

October 7, 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 Council President Josh Gooden, Council members Craig Richards, Jeff Allen, Greg Mills, Bo Parkinson, Barb Wilkinson, Adam Winter, 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 16, 2024, regular council meeting were presented.

Motion by Barb Wilkinson seconded by Greg Mills to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2024, regular council meeting. Vote – Unam.

The minutes of the September 30, 2024, special council meeting were presented.

Motion by Craig Richards seconded by Jeff Allen to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2024, special council meeting. Vote – Unam.

Appropriation Ordinance # 1021A was presented.

Motion by Adam Winter seconded by Jeff Allen to approve Appropriation Ordinance # 1021A. Vote – Unam.

Presented in the Council packet for approval was *City of Scott City Emergency Water Supply Plan, October 2024*. City Administrator Brad Pendergast reminded the Council that this is essentially the same document as what was presented for review at the September 16, 2024, Council meeting. Street, Water, & Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel indicated that the suggested changes to the personnel listed in the plan had been made and that the plan is ready for Council's approval. Council President Josh Gooden asked if any further discussion was needed.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Adam Winter to approve *City of Scott City Emergency Water Supply Plan, October 2024* as written. Vote – Unam.

Included in the packet was *Proposal For: Employee Assistance Program*. City Clerk Ruth Becker stated that she has been in contact with Adrian Caro, the City's Blue Cross & Blue Shield (BCBS) representative regarding the proposed New Directions Employee Assistance Program (EAP), a confidential program that will help employees and anyone in their household handle stress, relationships, work and money. These are the most common reasons people reach out to the EAP every year. Services offered through the New Directions EAP include:

- Counseling (in person and via telephone)
- Consultation on finances, legal needs, managing employees
- Crisis support
- Child/elder care resources
- Family resources

- Personal and professional training
- Emergency resources

Mrs. Becker noted that, although the *Scott City Personnel Policies and Procedures, 2024 Edition* refers to an EAP, only the Scott City Police Department (PD) has an EAP in place for its employees. Mrs. Becker also noted that the current PD EAP offers counseling for only the employee—not their family members. One of the benefits of the proposed plan is that it not only provides services to employees, but also to members of their household—regardless of whether they are related. Also, family members under the age of 26 that no longer live in the employee’s household may benefit from the program. The program would benefit not only those employees on the City’s health and dental plan, but all regular employees, including full-time employees and elected & appointed officials. The proposal lists three program options for consideration:

- 3 Sessions - \$3,500.00 Annually
- 6 Sessions - \$4,500.00 Annually
- 8 Sessions - \$5,000.00 Annually

Mr. Caro proposed to Mrs. Becker that if the Council would choose to enroll in the program and would choose the 8-Session option (which includes 8 sessions per person per instance) to begin either November 1 or December 1, 2024, BCBS would be able to guarantee a reduction in the annual cost of administration expenses by \$5,616.00, an overall cost savings of \$616.00, because of the anticipated reduction in health care costs associated with social health visits. After the first year, if the Council decides to remain on the plan, but to reduce the number of sessions included in the plan, the cost reduction would remain the same as long as the City still participates in the plan. Discussion at the table centered around whether the program would be compatible with, or complementary to, the current PD plan, whether plan participants would be able to choose their providers, and if so, would the continuation between sessions be with the same counselor, the format of the visits (in-person, video conferencing, phone calls, chat sessions, etc.), and whether a decision needed to be made at this meeting. The City Council directed City Clerk Ruth Becker to research whether the current EAP provider for the Scott City Police Department is on the list of approved providers for the New Directions EAP. Mrs. Becker will return this item to the October 21, 2024, agenda.

