

City Manager's Report

October 27th, 2020

Honorable Mayor Brecheisen-Huss, and City Commissioners Cole and Gwin,

This report is going to serve as a continuation of my report from our cancelled meeting on the 13th. I've conducted our weekly staff meetings and met with several department heads individually afterwards to discuss a variety of subjects from budgetary issues to staffing. Director Turnipseed and I visited with a current business owner to discuss his insights and recommendations for programing that he participates in at one of his other branches of business. Our new Director of Public Works, Andrew Burkhart, Desiree, and I met with Bill Severns from HDR engineering about the possibility of installing a transfer station. I met with Airport Manager Schettler several times over the past few weeks to discuss the progress of the airport reconstruction project. Unfortunately, the asphalt millings that we planned to use on the airport driveway entrance were not near the quality we were expected (due to there being a minimal amount of actual asphalt to remove) so we had to get creative with other options. Additionally, we've had numerous issues come up with unexpected buried pipe and electrical lines, but have been able to work through these unexpected issues. We've run into a little delay due to the wet weather this week, but the project should be progressing again here shortly.

I had several discussions with the Kansas Department of Water Resources and the Kansas Department of Dam Safety on the gate issue at the Reservoir. After discussing the situation with myself and Electric Distribution Director Hart, they have decided to help us monitor the situation. I had a discussion with the Kansas Secretary of Commerce, David Toland, and Director Turnipseed concerning SPARK grants. I ordered laptops for City Hall staff from the SPARKS grant that we were awarded in September – in the event we need to transition back to some individuals working from home this fall or winter. I also completed updating the 2021 Annual Budget Document to reflect the changes made during the budget approval process – if you would like an updated copy, please let me know.

The first item on the agenda is consideration of Ordinance 4216, deleting certain unpaid utility bills from the accounting records. All of these outstanding bills are from customers who have either unfortunately passed away, left the state, or that we have submitted their outstanding bills to the State of Kansas setoff program and as such we should receive these moneys in the future if the individuals receive a Kansas income tax return. The second item on the agenda is the approval of a CDBG-CV grant for the Chinese Restaurant in the amount of \$25,000.00. The third item on the agenda is the approval of a CDBG-CV grant for Trade Winds Bar & Grill in the amount of \$30,000.00. The final item on the agenda is the consideration of the combined semi-monthly bills and payroll in the amount of \$406,862.37. This total includes the bills and payroll from our cancelled meeting. I have included Departmental Reports, and the September Financials. You will also find the project proposal on the email billing module for the utility department. As you can see, this will be a valuable service to provide to our residents as well as have a significant return on our investment, likely paying for itself, in under five years. We plan to proceed with implementing this as soon as possible with a public rollout to begin the new year.

Thank you all for allowing me to continue to serve this wonderful Garnett community as our City Manager.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Weiner

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager