

October 2, 2023

The City Council of Scott City met in regular session on the above date at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.

Pastor Jeff Goetzinger from 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 Jennifer Cunningham (by Zoom), City Administrator Brad Pendergast, and City Clerk Ruth Becker.

The Council and others recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the September 18, 2023, regular council meeting were presented.

Motion by Armando Tarango seconded by Josh Gooden to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023, regular council meeting. Vote – Unam.

Appropriation Ordinance # 1009A was presented.

Mayor Everett Green took a moment to explain the *Wyoming Stage Lines, LLC* invoice for \$9,484.00 described as being for Sister City Celebration-Bus Transportation on the appropriations listing. Mayor Green explained that when local historian Jerry Thomas approached the City Council at the July 3, 2023, meeting, the Council, by agreeing to allow Mr. Thomas to pursue a Sister City relationship with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the City had, in effect, appointed Mr. Thomas as the City's ambassador to the tribe. Mayor Green explained that Jerry Thomas asked for City funding for the event but was told that the event had not been included in the budget and that funding in the Transient Guest Tax fund was inadequate because the funds are already earmarked for events for which applications had been received and approved. However, only a few days before the Sister City celebration, a surprise invoice arrived in City Clerk Ruth Becker's email. It was quickly brought to the attention of the Mayor and City Administrator Brad Pendergast. The three met to discuss the invoice and how best to proceed, knowing that it was imperative for the invoice to be paid, since transportation had been guaranteed by Mr. Thomas. Mayor Green indicated that quick action needed to be taken, so he approved the payment of the invoice by electronic payment. Also in the email, which contained the invoice for transportation, was an indication that the City also needed to make arrangements for hotel accommodations at El Quartejejo Best Western for the approximately 50 people who were traveling to Scott City. Arrangements were made and the City is expected to receive an additional invoice for lodging for roughly between \$4,000 and \$5,000. Mayor Green explained that he had reached out to the Scott Community Foundation for assistance with this funding. He noted that, due to the lateness of the request, the Scott Community Foundation was unable to help at this time. City Administrator Pendergast added that, if any funds remain in the Transient Guest Tax fund near the end of the year, after all approved reimbursements have been fulfilled, the fund may be able to pay back the general fund for a portion of the expenditures.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Barb Wilkinson to approve Appropriation Ordinance # 1009A. Vote – Unam.

Scott County Fire Chief Jeff Mayer was present to request the use of remaining funds in the Fire Equipment fund. Included in the packet were two quotes for a cascade system that would allow the Fire Department to refill their air tanks. The current refilling station is approximately 35 years old and is no longer capable of fully filling the storage tanks. Also included in the packet was a report demonstrating the current fund balance and amount budgeted for the Fire Equipment fund for 2023, indicating that there is \$61,933.85 remaining in the Fire Equipment Fund and that the budgeted amount remaining is \$88,391.00. Therefore, the maximum expenditure paid by the City's fund must not exceed \$61,933.85. The two bids submitted for approval were:

Weis Fire & Safety Equipment	\$59,689.94
Eagle Breathing Air Systems	\$62,341.00

Fire Chief Mayer indicated that the two invoices were for the exact same system, but that he recommended that the Council accept the bid from Weis Fire & Safety Equipment.

Motion by Armando Tarango seconded by Adam Winter to allow Scott County Fire Chief Jeff Mayer to accept the bid from Weis Fire & Safety Equipment in the amount of \$59,689.94 using available funds from the City of Scott City Fire Equipment fund. Vote – 7, yes – 1, abstain, Jeff Allen.

Scott City Housing Authority (SCHA) Property Manager Ardith Scammehorn was present to present the completed *Multiple Family Housing Project Budget/Utility Allowance* to the SCHA board for approval. Mrs. Scammehorn explained that, after receiving the figures that she had been waiting for from the utility companies, she decided to use the same figures that are being used in the current budget, since they were similar.

Motion by Armando Tarango seconded by Jeff Allen to approve the *Multiple Family Housing Project Budget/Utility Allowance* for 2024. Vote – Unam.

Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 (GMD1) Manager, Katie Durham, was present to update the Council regarding the GMD1's four-county LEMA (Local Enhanced Management Area) which includes Scott, Lane, Greeley, and Wallace Counties. She reminded the Council that Wichita County has its own LEMA. Mrs. Durham provided 5 handouts to the Council after briefly discussing each one. The handouts included *GMD1 Review of Programs and Initiatives*, *GMD1 Wichita County Radar Precipitation, Closed & Restricted Areas* as presented by the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources, a map demonstrating the GMD1 Wichita County LEMA and the proposed Four County LEMA, and *Public Notice – Wichita & Greeley Counties Water Right Transition Assistance Program (WTAP) Sign-Up to Open*. State Representative Jim Minnix was also in attendance to answer questions about water discussions at the State level and to update the Council on recent water legislation. Scott Holt, GMD1 Board Member, was also present to aid in a discussion regarding a grant opportunity that could benefit Scott City residents who want to cut back on water usage while still maintaining the aesthetics of their lawns and landscaping. Mrs. Durham acknowledged that municipal water use is far lower than agricultural use, but the irrigation of lawns and other vegetation is the highest usage of municipal water. Mr. Holt described three similar pieces of technology that are available for residential water users to install on their automatic sprinkler systems that use meteorological information to assist watering lawns and vegetation only as needed. The systems use other data,

such as ground saturation levels, to enable or disable the sprinkler systems from operating. Each of these systems replace the current control panel on a sprinkler system and is operated using smart phone applications to program, or override set programs, on the sprinkler system. The cost of these systems averages about \$200 with no monthly fees. City Administrator Brad Pendergast offered that the City could begin by utilizing these systems at the parks to evaluate any water savings based on usage of the devices. He and Mrs. Durham will work together to research grant opportunities that would benefit City water users. Mr. Pendergast indicated that it is likely that residents wanting to take advantage of this technology may need to “purchase” the reduced-price equipment but would be reimbursed by way of a water credit on their bills if a significant reduction in water usage is evident. Further discussion will be held as more is learned about the program.

Included in the Council packet was City of Scott City Emergency Water Supply Plan 2024. The plan is currently under review for approval with KDHE. Upon KDHE approval, the plan will be presented, once again, for Council approval.

Provided in the packet was *Water Base Rate and Rate Table Options* as prepared by City Administrator Brad Pendergast. This packet item is identical to the item discussed at the September 18, 2023, Council meeting, when the Council was requested to review the options and present their recommendations regarding setting new base rates and new water usage rates. City Administrator Brad Pendergast reminded the Council that, when considering new water rates, it is important to weigh the amount of guaranteed revenue that will be generated by the base rate, because in years with abundant rainfall, revenue generated by water usage rates may not be enough to adequately operate the water utility at a level that will allow the City to not only cover the expenses incurred by the water utility, but also to be able to pay back loan obligations and repair/replace old or problematic water infrastructure.

Mr. Pendergast noted that Council member Jeff Allen had visited with him to run actual scenarios, using the billing from both his home and his business, to see how each rate table would affect his bills. For Mr. Allen’s business (a car wash), each bill figured using the rates listed in each option was higher than his current bill, primarily because the water usage rates in all three options are higher than in the current rate tables. However, for his home, options 1 & 2 netted a higher bill, while option 3 netted a lower bill because the base rate (guaranteed revenue) is less than half of the current base rate. For each bill, option 2 presented the water bill closest in amount to the current bill, while still bringing in additional revenue. City Administrator Brad Pendergast indicated that once a decision is made by the Council, he plans to add a “Water Rate Calculator” to the website so that people can insert their current water usage and meter size to determine what their future water bills will look like. Mayor Green noted that the rates that will ultimately be set will go into effect at the first of the new year, so there is still time for further discussion.

