

March 21, 2005
6:15 P.M.
City Hall Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 21, 2005 at 6:15 p.m. in the Commission Room at City Hall.

Mayor White opened the meeting and the prayer was given by City Administrator Ron Smith.

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

The agenda was accepted as presented.

The minutes of the March 7, 2005 regular meeting were approved as presented.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2813 (Payroll) in the amount of \$29,483.97. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2814 (Disbursements) in the amount of \$41,544.04. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Parks & Recreation Commissioner

Mayor White announced that at the 4:00 meeting earlier the same day, the Commission had appointed Dr. Steve Davies to the unexpired term of Parks & Recreation Commissioner, which was vacated by the resignation of Tim Lentz at the March 7th Commission meeting. Mayor White expressed appreciation to all three candidates on behalf of the Commission for their interest in the town and the position. Mayor White stated that this had been a well discussed and difficult decision. The Assistant City Clerk administered the oath of office to Dr. Davies as Parks and Recreation Commissioner.

Automatic Aid Agreement

Horton Fire Chief Gary Behrnes was present to request the Commission's support to look into automatic aid. Behrnes had attended a Chief's meeting in Hiawatha where this was discussed. If for instance the City of Horton had a house fire, Everest Fire Department would automatically be called to aid. In turn, Horton Fire Department would automatically be called to assist other departments. There is another meeting after the 1st of the month. Leavenworth County has used automatic aid, and reports that it works very well for them. Automatic aid would cause an increase in expenditures due to a higher number of fire runs being made. Commissioner Krug pointed out that automatic aid would also reduce our ISO rating. The City taxpayers will benefit on their home/business insurance rates with a lower ISO rated City. Mayor White recommended without objection that Chief Behrnes continue looking into the Automatic Aid Agreement.

Discussion of Baseball Field Lights

Jeff Malone with Musco Lighting was at the meeting to make a presentation on what is involved in engineering the lighting, as well as the installation of the poles and lights. Mr. Malone brought an actual lamp as a visual aid. He had measured two of our three fields, the north field and the southwest field. Normally Musco only sells through contractors, but does sell materials direct to government municipalities with Musco contractors. Musco also offers financing to government entities on a lease-purchase basis.

The most important thing to consider in lighting according to Malone is the light levels. The poles the City now has in place are much lower than the 60 to 70 foot poles he feels would be needed. Six poles with lamps and luminary assemblies would be needed at the larger north field at a total cost of approximately \$85,000 to \$90,000, with our electricians running the service. The service in place is possibly already sufficient. The southwest field would need four poles and assemblies at a cost of approximately \$44,000.

The City bucket trucks only reach to a height of 45 feet so we would be unable to service these assemblies. Musco provides a 10 year maintenance warranty and their contractors would service the assemblies for that period of time. The reflectors and poles are rated to withstand 150 m.p.h. winds.

Several options were discussed as to how funding could be obtained for this project. Rick Clouse, Vice-President of Horton Little League Baseball was also present at the meeting. He stated that the baseball league is trying to start Legion Baseball as well as Women's Fastpitch Softball. Clouse felt the position of the existing lights and lack of light were both problems at the ball fields, but probably the larger problem of the two was lack of light. The Little League has a long range plan for all three fields, with a short term plan to have 2 correctly lit fields as can be afforded.

Commissioner Krug suggested that Musco bring back several different package presentation workups, that the Little League combine their suggestions and bring all the information together with something that could be more definite to look at before budget time in June.

Mayor White wanted the baseball association to check for official size of fields, to be certain that another area entirely wouldn't end up being needed in the future before we go to any expense for lighting.

Mayor White thanked Mr. Malone for his presentation.

Rick Clouse stated that anything at all that could be done to improve the fields lighting would be greatly appreciated. Mr. Clouse thanked the commission for their support and considerations.

Ambulance Contract

Last year the City's portion of the contract was \$5,617. The 2004 budgeted amount in the communication fund was \$1,617 to match the 2003 amount. The extra \$4,000 was taken from the solid waste fund. The 2005 budgeted amount from the communication fund is \$5,617.

Commissioner K. Stirton questioned the reason for last years increase, he believed was a one time increase to help with funds to buy an ambulance. Commissioner K. Stirton wanted to know why Brown County and the City of Horton were the only sources of revenue, outside of billing, when other counties, cities, casinos, etc. are also provided service. Commissioner Stirton was concerned that the City of Horton taxpayers were paying twice through the City and Brown County. The City of Horton also provides free dispatching service for the ambulance. It was noted that even though it is not listed, the City of Everest donates equipment to the ambulance service. It was also noted that last year the Sac & Fox Casino and the Kickapoo Tribe donated \$10,000 and \$12,000, respectively for the purchase of an ambulance which was not included on the statement for service.

Motion by Commissioner Krug to donate \$5,000 to the ambulance service for this contract year. There was a second to the motion by Commissioner Davies. Commissioner B. Stirton aye. Commissioner K. Stirton nay. Mayor White abstained. Motion carried.

Commissioner Davies asked Ron Smith if he could find out the breakdown on Brown County's portion in comparison to the number of ambulance runs and the City's portion to number of runs to determine a per run amount that the City of Horton donates.

Bids on Demolition

There were 2 bids received for the demolition of 726 and 728 Central. Stirton Brothers indicated "No Bid". Meridian Construction turned in a bid of \$60,400. There was discussion as to whether or not the City should try to take possession prior to demolition, and if so, how to do it legally. Commissioner K. Stirton made a motion to lay on the table until the City Attorney could be present. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion of Wage Classification

City Administrator Ron Smith stated this should be discussed in executive session since individual employees would be discussed. Motion by Commissioner K. Stirton to go into executive session for 30 minutes. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion. All aye.

Motion by Commission K. Stirton to go into executive session for 20 minutes. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion. All aye.

Motion by Commission K. Stirton to go into executive session for 15 minutes. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion. All aye.

Motion by Commission B. Stirton to go into executive session for 10 minutes. Commissioner Davies seconded the motion. All aye.

No action taken.

City Administrator's Agenda

Mr. Smith reported that RSP is contacting their attorney on the solid waste contract.

Mr. Smith informed the commission that Blue Cross had contacted him with the news of no increase in health insurance coverage this year due to the city being involved with the small employer group. The overall increase in health insurance might go up or down depending on individual usage by employees, but that aspect won't be known for several more weeks.

Ron Smith, Candy Schmitt and Rex West had met with FEMA. FEMA will be paying the City of Horton approximately \$1,700. This is 75% of the storm damage cost from the first part of January that had Brown County declared as part of a statewide disaster area.

Mr. Smith queried the commission on the possibility of moving the meeting time. He also wanted them to consider using a consent agenda for the minutes, appropriation ordinances, and other topics of a noncontroversial nature. This would help shorten the length of the meetings, as would making the 2nd meeting of the month a lighter issue agenda. The more time consuming issues could be discussed at the 1st meeting of the month. Mayor White advised to start the use of the consent agenda without objection.

Commissioner's Agenda

Commissioner Krug

No report.

Commissioner B. Stirton

Commissioner B. Stirton asked Ron Smith to check on what class Chief Luzier attended the previous week, where it was held, the cost if any, and how many hours were credited to continued education.

Commissioner Davies

Commissioner Davies stated that he appreciated being selected to be a part of such a healthy team, and that he will do his best to do his duty for Horton.

Commissioner K. Stirton

Commissioner K. Stirton questioned the chip and seal bids being sent to contractors without being made aware of the content. A contractor had asked him for information and he was not even aware that they had been sent out. Stirton thought it should not have stated that the project would have to be done during the month of July, the same month of the Brown County Fair, or that it was necessary to give only 5 days to complete. Mr. Smith stated that this was a recommendation from Rex West. Mayor White asked Commissioner K. Stirton and Mr. Smith to work this out another time in consideration of the time.

Commissioner Stirton asked if the old motor grader had been put up for sale. Mr. Smith had advertised it on Machinery Trader earlier in the day with an asking price of \$10,350.

Commissioner Stirton asked for an update on the street pickup signs. Mr. Smith stated that this was being taken care of.

Mayor White

Mayor White read a letter from HIDC. They were asking for \$3,000 to help buy paint for businesses in town that spruce up the commercial zones. Motion by K. Stirton, seconded by Commissioner Davies to transfer \$3000 from the industrial fund as long as, upon the City Clerks return, she double checks and there is enough in the fund. Smith indicated he thought there was approximately \$8,600 in the fund. All aye. Motion carried.

Mayor White read a letter from Nick Scott of Boy Scout Troop #112. He wishes for the City to dredge Mission Lake. He enjoys fishing, canoeing, and watching wildlife.

Mayor White stated the Welcome Home dinner for the Kansas Army National Guard, 2nd Battalion 130th Field Artillery was a success.

Mayor White reminded the Commission that there would be a special meeting at the Senior Citizens Center the next day at 3:00 to speak with Congressman James Ryun. Congressman Ryun will tour the hospital prior to the 3:00 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Carol Stirton, Assistant City Clerk

Dale A. White, Mayor