

September 19, 2022

The City Council of Scott City met in regular session on the above date at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall.

Pastor Jeff Goetzinger from the First United Methodist Church was present to lead the Council and others present in prayer.

Present were Mayor Everett Green, Council members Craig Richards, Jeff Allen, Kelly Funk, Josh Gooden, Bo Parkinson, Barb Wilkinson, Adam Winter, Armando Tarango, City Attorney Rebecca Faurot, City Administrator Brad Pendergast, and City Clerk Ruth Becker.

The Council and others recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the September 6, 2022 regular council meeting were presented.

Motion by Armando Tarango seconded by Craig Richards to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2022 regular council meeting. Vote – 7-yes, 1-abstain, Barb Wilkinson.

Appropriation Ordinance # 996B was presented.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Adam Winter to approve Appropriation Ordinance # 996B. Vote – Unam.

Among the guests in the audience were Scott County Historical Society members Stephanie Fisher and Deb Lawrence who were present for Mayor Green's reading of a proclamation declaring September 28, 2022, and each September 28 hereafter, as Maria E. DeGeer Founder's Day. Mayor Green thanked Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Lawrence for their work in erecting the Maria DeGeer statue at the site of her original homestead a year earlier. He noted that the statue adds not only to the visual appeal of the downtown area, but also recognizes the heritage of Scott City.

Police Chief David Post took a moment to introduce new Scott City resident and new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director Kris Logsdon and welcome him to the community. Mr. Logsdon hails from western Arkansas and is eager for his family to join him in Scott City, likely by the end of the year. He extended an invitation to the Mayor and Council members to reach out to him if they have any questions or concerns with which he can assist. Mayor Green, in turn, welcomed him and his family to Scott City.

To allow a presenter to begin a lengthy drive home, Mayor Green altered the order of the agenda. Included in the packet was a letter/proposal from Leading Edge Technology Partners (Leading Edge) regarding the potential to provide IT services to the City of Scott City. Gavin Lusk, President of Leading Edge, engaged with the Council to answer their questions. The City, especially the Scott City Police Department, has been looking for an IT company that has a strong background in assisting law enforcement and working with vendors such as Interpol. Mr. Lusk indicated that he and his business partner have a combined 30-years of experience in the government/law enforcement arena, and that they are well-versed in the budgeting process. The proposal quoted a monthly fee of \$1850 which covers most of the services that they would be asked to provide for the Law Enforcement Center (LEC), City Hall, and the Public Works building,

including the installation and setup of new hardware, such as desktop or laptop computers. Mr. Lusk indicated that any hardware purchases would not be covered under the agreement, but all larger projects, such as server replacements, would be quoted in advance so that the City could budget appropriately. Also, any services provided that are not covered under the monthly fee will be billed at a discounted rate. Because the Law Enforcement Center houses both the Scott City Police Department and the Scott County Sheriff's Office, this proposal is contingent upon the approval of the County Commissioners as well. Mayor Green noted that his business had recently transitioned to using Leading Edge for their IT services and he felt that it was a smooth transition that provided a valuable service at a reasonable rate. He has been pleased with the service received. Mayor Green also pointed out that this is not a long-term agreement; rather, it is a month-to-month agreement so that the City would not be locked into something that is not working out. Mr. Lusk indicated that they work on a month-to-month basis so that they are consistently working to earn/keep their customers' business – that is their way to hold themselves accountable to excellent customer service. Because of the shared equipment at the LEC, with costs billed separately between the City and the County, the agreement is contingent upon the County also opting to utilize the services of Leading Edge. The City's initial contract with Gilmore Solutions (now Imagine IT) requires a 90-day's notice to terminate the agreement, meaning that this Council meeting is the last opportunity for the year to decide to terminate the contract with the current IT service provider. The County has not yet approved an agreement with Leading Edge. City Attorney Rebecca Faurot offered to reach out to the County Commissioners to gauge their commitment to the transition from Gilmore/Imagine IT to Leading Edge.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Barb Wilkinson to approve the proposal from Leading Edge Technology Partners for a monthly fee of \$1850 and to transition from Gilmore Solutions/Imagine IT to Leading Edge Technology Partners in 90 days, contingent upon Scott County's acceptance of their proposal from Leading Edge Technology Partners for the Law Enforcement Center. Vote – Unam.