Council discussion included varying opinions on the best option for rates. Council member Josh Gooden agreed that the City should keep the base rate higher to ensure revenues that will be able to fully support the water utility, even during years when water usage is lower. Council member Bo Parkinson supports lowering the base rate and increasing the rates for water usage to encourage conservation of water resources and to assist customers that are on a fixed income who do not tend to be high water users. He noted that the savings a customer experiences due to lowering the base rates does not need to be overwhelmingly meaningful, but it does need to be noticeable. Therefore, he recommends option 1, which offers a drop to the base rate without the extreme base rate cut of option 3. Council member Jeff Allen, when referring to the final page of Mr. Pendergast’s

document on water rates, stated that the City of Scott City should not be concerned with comparing the City's rates with those of other cities, but should be concerned with being able to cover the needs of the City and the Water Fund.

City resident Linda Tilton was present to address the Council. She asked for clarification on the proposed water rates. Mayor Green suggested that, in the interest of time, that Mrs. Tilton schedule an appointment with Mr. Pendergast to discuss her questions on a one-on-one basis.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast stated that, once the water rate is put into effect, the rate will need to be addressed on an annual basis and tweaked as necessary. Mayor Everett Green affirmed that the chosen rate table will need to be implemented and evaluated before City officials fully know the impact it will have on funding the water department.

Discussion will continue at future council meetings.

Ordinance No. 1243 relating to the 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, was included in the packet. This ordinance was passed on September 19, 2022. Also included in the packet was information about Blue Arrow Juniper trees and photos of newly planted trees at a home that was brought to the attention of City Administrator Brad Pendergast. Mr. Pendergast has spoken with the property owner who had planted some trees and bushes that would not be allowed according to the current ordinance. He noted that the definition of "tree" in the ordinance, for this specific circumstance would be considered to be a "street tree" – trees, shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation on land lying between property lines on either side of all streets, avenues, or ways within the city. Mr. Pendergast indicated that the ordinance is meant to address two problematic areas where trees are concerned. The first is a limited view of traffic, obscured by vegetation planted too close to the street. The second is the damage that can be caused by roots pushing up sidewalks or causing curb & guttering to break apart. The argument for allowing these specific trees and bushes to remain is that the trees are expected to only reach about 8 feet high and the bushes only about 2 to 3 feet wide and that the root systems on these trees are not likely to negatively impact nearby concrete. Mr. Pendergast inquired if Council members would be interested in revisiting the ordinance to address the issues of "street trees" that are not expected to grow root systems that would cause damage. Council member Armando Tarango indicated that he thinks that if trees are not expected to cause visibility or concrete issues, that the trees should be allowed in the area disallowed by the current ordinance. Council member Bo Parkinson stated that a person can never be quite sure how big a tree can be expected to grow. Council member Barb Wilkinson wanted to know who enforces the ordinance when people plant trees where the ordinance does not allow them to be planted. Mr. Pendergast indicated that he, Building Inspector Jerek Wasinger, and Street Superintendent Terence Appel rely primarily on "complaint-based reporting" for these situations, but if a violation is noticed by City officials, it can be addressed as well. Once a violation has been determined, a notice is issued to the property owner and a meeting is set between that person and a City official to discuss the violation and actions that need to occur. Further discussion continued regarding the lack of public knowledge regarding tree regulations, the fact that many locations around town are in violation of the current ordinance, and the City's responsibility to enforce the ordinance. Mr. Pendergast noted that the main intent for the ordinance, when it was initially brought to the Council's attention, was to provide for the removal of dead/dangerous trees that are not on City property. Mayor Everett Green also pointed out that all ordinances that are passed should be enforceable, but no ordinance should be so complex that the public has trouble understanding it. Street Superintendent Terence Appel indicated that, often,

the area in which trees are not allowed to be planted is actually also in a City right-of-way, so if a utility line has to be relocated, the City will have to remove whatever is in the way in order to do so. He stated that the ordinance should remain as it is currently written. Council member Kelly Funk indicated that he believes that if the City can dictate what people can do within the ten-foot area from the curb, that the City should be made to maintain that area as well, including providing sidewalks when requested. Council member Armando Tarango concurred. Brief discussion was then held regarding the City's resources and the ability/inability of the City of Scott City to take on that responsibility. It was suggested by Council members Jeff Allen and Bo Parkinson that the City could potentially offer variance application for the planting of trees, with the outcome to be determined by the Planning & Zoning Commission. The suggestion was addressed by Mayor Green who stated that it would be difficult to find members to sit on the commission if they were to add this type of item to their agendas. Mayor Everett Green and City Administrator Brad Pendergast again inquired of the Council if there is any interest in revising the current tree ordinance. The majority of the Council members stated that the current tree ordinance should stand. Opponents to this statement were Council members Armando Tarango and Kelly Funk. The ordinance will not be readdressed.

