

March 4, 2024

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, 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 February 20, 2024, regular council meeting were presented.

Motion by Armando Tarango seconded by Jeff Allen to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2024, regular council meeting. Vote – Unam.

Appropriation Ordinance # 1014A was presented.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Josh Gooden to approve Appropriation Ordinance # 1014A. Vote – Unam.

Provided in the packet was *Annual Insurance Renewal Proposal-Package Policy Effective 4/1/2024-4/1/2025* provided by the Rodenbeek & Green Agency/Iron Insurance Partners. Everett Green temporarily recused himself as Mayor and invited David Post to the podium as the insurance representative to the City of Scott City to present the City's insurance package. Council President Josh Gooden oversaw the meeting during this agenda item.

Mr. Post began by noting that the overall premium has decreased by \$3,700 from the 2023 renewal due to a dramatically increased deductible for wind and hail claims (moving from a \$5,000 deductible per occurrence to a \$50,000 deductible per occurrence). However, all other sections of the proposed policy have increased an average of 12%, which is in line with industry averages this year. David Post noted that the vehicle fleet number stated in the quote would change with the addition of the 2023 Dodge pickup that was recently purchased. Mr. Post noted that the cumulative age of the fleet is newer, which increases the amount of the premium. He also noted that, although the City has seen more Workers' Compensation claim activity than in previous years, the experience modifier remains at 1.07. The workers' compensation policy is part of EMC Insurance Company's *Municipality Safety Group in Kansas*, which provides insurance protection to over 450 Kansas municipalities. The group receives dividends back when the group's overall claim history is favorable. The City has received safety dividends each year since 2011, averaging \$22,500 each year over the past five years. Last year's dividend check was \$23,411. It was noted that the airport liability insurance has a slightly different renewal date, so the renewal proposal for the airport will be presented at the next regular meeting on March 18, 2024. There was discussion about ways that the City could protect itself from multiple wind and hail events occurring within the same year, such as purchasing an additional dividend buy-down policy to cover unexpected deductible overages, creating a special fund from received safety dividends to build a pool to be used to cover such a large deductible, or transferring excess budgeted funds remaining at the end

of a budget year to an account to help offset the need to pay a \$50,000 deductible. City Administrator Brad Pendergast noted that he will visit with the City’s auditors to check the legality of setting up such an account. Mr. Post briefly educated the Council about a free *Risk Management* assessment tool that is available to policy holders; he strongly encouraged the City to take advantage of this tool. Considering the most recent mailings received by Scott City residents by Service Line Warranties of America, Council member Craig Richards inquired if the City’s policy would cover repairs or replacement of water and/or sewer lines from the meters to the city-owned buildings. Everett Green, from the audience, noted that he would research this question and report back to the Council.

Motion by Craig Richards seconded by Adam Winter to accept the 4/1/2024-4/1/2025 insurance renewal from Rodenbeek & Green Agency/Iron Insurance Partners in the amount of \$166,903 (with an additional premium for the 2023 Dodge truck to be added to the policy upon renewal) which covers the City’s property, liability, and workers’ compensation. Vote – Unam.

Everett Green resumed his role as Mayor.

City Clerk Ruth Becker presented the ½% Sales Tax Funding 2024 recommendations as follows:

Camp Christy	\$ 5,000.00
Chamber of Commerce	\$30,000.00
Park Lane Senior Living	\$43,000.00
Scott City Christian School	\$ 5,000.00
Scott City Swim Club	\$ 7,000.00
Scott Community Foundation-Historical School	\$ 7,500.00
Scott Community Foundation-Veterans’ Memorial	\$ 4,500.00
Scott Community Foundation-Walking Trail	\$ 7,500.00
Scott Community Golf Course	\$40,000.00
Scott County Arts Council	\$20,000.00
Scott County Development Committee	\$23,000.00
Scott County Free Fair	\$30,000.00
Scott County Historical Society	\$50,000.00
Scott County Indoor Arena & Activity Center	\$14,000.00
Scott County Library	\$ 4,800.00
Scott County V.I.P.	\$31,000.00
Scott County Youth	\$35,000.00
Scott Hospital Foundation	\$ 5,000.00
Scott Rec Commission	\$40,000.00
Spencer Flight & Education Center	\$ 6,700.00
Stepping Up, Inc.	\$14,000.00
West Plains Extension District #19	\$ 9,000.00
Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center	\$19,000.00

Mrs. Becker informed the Council that there were several more applicants this year than in years prior.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Jeff Allen to accept the 2024 recommendations of the ½% Sales Tax Committee for the total funding, in the amount of \$451,000.00, as listed above. Vote – Unam.

Provided in the packet was *Farm Lease, SW/4 17-18-32, City of Scott City, Kansas, Landlord, Four B Farm, Tenant*. City Administrator Brad Pendergast explained that this land lease is in its final form, but that representatives of Four B Farms had not yet had a chance to review the lease agreement. He reminded the Council that the main changes to the document were that the acreage of the land to be farmed had been reduced to approximately 50 acres, and that the cost of rent per acre had increased to \$35.00 per acre, resulting in a total annual rent payment of \$1,750. Mr. Pendergast stated that the Council could approve the land lease agreement during the meeting and if Four B Farms had any issues with the lease, the agreement could be readdressed at another meeting.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Jeff Allen to approve *Farm Lease, SW/4 17-18-32, City of Scott City, Kansas, Landlord, Four B Farm, Tenant*, as presented. Vote – Unam.