Mayor Green reminded those in attendance that the last meeting consisted of the Budget Hearing and that the Council members were now needing to vote to adopt the 2023 Budget. Mayor Green asked for any discussion on the topic. No discussion was held.

Motion by Craig Richards seconded by Jeff Allen to approve and adopt the 2023 Budget for the City of Scott City as presented. Vote – Unam.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast presented *Ordinance No. 1243*, an ordinance amending Title 7, Chapter 2 of the codification of the ordinances of Scott City, Kansas relating to planting, maintenance, and removal of trees, shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation within the corporate city limits of the City of Scott City, Kansas, which was provided in the packet. Mr. Pendergast noted that this document is in a format that can be approved if it is the Council's wish. He explained that the changes that had been discussed at the last meeting had been made. Council member Barb Wilkinson inquired about the enforcement of this ordinance. Mr. Pendergast explained that there are only two options: 1) to have complaint-based inspections of trees that appear to be causing issues, or 2) to require that permits be pulled for tree related activities, such as planting trees. Consensus of the Council members was to allow enforcement of the ordinance on a complaint-based basis.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Craig Richards to approve Ordinance No. 1243, an ordinance amending Title 7, Chapter 2 of the codification of the ordinances of Scott City, Kansas

relating to planting, maintenance, and removal of trees, shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation within the corporate city limits of the City of Scott City, Kansas. Vote – Unam.

Provided in the packet was a draft copy of an ordinance regarding permitting for flatwork. City Administrator Brad Pendergast drafted this ordinance at the Council's request. Because concrete work can affect the drainage of an area, it has become necessary to address this type of construction. The ordinance would require any new flatwork to be permitted and inspected at the time of construction. Two fee schedules would apply to this ordinance: 1) \$25 permit fee for 250 to 999 square feet of non-porous, dustless surface or 2) \$50 for 1000 square feet or more of non-porous, dustless surface. No permit would be required to replace or repair existing flatwork as replacement would not affect drainage. Consensus of the Council was to direct City Administrator Brad Pendergast to present a final copy of the ordinance for approval at the next regular meeting.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast informed the Council that there had been a few applicants recently for the Curb Replacement Cost Share Policy. He indicated that Street, Water, & Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel had approached him regarding a revision to the policy. Mr. Appel felt that a \$16/running foot reimbursement is outdated and needs to be a 50/50 split between the City and the applicant due to the significant increase in the price of concrete. Mr. Pendergast announced that he would like to take the policy even further by creating a specific line item in the 2024 budget for these projects. He would like to potentially budget up to \$20,000 in that line account, with any remaining funds for the year in which it was budgeted being used to repair areas in town which may not be replaced or repaired otherwise. Discussion among the Council centered on the potential need to place caps on either individual applicants or addresses, or placing limits on the linear footage of a project. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

City Clerk Ruth Becker inquired if the City of Scott City would once again participate in the Employer Cost Sharing program for the Scott Community Wellness Fair by paying for the tests and vaccinations provided to participating employees. Mrs. Becker indicated that the employees who partake in the Wellness Fair pay only the tax on the benefit as per IRS guidelines. She also indicated that the participation in the Wellness Fair has varied from year to year, but that for the most part it has been well-utilized.

Motion by Armando Tarango seconded by Barb Wilkinson for the City of Scott City to participate in the Employer Cost Sharing program for the Scott County Wellness Fair to be held at the Scott County Hospital on October 15, 2022, with employees paying the taxes on the amount of the benefits received. Vote – Unam.

