

Garnett, Kansas
February 14, 2017

The Governing Body of the City of Garnett met in regular session on February 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with the following present: W. Gordon Blackie, Mayor; Greg A. Gwin and Jody M. Cole, City Commissioners; Joyce E. Martin, City Manager and Terry J. Solander, City Attorney. Absent: Kristina L. Kinney, City Clerk. Others present: Jeremy Dupont, ACHS Youth in Government representative.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Blackie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by Doug Meyers of the First Christian Church giving the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gwin noted in the third paragraph under Communications & Reports that the word "off" should be "of". A motion was made by Mayor Blackie, seconded by Commissioner Gwin to approve the minutes of January 24, 2017 as corrected. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; none.

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS

Commissioner Cole stated that the League will complete the process of accepting applications for the city manager's position on February 17th. They are requesting a date sometime next week to address the commission on their findings. The commission agreed to meet in special session on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Cole will advise the League representative.

Commissioner Cole recognized the following dedicated employees for their years of service to the city: Rick Feuerborn, 22 years as a firefighter; Farrel King, street superintendent for 27 years and J. D. Mersman, firefighter for 18 years.

Commissioner Gwin said the city manager's anniversary and retirement party was very well attended.

Student representative Jeremy Dupont said the city manager had given him the proposed plans for the skate park which included the old and new equipment. He will share this with the students who are interested in this project. He said they will start their Pizza Hut fundraiser around March 1st.

The General Report of City Manager Joyce E. Martin was received and discussed, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof. The detailed project report was reviewed.

The City Manager questioned what she should do to get an answer from the county as to whether or not they would be helping with city street maintenance this year. It was agreed that she should attend the next county commission meeting and request an answer.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission reviewed an engineering report from Matt Eblen of Shafer, Kline & Warren to repair the concrete channel at the bottom of the spillway. Total estimated costs are \$157,200. Commissioner Gwin said these repairs need to be made. Discussions on funding followed. The City Manager said that current estimates to build a new water treatment plant stand at \$14 million. She suggested that if it is decided to build a new plant that the spillway repair project and plant costs could be rolled into a bond issue. She said she would be contacting the USDA regarding a grant for the water treatment plant. The Commission asked her to look for whatever grant or loans she could find for both projects.

The City Manager advised the commission that she was talking with bond counsel about the possibility of retiring a combined utility bond issue which would minimize the debt requirements on the water fund in upcoming years. A reduced debt limit in any fund looks good to potential bond buyers.

NEW BUSINESS

Tom Emerson discussed the Chamber Player's transient guest tax application. Commissioner Cole thanked the city manager and Susan Wettstein for providing financial reports on past events, including attendance records and dollars received. She said this helped her better understand the process of considering and approving applications. A motion was made by Mayor Blackie, seconded by Commissioner Cole to approve the Chamber Player's request of \$3,144. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; noes – none.

Jenny Myers spoke about the BPW Women's Fair transient guest tax application. Tourism Board Chamber Tom Emerson said the group was very innovative on this year's event and the board wanted to reward them for this. A motion was made by Commissioner Gwin, seconded by Commissioner Cole to approve the BPW Women's Fair request for \$646.35. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; noes – none.

Discussion was held on the BPW Square Fair transient guest tax application. The Commission agreed that this was an outstanding community event and needed very little explanation. A motion was made by Mayor Blackie, seconded by Commissioner Gwin to approve the BPW Square Fair request for \$1,447.75. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; noes – none.

Discussion was held on the BPW Holiday Boutique. Jenny Myers explained that the group will be advertising earlier this year to try and attract more people to attend the event which coincides with the Library's holiday home tour. She offered that in the past people indicated they didn't know it was happening. A motion was made by Commissioner Gwin, seconded by Commissioner Cole to approve the BPW Holiday Boutique request for \$500.50. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; noes – none.

The Walker Art Juried Art Exhibition transient guest tax application was reviewed. Susan Wettstein explained this is the first year for this application. The Tourism Advisory Board is very excited about all the things the Walker Art Committee is doing to attract people to town to view not only the art collections, but to attend other art related events which will be listed on their juried art exhibition advertisement. Tom Emerson said the committee was being very aggressive in promoting what they can do. A motion was made by Commissioner Gwin, seconded by Commissioner Cole to approve the Walker Art request for \$1,666. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; noes – none.

Mayor Blackie commented that organizers of these events have reached out to the Tourism Advisory Board seeking ways to make their applications more appealing. Commissioner Gwin offered his appreciation to the Tourism Advisory Board members saying how important it was for them to help the event organizers prepare good applications and to "think outside the box".

Susan Wettstein discussed the annual Libertyfest and the Chamber's decision not to sponsor this event because of the lack of funds. She said that before trying to entice another organization to be the sponsor, she wanted to ask the city commissioners if they would be interested in possibly funding some of the expense. Commissioner Gwin asked if this would be through transient guest tax funds and the response was yes. He said it was a shame that more people don't help with the costs. Susan said the thought was if an organization would be the sponsor, perhaps people might be more willing to donate because, at the present time, they believe their taxes are paying for the event. It is estimated that approximately \$2,500 would be needed to interest an organization to come on board with the remainder of the funds coming from donations and/or receipts at the gate. However, the tourism advisory board wants some type of commitment from the city before they do this. She suggested that perhaps the event

could be done in the city's name; however, Commissioner Gwin said this was probably something local government shouldn't be involved in. It was agreed that before the commission makes a decision on this matter that the Tourism Advisory Board needs to discuss possible funding and develop some ideas to entice another organization to step forward.

The Commission considered an agreement between the City and the Garnett Enduro Club to hold go-kart races on April 8 and 9 and June 10 and 11, 2017 at the North Lake Park. The city manager said this agreement was drawn in the standard format. A motion was made by Commissioner Gwin, seconded by Commissioner Cole to approve this agreement as written. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; noes – none.

CLAIMS, BONDS & COMMERCIAL LIABILITY

Ordinance #4173 was read as follows: AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF CERTAIN CLAIMS. A motion was made by Mayor Blackie, seconded by Commissioner Gwin to approve the warrants in the amount of \$283,761.42. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; - noes – none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Gwin requested an executive session beginning at 7:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. to discuss personnel. The City Manager was asked to attend the executive session. At 7:15 p.m. the executive session was extended to 7:25 p.m. At 7:25 p.m. the executive session was adjourned and the regular meeting called back to order.

There being no further business to come before the Governing Body, Mayor Blackie adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

/s/ W. Gordon Blackie
Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Kristina L. Kinney
City Clerk