

December 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 Nathan Haeck with the New Beginnings 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 December 5, 2022 regular council meeting were presented.

Motion by Armando Tarango seconded by Bo Parkinson to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2022 regular council meeting. Vote – 6-yes, 2-abstain, Jeff Allen and Barb Wilkinson.

Appropriation Ordinance # 999B was presented.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Adam Winter to approve Appropriation Ordinance # 999B. Vote – Unam.

Mayor Green presented the 2023 Cereal Malt Beverage (CMB) license applications. Provided in the Council packet were letters of opinion from City Attorney Faurot, qualifying each applicant as eligible for a 2023 CMB license. Mayor Green reported that all individuals that applied for the CMB licenses had been cleared, as there were no legal issues with any of the license requests.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Josh Gooden to approve the following 2023 CMB licenses: Casey’s General Store, Corner Market, Dollar General, Love’s Travel Stop, Mom & Pop’s Burger Stop, Pizza Hut, and White’s Foodliner. Vote – Unam.

Included in the packet was *Planning Commission 10-2-1*. Mayor Green made the following appointments:

- 3-year term: January 2021 – January 2024  
Clint Pearson  
Tony Sieck  
Roger Winter
- 3-year term: January 2022 – January 2025  
Howard Fisher  
Les Spangler
- 3-year term: January 2023 – January 2026  
Jason Baker  
Art Gomez
- Alternates:  
2-year term: January 2022 – January 2024  
2-year term: January 2023 – January 2025  
Brenda Cejda  
Tim Graff

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Jeff Allen to approve Mayor Green's appointments to the Planning Commission. Vote – Unam.

Scott City Housing Authority (SCHA) Property Manager Ardith Scammehorn was present to update the Council on Pine Village Apartments. Mrs. Scammehorn indicated that she had heard back from USDA Rural Development that the budget for Pine Village had been approved and that the monthly rent for each unit would be reduced by \$10.

Mrs. Scammehorn informed the Council that she did not have much to report since things had been going well. She noted that there is currently only one vacancy, but that it would be filled the following day. There will also be one vacancy near the end of the month. Once vacated, carpet will need to be replaced before the next person on the waiting list fills the vacancy. When asked how long the waiting list is, Mrs. Scammehorn indicated that usually there are 5 or 6 applicants, but after the expected vacancy is filled at the end of the month, there will likely be no one on the waiting list.

Mayor Green thanked Mrs. Scammehorn for her report.

Provided in the Council packet was *ASO – Summary of Charges, Renewal Benefits* for the Scott City Employees Blue Cross & Blue Shield (BCBS) package. City Administrator Brad Pendergast informed the Council that the BCBS renewal package is the City's only option at this point because Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT) had not approved the City's application to join the large group plan. It was determined that the risk was too high at this time. However, Mr. Pendergast noted that it is common for cities to be denied their first year of application and that he will apply again next year. He noted that he is pleased with the terms of the renewal since moving forward with the exact same plan as the current year will increase only 5.69% overall. In comparing increases that other cities are experiencing, this increase is lower than that of other cities. Also, the 5.69% increase has already been projected in the 2023 budget. He also compared the BCBS increase to the 10% increase that will affect the KMIT group in 2023. Mayor Green expressed that double digit percentage increases are becoming the norm.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Barb Wilkinson to approve the continuation of the existing Scott City Employees Blue Cross & Blue Shield health and dental insurance package as presented. Vote – Unam.

Included in the packet were the current *2022 Step and Grade Matrix* and the *Proposed - Step and Grade Matrix following applying a 7.4% COLA*. City Administrator Brad Pendergast reminded the Council that this topic was addressed at the last meeting where Mr. Pendergast was instructed to determine whether the approval of the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) needed to be in the form of a resolution or simply approved by a motion. He had determined that in years past, no resolution was adopted; COLAs have been approved via motion, second, and affirmative vote. Council member Adam Winter asked for clarification on the COLA increase as presented. He asked if the Council approved the 7.4% COLA for 2023 if the employees would still receive merit increases of 2% as laid out in the City's pay plan. It was explained that the pay plan included not only a consistent 2% merit increase in pay annually on an employee's anniversary, but also a COLA increase which is to be based on the CPI (consumer price index) figure for October in the Midwest Region. Mayor Green explained that the 2% merit increase was worked into the pay plan Step & Grade table to prevent inconsistencies with annual review increases, but that COLA

increases are based on the current economic climate for a specific region at a specific time. City Administrator Brad Pendergast reminded the Council that department heads had budgeted 9% for the anticipated COLA in addition to a 2% merit increase, so the dollars are available in the budget for both the COLA and merit increases to employees' wages in 2023. Also discussed was the expectancy that cost-of-living increases will fluctuate from year to year based on the economic climate at the time.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Bo Parkinson to approve a 7.4% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2023. Vote – Unam.

