

REGULAR SESSION

SCOTT COUNTY COUNCIL

August 8, 2023

The Scott County Council met in Regular Session on August 8, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Room, Suite 128, Courthouse. Those present were Council Members: President Lyndi Hughbanks, Vice President JR Ward (arriving at 5:40 p.m.), John Collins, Eric Gillespie, John Miller, Diane Mullins, and Jonathon White. Also present were Auditor Jennifer Rode Hamelman, Chief Deputy Auditor Deborah Richey and Attorney Heather Archibald Peters.

The meeting was called to order by President Hughbanks, who opened the meeting with roll call, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

President Hughbanks opened the meeting for public comments: Sheriff Goodin requested to be added to the agenda.

MOTION: White moved to add Sheriff Goodin to the Agenda. Collins provided the second. Motion carried five to zero with Hughbanks voting no.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION: Miller moved to accept the agenda as amended to add Sheriff Goodin. Collins provided the second. Motion carried five to zero, Gillespie did not vote due to President Hughbanks not calling for Nay votes.

RANDY MOFFETT-SCOTT COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Moffett reported that Clara Adkins, who represents Jennings Township ward five, has resigned from SCRSD and the board is recommending Mike Brown, a resident of Jennings Township to represent ward five.

MOTION: Collins moved to accept the resignation of Clara Adkins from Ward five of the SCRSD and to accept Mike Brown of Jennings Township to represent Ward five for the SCRSD. White provided the second. Motion carried six to zero.

BRITTANY COMBS – HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

Combs requested the Council set a Salary for the Full Time Health Educator Position. The funding will come from the School Liaison Grant in the beginning and then will be funded from the Governor's Public Health Commission fund. Attorney Peters said the position must be advertised and asked Auditor Hamelman if that had occurred. Auditor Hamelman explained that former Health Department Administrator, Michelle Matern had advertised her own department needs and Combs would know if that were the case. Combs stated that Matern told her it was advertised and waiting for the Council to set the Salary. The salary agreed upon in the July Council meeting was \$57,877.00 with full benefits and would be covered by grant money. Mullins asked if the grant went away would the position go away and Combs stated it would not, but that it would then be funded by the Governor's Public Health Commission Grant. Ward joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

MOTION: Collins moved to set the salary for the Full Time Health Education Position at \$57,877.00 in addition to county provided benefits as previously recommended. Ward provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

NICK OLECK – EMS DIRECTOR

Oleck presented his financial report. He has \$1,169,000 in his cash ledger and he is projected to finish the year at \$1.9 million.

Oleck requested the Council approve the Sonitrol Security System for the doors at EMS. Oleck stated that he is in a bind and Andrew Campbell IT has done all he can do to keep the building secure with the outdated system currently in use. Campbell has been taking locks from interior doors and securing exterior doors, but that is still leaving some interior areas unsecured. Campbell likes Vector as the same system as the courthouse and has some matching parts. Vector has a higher up-front cost but lower maintenance fees. Sonitrol has a more affordable subscription, and they provide 100% parts and labor for five years in the subscription service. Attorney Peters stated this could be funded from the Hospital Reserve fund that Baker Tilly recommended the County spend. Ward is against repairing the locks or purchasing a subscription from Sonitrol because he feels that the Commissioners are responsible for repairing the buildings they control. White agreed with Ward and stated he will not perform maintenance for Commissioners buildings or set the precedent to do so. Oleck emphasized that he had a huge security issue and will need to move forward quickly. He explained that he has done due diligence in researching Vector and Sonitrol and the Commissioners have approved the Sonitrol System Subscription.

MOTION: Ward moved to approve an additional appropriation of \$14,334.00 from the Hospital Reserve Fund into the newly created line 3100. Hughbanks provided the second. Motion carried four to three with Gillespie, Mullins, and White opposing.

Oleck requested the Council approve Appendix B to the EMS Handbook to redistribute Holiday pay and time off for Holidays. He explained this did not cost any money, but simply matched the pay to the holiday the EMS personnel took.

MOTION: Mullins moved to approve EMS Appendix B in the Employee Handbook regarding redistribution of Holiday Pay. Collins provided the second. Motion carried five to two with Gillespie and White opposing.