Included in the Council packet was *Indigent Defense Agreement* between the City of Scott City, Kansas, and Heidi Farnsworth for the term of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. According to the agreement, a review by both parties needs to be conducted prior to the potential renewal of the agreement. City Attorney Jennifer Cunningham relayed that she has a good working relationship with Ms. Farnsworth and that Ms. Farnsworth has proven herself as a hard-working, prompt professional. Mrs. Cunningham recommended no changes to the existing agreement. When asked, City Clerk Ruth Becker indicated that this opportunity to *review* the agreement is listed in the terms of the agreement. If no one requests any changes to this agreement, it will be on the agenda for renewal at the December 16, 2024, Council meeting. Consensus of the Council was that no changes need to be made prior to the renewal.

Council President Josh Gooden noted that an error occurred at the last regular Council meeting when a bid was opened and approved for a box culvert and placement of said culvert. The notice that ran in the Scott County Record noted a bid deadline of October 7, 2024. In order to make things right, Council President Gooden explained that he would need to rescind the motion he made at the prior meeting, so that the process can be reinitiated at this meeting.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Greg Mills to rescind the motion made on September 16, 2024, to approve the bid of \$175,942.00 from Smoky Hill, LLC, for the box culvert and removal & replacement of curb and additional pavement for the drainage project at Alice Avenue and Main Street, with \$171,212.89 being paid out of the remaining balance of the ARPA Fund and the remaining \$4,729.11 being paid out of the General Fund-Special City Projects Department. Vote to rescind – Unam.

Council President Josh Gooden passed around the original bid from Smoky Hill, LLC, and opened a bid received earlier in the day from Wichita Construction Group (WCG) for \$162,500.00 for the box culvert, demolition of the existing items, and the replacement of curb & gutter. When asked, Street, Water, & Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel indicated that the specs were equally met in both bids. The main difference between the two bids was a lower cost of concrete in the bid received from WCG, and that, if a decision were to be made during this meeting, he would recommend that the Council accept the bid from Wichita Construction Group for \$162,500.00. Concern was expressed by the Council in accepting this bid, knowing that the amount of the original bid had been published in the Scott County Record following the last meeting. There is no way of knowing if Wichita Construction Group had been made aware of the amount of the bid originally submitted by Smoky Hill, LLC. City Attorney Jennifer Cunningham indicated that the Council is right to be concerned about this error. She indicated that she would like to do some research on this matter prior to a bid being awarded. This discussion will be tabled to a future meeting.

Scott City Housing Authority Property Manager Ardith Scammehorn was present to update the Council on activity at Pine Village and to present the proposed 2025 Budget for Pine Village. *Multiple Family Housing Project Budget / Utility Allowance for Pine Village* was included in the packet. Also on the agenda was the approval of the 2023 Audit for the Scott City Housing Authority. The audit, as presented by Hay, Rice & Associates, Chartered was emailed to the Council earlier in the day. A copy was also provided at the table. Mrs. Scammehorn began by updating the Council about vacancies and recent issues at Pine Village, noting that the issues had been resolved. She also indicated that she is still operating without a site manager, but that, at least for now, she can keep up with the demand of the job. However, she requested that if Council members become aware of someone looking for that type of employment, that they let him or her know of the opportunity. Regarding the budget, she indicated that there were no substantial changes, except that she is budgeting to replace two air conditioning units. There was no discussion regarding the audit. City Treasurer Renee Cure, who was in attendance, had no comments.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Greg Mills to approve the 2023 Audit for the Scott City Housing Authority as presented by Hay, Rice & Associates. Vote – Unam.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Adam Winter to approve the 2025 Budget for the Scott City Housing Authority as presented by Property Manager Ardith Scammehorn. Vote – Unam.

