

Horton Commission to fill vacancy, administrator role

**(KNZA)--The Horton City Commission will move forward with finding a new Interim City Administrator and filling a vacant Commission seat, but will not need to find a new City Clerk.**

**That's the outcome of a standing room only special meeting of the Commission held Monday evening.**

**The administrator position became vacant following a 3-2 vote of the Commission June 18 which removed Kim Knudson from that role, while retaining her as City Clerk.**

**Knudson as of last week did not know if she'd remain in that position, but decided to do so Monday once the Commission answered her concerns and voted to offer her a salary of \$22.46 an hour.**

**She had been receiving \$25.88 when serving as both City Clerk and administrator.**

**On Friday, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jeremy Forkenbrock submitted his letter of resignation; and while he will not comment on the specifics of what led to his decision, the letter eludes to Knudson's position.**

**Forkenbrock, who voted to remove her from that role, states in the letter that, following the vote, he presented a proposal to Mayor Bryan Stirton to retain the City Clerk position while adding to it the responsibilities of Economic Development, meaning the City Clerk's salary would be restored to the current wages of serving as both City Clerk and Interim City Administrator.**

**Forkenbrock, in the letter, states that the proposal would have not cost the city more, as it would be funded by economic development dollars proposed by an unspecified local organization.**

**The Commission Monday made no mention of that proposal, voting to accept his resignation and voting to seek letters of interest from those wanting to serve as Interim City Administrator and from those wanting to fill Forkenbrock's term, which expires in January 2020. The position is up for election in November 2019.**

**Interviews for the administrator position will be conducted at the Commission's July 2 meeting. At that same session, the Commission will consider appointing the replacement Park's and Recreation Commissioner. Letters of interest for that role will be accepted until noon Monday.**

**For now, the seat remains vacant.**

**Horton Police Chief John Calhoon will temporarily serve as Interim City Administrator, with the Commission Monday evening voting to appoint him to that role until a permanent replacement is hired.**

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