

CITY OF FORT SCOTT CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of January 6, 2026

Regular Meeting

A meeting of the Fort Scott City Commission was held in the City Commission Meeting Room at City Hall, 123 S. Main Street, Fort Scott, Kansas. *The meeting was streamed live on YouTube, however technical difficulties resulted in only video being recorded for this meeting.*

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM. Roll call was taken. Commissioners Matthew Wells, Tracy Dancer (via Teams), Kathryn Salsbury, Julie Buchta and Mayor Tim Van Hoecke were present.

In Attendance - Brad Matkin/*City Manager*, Bob Farmer/*City Attorney*, Chief Jason Pickert/*FSPD*, Lisa Dillon/*Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization Coordinator*, Rachel Carpenter/*Community Relations Director*, Jason Dickman/*Earles Engineering & Inspections*, Michael Hoyt, Lindsay Madison/*Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce*.

VAN HOECKE led the Pledge of Allegiance and MATKIN said a prayer asking God for guidance for the City, the Citizens, our Government and City officials.

Appointments

Oath of Office – Julie Buchta, Tim Van Hoecke and Kathryn Salsbury – (3) Commissioners were duly sworn into office by the City Clerk.

Appointment of Mayor of Fort Scott

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to nominate BUCHTA for Mayor.

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

MOTION: DANCER moved to nominate SALSBURY for Mayor. BUCHTA seconded. DANCER, BUCHTA, WELLS and VAN HOECKE voted yes. SALSBURY abstained.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Appointment of President of the City Commission of Fort Scott

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to nominate BUCHTA for President. SALSBURY seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to table agenda number 4 - Appointment of Commission Representatives – Item e. Healthy in All Practices Commission (HBCAT) until something is heard from representatives that there are ongoing meetings. WELLS seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0.Appointment of Commission Representatives
Fort Scott Housing Authority

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to nominate WELLS. DANCER seconded. WELLS declined the nomination due to work schedule preventing him from attending the meetings.

MOTION FAILED TO PROCEED TO A VOTE.

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to nominate DANCER. DANCER seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0.Fort Scott Public Library

MOTION: DANCER moved to nominate WELLS. BUCHTA seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0.Fort Scott Land Bank

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to nominate SALSBURY. WELLS seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0.Fort Scott Streets Advisory Board

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to nominate BUCHTA. DANCER seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0.Approval of Agenda

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to approve the agenda as presented. WELLS seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0.Consent Agenda

- Approval of Appropriation Ordinance 1399-A - Expense Approval Report - Payment Dates of December 10, 2025 - December 31, 2025 - \$610,834.62

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to approve the Consent Agenda. SALSBURY seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**Public Comment**

Lindsay Madison/Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce addressed the Commission regarding a resolution to apply for the Main Street program. The resolution was tabled at the last meeting and was not included on the current agenda. A revised copy of the resolution, with the last item removed, was presented. The item will be placed on the next meeting's agenda for review and potential vote. She stated that the Main Street Program is undergoing changes with the hope of having a rolling deadline for communities to apply. The application that was started in December disappeared from the website. The director will notify when the application is accessible again. Resolutions will still be needed from both the City and the County. She also stated that SEK Day on the Hill will be held February 2nd and 3rd in Topeka. There will be a reception with legislators on Monday night and breakfast on Tuesday morning.

Appearances - none

DANCER left the meeting and did not return.

Unfinished Business

Consideration of Davis Lift Station Inspection Proposal - Earles Engineering & Inspection, LLC - DICKMAN presented a proposal from Earl's Engineering for the Davis Lift Station project inspection. Concerns were raised about having qualified inspectors available at all times, especially after the Horton Street incident. He stated Earl's Engineering is actively pursuing experienced inspectors. Pete Earles' rate is \$225 an hour, while the regular inspector rate is \$105. The total cost will not exceed \$387,305. MATKIN stated that conversations have started with Gilmore & Bell about going after a General Obligation bond for this project. The project is based on a 360-day schedule. If the project finishes earlier, the charges will be adjusted accordingly.

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to approve the proposal from Earle's Engineering. WELLS seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**New Business****Public Hearings:**

Consideration of Resolution No. 2-2026 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CITYWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF FORT SCOTT, KANSAS, AND AUTHORIZING BOURBON COUNTY, KANSAS, TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO K.S.A. 12-17, 115 et seq.

DILLON presented Resolution No. 2-2026, adopting the Neighborhood Revitalization Program for the City of Fort Scott, Kansas. VAN HOECKE stated there is a need to better educate the public about the NRP program and suggested putting information in the newspaper and on social media. The program does not apply to rental properties. The program provides tax rebates

for homeowners who remodel their homes. The rebate applies to residential properties with an increase of at least \$5,000 in value.

There were no comments from the public.

MOTION: WELLS moved to close the public hearing. SALSBURY seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to approve the NRP program. WELLS seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Consideration of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Fort and Bourbon County for the purpose of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program for the years of 2026-2030 – DILLON stated that the County had already accepted the agreement.

