



City Manager's Report

December 11th, 2018

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

As the end of the year approaches we've been trying to get a lot of things wrapped up and make sure that we are prepared for the beginning of 2019. As you requested, I have re-advertised for the position of City Clerk and hope to receive more interested applicants over the next month. Interim City Clerk Hermreck and I met with our benefits consultant, CBIZ, on our health insurance and benefits package for next year. We will be having our open enrollment meeting and informational session this upcoming Monday. We are switching insurance carriers to Aetna, as Aetna has come in at a substantial cost savings compared to our current carrier, United Healthcare and Blue Cross Blue Shield. We are still working out some final details but we hope to be able to offer a choice of their style of plan this year for employees. Director of Community Development Wettstein and I also met with Chris Goetz and Michael Wilson of the Long Cedar Garnett Disc Golf Club in an effort to better coordinate maintenance of the course and make plans for the future. As usual, I attended the meetings of our County Commission and participated in a discussion with them regarding the possibility of fiber in the community. I, along with Directors Wettstein and Turnipseed also met again with the land owner of the land presented at our last meeting. As I previously mentioned, I misspoke in the meeting and the proposal is significantly less than forty (40) acres as that would include his house as well. I'll provide more information regarding the property for your review.

On the agenda we have the proposal for a left-hand turn signal at the intersection of highways 59 and 31 as mentioned by Student Representative William Mechnig during our last meeting. Items B, C, D, and E, are our annual event agreements which are up for approval again.

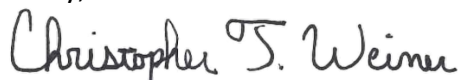
These are for Cornstock, Square Fair, the Grand Prix Revival, and the Southland Classic Cruisers Car Show. I have also placed the utility rate comparison back on the agenda in the event you are prepared to discuss the data. The bills this time amount to a total of \$211,571.77.

This month's employee of the month is Raymond "Ray" Arnett. Ray has stepped up considerably since the departure of our former Foreman of Gas and Water, Nick Galey, and has proven himself to be a leader within the department. Ray has excelled at training our new employees Nicholas Menacho and Steven Salazar in the daily operations of the Gas and Water Distribution department. Ray is also incredibly gifted as our main equipment operator and saves numerous man hours and resources with his skill. Ray is a wonderful employee and tremendous person and I cannot thank him enough for his dedication and service for our community.

This month's financial report shows us sitting well in most every department very near the end of the year. As previously mentioned, this is by design so that at the end of the year we have resources available to allocate to necessary expenditures which have been put off for budgetary concerns. Currently, we sit with more than \$1.5 million in the bank than we did to start the year. Now granted, some of this is planned reserves such as the tax reserve money for the ethanol plant suit (\$175,000ish), but most of it is just due to our staff doing their due diligence to being frugal. I commend all of our staff and department heads this past year for their conscientiousness in their spending of our public funds. I have placed a great deal of responsibility onto them with managing their own budgets and they have all excelled. While we may have some outstanding expenses to still incur (digger derrick truck, computers, etc.), we still should end the year with a higher balance in most of our funds than we started with – while making some significant purchases throughout the year. I would again like to commend our staff and department heads for showing exemplary accountability, and being tremendous stewards of the taxpayer dollar.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher T. Weiner".

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager