

July 20, 2009
5:15 P.M.
Commission Room

The regularly scheduled meeting for the Horton Commissioners was held on Monday, July 20, 2009 at 5:15 p.m. in the City Hall Commission Room.

Mayor Lentz called the meeting to order and Pastor Alice Purvis of the United Methodist Church offered the prayer.

Present: Mayor Lentz, Commissioners Krug, Edwards, and Davies.

Absent: Commissioner Forkenbrock

Report on Emergency Preparedness Meeting was tabled to the next meeting. Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

The minutes were corrected to read that the painting of the rocks on the dam was done by Michael Tinio as an Eagle Scout project. Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2009 regular meeting as corrected. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3037 (Payroll) \$39,485.12. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve Appropriation Ordinance #3038 (Disbursements) \$164,039.78. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

KDWP Offering of Special Hunts on Private Lands Program

Mayor Lentz reported that he spoke with the contractors for the CDF site and they would prefer that the City not allow hunting during the construction period. The consensus of the Commission was to not enter into the agreement at this time.

Amending Firearms Ordinance to Accommodate KDWP Program

This item was dismissed since the Commission decided not to participate in the KDWP program.

Approval of Contract for Sale of Real Estate

A contract was presented to sell property to Earl and Evonne Chism. City Clerk, Candy Schmitt, advised the Commission that the Chism's wanted to make sure they would be allowed to make a curb cut on this property. Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve the contract with a condition to allow a curb cut if done within 12 months. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Adoption of Lease Agreement on Horton Airport Building with Horton Fish and Game Club

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to adopt the lease agreement with the Horton Fish and Game Club. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Horton Library FY-2010 Budget Request

Rita Higley appeared to present the Library's 2010 budget and to request an additional \$2,200 from the City for next year. This represents a 5% increase. The Commission advised they would review the request on July 23 at their budget workshop meeting.

Discussion of Electric Rate Study

The City Administrator gave the Commission some updated information from Scott Shreve. The Commission would like to look at combining the usage for companies that have more than one meter in determining large users. There was mention of an option 4 that was developed by Commissioner Forkenbrock. The City Administrator had not seen this option. It was decided to table this matter to the next meeting.

Approval of Ordinance on Prohibiting Residential Use of Propane Tanks

The City Attorney presented a proposed ordinance that would prohibit the use of propane tanks larger than 6 gallons in residential areas. It was noted that anyone that currently has a propane tank in one of these areas would have to remove it. There was some discussion about the expense this would cause some of the property owners.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to recess for 5 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

After reconvening, the discussion continued about allowing the ones that have tanks currently to keep them. The City Attorney advised that it is a safety issue and the City should not allow some to have the tanks and not others.

Motion by Commissioner Krug to table this matter to the next meeting and to have staff check how many propane tanks are in the City limits. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye.

The staff was directed to call those with propane tanks and advise them that the Commission would be discussing this at the next meeting.

Discussion of Ordinance on Prohibiting Shipping Containers

A proposed ordinance prohibiting shipping containers in the City limits was presented to the Commission for review. This will be on the next agenda.

Report on Emergency Preparedness Meeting

This matter was tabled.

Discussion of Shared Expense for Damage due to Central Avenue Project

During the beginning of the Central Avenue Project the City crews were digging for water lines and some damage was done to the sod at the United Bank of Kansas property. The Bank requested that the City pay half of the expense to replace the sod. The City's share was \$175. The consensus of the Commission was to pay the amount of \$175.00.

Approval of RFP for Insurance Quotes

The City Administrator presented an RFP for rebidding the health insurance.

Motion by Commissioner Krug to approve the RFP for distribution. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Fish Salvage Order

The City Attorney presented a fish salvage order from the Department of Wildlife and Parks which would remove the size and quantity limits on fish at Mission Lake. Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve the fish salvage order effective July 27 and authorize the Chief of Police to sign the order. Seconded by Commissioner Krug. All aye.

Draft of Letter to Barco Municipal Products

The City Attorney presented a draft of a letter to Barco Municipal Products demanding payment for the sandblasting of the swimming pool due to them sending the wrong type of paint.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to authorize the City Attorney to send the demand letter. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye.

Staff Report

Rex West was not present.

City Administrator's Agenda

The City Administrator reported that Tonya Merz was hired as an Assistant Manager for the pool and that one of the mowers quit and the City will be looking to replace them.

Mr. Whisenant has been in contact with Arlen Whitebird from the Kickapoo Tribe and Mr. Whitebird will notify Mr. Whisenant when the regular monthly meetings with Indian Health Services are held.

All materials for the Blue Building will be ordered except the sheet rock and insulation because of the moisture.

The Mayor and Mr. Whisenant will attend the meeting on Mission Lake in Topeka on Wednesday. Pipe has been moved in and will be assembled. The City is still waiting on permits so that construction can begin on the CDF.

Commissioner's Agenda

Commissioner Krug

Commissioner Krug brought up a letter to the editor that was in the Horton Headlight. The individual had many negative comments about the City and Commissioner Krug felt they were unfounded. The rest of the Commission agreed with him.

Commissioner Forkenbrock

Commissioner Forkenbrock was not present but had asked Mr. Whisenant to bring up that there was a suggestion from one of the contractors in town that the air conditioner unit for the blue building should be mounted on the top of the building instead of on the ground as stated in the plans. It was noted that this would require having the architect redraw the plans which would be an additional expense. The consensus of the Commission was to keep it as planned.

Commissioner Edwards

Commissioner Edwards expressed concern that the lawn mowers are hitting stones out at the cemetery.

Commissioner Davies

Commissioner Davies congratulated the community on the positive attitude when the blue building was not completed by fair time. The fair parade went well and he thanked Veda Knudson for her work on the parade.

There have been no complaints concerning the pool. The staff is doing a good job.

Commissioner Davies inquired about the status of the wind generator on a local business. The City Clerk reported that the business owner had decided to install solar energy panels instead of wind generation and the building permit has been approved.

Commissioner Davies stated that Rural Development Association wants to assist the City in finding funding for completing 4th Avenue East by Sweet Pro. Commissioner Davies will check into what can be done.

Commissioner Davies stated he appreciated the work on the tornado policies.

Mayor Lentz

Mayor Lentz also wanted to express that the parade and fair went well and he also has not received any complaints on the pool.

Mayor Lentz asked that the City send a card to the Conklin family giving condolences at the loss of Tom Conklin.

Mayor Lentz reported on the Mission Lake Project. The crews are fusing pipe in 3' sections and removing trees from the drainage ditch. KDHE gave permission to remove the trees. The dredging company will be in town on Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

The Commission took a 5 minute recess.

Discussion of FY-2010 Budget Development

The Commission discussed some of the requests by the departments. Commissioner Krug stated he does not want to see any increase in the mill levy. There was discussion of transfers from the different utilities to supplement the general fund. This may mean an increase in rates. The Commission requested that an article be put in the newspaper reminding the public that water rates will have to be increased to pay for the Mission Lake project.

The Commission recognized that they would like to have a strategic planning process and Mr. Whisenant asked if he could bring in a facilitator to talk to them about this type of process. The consensus was to proceed with finding a facilitator.

There was a discussion concerning the police department and the Commission directed that the City Administrator come up with a plan that would divide the town into fourths and that each officer would be given a section of town to monitor for code violations. This plan will be brought back to the Commission for their approval.

It was also noted that the Commission wants a zero tolerance on speeding.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

Tim Lentz, Mayor