

April 7, 2008  
5:15 P.M.  
Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 5:15 p.m. in the City Hall Commission Room.

Present: Commissioners Krug, Forkenbrock, Davies and Luscombe.

Absent: Mayor Lentz

Commissioner Krug called the meeting to order and the prayer was given by Candy Schmitt, City Clerk.

Several items were removed from the agenda and they were; the administration funding request for litigation, report on tri-county manor, and the 10 minute executive session. Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Forkenbrock to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2008 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Forkenbrock to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2967 (payroll) \$29,716.24. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Forkenbrock to approve Appropriation Ordinance #2968 (Disbursements) \$913,215.67. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye.

#### **Bids for Cash Lease of Farm Land**

Bids for the cash lease of farm ground were opened at 12:05 pm on April 7, 2008. The bids were as follows:

Tom Stirton	\$209/acre	2 year total \$48,070.00
Lisa Compton Farms	\$178/acre	2 year total \$40,940.00
Anton Riechert	\$120/acre	2 year total \$27,600.00
Lucas Heinen	\$181/acre	2 year total \$41,756.50
Doug Rodvelt	\$138.58/acre	2 year total \$31,873.40
Harold Heinen	\$173.74/acre	2 year total \$39,960.00

Motion by Commissioner Davies to award the contract to Tom Stirton. Seconded by Commissioner Luscombe. All aye.

#### **Discussion of Blue Building and the Brown county Fair**

On March 20 Mr. Henry met with the spark plugs and they reviewed the BG Engineering report and recommended to pursue a new building instead of rehabilitating the old one. They felt trying to tie old concrete to new would be difficult. Their recommendation is to set the new building either east of the current site or south of the current building. There will be an additional \$6,000 for geo-technical testing.

The Fair Board has made a request to put in ventilators at the Civic Center. Mr. Henry will check with the Historical Society to see if this would be allowed.

#### **Request for Adjustment on Sewer Bill—Mary Massieon**

It was found that the water leak was in the basement of the residence. The Commission requested that the staff verify if water went into a drain to the sewer or if the floor of the basement is dirt.

## **Utility Billing and Suggested Adjustments**

Kenneth Knudson requested an adjustment on his water bill. This was tabled to the next meeting in order to have the water meter checked for accuracy.

There is some confusion about electricity being turned on at a residence where repairs were being done to a home after a fire. The City has no record of the utilities being turned on but it was discovered that they had been on since October of 2007. Mr. Henry recommended a payment plan where the resident (Jeff Harlan) would immediately pay \$21.50 for solid waste, a deposit of \$150.00, and one-twelfth of the total sum owing, amounting to \$322.18 without penalty. Mr. Harlan would then be required to pay both his past due amount payment of \$322.18 per month for 11 months in addition to all other utility bills that are incurred from month to month. Motion by Commissioner Forkenbrock to approve the proposed payment plan. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye.

A claim from Mrs. Ted Plummer was received in the amount of \$350 for a city electrical problem that caused the blower motor unit for the central air unit of the home to burn-up. She had it repaired and is requesting that the City pay the bill. It is believed that this problem was caused by the December ice storm. Motion by Commissioner Luscombe to deny the claim. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye.

Commissioner Davies suggested that a form for disconnection of utilities be developed so that it requires a signature to have the utilities disconnected. Meters that are not supposed to be connected should still be checked by the meter readers while reading meters.

## **Sheriff John Merchant**

Sheriff Merchant was present to talk with the Commission about Walking School Bus program that he would like to see started in the cities within Brown County. In this program the City is divided into sections and within those sections adults would meet the children at a set location and then walk to school with them. This promotes good health and provides a safe environment for walking to school. The Sheriff's office would help with the organization of the program.

## **Request to proceed with the Electric Rate Study Contracting**

Mr. Henry would like to contract with EMG at a cost of approximately \$8,200 to conduct an electric rate study. KMEA would not be able to come until June. The consensus of the Commission is to proceed to prepare documents to contract with EMG for the electric rate study.

## **Report on Park Board Recommendations for the Pool Project**

The Park Board interviewed candidates for the consulting on the new pool project. The Commission directed Mr. Henry to negotiate with the Park Board's choice of company and bring back to the next meeting for approval.

## **City Administrator's Agenda**

Mr. Henry has been in discussions with Harvest Fuel-Sweet Pro concerning an expansion that would add 6 jobs and possibly 12 if a third shift is added. Mr. Henry would like to apply for an Economic Development grant from the Department of Commerce for infrastructure. The consensus of the Commission is for Mr. Henry to pursue the application. Mr. Henry may ask to bring in RDA to assist in the administration of the grant. He will publish a notice for a public hearing for the next meeting.

Work is progressing on the Mission Lake project and Mr. Henry is looking for sub contractors.

Mr. Henry attended a KPP meeting last month and will attend this month on April 17.

There are 20 water valves to replace this year. The Commission gave their approval.

Mr. Henry submitted 3 grants for the Fire Department totaling \$155,000 and the total match would be \$20,000.

### **Executive Session to Discuss Non-Elected Personnel (5 minutes)**

Motion by Commissioner Forkenbrock to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel to include the Commission, City Attorney, City Administrator and City Clerk. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye. No action was taken in executive session.

### **Commissioner's Agenda**

#### **Commissioner Krug**

No report.

#### **Commissioner Forkenbrock**

Commissioner Forkenbrock inquired about the repairs needed to be made to the patrol car that is currently at the repair shop in Hiawatha. Mayor Lentz has a quote for the repairs. It was decided that Commissioner Forkenbrock, Mayor Lentz and Mr. Henry would get together and go over the quote and decide whether to continue the repairs or not.

Commissioner Forkenbrock reported that a patrol vehicle was donated by the Kickapoo Police Department to the Horton Police Department. The decals can be changed for approximately \$150 and there are a couple of minor repairs that need to be made to the vehicle. The Commission expressed their thanks to the Kickapoo Police Department.

The discussion of the Police Officer I and Police Officer II positions are to be put on the next agenda.

#### **Commissioner Davies**

Commissioner Davies reported the spots for the donated trees to be planted have been marked. The individual who donated the trees also is donating money to have them watered once a week for 2 years.

The school district has purchased goggles that when worn show the effects of drinking alcohol. The police department will be using them to educate the students.

Commissioner Davies made a motion that 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave East between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets be blocked for the Bike Across Kansas event on June 13 and that the north entrance to the Soccer Field also be blocked. Seconded by Commissioner Luscombe. All aye.

Commissioner Davies advised he was approached by Earl Selle, as a representative of the Highway Patrol, to state that the City is forewarned that if he sees them cross the highway on a 4 wheeler to spray weeds he will issue a ticket.

#### **Commissioner Luscombe**

Commissioner Luscombe inquired about the progress of brush removal. Bids will be on the next agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Forkenbrock to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss personnel to include the Commission, City Attorney and City Administrator. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye. No action was taken in executive session.

**Mayor Tim Lentz**

Not present.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to adjourn at 7:11 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Luscombe. All aye.

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Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

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Ken Krug, Acting Mayor