JENNIFER HAMELMAN-AUDITOR & MISSY APPLGATE-TREASURER

Applegate and Hamelman requested the purchase of LOW Tax Software for their offices to make the collection of taxes and settlement process more efficient and reliable. Both offices are experiencing failures with the current software and are fearful the system may be pulled shortly. A letter of support was provided by the Washington County Auditors Office stating they are capturing more taxes with this system than the same previous system Scott County is utilizing. White said he is against purchasing any software that he was only made aware of two days prior to the meeting. Ward also stated he was not familiar with LOW Tax Software and wanted to table this until he could travel to Washington County to see how their office worked with this system.

MOTION: Collins moved to purchase the LOW Tax Software for \$288,492.00 using ARPA funds. Hughbanks provided the second. Motion denied two to five with Gillespie, Miller, Mullins, Ward and White opposed.

KEVIN HALL-HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Hall stated that the Commissioners had requested this be brought before the Council for consideration. Hughbanks asked if anything had changed, and Hall replied that prices had probably increased. Hall would have to rebid the equipment. Ward told Hall to rebid and get new prices to bring to the Council. Chief Deputy Auditor Richey stated that it was still within thirty days of the advertised bids and the prices should still be valid for a short period of time. Hall determined that \$775,000.00 would still be a good number.

MOTION: Ward moved to table the purchase to rebid prices. Collins provided the second. Motion denied unanimously.

Hall asked exactly what are we tabling? Hughbanks replied that the Council is waiting on the Judges Mandate to see what gets done.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell Phone Stipend Resolutions from the Commissioners were presented for approval. There was confusion as to which stipends would be retroactive. Attorney Peters said she had not seen the Resolutions that were emailed to her because her email address had changed, and she did not receive them. Gillespie stated that he thought there was a State Statute that required Cell Phone Stipends for Judicial Departments and those will have to be retroactive. There was a question about how the Cell Phone stipends were to be funded. Hughbanks said the money had to be reappropriated to each department after being defunded during the past budget hearings. Oleck stated that all Cell Phone Stipends were to be retroactive to the first of the year. Attorney Peters disagreed and said it would be as determined in the Commissioner Resolutions. Ward stated that EMA and 911 Cell Phone Stipend Resolutions were incorrect and would have to be corrected to two departments.

MOTION: Ward moved to table the approval of cell phone stipend requests until Resolutions were approved by Attorney Peters and additional appropriations were advertised. No amount of additional appropriation was determined for advertisement. White provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

JERRY GOODIN – SHERIFF

Goodin requested an immediate five dollar an hour increase for his departments. He stated that he had money in his budget to cover the increase until the end of 2023 and would work on his budget to see what he could sustain in the 2024 Budget. Goodin stated that he cannot keep people at the current pay. He stated this is an emergency as he is at risk of losing a very qualified Detective. Goodin reported that he had previously set a rule that employees could not bank more than 40 hours of comp time but has had to suspend that because he simply does not have enough full-time employees to cover the required shifts. Goodin stated that Scott County has become a training center for neighboring counties because employees leave as soon as they are fully trained for higher paying jobs. Miller asked how many part-time deputies are on the road? Goodin replied two. Ward asked if Sheriff was looking to fill full-time deputy positions. Goodin replied that he was. Attorney Peters asked Goodin if he charges the Deputies who go to Academy a fee for leaving the department within a certain amount of time? Both Goodin and Ward replied that that was illegal to do. Mullins asked if the emergency salary increase could be voted on and then if the money was not available to sustain the increase adjustments would be made during the budget process. Hughbanks was against voting to increase the salary until the Council could meet with Baker Tilly. Gillespie stated that we need to learn to do more with less. Auditor Hamelman stated that Prosecutor Chris Owens will have the same request as Sheriff Goodin.

MOTION: Hughbanks moved to table the salary increase until a workshop could be scheduled on August 18, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. and invite Baker Tilly to attend to guide the Sheriff and Council as to how to fund the salary increases. Ward provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Regular Council meeting minutes from July 13, 2023, were presented for approval.

MOTION: Mullins moved to approve Regular Council meeting minutes from July 13, 2023, as presented. Ward provided the second. Motion carried six to zero as Miller left the room.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, Ward moved to adjourn the August 8, 2023, Regular Meeting. Mullins provided the second. Motion carried six to zero as Miller left the room.


Lyndi Hughbanks, President


John Collins, Member



JR Ward, Vice President


John Miller, Member


Eric Gillespie, Member


Jonathon White, Member


Diane Mullins, Member

ATTEST: 
Jennifer Rode Hamelman, Auditor