

## **City Manager's Report**

August 14th, 2018

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

Over the past few weeks we have been focused on storm cleanup in addition to our normal responsibilities. I have had multiple conversations with concerned property owners regarding trees and their property damage. The State's Transportation Task Force, which has been organized to evaluate and prioritize improvements for the State highway system, has released their upcoming meeting schedule. The closest meetings to us are in Pittsburg and Johnson County. The meeting in Pittsburg will be on September 20th while the Johnson County meeting will be on November 8th. I hope to be able to attend both, please let me know if you would like to attend one of the meetings and we can carpool if you'd like. We have conducted interviews for the Director of Economic Development position and we have hired Mrs. Julie Turnipseed for the position. I am extremely impressed with Mrs. Turnipseed's knowledge, experience, and passion for this type of work. I believe Julie will bring tremendous things to Garnett and Anderson County. We have spent a considerable amount of time on the budget conversion process as you know and have finally completed this process. I truly believe this, will time consuming, will prove beneficial moving forward. We anticipate having the keyless entry system in place at the Recreation Center toward the beginning of next month. We are extremely grateful to the Goppert Foundation for their generous grant funding the door and software system. I have spoken with Bettis asphalt and we are still negotiating, but I believe we are close to a final tonnage price. As you know, Mrs. Kinney has been on leave for the past few months and after speaking with her, she is requesting that she be allowed to return in a reduced capacity. Therefore, we have went ahead and are advertising for the position of City Clerk. The Kansas

Department of Commerce plans to hold a workshop in October on the Qualified Opportunities Zones designation that we have received and that we discussed during the Governor's visit which I plan to attend.

I had a conversation with a concerned new resident, David Kurtz about people camping in his neighbor's back yard as their residence. Mr. Kurtz would like to see the Minimum Housing Code, or something similar to it which addresses this issue, as referenced in our draft City Code online, adopted. I have explained to Mr. Kurtz that it is a priority of the City Commission's to review and approve the draft City Code, however this takes time and has for the time being taken a back seat to the strategic planning and budgeting workshops which have been the focus over the past few months. I expressed my belief that the City Code should be back toward the top of priorities once the budget process has completed but that the Commission could potentially pass an ordinance addressing this issue outside of the Code revision process. Please let me know the direction you would like me to go in addressing his concerns.

As for the agenda, I am pleased to have Ty Hedrick present his Eagle Scout Service Project to you and the community as he built a bridge for the Disc Golf Course at the North Lake. I would like to thank Ty for his service to our community and encourage him to continue in his endeavors. The only item other than the bills under regular business is the designation of the City's voting delegates for the League's upcoming Annual Conference. In the past, the City has designated the Mayor and City Manager and the voting delegates with another Commissioner and the City Clerk as the alternates. Item B is the consideration of the semi-monthly bills and payroll in the amount of \$192,894.02.

This month's employee of the month is John Helms. John is always a very positive, friendly person who goes out of his way to assist others. John has been extremely busy the past month and this whole year, as he has ran the Trash Department with only three men compared to the normal four. We just recently hired two new men to work in the Trash Department, Tyler Reynolds and Dustin O'Connor and current Assistant Trash Superintendent Gary McAuley will be transferring to the Gas and Water Department. I appreciate John's and his crew's tireless work in a demanding and often thankless job. They have been able to safely accomplish the job through

significant challenges. I appreciate Mr. Helms' work and his attitude in making our community better.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions and I appreciate the opportunity to serve you and this wonderful community as your City Manager.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager

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