The Council revisited the discussion regarding anniversary “gifts” in the form of gift cards to local establishments. Council member Jeff Allen indicated that, as he reviewed the guidelines for cash gifts, he felt that a gift card to a specific restaurant or food vendor could be interpreted as providing “an occasional meal” for an employee—a practice that does not need to be taxed per IRS guidelines. Mayor Green expressed that he does not want to discontinue the tradition of showing appreciation of employees on their anniversary. Consensus of the Council is to continue the practice of issuing gift cards in the amount of \$5 to local establishments as a gesture of appreciation on employees’ anniversaries.

Scott City Housing Authority (SCHA) Property Manager, Ardith Scammehorn was present to address the Council. She informed the Council that one unit at Pine Village is vacant and that another will become vacant the following day. After some minor repairs are made, and routine cleaning is complete, these two units will be filled by two sisters. She is optimistic that both units will be filled by the end of the month.

Mrs. Scammehorn also indicated that Pine Village apartments recently had some necessary upgrades in the form of two new water heaters, two new carpets, and one air conditioning unit. All new equipment was purchased from the SCHA Reserve Account.

Mrs. Scammehorn passed out copies of her proposed budget for 2023. She indicated that the biggest change to the budget was a proposed increase in the allowable utility allowance charge, increasing from \$75 per person to \$85 per person. She gave the Council members time to review the document.

Motion by Barb Wilkinson seconded by Craig Richards to approve and adopt the 2023 Scott City Housing Authority budget for Pine Village, as presented. Vote – Unam.

Brief discussion followed regarding a request for an annual audit to be performed for the SCHA. Mayor Green reminded the Council that it is the recommendation of the City Treasurer to have an annual audit. However, there isn't enough money in the SCHA budget to pay for an audit, so the City of Scott City has paid for the audit for the past few years using Special City Project funds.

Motion by Armando Tarango seconded by Craig Richards to authorize City Treasurer Renee Cure to work with Scott City Housing Authority Property Manager Ardith Scammehorn and to request a financial audit for the Scott City Housing Authority, with costs paid out of Special City Projects in the General Fund. Vote – Unam.

Mayor Green welcomed Sam Wood, GMS Resident Project Representative. Mr. Wood has been working with Street, Water, and Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel and offered to give the update at this meeting. He indicated that the 8th Street Extension project is well underway. Water lines have all been installed and work on the sewer lines began earlier in the day. Dirt crews will soon be moving in for the street paving portion of the project. Mr. Wood informed the Council that he has been pushing for the contractor to pull together a schedule for the project. Regarding the Water Improvement project, GMS, Inc. will soon begin building the Project Manual and specifications to put the project out for bid. Those items will be forwarded on to KDOT and KDHE for their approval before the City can request bids. He also announced that the aerial mapping for the drainage study is anticipated to begin in the next month or two once all leaves have fallen from the trees. His final comment was that asphalt work on Crescent Avenue is slated to begin in October in conjunction with the paving and curb & gutter work on 8th Street.

Under the open agenda, Warren and Trisha Harkness (WTH Aviation Services, LLC--FBO), briefly updated the Council on progress at the airport. Mr. Harkness explained that there have been some issues with the FuelMaster. The equipment is outdated, using only analog phone lines. With the help of technicians from FuelMaster, they will convert to a digital system making for a smoother transition. They also announced that the generator that had been problematic is now up and running. The Harkness's thanked the Mayor and Council for their assistance in coming up with a solution to insure a courtesy car for the airport. They closed by reporting that things are going well at the airport, and they have received several positive comments about the airport since they have stepped into the FBO role. The Council thanked them for their update.

The *Monthly Pool Update* report was provided in the packet for Council's review. Mayor Green noted that the final *Year End Report* is typically presented in late October or early November, after all figures have been finalized and put into a narrative form.