MOTION: WELLS moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Fort Scott and Bourbon County for the purpose of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program for the years of 2026 and 2030. VAN HOECKE seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Action Items:

Acceptance of Outdoor Fitness Campaign Grant and Consideration of Resolution No. 1-2026 A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AND ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR AN OUTDOOR FITNESS COURT® AS PART OF THE 2026 NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN

CARPENTER reported that the City received a \$50,000 grant to build an outdoor fitness court featuring fitness equipment and an outdoor studio for classes such as Zumba and yoga, supported by an app for exercise instruction and challenges. The proposed location is near the Buck Run Community Center, aligning with the City's 69 Corridor Plan, with potential placement near the outdoor basketball courts or a grassy area by the apartments. To move forward, a resolution is needed along with approval of a \$185,000 purchase order, plus an additional \$37,750 for installation, while the City plans to reduce costs by completing its own concrete and dirt work through in-kind services. A local artist will incorporate Fort Scott-themed design elements, and Evergy is being consulted regarding lighting. CARPENTER has begun fundraising efforts by contacting community groups to offset costs, with park sales tax funds or a short-term loan repaid by sales tax as backup options if additional funding is not secured. The project raises concerns about private entities booking the studio for paid classes, highlighting the need to establish usage rules to avoid conflicts; the purchase order deadline allows time to identify partners and develop these policies. The Buck Run trails, identified in the 69 Corridor report, could serve as phase one of a larger project with potential for future fitness competitions such as triathlons and marathons, and there was also discussion of possibly relocating basketball courts under the overpass.

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to approve. SALSBURY seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

WELLS requested clarification that the funds would not be drawn from General Fund.

Presentation of Railroad Crossing Elimination Program

DILLON presented an overview and tentative timeline for a railroad overpass planning project being coordinated with Spring Hill, supported by a planning grant approved by the Federal Railroad Administration. The grant funds analysis and readiness efforts, not construction, and will evaluate approximately 13 railroad crossing sites to determine which crossings could be eliminated and the best location for an overpass, a requirement of Burlington Northern Santa Fe as part of its partnership and funding, including the elimination of at least one—and potentially additional—crossing for safety. Regional coordination among Fort Scott, Spring Hill, and Burlington Northern allows for a consolidated approach, while Fontana is not contributing financially due to having only one crossing. The total grant award is \$2,000,130, with an 80% federal share (\$1,720,000) and a 20% non-federal match (\$430,000), funded by Spring Hill (\$67,500), Fort Scott (\$40,000), build funds (\$175,000), and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (\$215,000). Next steps include completing grant documentation, forming stakeholder and advisory groups, and holding town hall meetings to gather public input, with a major challenge being the selection of which crossing to close, given the significance of streets such as East National, 6th Street, 10th Street, 3rd Street, and Wall Street. The planning and evaluation phase is expected to take 12 to 18 months, there is currently no commitment beyond planning, and the city may withdraw after that phase, and the estimated final construction cost to the city could be around \$5 million depending on design factors such as the number of lanes.

**Consideration of Ordinance No. 3793 AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PUBLIC OFFENSES
WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF FORT SCOTT, KANSAS;
INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE UNIFORM PUBLIC OFFENSE CODE (UPOC) FOR
KANSAS CITIES, 41ST EDITION PROVIDING CERTAIN PENALTIES AND REPEALING
ORDINANCE NO. 3749**

Ordinance 3793 regulates public offenses within the city limits. It adopts the UPOC, allowing the City to prosecute misdemeanor offenses in municipal court. This brings money back into the City instead of going to the district.

MOTION: WELLS moved to approve. SALSBURY seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

The ordinance to be effective after publication in the Tribune on January 10, 2026. It will also be available for the public at www.fscity.org

**Consideration to Adopt 2026 Code of Procedure for the Commission of the City of Fort Scott,
Kansas – Last approved January 7, 2025**

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to approve. WELLS seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Consideration of Ordinance No. 3794 AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 3780 A CODE OF ETHICS APPLICABLE TO CITY PERSONNEL, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND APPOINTED POSITIONS. If no changes, Ordinance No. 3780 will remain in effect.

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to maintain Ordinance No. 3780 with no changes. SALSBURY seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Consideration of Resolution No. 3-2026 - A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE OFFICIAL CITY NEWSPAPER FOR THE ENSUING TERM OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF FORT SCOTT, KANSAS.

MOTION: BUCHTA moved to approve Resolution No. 3-2026. WELLS seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Approval of Resolution No. 4-2026 - A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE OFFICIAL DEPOSITIORIES FOR THE PUBLIC FUNDS OF THE CITY OF FORT SCOTT, KANSAS.

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to approve. BUCHTA seconded.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Adjourn

MOTION: VAN HOECKE moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48PM. BUCHTA seconded.

JANUARY 6, 2026, MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:48PM.