Included in the packet was *General Fund Expenditures* from the 2022 City of Scott City Budget, demonstrating a budgeted transfer from Street Department to the Municipal Equipment Fund in the amount of \$40,000. Mr. Pendergast reminded the Council that in years prior, the typical transfer amount was \$20,000, but it had been increased beginning with the 2022 budget. There was a brief discussion regarding the increased amount.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Jeff Allen to approve the budgeted transfer of \$40,000 from the Street Department in the General Fund to the Municipal Equipment Fund. Vote – Unam.

Provided in the packet was *IDShield – Identity Theft and Privacy Protection*. City Clerk Ruth Becker explained that the representative who currently oversees the optional medical transportation benefit for City employees (MASA), Larry Fahrenbruch, is seeking Council approval to offer this additional optional benefit to City employees. Mrs. Becker highlighted some of the services provided to those who enroll in IDShield, including up to \$1 million in identity fraud protection, financial transaction alerts, identity theft consultation, social media/dark web monitoring, and online security options. She noted that the cost of participation rests solely on the employees who choose to enroll; there is no cost to the City. Five participants must enroll in the program for the City to be eligible to offer this benefit to its employees. If approved by Council, Mr. Fahrenbruch will present this program to employees on January 4, 2023 as part of the upcoming Open Enrollment/Benefits Fair that will take place at City Hall and at the Law Enforcement Center.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Jeff Allen to approve the addition of the IDShield program to the list of benefits offered to employees of the City of Scott City. Vote – Unam.

GMS, Inc. engineer David Frisch was unable to attend. He plans to update the Council again in January.

Nothing was reported under the open agenda.

2022 Pool Manager Marci Patton and Assistant Pool Manager Jessica Berry were present to announce that the Scott City Municipal Pool was recently awarded a \$4,900 grant by Safe Kids Kansas. The grant funds will provide free Red Cross swimming lessons to 100+ participants. A typical pool season serves 50-60 participants. Mrs. Patton expressed her appreciation of Edith Tarango, Scott County Health Department Administrator, for her work in applying for this grant this past October. Mayor Green congratulated Mrs. Patton and Mrs. Berry and thanked them for notifying the Council of this good news for the community.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast informed the Council that he and Mayor Green had hired Jerek Wasinger as the new Building Inspector. Mr. Wasinger has worked with Tatro Plumbing for the past 7 years as a project manager and has a bachelor's degree in Construction Management. Mayor Green and Mr. Pendergast had consulted with GMS Engineer David Frisch regarding the hiring of a new building inspector and Mr. Frisch is excited that the City will have a building inspector that can be an intermediary between the engineering firm and City personnel. Mayor Green indicated that Mr. Wasinger gave an impressive interview and that he is excited to begin his duties in the next few weeks. Due to the change of duties the building inspector will be expected to perform, the position will now be a full-time position with benefits instead of the part-time position that it has been in the past. Mr. Wasinger has been hired at a salary of \$80,000. Council member Bo Parkinson stated that this hire will be a good investment as he suspects Mr. Wasinger's experience will save the City money on engineering fees in the future.

The *Monthly Inspection Report* was included in the packet for Council members to review.

Police Chief David Post reported that Officer Bailey Davidson and newly hired Dispatcher Brecken Dunagan had recently received training on the dispatch computers. Cost for the training will be paid using 911 funds. Former Dispatcher Vance Collamore began his role as a Police Officer earlier in the day. Officer Collamore will shadow fellow officers until he attends the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) early next year. After his KLETC graduation, Officer Collamore will complete his field training. Police Chief Post informed the Council that during the past week an officer had been injured on the job and returned to work after a few days off to recover. The Police Department will once again participate in Operation Santa where \$3,000 in donations will be distributed during routine traffic stops. The \$3,000 in donations will be provided to 20 families within the community to assist them throughout the holidays. In addition, the Police Department has partnered with the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center and residents at Eastridge Villas to provide gifts for an Angel Tree this Christmas season.

