

June 17, 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 with 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, Greg Mills, 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 June 3, 2024, regular council meeting were presented.

Motion by Armando Tarango seconded by Jeff Allen to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2024, regular council meeting. Vote – Unam.

Appropriation Ordinance # 1017B was presented.

Motion by Armando Tarango seconded by Jeff Allen to approve Appropriation Ordinance # 1017B. Vote – Unam.

Iron Insurance Partners Agent David Post was delayed in arriving. Mayor Everett Green indicated that he would be moved down on the agenda.

Ardith Scammehorn, Pine Village Property Manager for the Scott City Housing Authority (SCHA) was present to update the Council. Mrs. Scammehorn reported that activity has been quiet and that there is one vacancy to fill. Unfortunately, there are no applications from which to fill the vacancy. She also reported that a water leak had been discovered and that, with the help of Assistant Public Works Superintendent Reggie Ford, the leak was determined to be tied to the sprinkler system. Mrs. Scammehorn hired Joe Smith to make the necessary repairs. Her final report to the Council was to announce that, as of July 1, 2024, SCHA would be losing their site manager. The current site manager, Mrs. Scammehorn's daughter, will be moving to Medicine Lodge to pursue a job opportunity for her husband. She does not plan to hire someone new but intends to fulfill the role herself unless it becomes apparent that she is unable to do so.

Medill & Thooft, CPA Auditor Mathew Medill was in attendance to present *The City of Scott City, Kansas Financial Statement For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*, which was included in the packet for Council review.

Mr. Medill informed the Council that the letter included in the financial statement entitled *Independent Auditor's Report* summarized that the City of Scott City adopts a resolution each January setting out finding and determination of the governing body requesting a waiver of the generally accepted accounting principles. He also indicated that it is the responsibility of the auditing firm to express an opinion on the financial statement based on their audit.

In briefly reviewing the financial statement, Mr. Medill pointed out the following areas of interest:

- The financial statement confirms that there were no statutory violations found in 2023.
- The financial statement confirms \$137,506 in outstanding encumbrances.
- The City (municipal court) holds \$37,181 in agency funds—monies that do not belong to the City but are held by the City to pay back court bonds.
- The City transacted five transfers as allowed by state statute. He reminded the council that budgeted transfers give the city the “right” to transfer money between funds, but that a budgeted transfer does not obligate the city to actually make the transfer, as budgeted.
- In the “long-term debt” section, Mr. Medill noted that although the KDHE public water supply loan (KPWSLF) was issued in the amount of \$6,100,000, only \$1,747,460 had been drawn down by the end of 2023. He noted that the loan amount that has been increased to \$7,500,000 in 2024, and the amount of funds that are likely to be received and expensed during 2024 are likely to trigger a single audit (federal audit) for next year.
- Mr. Medill reminded the Council that each year the audit addresses “related parties.” The audit mentions that the City purchases its insurance from the Rodenbeek & Green Agency, which amounted to \$202,179 in 2023. In 2023, Mayor Everett Green was the agency principal of the Rodenbeek & Green Agency. With Mayor Green no longer owning the company, which has changed over to Iron Insurance Partners, this item will be removed from the 2024 audit.
- Mr. Medill noted that, with the likelihood of having to conduct additional audits in 2024 with the focus on expenditures that exceed \$750,000 in federal funds (grants and loans), the audit time frame for the audit in May 2025 (for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2024) could take an extra week and cost an additional \$5,000 to \$8,000.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Adam Winter to approve *The City of Scott City, Kansas Financial Statement For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*, as presented by auditor Mathew Medill with Medill & Thooft, CPA. Vote – Unam.

GMS, Inc. Resident Project Representative Mark Hornberger was in attendance to update the Council on the progress of the Water System Improvements Project. He began by noting that he had provided three payment applications as well as a reimbursement request to City Clerk Ruth Becker. Included in the packet was *Exhibit E – Request for Disbursement from KDHE Revolving Loan Programs #13*. The request for disbursement, in the amount of \$174,843.13 covers GMS, Inc. Invoice No. 33 and Invoice No. 34 for engineering services, Miller Pipeline, LLC *Application and Certificate for Payment No. One (1)* for Schedule 1 services, and Hydro Resources Mid-Continent, Inc. *Application and Certificate for Payment No. One (1)* for Schedule 3 services.