GMS, Inc. Resident Project Representative Mark Hornberger was present to provide updates on the Water System Improvements project. Progress is being made at the well site. After airlifting the well earlier in the day, it is expected that the well will be able to pump at least 200 gpm (gallons of water per minute). A 24-hour pump test is expected to be conducted sometime in the following week. Gerard Tank & Steel has informed Mr. Hornberger that the foundation work at the new

water tower site is expected to begin the following week, as well. GMS is still not having any luck with conversations with Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad (K&O) regarding permits for the bore underneath the tracks. Mr. Hornberger indicated that the issue appears to be with Watco Companies, LLC, who does some engineering work with K&O. City Administrator Brad Pendergast noted that the Union Pacific (UP) permit portion of the project is signed and ready to move forward. Concern about the potential expiration date of the UP permit prior to obtaining the K&O permit was discussed. Council members directed Mr. Hornberger to have GMS representatives visit with UP officials to determine what needs to happen so this does not become an issue.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast had provided *Placer.ai Civic Solutions* and *Placer.ai Travel & Tourism Solutions* marketing materials in the packet for the Council to review. Mr. Pendergast explained that Placer.ai is a data collection solution that can be used by the City of Scott City in many beneficial ways; he invited Scott County Development (SCDC) Executive Director Katie Eisenhower and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director / Travel & Tourism Coordinator Lindsay Singley to share their input about how they would use the tool if it were made available to them. In a nutshell, Placer.ai is a tool that compiles existing location data that is collected from cell phones that have the location setting turned on, allowing the user of the solution to analyze information such as event attendance, dates and length of overnight stays, where overnight stays occur (campgrounds, hotels, Airbnb's), whether local hotels have no vacancies prompting people to leave Scott City to stay in neighboring towns, where travelers stop to shop or eat, how long travelers stay in one place, and many other valuable pieces of information that could lend themselves to additional insights for not only growth in economic development but also an increase in travel and tourism related revenues in Scott City. Mrs. Eisenhower and Ms. Singley expressed their excitement with the solution demonstration, indicating that having access to data analytics such as this would be instrumental in setting Scott City apart from other cities with similar populations. Ms. Singley appreciated that all recorded data is kept for seven years, which will allow the City and its partners to see those seven years of data from the first day that the City subscribes to the solution. She specifically mentioned the very visible spike in the population of Scott City on the last Saturday of September each year, as that is when Whimmydiddle is held. Also, new data becomes accessible after only three days following an event, allowing event organizers to sooner gauge the events' success regarding attendance, even if no attendance records were kept by the organizers. Ms. Singley plans to use the Travel & Tourism solution to assist event organizers in marketing their events. SCDC Executive Director Katie Eisenhower mentioned an example for bringing specific businesses to town. She indicated that she would be interested in bringing a restaurant like *Runza*, a German/Eastern European fast food chain found primarily in Nebraska, to Scott City. She noted that, during the demonstration, she could see that there was not a *Runza* within 250 miles of Scott City, but that a location in Scott City would work well based on the data within the solution. When asked about the cost of the program and whether developers/marketers already have access to this type of data, Mr. Pendergast informed the Council that the cost is \$13,000 per year and that the City would be locked into a two-year agreement, which will be reassessed near the end of the agreement term. He mentioned that there is a possibility that SCDC and the Chamber of Commerce / Travel & Tourism could contribute to the cost of future years' subscriptions to the solutions. Mrs. Eisenhower noted that even though entities looking to bring a new business into Scott City have data to help them make their decisions, also having access to the data allows the City to "tell our own story." Mr. Pendergast also explained

that the data collected would be valuable when competing for grant opportunities. He used the example of the recent grant application made to the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks for the playground equipment in Palmer Park and sunshades for Mahler and Patton Parks. Having the data demonstrating how frequently the parks are utilized would provide stronger evidence of the need for the items being requested and that the items would benefit a large number of people. He noted that there are many things that people can observe for which there is currently no hard data. This solution would help with bringing in the data to support such observations. Mr. Pendergast and Mrs. Eisenhour both mentioned that the cost of the solution would likely “pay for itself” with increased grant revenues and additional sales tax revenue from businesses that would likely move into Scott City. Council members inquired about who would have access to this solution if it were used. Mr. Pendergast indicated that there would likely be three primary users of this tool—SCDC Executive Director Katie Eisenhour, Chamber of Commerce / Travel & Tourism Coordinator Lindsay Singley, and himself. Other users could be granted access to the tool if needed for assistance with grant writing or other City-related uses. Council member Craig Richards asked if the Council could see a sample of what the solution could do. Mr. Pendergast noted that the City of Garden City uses Placer.ai and that Garden City is used in Placer.ai demonstrations. He offered to email Council members Placer.ai’s case study for Garden City. He even offered to ask Placer.ai to do a demonstration for the Council. Consensus of the Council was to allow Mr. Pendergast to move forward with setting up an agreement with Placer.ai for a two-year term at a cost of \$13,000 per year.