Building Inspector Lloyd Foster was not in attendance. The *Monthly Inspection Report* was included in the packet.

Police Chief David Post reported that the Scott City Police Department has a new high school intern; Senior Aaron Ruelas will be at the Police Department two days a week, for about 1 ½ hours a week.

The Police Department has new software which is being utilized in the evidence room. Sergeant Schmitt and Detective Poore are working to catalog current evidence and purge evidence that is outside of the retention period as required. Their goal is to complete this task within six months.

Police Chief Post informed the Council that the Police Department plans to move forward with offering their employees optional therapy sessions as part of the Employee Assistance Program. Sergeant Schmitt and Detective Poore were also instrumental in setting this up after receiving training which advocated for the benefits in having therapy sessions available to those employees who may be struggling with the things they deal with as part of their jobs.

Officers will be taking on 5-hour shifts for traffic control during the Whimmydiddle. Police Chief Post expects at least 25 hours of overtime will be earned in order to provide this service.

Scott City Police Department will host a monthly in-service training for the Kansas Highway Patrol on VIN inspections. Police Chief Post and Detective Poore have taken part in a Violent Intruder scenario at Park Lane. SCPD will host the Regional Intelligence meeting this upcoming Thursday. Police Chief Post will attend meetings in Salina later in the week.

Parks Superintendent Terence Appel reported that Patton Park is ready to go for Whimmydiddle.

Street, Water, & Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel reported that the City crew began the work to repair the bulb-out at 8th and Main Street. They repaired a pothole in the immediate area while there. Another area of curb & gutter adjacent to the bulb-out had been sinking due to the poor drainage, so that was repaired as well.

The City crew is still waiting for pipe to use with the Westview drainage project. It was reported that the facility that was supposed to ship the pipe was shut down due to a fatality accident, so there is no word on when the pipe will ship. The rock needed for the project is also about three months away from being delivered. The quarry where the rock is mined is not yielding the ¾" rock as needed.

Mr. Appel indicated that the City crew is still working to patch the streets in preparation for chip sealing next spring. He reported that he had ordered another 30 tons of asphalt for patching.

City Clerk Ruth Becker had nothing to report.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast explained that he is working to revise the Sewer Rate Adjustment Policy now that we are nearly a year into using the policy as written. He plans to break water users into two categories: 1) those customers that have at least one year of history whose sewer rate adjustment, if needed, would be based on their actual prior history and 2) those customers who do not have a water usage history of at least one year. Currently, those customers

who do not have adequate history are allowed to use the city average water usage of 3,000 gallons. Mr. Pendergast would like to increase the adjusted rate to be for 7,500 to 10,000 gallons.

Letter of support for the "Safe Street for All" application have been submitted in support of a large traffic study which includes both the city and U.S. Highway 83. Entities submitting letters include the City of Garden City, City of Holcomb, Finney County, Scott County, and the City of Scott City. The focus of this study is an attempt to get KDOT to recognize U.S. Highway 83 as the primary north to south corridor in western Kansas.

A meeting with Western Kansas Groundwater Management is scheduled for later in the week to discuss their airport hangar agreement and the City's water policy.

City Attorney Rebecca Faurot had nothing to report.

The financial & investment reports were presented.

The Council took a short break.

Mayor Green called the meeting back to order.

Motion by Kelly Funk seconded by Craig Richards that the City Council recess into executive session to consult with the City Attorney regarding legal advice pursuant to the attorney-client privilege exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), retaining the Mayor, Council, City Attorney, City Administrator, and City Clerk, with the open meeting resuming in the council room at 9:01 p.m. Vote – Unam.

The Council came of out executive session.

Mayor Green called the meeting back to order.

No action was taken.

Mayor Green had no further comments.

Motion by Adam Winter seconded by Josh Gooden to adjourn at 9:01 p.m. Vote – Unam.

Everett M. Green
Mayor

Ruth Becker
City Clerk