Parks Superintendent Terence Appel had nothing to report.

Street, Water, & Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel informed the Council that Wheatland Electric is ready to install streetlights at 8<sup>th</sup> & Oak Street and at 8<sup>th</sup> & College Street.

The City crew will be experiencing some personnel changes in the next few weeks. Parks Maintenance Worker Rod Steinbrink will retire at the end of the year, while two new employees will begin work in the Parks Department. Sye Voth began employment earlier today; Josh Beck will begin his employment after the Christmas holiday. Both men will start at G1 on the Step & Grade matrix.

Mr. Appel informed the Council that a 4" cast iron water main line broke at 1<sup>st</sup> and Elizabeth since the last Council meeting. He indicated that much of the cast iron pipe in the area should be replaced. He indicated that he would check to see that if there is any money left over from the water improvement projects being temporarily funded through the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund (KPWSLF) loan, if these pipes could be added to the project for replacement.

Mr. Appel plans to provide an updated equipment/vehicle replacement list to the Council in early 2023.

City Clerk Ruth Becker reminded the Council that the next regular Council meeting will be held on January 3, 2023 as the City will observe New Year's Day on Monday, January 2, 2023.

Mrs. Becker also informed the Council that on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, the City will host its annual Open Enrollment/Benefits Fair. There are more benefit providers attending this year than usual, so the event will be spread throughout the entire day instead of just the morning as it has been in the past. Representatives will speak to groups at City Hall and the Law Enforcement Center throughout the day with one-on-one visits provided between representatives and employees wishing to enroll or update current enrollments. A flyer with the representative schedule was provided in the packet. Benefit representatives who will attend include Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Aflac, WageWorks, MASA, IDShield, Vision Care Direct, KPERS, KP&F, KPERS 457, and Globe Life Liberty National.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast provided *Year End Fund Estimated Balances for 2022 as of 12/15/2022* in the Council packet. First, Mr. Pendergast reminded the Council that the General Fund had assisted in the bond payoff for the water treatment plants more than anticipated and noted that this would be a good time to make a transfer from the Water Fund into the General Fund to reimburse part of that additional expenditure. He recommended a transfer of \$200,000 in 2022. Mr. Pendergast then requested that the Council approve transfers into the Water Reserve Fund created by Ordinance No. 1240 and Sewer Reserve Fund created by Ordinance No. 1241 earlier this year. Based on the estimates provided, Mr. Pendergast cautioned that the Council remain conservative in their initial transfers into the reserve funds due to the scope of large, ongoing projects in the Water Department. His suggestion was to transfer \$150,000 from the Water Fund into the Water Reserve Fund and \$150,000 from the Sewer Fund into the Sewer Reserve Fund before the end of 2022.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Jeff Allen to approve the three following year-end transfers: \$200,000 from the Water Fund to the General Fund, \$150,000 from the Water Fund to the Water Reserve Fund, and \$150,000 from the Sewer Fund to the Sewer Reserve Fund. Vote – Unam.

City Attorney Rebecca Faurot had nothing to report.

Financial & Investment Reports were provided for Council members to review.

Mayor Green expressed that he has appreciated working with each of the Council members throughout the past year and wished them all a Merry Christmas.

The Council took a short break.

Mayor Green called the meeting back to order.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Barb Wilkinson for the City Council to recess into executive session to discuss personnel issues pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), retaining the Mayor, Council, City Attorney, City Administrator, Police Chief, and City Clerk, with the open meeting resuming in the Council room at 8:25 p.m. Vote – Unam.

The Council came out of executive session.

Mayor Green called the meeting back to order.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Adam Winter to award 24 additional hours of sick leave to an employee for time to recover from a work-related injury. Vote – Unam.

Motion by Adam Winter seconded by Armando Tarango to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. Vote – Unam.

Everett M. Green  
Mayor

Ruth Becker  
City Clerk