the businesses in the downtown area with sidewalk replacement. It was noted that in the past, the city would tear out the sidewalk and replace the fill material and the business owner would pay a contractor to replace the sidewalk.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

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Dale A. White, Mayor