

March 29, 2010
5:15 P.M.
Commission Room

The Commissioners of the City of Horton met for regular meeting on Monday, March 29, 2010 at 5:15 p.m. in the City Hall Commission Room.

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

Present: Commissioners Krug, Forkenbrock, Edwards and Davies.

Motion by Commissioner Edwards to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2010 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2010 regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve appropriation ordinance #3074 (Payroll) in the amount of \$30,301.67. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to approve appropriation ordinance #3075 (Disbursements) in the amount of \$147,106.12. Seconded by Commissioner Forkenbrock. All aye.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Discussion of Uses for Armory and USDA/RD Funding Opportunities

Kevin McCann from USDA/RD informed the Commission that the grant/loan on the fire truck and storm sirens was closed on March 25, 2010.

Kevin McCann from USDA/RD was present to inform the Commission about several areas where stimulus funds are available as grants for projects within the City. These are Community facilities grants that are available for cities with a population under 20,000. They can be grants, guaranteed loans or direct loans or any combination of the three. Currently there is \$500,000 available statewide for libraries. Horton is eligible for 75% grant. The direct loans are available at 4.125% interest and libraries can be financed for a 25-30 year period.

There are also funds that could be used to renovate the armory if used for not for profit reasons. These funds are up to \$200,000 in grant. The stimulus funds will be gone after September 30, 2010. It takes approximately 3 months to get to the obligation phase and this would have to be done by September 30.

Larry Holz, also from USDA/RD, was present to discuss the Business and Industries part of the program. If the armory were to be used to set up a business incubator there would be funds available. These funds will be used up by June 30 so an application would be needed very quickly. This might be something to look at for the next year funding.

Barbara Chalker from the Department of Commerce, Office of Rural Opportunity, was present to talk about the Small Community Improvement Program (SCIP). These funds are available for communities with populations of 5,000 or under. The amount of grant can be up to \$125,000 and would require a 40% match in donated labor.

Update on Preliminary Engineering Report

Pat Cox, BG Engineering, was present to give an update on the PER for the water project(s). The new interest rate for water and sewer projects funded by USDA/RD is 3.25%. The water rights for the City of Horton allow the city to divert 108,000,000 gallons per year from the lake and wells. The city is currently using an average of 70 million gallons.

The water plant would need to have some replacement and repairs done to be compliant with the State requirements. Mr. Cox would like to have permission to speak with KDHE to determine what requirements are absolutely necessary and which ones could be eliminated or postponed. The consensus of the Commission was to allow Mr. Cox to speak with KDHE on behalf of the City.

The water distribution system has been tested for flow and a computer modeling completed. There are pressure problems within the system as well as volume issues. There will not be enough volume to meet the stated needs for the new hospital without some changes being made.

The Mission Lake dam face and erosion protection is in need of replacement or repair. This alone could cost between \$890,000 to \$1 million and the spillway repair could cost more than the dam repairs.

The Commission prioritized the areas in the following order—Dam face, spillway, water plant and distribution system.

Mr. Cox will attend the April 19 meeting to update the Commission again.

Discussion of Employee Wage Information

Commissioner Forkenbrock handed out a spreadsheet he had created showing the comparison of the wage for each employee position with other cities. He asked that the Commission review the information for the next meeting.

Executive Session—Non-elected Personnel

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

Motion by Commissioner Forkenbrock to go into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss personnel, to include the Commission and the City Attorney. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye. No action was taken in executive session.

City Administrator's Agenda

No report.

Commissioner's Agenda

Commissioner Krug

No report.

Commissioner Forkenbrock

No report.

Commissioner Edwards

No report.

Commissioner Davies

Commissioner Davies reported that the Park Board will have a recommendation on Blue Building fees at a future meeting.

Kevin Hill advised the Commission that he would not be present at the April 19 meeting. The Commission did not feel it would be necessary to send a replacement.

Mayor Lentz

Mayor Lentz reported that he obtained bids for 30 round tables, 30 rectangle tables and 300 chairs for the Blue Building. The cost from Sam's Club is \$12,090 and from Menards is \$10,303.50. Motion by Commissioner Edwards to purchase the tables and chairs from Menards using the electric funds and paying back to the electric funds with fees collected from the rental of the blue building. Seconded by Commissioner Davies. All aye. Commissioner Forkenbrock requested that the City Administrator contact the 4-H, Brown County Commissioners and the Chamber of Commerce for donations towards the purchase of the table and chairs.

Commissioner Edwards advised he was informed that the Chamber of Commerce feels they do not get information from the City. Mr. Whisenant was asked to invite the Chamber of Commerce to send a representative to the Commission meetings to gather information to report back to their group.

Mr. Whisenant inquired about getting the mechanisms installed on the interior doors to be able to lock the rooms when the moveable walls are extended. Mayor Lentz and Commissioners Davies and Forkenbrock each donated one of their paychecks to pay for the locks.

Motion by Commissioner Davies to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Edwards. All aye.

Candy Schmitt, City Clerk

Tim Lentz, Mayor