GMS Engineer Ken White was present via Zoom. He was cautiously optimistic that KDHE would be ready to issue an *Approval to Bid with Conditions* letter on or around October 13, 2023 for the last phase of the Water System Improvements project involving the construction of the new water tower, the conversion of the new well, and the water infrastructure leading to the new tower. Materials acquisition will not be bid out separately with this bid request, as materials are not as difficult to obtain as they have been with previous projects. The cost of materials will be worked into the bid request itself. It is expected that there will be roughly \$560,000 worth of materials needed to complete the project. When asked for a timeline, Mr. White explained that the project will be advertised for bid weekly for 4 weeks, followed by the acceptance of bids at a regular Council meeting, with the final bid being awarded sometime in January 2024. Construction is expected to begin in March 2024.

Under the open agenda, State Representative Jim Minnix spoke to the Council. He informed the Council that on the following Wednesday morning, KDOT would host a local consult discussion regarding a 4-Lane option for US Highway 83. The following Wednesday, Mr. Minnix will be speaking at a Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) Conference. He updated the Council on items that are expected to be addressed at the upcoming legislative session, including Medicaid expansion, Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR), the flat tax, housing (particularly housing for Veterans), and legislation to limit valuation on housing. After listening to the water discussion, he expressed that he is not optimistic about the timeline of the water project. Regarding water rates, he advised not to "cut too close to the bone," but to plan for the long term. City Council members thanked Representative Minnix for his report.

City Resident Linda Tilton re-addressed the Council to indicate that she would like the current base rates for water to remain the same.

Building Inspector Jerek Wasinger had nothing to report.

Police Chief David Post provided *Council Meeting/Dept Update-10/3/23[sic]* in the Council packet. Police Chief Post reported that the Police Department has hired Christian Rodriguez as a

9th Police Officer. He comes to the City with 7 years of Military Police Officer experience. He noted that because his experience is military-based, he will need to attend the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) to become certified as a municipal law enforcement officer. He will likely attend during the November to March session, with local time spent doing his field training with Officer Whitney Savolt. Officer Rodriguez will start at G4 on the pay plan but will increase to G5 upon KLETC graduation.

Police Chief Post informed the Council that Dispatcher Dara White has resigned her full-time position effective December 10, 2023. She would like to remain as a part-time employee. The Police Department is actively seeking her replacement.

Police Chief David Post informed the Council that the Police Department has received another grant for police officer vests. He indicated that the Police Department would be receiving \$3,367.50 which will be used to cover about half the cost of new/replacement vests as 3 of the current vests will “expire” within a few months of the award expiration date.

City of Scott City Credit Card Policy was included in the packet. Police Chief David Post requested that the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police (AACP) position be eligible for a City credit card. He noted that current AACP Amber Poore attends several trainings and is responsible for ordering supplies and booking travel expenses for other officers, so it would aid in the ability to perform her duties. City Clerk Ruth Becker pointed out that if that position were to be added to the Credit Card Policy, that the City’s overall credit limit would need to increase by \$1,500 (the amount of a Tier II card holder’s credit limit), unless the City Council would revise the policy to replace the City Attorney position with the AACP position in the policy. City Attorney Jennifer Cunningham indicated that she was fine with that policy change since she does not need a City credit card.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Adam Winter to approve a Tier II credit card for the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police position, replacing the City Attorney position in the *City of Scott City Credit Card Policy*. Vote – Unam.

Parks Superintendent Terence Appel had nothing to report.

Street, Water, & Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel began his report by listing all the different functions that City employees perform to keep the water utility functioning properly, safely, and efficiently. He noted that “all of these things take money.” He strongly encouraged the Council to keep water base rate high enough to ensure that guaranteed revenues are high enough to fully fund the water utility.