Motion by Armando Tarango seconded by Jeff Allen to authorize the payment of \$48,610.29 to GMS, Inc. for engineering services covered under invoice #33 and invoice #34, to authorize the payment of \$93,949.49 to Miller Pipeline, LLC for Schedule 1 services listed on *Application and Certificate for Payment No. One (1)*, to authorize the payment of \$32,274.35 to Hydro Resources Mid-Continent, Inc. for Schedule 3 services listed on *Application and Certificate for Payment No. One (1)*, and to submit *Exhibit E – Request for Disbursement from KDHE Revolving Loan Programs #13* for KPWSLF Project #2982 in the amount of \$174,843.13. Vote – Unam.

Mr. Hornberger noted that samples were taken from the first successful test well and the results are positive. Hydro Resources is planning to stake another site for another test well.

Mr. Hornberger asked City Administrator Brad Pendergast if he had any updates regarding progress with the railroad and the insurance requirements for the project. Mr. Pendergast indicated that the railroad wants double insurance coverage, above and beyond what the City already provides, and that City Attorney Jennifer Cunningham has been working to find acceptable alternatives. Both Mayor Green and Mr. Pendergast indicated that the insurance requirements seem excessive for the minimal amount of work involving the railroad.

When asked about the progress of paving 1st Street, Mr. Hornberger reported that work had halted on paving 1st Street until after the completion of harvest. Miller Pipeline and their paving contractor have demonstrated flexibility in working out alternate plans.

Under the open agenda, Emergency Medical Services Director Kris Logsdon officially informed the Council of his impending resignation. He wanted to extend the courtesy of informing the City officials in person and to thank them for their support. Until his tenure with Scott County Emergency Medical Services is complete, he will be traveling to Protection, Kansas on the weekends to serve as the pastor for the First Baptist Church. He noted that he was pleased to have made some substantial improvements during his time in Scott City such as the procurement of new radios and the purchase of a LUCAS (Lund University Cardiac Assist System) device using grant funds. Mr. Logsdon announced that he was grateful to have been given the opportunity to have held the position for the past two years, but that he felt that “God had other plans” for him in Protection, Kansas. Mayor Green stated that he was sorry to see him go, but that he wishes him the best.

Provided in the packet was the *Monthly Pool Update for Council Packet* with figures through May 31, 2024. Pool Manager Marci Patton was not in attendance.

Building Inspector Jerek Wasinger reported that the Eastridge Villas II project (Senior Housing) is underway, that Dirks Enterprises has about 95% of their concrete poured, that the High School geothermal project is in progress, that City Acres will finish the installation of their new sewer line the following day, and that he is doing anywhere from two to four roof inspections daily. He also noted that the contractors he works with on a regular basis are doing a great job coordinating with him.

Police Chief Colton Schmitt was not in attendance. Reporting on his behalf was Sergeant Jason (Jay) Poore. Also in attendance were Officer Whitney Savolt, Officer Christian (Rod) Rodriguez, and Officer Rodriguez’s wife Adriana. Sergeant Poore first reported that dispatcher Brecken Dunagan had recently completed her training to become Tactical Agency Coordinator (TAC) certified. Her promotion will have her performing duties such as assisting in training personnel, assisting in completing audits, working to maintain CGIS compliance, and maintaining files and records.

Sergeant Poore then asked Officer Rodriguez to come forward to receive a *Meritorious Conduct* citation. The citation read:

Facts:

On May 24, 2024, Officer Rodriguez was conducting normal patrol activities when he witnessed [redacted] a disabled resident of Scott City, struggling to unload items from her vehicle. Officer Rodriguez stopped his vehicle and assisted [redacted] in carrying the items into her home and then unloaded them to make sure she did not need further assistance.

Officer Rodriguez has been seen doing further acts just like the one listed on several occasions throughout his time with the Scott City Police Department.

Summary:

Officer Rodriguez has shown a deep commitment to the Mission of the Scott City Police Department:

It is the Mission of the Scott City Police Department to work with the community to ensure Scott City is a safe and desirable place to live, work and visit.

Officer Rodriguez has never tried to show off that he has helped people; he has instead shunned the spotlight and quietly gone about the duty of assisting the residents of Scott City and enforcing the laws in a professional manner. The City of Scott City is very fortunate to have Officer Rodriguez continue to serve its people.

The citation was signed by Police Chief Colton Schmitt and Sergeant Jay Poore.