No one in the audience had anything to report under the open agenda. However, Council member Jeff Allen asked about a cover crop to cover the area of the future Scott City Industrial Park North-Lawrence Addition to keep the weeds from growing and dirt from blowing. City Administrator Brad Pendergast indicated that ground cover would be a good idea. He stated that he, Mr. Allen, and the individual who has been using the land will work together to come to a solution.

Council member Jeff Allen also wanted to pass along an “attaboy” sentiment from an unnamed member of the public to Police Officer Vance Collamore and Sheriff’s Deputies Bailey Davidson and Luke Hayes for the way they worked together to handle the resident’s situation.

Building Inspector Jerek Wasinger was not in attendance. Nothing was reported on his behalf.

Police Chief Colton Schmitt was present to update the Council. He began by stating that his department has historically been staffed by two sergeants, but when he was appointed as Police Chief ten months ago, he did not fill the open Sergeant position at that time. He informed the Council that he was ready to promote Officer Whitney Savolt to Sergeant because of her extreme loyalty and excellent work on the police force, and because she has been instrumental in actively recruiting and training new officers. Police Chief Schmitt also announced that he and Sergeant Jason (Jay) Poore have been assigning her additional tasks over the past few months and she has completed these tasks in an extraordinary manner, going above and beyond their expectations. Recently, Officer Savolt completed a Fundamentals of Supervision course in anticipation of her new role. She nearly single-handedly performs all the Scott City Police Department’s public relations and does a fantastic job of it. Police Chief Schmitt asked Sergeant Poore and Officer Whitney Savolt to come forward so that Sergeant Poore could conduct the pinning ceremony effectively promoting Officer Savolt to Sergeant. The Council congratulated Sergeant Savolt on her promotion. Others present to witness the promotion of Sergeant Savolt were her daughter

Brilynn Lopez, Officers Kayli Conway and Christian Rodriguez, Scott City Police Department Communications Director Amber Poore, Adriana Rodriguez, and Luis Rangel Perez.

Police Chief Colton Schmitt announced that after conducting interviews over the past week, he had made two conditional offers to two individuals to fill the open Police Officer positions. The first offer was made to one non-certified individual who will have to complete the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) training and one certified officer with six years of experience. Police Chief Schmitt informed the City Council that he has been working with City Attorney Jennifer Cunningham on a *Training Reimbursement Agreement* to be presented to new, non-certified, officers. The agreement provides that an officer who voluntarily leaves employment of the Scott City Police Department (SCPD) within three years of graduation from the KLETC will be required to reimburse the City of Scott City a graduated portion of the training costs and associated benefits incurred while in training, such as wages, City paid Social Security and Medicare, retirement contributions, and health & dental insurance. The percentage of reimbursement is based on the amount of time that has passed since the officer's graduation from KLETC. Anyone voluntarily leaving employment with the SCPD within one year of KLETC graduation will reimburse the City of Scott City 100% of costs associated with the training. Those leaving in their second year as a certified officer will be expected to reimburse 75% of training costs, and those leaving in their third year as a certified officer will be expected to reimburse 35%. However, as provided by K.S.A. 74-5609(a), if a newly certified officer leaves employment from one agency and accepts employment at another Kansas law enforcement agency, the new employer will be responsible for the repayment of associated training costs. If this situation occurs, the employee shall be relieved of the responsibility to reimburse the cost as outlined in the agreement. However, if the employee is determined not to be a suitable candidate for continued employment during or after completion of the KLETC program, the officer will have no obligation to reimburse any training costs.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Adam Winter to approve *Training Reimbursement Agreement* as presented in the Council packet. Vote – Unam.

