

GENERAL REPORT
February 28, 2017

1. The Mid-America Nutrition site has requested the Proclamation. A copy of their newsletter will be available at the meeting.

2. A few months ago, the district engineer for KDOT requested that I notify all organizations or individuals who were putting banners or garage sale signs along the right-of-way on the east side of Country Mart that they must be removed because they were creating a sight obstruction. In my personal opinion, the area was beginning to look "cluttered" because so many organizations utilize banners to advertise their events. Many years ago, the banners were hung across the highway; however damage was occurring to the city's electric poles so that practice was stopped.

Organizations are asking me if it is okay to put banners on Fourth Avenue close to Highway 59. I don't feel comfortable making this decision on my own so am asking for your guidance on what to tell them. The last thing I want is to have banners filling up this area which could cause the residents to complain. I welcome any suggestions you might have.

3. At the last meeting I discussed the possibility of retiring one of the general obligation utility refunding bond issues. This will help the financial picture of the water fund look better if the commission decides to proceed with the construction of a new water plant with some of the costs going through a bond issue. Resolution 2/28/17-1 starts this process. As I indicated, the money is available in the combined utility fund to retire this bond issue, therefore I recommend approval of the resolution.

4. The city has been notified that a hearing scheduled for February 27, 2017 before the Board of Tax Appeals to discuss the real estate and improvements to the ethanol plant has been continued. In talking with the county appraiser, the hearing was rescheduled because the Board of Tax Appeals did not set enough time aside for the case to be heard. I will keep you updated as information is received.

5. Crews are taking advantage of the warm weather to clear easements, clean the yard at the south shop, removing stumps in the park and getting ready for the mowing season. Phil has been working on ball diamonds, finishing Bidy Basketball and preparing for the spring soccer season. Pat Tate has been doing a tremendous job on nuisances which is making neighborhoods look so much better.

PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

- A. Electric line along Walnut Street – still waiting for their schedule. I contacted the engineer again requesting an update.
- B. Water Plant – working with USDA on a possible grant.
- C. Outflow Meter – waiting for device to be received.
- D. Water rights – waiting for a response from Kansas Department of Water Resources.
- E. Street repair – I attended the County Commission meeting on February 21st and I hope to have an answer before our meeting.
- F. Personnel policies – Terry and I continue to work on these as we have time.
- G. Computer – getting better.
- H. Skate park – Jeremy will meet with skate boarders to get their input.
- I. Sidewalks – Commissioner Gwin mentioned the need to finish installing ADA ramps at several intersections. Farrel has prepared a list of the intersections on First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth between Maple and Olive that need to be done. I plan to send a bid list to all contractors which will help staff determine how many can be done this year.
- J. AWOS – Pat Schettler continues to monitor this situation and plans to contact the state aviation division to make sure repairs and evaluations are being done correctly. The airport board wants to determine if Gary can be certified to do this work.
- K. Advisory Boards –same as before. Not having much luck getting replacements. Board members have been encouraged to bring names to their respective meetings.
- L. New playground – work in progress. Phil is looking for grants.
- M. Jay Norco of North Hills Engineering will meet with John and me on Monday, February 27th to review what is planned for 2018, talk about the nutrient study and some small sewer repair projects.

Please let me know if any additional information is needed.

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