Scott Recreation Commission (SRC) Director Cody Brittan and Assistant Director Jordan Carter were present to update the Council on activity at the SRC and to present their annual water conservation plan. Provided in the packet was *SRC Report for the City Council Meeting March 4th, 2024*. Also included in the packet was a copy of the SRC's water conservation plan. Mr. Brittan began by drawing the Council's attention to the water usage figures for 2022 vs. 2023. He noted that the SRC used nearly 6 million fewer gallons in 2023 due largely to the increased amount of precipitation during that summer. The 7,466,400 gallons used in 2023 was well below the established goal of 10 million gallons or less for each year. SRC staff will continue to diligently check sprinkler heads for damage, will continue aerating the ground so that more water will be absorbed into the soil instead of remaining on the surface, and will research soil penetrants to help break up clay-based soil and ensure deeper watering. The most impactful part of the water conservation plan was the installation of a new irrigation (sprinkler) system that will be much more efficient than the old system, which was not designed to efficiently cover the area in which it had been installed. The new system still has a few odds & ends to work through, but Mr. Brittan indicated that the sprinkler heads are much more efficient, and the system allows the use of more 180° heads, eliminating watering of non-grassy surfaces. Mayor Everett Green noted that he is looking forward to seeing the impact of the efficiency of the new sprinkler system. The Mayor and Council members thanked Mr. Brittan and Mr. Carter for their update.

Scott City Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) Executive Director Lindsay Singley was present to request the City's assistance with the retirement of the loan balance of \$50,000 for the Patton Park restroom project. Payment is due in January 2025. She also noted that there is approximately \$4,600 in an account at the Scott Community Foundation that is to be used to make interest payments. Mayor Green indicated that it would be risky to approve a \$50,000 payment that had not been budgeted. Brief discussion included the potential to utilize any surplus funds remaining in the City's 2024 budget at the end of the fiscal year to assist with the payoff, the potential to solicit more donations before the end of the year, the fact that since the new restrooms are on City property, the City is essentially committed to ensuring that the payment is made, and the potential to budget for the remaining principal balance when preparing the 2025 budget. Consensus of the Council was to take no action until budget preparation and approval when the expenditure will likely be earmarked in the Special City Project budget.

GMS Engineer Tom McClernan was present to update the Council on progress being made with KDHE on the City's request for additional funding from the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund. Mr. McClernan reported that, as of February 29, 2024, there was still no official approval, as a 3rd party working for KDHE was still working on the financial review of the City. City Administrator Brad Pendergast noted that he had spoken with KDHE Assistant Director for the Bureau of Water William Carr, who assured him that the City will be awarded the loan increase as requested. He also reminded the Council that all contractors who were awarded bids (contingent upon the approval of the additional funding), were willing to hold their bids until March 15, 2024. Mayor Green noted that there will be no regular Council meeting between this meeting and the next regular meeting on March 18, 2024, and inquired of Mr. McClernan if he saw any reason for the need to hold a special meeting to ensure that the project can move forward with no issues. Mr. McClernan did not see the need to hold a special meeting. He also noted that a digital copy of the Master Drainage Plan had been sent to City Administrator Brad Pendergast and City Clerk Ruth Becker but, due to the size of the plan, GMS would be sending several hard copies to be used in a meeting to review the document. A meeting including GMS representatives and City officials, either in person or by Zoom, will be scheduled.

Under the open agenda, Council member Jeff Allen wanted to report that Law Enforcement Center personnel have enjoyed working with Police Chief Colton Schmitt and that they have felt that it has been a good transition. Mayor Everett Green concurred and expressed that Police Chief Schmitt has done a good job with the transition.

Council member Armando Tarango reported that Phil Gould was getting ready to begin work on the *Little Free Library* that he had requested to install at Palmer Park. He will be coordinating with City Administrator Brad Pendergast and Parks Superintendent Terence Appel during the process.

City Inspector Jerek Wasinger had nothing to report.

Police Chief Colton Schmitt reported that the non-emergency phone lines at the Law Enforcement Center have been down since the weekend and that they are working to get them back up and running. The 911 (emergency) lines are fully functional. An alternate phone number has been provided to the public on the Scott City Police Department Facebook page. City Hall has also been provided with the alternate number.

Officer Whitney Savolt is attending KNOA (Kansas Narcotics Officers Association) training this week in Wichita.

The new SRO vehicle will be outfitted with lights and sirens on Tuesday.

Officers participated in the 4H BB Gun Shoot with the assistance of funds available from donations made to the Scott Community Foundation.

Parks Superintendent Terence Appel reported getting park and pool equipment ready for the summer season and spraying weeds.

Street, Water, and Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel reported moving the light pole at 3rd and Main Street and patching potholes on US Highway 83. He also noted that KDOT has agreed to change the drainage on Glenn Street. Mr. Appel has ordered rock to resurface roads in the Industrial Park.

Council member Barb Wilkinson inquired if the City crew would be able to assist the museum with an issue with their parking lot. She explained that while the lot was wet, a UPS truck had driven through the parking lot and messed it up. She further explained that the staff at the museum had contacted the County crew who indicated that they would not be able to assist. Mr. Appel indicated that the museum is County property, and he did not want to overstep his authority.

City Clerk Ruth Becker had nothing to report.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast had nothing to report.

City Attorney Jennifer Cunningham had nothing to report.

Motion by Bo Parkinson 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, Council, City Administrator, City Attorney, and City Clerk, with the open meeting resuming in the Council room at 7:28 p.m. Vote – Unam.

The Council came out of executive session.

Mayor Everett Green called the meeting back to order.

No action was taken.

Mayor Everett Green addressed the Council regarding the open seat on the City Council. He announced that he is seeking applications for the position. An ad has been placed in the Scott County Record and on the City's website. Mayor Green welcomed suggestions for candidates who reside in Ward 3.

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 7:36 p.m. Vote – Unam.

Everett M. Green
Mayor

Ruth Becker
City Clerk