Mr. Appel informed the Council that 3 trees needed to be removed in the City-owned area between Jefferson Street and the practice field on 9th Street. One of the trees had been leaning over the home at 915 Jefferson and when it was investigated, it was determined that 2 other trees presented a danger as well. The cost to remove these trees was \$6,500.

Mr. Appel reported that, once again, the water line that stretches from 9th & Jackson Street to the car wash at 5th & Jackson has some major leaks. He indicated that the line needs to be replaced, but because the water line material, as well as the diameter of the line, needs to change, KDHE requires engineering services and KDHE approval before beginning.

Street, Water, and Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel addressed the Council regarding the need to bid for a new generator for Well #9 at the City shop. The Council inquired if he felt it was necessary, since the generator at Well #4 at the South Treatment Plant is functioning well. Mr. Appel stated that if something were to happen to that generator, the City and its residents could be

in trouble. He noted that it is a good idea to always “have a backup for your backup.” Brief discussion continued about the timeline and cost to replace the generator.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Adam Winter to allow Street, Water, & Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel to advertise for bids for a new or used generator with bids due at City Hall by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 16, 2023. Vote – Unanimous.

Mr. Appel was happy to announce that they have received the software that will include GIS mapping of water and sewer lines, as well as a database to assist in collecting data for the Lead Service Line Inventory that needs to be completed for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by October 2024. City Administrator Pendergast indicated that he would put information, as well as a survey for completion by local water customers, on the website so that residents can begin submitting their information. Literature will also be distributed in the next water billing.

City Clerk Ruth Becker announced that a 2023 City Forum, formerly known as the League of Kansas Municipalities’ Legislative Dinner, will be held in Scott City on Tuesday, October 17, 2023. The lunch event will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, with registration beginning at 10:30 a.m. Mrs. Becker offered to register anyone who wanted to attend. Mayor Everett Green, City Administrator Brad Pendergast, Council President Josh Gooden, and Council members Craig Richards, Jeff Allen, and Barb Wilkinson plan to attend. The registration fee to attend is \$18 per person.

City Clerk Ruth Becker followed up on a concern that was brought up by Council member Barb Wilkinson during the last Council meeting with an explanation concerning discrepancies noted between the total ending fund balance and the total of the investment reports for the month ended August 31, 2023, at the last regular Council meeting. Mrs. Becker explained that she reached out to the technical support team for the government software that generated part of the reports in question for assistance in providing an explanation. There are 2 reasons that the totals of these reports do not match:

1. Not all the City’s bank accounts are listed in the *Investment Report*. Even though the City’s checking account with Security State Bank does earn a small amount of interest, it is not considered to be an investment account, and therefore, is not included in the report.
2. The *Fund Balance Report* (Treasurer’s Report) is noted in “real-time.” The City’s end of the month appropriations (accounts payable and payroll) are posted to the last day of the month (i.e. a check date of August 31) while actually being processed several days before the end of the month. Because staff members do not wait until the first of the following month to begin entering invoices to be processed as of the 15th of the following month, but rather begin processing those invoices as soon as they are received, there can be several days of transactions before the end of the month that are considered to be encumbered expenses, or *liabilities*, that will officially become *expenses* once the next accounts payable run is processed. Those *liabilities* are deducted from the cash balance, or fund balance, to provide an accurate account of how much remains as “available” to be spent in a fund at any given time (provided that the budget authority is also there).

Mrs. Becker indicated that she would begin providing an additional report (Cash Report) in the monthly financials to demonstrate not only the end of the month bank balance (balance on the bank statements), but also the end of the month cash balance (amount available to spend) and the outstanding transactions for the month (liabilities). Mrs. Becker offered to assist Council members to read these reports and learn how to manipulate the data to verify reconciliation.

City Clerk Ruth Becker asked for the City Council to discuss whether they would prefer to have a Christmas party this year, or if the Council would like to continue to issue Chamber Bucks to City employees in lieu of hosting a Christmas party. Everett Green asked Police Chief David Post and Public Works Superintendent Terence Appel to provide their input. Police Chief Post was in favor of having the party because he feels that it is important for City employees to have time to socialize with each other. Superintendent Terence Appel indicated that his employees would prefer to have the Chamber Bucks. Mayor Green asked the Council to consider this topic, and to address it again at the October 16, 2023 meeting.

Mrs. Becker noted that the deadline to accept applications for the Assistant City Clerk position was at 5:00 p.m. earlier in the day. She was pleased to announce that 17 applications had been submitted and that she is eager to start the selection process.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast reminded the Council that he, Mayor Everett Green, Council member Barb Wilkinson, and City Clerk Ruth Becker would attend the Annual League Conference in Wichita during the upcoming weekend.

Mr. Pendergast announced that he would bring information regarding a purchasing card option to the next regular Council meeting on October 16, 2023. The new purchasing card program will replace the City's First National Bank credit cards that City employees are currently using.

City Administrator Pendergast also noted that some taxiway panels have been broken because of construction being done on the t-hangars. The damage does not negatively impact airport traffic and the repairs will be completed at no cost to the City.

City Attorney Jennifer Cunningham stated that she did not have any comments other than to address the review of *Indigent Defense Agreement* between the City of Scott City and Heidi Farnsworth that is set to expire on December 31, 2023. City Attorney Cunningham noted that this agreement is similar to the indigent defense agreements used in Garden City, so she is very familiar with this agreement. The document is being reviewed by the Council at the current time due to a clause within the agreement that states that the parties shall determine at least 60 days prior to the end of the term to determine if any modifications need to be made moving forward. Council member Jeff Allen inquired if Mrs. Cunningham believed that the \$350 rate per case is still sufficient. Her reply was that \$350 per case makes sense in Scott City, but that the rate could be increased if it becomes difficult to find an indigent defense attorney or if the caseload for said attorney increases significantly. Mrs. Cunningham advised leaving the case rate at \$350. Mayor Everett Green asked for any further discussion, to which there was no response. City Clerk Ruth Becker indicated that an agreement for another term would be presented to the Council for approval at the December 18, 2023, meeting.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Adam Winter 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, City Council, City Attorney, City Administrator, Police Chief, and City Clerk, with the open meeting resuming in the Council room at 8:23 p.m. Vote – Unam.

The Council came out of executive session.

Mayor Green called the meeting back to order.

No action was taken.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Adam Winter that the City Council 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, City Council, City Administrator, City Attorney, Police Chief, and City Clerk, with the open meeting resuming in the Council room at 8:34 p.m. Vote – Unam.

The Council came out of executive session.
Mayor Green called the meeting back to order.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Adam Winter that the City Council 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, City Council, City Administrator, City Attorney, Police Chief, and City Clerk, with the open meeting resuming in the Council room at 8:45 p.m. Vote – Unam.

The Council came out of executive session.
Mayor Green called the meeting back to order.
No action was taken.

Provided in the Council Packet was a document provided by Police Chief David Post with data regarding a proposal to provide law enforcement dispatchment services to Lane County at the request of Lane County officials and Lane County Sheriff Antonio Rodriguez. The document outlined estimated employee and benefit costs, estimated dispatch operating costs, and total dispatch calls for service for both Scott City Police Department and Scott County Sheriff's Office from 2019 through the present time in 2023. The third page of this document defined the needs of the Lane County dispatch center, noting that the department is slated for 5 full-time positions, but that currently the center operates 24/7/365 with only two dispatchers each working 12-hour shifts with no days off. It also notes that the center receives approximately 2,000 calls for service per year, averaging 89 calls per month from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 62 calls per month from 4:00 p.m. to midnight, and 17 calls per month from midnight to 8:00 a.m. Because Lane County and Scott City Dispatch Centers use the same 800 radio systems and CAD/RMS systems, all 911 lines and administrative lines can be easily transferred for an easy transition. Two proposals were defined.

Proposal #1 would allow one full time administrative position in the Lane County office who would handle the day-to-day paperwork and record keeping of Lane County Sheriff's Office. Scott City PD Dispatch would answer all 911 calls, all administrative lines, and would dispatch for Lane County on a 24/7/365 basis. Non-emergency calls for Lane County from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. would simply be forwarded on the Lane County. The cost paid to Scott City for this service would be \$84,000 annually, paid in monthly installments of \$7,000.