Mayor Green shook Officer Rodriguez's hand. Sergeant Poore then presented Officer Rodriguez with a *Meritorious Conduct Certificate* and a flag pin to serve as a *Meritorious Conduct Medal*. Officer Rodriguez stated that he would "never take it off." Council members applauded Officer Rodriguez.

Parks Superintendent Terence Appel noted that his parks maintenance crew has been focused on the spraying of mosquitoes and explained the chemicals and processes used in the treatment of mosquitoes.

Street, Water, & Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel reported that his crew is starting the process to finalize the Lead and Copper Line Survey. They are beginning to go door to door to discuss the importance of completing the survey and to offer their assistance to city residents.

The recent inspection of storm drains by use of a camera system revealed that there were no obstructions causing the storm drains to perform poorly. During the most recent heavy rain, Council members Armando Tarango and Jeff Allen went to the area that has been the topic of several recent discussions and found no issues at that time, acknowledging that there have been issues in the past. Mayor Everett Green noted that he and other City officials will continue to monitor the situation and continue to do what is practical to offer resolution.

City Clerk Ruth Becker reminded the Council that the budget workshop would be held the following Monday evening, June 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. A meal of pulled pork sliders, potato salad, baked beans, and cake from Mom & Pop's would be provided.

Mrs. Becker had provided information about the upcoming League of Kansas Municipalities' (LKM) City Forum to be hosted at the Child Advocacy Center in Scott City on July 10, 2024. She noted that it is rare for agencies in the eastern part of the state (Topeka) to schedule opportunities in the western part of the state, so it is important that when they are offered, a big effort is made to attend, with the hope of increasing the number of beneficial training opportunities offered closer to home. She noted that, as of 5:00 p.m., there were only two people registered for the class. In an effort to solicit more registrations, Mrs. Becker had emailed clerks within approximately a one-hour radius of Scott City to ask them to extend an invitation to not only other City officials, but also to elected governing body members. Mayor Green noted that, as a member of the Governing Body of the League of Kansas Municipalities, the LKM has found that with trainings such as these, City staff are the primary registrants--governing body members do not tend to attend these valuable meetings. Mayor Green noted that this is not just in western Kansas, but throughout the state. He reiterated the value of these sessions. He asked the Council to "lead by example" and consider registering for the training. Council members Barb Wilkinson, Greg Mills, and Armando Tarango asked Mrs. Becker to register them for the City Forum and for the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) training.

City Clerk Ruth Becker informed the Council that by 5:00 p.m. the previous Friday, the City had received 20 applications for the Utility Billing Clerk position. She noted that she and City Administrator Brad Pendergast had scheduled seven interviews for later in the week and one early the following week.

Council member Barb Wilkinson, having been absent from the prior Council meeting, expressed appreciation for City Clerk Ruth Becker for providing thorough and detailed minutes of the Planning & Zoning meetings to the Council. Mayor Everett Green added that detailed minutes are valuable when people need to look back at Planning & Zoning minutes to see what precedents have been set; detailed minutes can be extremely helpful.

Iron Insurance Partners/Rodenbeek and Green Agency Agent David Post was present to discuss the City's recent EMC Safety Group Dividend payment. Included in the packet was a letter dated June 4, 2024, outlining the payment of \$15,843.91 for the April 1, 2023, to April 1, 2024, term. Also included was a Revenue Report for the month of June 2024 demonstrating that the dividend check was receipted into the recently created Capital Improvement Fund, and a document outlining historic data on safety group dividends paid out since 2014.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast noted that he had received 2025 budget figures from the Scott County Treasurer's Office which indicated estimated revenues which are slightly lower than the estimates for the current budget year. He has not yet received valuation or Revenue Neutral Rate information from the County Clerk but expects to have it soon. He anticipates that he will have everything he needs to complete the budget prior to the budget workshop the following Monday evening.

Mayor Everett Green expressed his appreciation for Mr. Pendergast's quick responsiveness to community concerns and his ability to offer viable solutions to those concerns. Mayor Green noted that he appreciates the good working relationship that they have.

City Attorney Jennifer Cunningham mentioned that she will continue to work on an insurance resolution with the railroad company concerning the water project. She hopes to have an update soon.

Financial statements and investment reports had been provided in the packet for the Council's review.

There were no executive sessions.

Mayor Green had no further comments.

Motion by Adam Winter seconded by Armando Tarango to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Vote – Unam.

Everett M. Green
Mayor

Ruth Becker
City Clerk