Police Chief Colton Schmitt's final announcements were that Office Vance Collamore is attending *Firearms Range Training* this week, four interviews for the open Dispatcher position will be conducted throughout the week, and that the Scott County Law Enforcement Center phone system is having issues again, with the non-emergency phone number not working. The SCPD and the Sheriff's Office are working together to change to a local provider who can assist with issues when they arise. The transition is expected to be completed in approximately two months. In the meantime, they will continue to operate with a workaround to provide non-emergency communication.

Parks Superintendent Terence Appel reported that earlier in the day he, City Administrator Brad Pendergast, and City Clerk Ruth Becker had met with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks representative Riston Landwehr at each of the three parks included in the grant application for playground equipment and sunshades. He noted that the City could learn whether the grant will be awarded as early as November. Mr. Appel said that he had a good feeling about it and that even if the City weren't awarded the grant this go around, that Mr. Landwehr had given him and the others several pieces of good information and tips for future applications. He reminded the Council that the grant application, if awarded, will cover up to half of the cost of the replacement playground equipment in Palmer Park and new sunshades in Patton and Mahler Parks. Of the City's cost share portion, the Council had approved \$10,000 to be paid out of the ARPA fund.

Street, Water, & Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel reported that he and his crew had started the construction of the crosswalk at 12<sup>th</sup> and Main Street earlier in the day, which included the replacement of an existing fire hydrant.

City Clerk Ruth Becker solicited the Council's wishes regarding the annual issuance of Chamber Bucks to City employees either in addition to, or in lieu of, a Christmas party. Mrs. Becker explained that Assistant City Clerk Chandra Hughes had sent a Survey Monkey survey to all City employees to determine whether they wanted to have a City-wide party in addition to a lesser amount of Chamber Bucks or Chamber Bucks only. Overwhelmingly, the survey responses demonstrated that employees who responded did not want a Christmas party. Consensus of the Council was to gift taxable Chamber Bucks to City employees in the same manner as the previous year.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast reported that he, Mayor Everett Green, Council member Barb Wilkinson, and City Clerk Ruth Becker will be attending the annual League of Kansas Municipalities' Conference in Wichita later in the week. Mr. Pendergast also noted that he has been made aware of parking/traffic issues at 9<sup>th</sup> & Ora Street due to the density of traffic resulting in issues with visibility on the north side of 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The City crew is planning to paint the curbs in this area to mark this area as a no parking area. He noted that restricting parking is not typically done in residential areas, but due to the proximity to the middle school, he feels that this is an appropriate response.

City Attorney Jennifer Cunningham had nothing to report.

The unapproved minutes from the September 12, 2024, Planning & Zoning Commission hearing were presented for the Council's review. City Clerk Ruth Becker noted that the Planning & Zoning Commission would hold a hearing the following Thursday evening, during which the minutes would likely be approved.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Barb Wilkinson 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, Chief of Police, and City Clerk, with the open meeting resuming in the Council room at 7:50 p.m. Vote – Unam.

The Council came out of executive session.

Council President Josh Gooden called the open meeting back to order.

No action was taken.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Craig Richards 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, and City Clerk, with the open meeting resuming in the Council room at 7:55 p.m. Vote – Unam.

The Council came out of executive session.

Council President Josh Gooden called the open meeting back to order.

No action was taken.

Council President Josh Gooden made no comments on behalf of Mayor Everett Green in his absence.

Motion by Adam Winter seconded by Barb Wilkinson to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Vote – Unam.

Josh Gooden  
Council President

Ruth Becker  
City Clerk