Proposal #2 would allow Scott City PD to provide dispatch coverage from midnight to 8:00 a.m. only, 7 days a week. The cost paid to Scott City for this service would be \$36,000 annually, paid in monthly installments of \$3,000.

Also included in the packet was a draft of *Emergency Dispatch Services Agreement* for Proposal #2, to lend to the discussion.

Scott County Sheriff Jeff Pounds, Scott County Fire Chief Jeff Mayer, and Scott County Emergency Management Director Tim Stoecklein were all present to ask questions and to provide their input on the proposals. Police Chief David Post began the discussion by stating that lately he has had several discussions with other 911 directors across Kansas and that they all feel that the

regionalization of 911 centers is inevitable, due to the lack of individuals wanting to pursue a career in dispatching, so it is worth weighing whether it would be more beneficial to the residents of Scott City and Scott County to assume the dispatch duties of surrounding counties or, ultimately, be assumed by neighboring communities' dispatch centers. He acknowledged that either option has many risks and fears tied to it and that there are many things that need to be considered before making an agreement like the one being proposed. Mayor Green asked for people to voice their concerns. All 3 County representatives expressed concern about multiple incidents arising at the same time in different locations, and wondering if the SCPD dispatchers would be able to handle the added call volume. Sheriff Jeff Pounds noted that if the Scott City PD dispatch center were to begin handling larger call volumes, that would lead to the need to hire more dispatchers. He pointed out that the dispatch center, while newly remodeled, is not large enough to expand the number of dispatchers on duty at any given time. He also pointed out that Scott County reimburses the city 50% of dispatchers' salaries and benefits paid to them, so if the City would be paid to provide these services to Lane County, or any other County, Scott County would likely expect to receive 50% of that revenue as well. Sheriff Pounds reiterated that, currently, dispatcher salaries are determined solely by the City of Scott City, and Scott County officials believe that both entities should be involved in setting salaries if both entities are equally splitting the cost of salaries and benefits. He noted that the interlocal agreement for the Law Enforcement Cost Share between Scott County and the City of Scott City is up for renegotiation in 2024. Police Chief Post expressed his insight that, of the two options presented, Option #2 for the overnight shift had the highest potential for liability issues due to the fact that systems would need to be transferred back and forth multiple times a day, leading to a higher potential that something could be lost in the transfer. However, Sheriff Pounds and Emergency Management Director Stoecklein were adamant that they were not in favor of a long term arrangement, and if the City were to pursue either option on a trial basis, they would consider only the overnight option to test the abilities of the dispatchers. It was pointed out that of the 5 current dispatchers, one has less than 6 months' experience and that the Scott City Police Department is actively seeking a dispatcher to replace one who is planning to leave before the end of the year. The lack of long-term experience concerns Scott County officials.

City Attorney Jennifer Cunningham stopped the discussion because she felt that discussions were moving in a direction in which she did not feel comfortable with not having the Scott County Attorney present.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast stated that the mutual aid agreement already in place between the Scott City Dispatch Center and the Lane County Dispatch Center could be enacted to provide short-term services to Lane County while other alternatives are considered. All involved in the discussion agreed to provide short-term services, mutual aid services to Lane County.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Adam Winter that the City Council 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, City Council, City Administrator, City Attorney, and City Clerk, with the open meeting resuming in the Council room at 9:15 p.m. Vote – Unam.

The Council came out of executive session.

Mayor Green called the meeting back to order.

No action was taken.

Mayor Everett Green had nothing further to report but wanted to extend the gratitude of the lap swim group. He informed Council members that members of the lap swim group had baked them cookies to help express their appreciation for allowing them the use of the pool for several weeks after the pool's official closing date.

The Council took a short break.

Mayor Green called the meeting back to order.

Motion by Adam Winter seconded by Armando Tarango to adjourn at 9:21 p.m. Vote – Unam.

Everett M. Green
Mayor

Ruth Becker
City Clerk