



## **City Manager's Report**

September 8, 2020

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

City Clerk Travis Wilson and I are meeting bi-weekly with our water plant engineer, Amelia Jordan from PEC, to discuss the progress on the new water treatment plant design. Water Plant Foreman Brian Dykes and I have discussed the proposed floorplan and have agreed that the design appears acceptable. I met with Tom Lasser of Hawkins Chemical for his insight on the floorplan, specifically in regards to the chemical placement, and he also agreed that the plans appears acceptable. We are currently researching whether or not there may be an opportunity for cost savings with regard to a chlorine storage option that Mr. Lasser suggested. KDHE has prohibited this option in the past, but we are hoping they may allow it as the Fire Code has changed and now allows it. We have also been researching information for the overflow height at the dam of Crystal Lake. This greatly affects the WTP building as the location is identified as being in the 100-year floodplain. This designation was established in April of this year, so prior to that this year, the exact elevations of the 100-year floodplain had not been identified by FEMA. The height of the dam will impact how much we need to raise the building to meet current codes. I have spoken with Mrs. Jordan multiple times on these and other issues regarding the project. I met with Josh Mundell concerning the land conversion. Mr. Mundell stated that he is hoping to get the land appraised this week and will be in touch soon.

I have met with representatives from Kwikom Communications, and local business owners in an effort to expand fiber optic internet coverage to the entire Garnett Community. I spoke to the County Commission on the subject, at their meeting on Monday. As you may remember, we began working on this quite a while ago and fortunately, we may be close to finally realizing the goal of fiber internet throughout the Garnett community. Representatives from Kwikom will be at this meeting to discuss a proposal to bring Fiber to the community.

We have received the specifications and contract documents for the apron refueling project. I anticipate a preconstruction meeting within the next few weeks. I reached out to Logan Falletti, Kansas Airport Improvement Program Coordinator, with KDOT's Aviation Division concerning the crack sealing airport grant that we have been awarded and that will be completed at the same time as the apron project. I spoke with Caleb Coltrane, our airport engineer from Garver, about these airport projects and the potential for having the contractors make some minor street repairs while they are in town working on the airport.

I attended the Kansas Municipal Utilities Strategic Planning Conference in McPherson. We had a good strategic planning session and charted a good course for the organization over the next few years. As we've previously discussed, I've met with several residents who have requested at least a brush only clean up. After coordinating with our Street and Stormwater Foreman, Jason Wettstein, we have scheduled this service on the week of October 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. This will be an opportunity for our residents to rid their properties of unwanted limbs and yard waste. Code Enforcement and Patrol Officer Donovan took the initiative to include the flyer for this clean up week with his nuisance letters in hopes of providing residents with notice of the assistance that the City is providing with our clean up efforts. Part of these clean up efforts include the clearing and maintenance of various ditches around town. I have met with several property owners concerning long-standing drainage issues that we have or are in the process of resolving, from which point forward, it will be the property owner's responsibility to maintain.

Street Department worked diligently to correct the issue to appease both property owners. I met with both property owners, in person and via telephone, after the work was completed to verify that they were satisfied. I also met with a different resident concerning a culvert that has collapsed and is causing drainage issues across an alley. I have been participating in the weekly Anderson County Reopening Task Force calls when they are held. We currently have two employees who have tested positive for COVID-19 and one other who has been in direct contact, but is not showing symptoms but has been tested as a precaution. I do believe this is a controlled exposure and I do not plan to make any significant operational changes unless we see additional employees showing symptoms. I spoke to the Lieutenant Governor's Office and our local Kansas House Representative, Mark Samsel, regarding COVID-19 response. I spoke with Sheriff Valentine and the Lieutenant Mike Thweatt with the Kansas Highway Patrol regarding COVID-19 coverage partnerships.

I and Power Plant Director Bob Mills met with Evergy regarding partnership opportunities and possibilities for reliability upgrades and future plans. I also met with Building Inspector and Zoning Administrator Garrett Gross and attended the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting where we discussed updating the Zoning Regulations and Comprehensive Plan. I met with the current owner, and interested an interested party of what was formerly known as Denise's Café to try and find a solution to save the building – I believe we have a workable plan and that the building will start to be addressed shortly. I also met with Joey Lamond, the Director of Public Works from Osage City, on assistance with replacement options for the odorant tank for the gas department. I spoke with Terry Bruce from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism about a grant for the Crystal Lake Dam and Trail area. His department is still insisting that the dam is the City of Garnett's property, although I have my doubts – City Attorney Terry Solander is further investigating the situation. Regardless, we will likely work on an application to apply for the grant Mr. Bruce suggested as it is an 80/20 (20% local match) grant, as I would rather have the resources available in the event it is finally determined that we

own the dam. I spoke with Neil Phillips from Jarred, Gilmore, and Phillips, our auditing firm, about the Executive Order issued by President Trump deferring employee's payroll tax through the end of the year. We are hoping to be able to give employees the option of taking the deferral or still having their tax liability withheld and maintained in an escrowed account. I also completed a survey from the State of Kansas on our Community Policing policies. I spoke with local mason Bob Salazar on numerous masonry issues at the North Lake Park and Depot and Director of Parks and Recreation, Phil Bures, met with him to see if he will be able to fix the problems. Mr. Salazar is going to provide us with estimates for each project.

I met with Connie Rues from Patriots Bank on adjusting our investments to maximize our return and liquidity with our idle funds. I also spoke with a resident who had code enforcement concerns. I met with Chief King and Airport Manager Schettler on budgetary issues and their goals for the rest of the year. I participated in a webinar with the State of Kansas on a grant opportunity for a sewer, water, or housing project for next year's grant cycle. I worked with staff through a false alarm for an active shooter threat. I spoke with Thane Stauffer, the Program Delivery Manager with the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) on the North Lake Bridge project multiple times. City Clerk Travis Wilson and I also held another meeting with Mr. Stauffer to iron out funding issues with the project. We will be discussing our options with our project engineer, Jason Hoskinson of BG Consultants, and getting back with Mr. Stauffer.

The first item on the agenda is a presentation from Kwikom Communications. Kwikom will be sharing information about fiber optic internet and the options that we have for providing this service to our community. Next, is the consideration of the appointment of Mike Norman or Krystal Baugher to the Garnett Steering Committee. Both applicants currently serve and are very active on other advisory boards. Their applications are included in your packet. Item C is the acceptance of the USDA Community Facilities Grant for a new roof at the Garnett Public Library. Mike Billings will be calling in to explain the process of obtaining the funding (this is the same process as the police cars grant we just obtained). The next item on the agenda is a Proclamation from the Anderson County Hospital, declaring September 2020 as National Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month. The Hospital has also obtained permission to hang ribbons on the 4<sup>th</sup> street median for this cause. Item E is the approval of CDBG-CV grant funding for Modz Towing and Recovery in the amount of \$18,733.88. Item F is the consideration of the semi-monthly bills and payroll in the amount of \$200,472.23. Under informational items you will find the Lunch on the Lawn, of which a flyer is included in your packet. Departmental Reports and the August 2020 financial report are also included in this packet.

August's Employee of the Month is Kris Hix. Kris was nominated for all of the work she has been doing on a variety of projects. Her peers have commended her efforts on the Garnett Farmer's Market! Kris has an upbeat attitude and is always sharing her "happy sprinkles" with everyone. We are so happy to have Kris on board with us here at City Hall!

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager