



City Manager's Report

July 24th, 2017

Honorable Mayor Blackie and Commissioners Cole and Gwin,

I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your City Manager. I have been looking forward to becoming part of the Garnett community for months now and am pleased to finally be here.

During my first week I have had the pleasure of meeting much of the City staff and have been visiting with Department Directors to be brought up to speed on what we have going on and planned. I still have much of this catching up to do but I hope to be on a solid footing by our next meeting.

Former City Manager Joyce Martin has been here the past two days helping answer questions I have had as well as working on the 2018 budget. I expect Mrs. Martin to continue to work through at least Tuesday as she is scheduled as the hearing officer for the upcoming condemnation hearings.

The regular business items on the agenda are all fairly routine. The resolution simply establishes myself as a signer on our bank accounts so that I may sign checks. As I signed the payroll checks dated for Friday, July 21st, this resolution backdates my signature authority to my first day, July 17th, 2017.

The second item is requesting you to appoint an individual to serve as our Director on the Kansas Municipal Gas Agency's Board of Directors. As a member entity of KMGGA we have one vote at all of their board meetings. I am willing to serve as the City's Director, as the City Manager has in the past, if that is your wish. Our Electric Power Plant Superintendent, Bob Mills, is currently our Alternate Director who will vote in the Director's absence. Mr. Mills has been appointed as the City's Alternate Director for a permanent term and therefore does not require reappointment.

The two private claims for damages tabled during the last meeting from Mr. Lee Henry and Mrs. Janet M. Thacker are also on the agenda for your consideration. In my opinion, these claims, while regrettable, are not the City's responsibility to pay. We have no evidence of an indisputable nature that the City's electrical outage was in fact the culprit of the issues outlined by the petitioners. Additionally, we have received a request for reimbursement for expenses already incurred or for a desired replacement. We have no evidence that competing bids were obtained nor that the printer quoted is comparable to the one being replaced. While I believe the City has no obligation in these particular situations, it is my understanding that the precedent has been for the City to pay these such claims in the past. I seek your advice on whether to pay these claims or not and whether to establish a new precedent.

I will continue to work extensively on the budget this weekend and will have a budget ready for your review as soon as possible.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your City Manager and I look forward to working with you and for this wonderful community for years to come.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager