



## **City Manager's Report**

December 10, 2019

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

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed the annual lighting ceremony and Christmas Parade. As you may have noticed, the speaker system is now installed on the square and I would like to thank those organizations (The Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival, Friends of the Prairie Spirit Trail, Garnett Rotary Club, Garnett Business and Professional Women, Garnett Lions Club) who have committed to assist with funding this downtown sound system project. I would also like to thank Bo Harris for the countless hours he has put into making this dream a reality. While the speaker system was installed and playing music, it was unfortunately not 100% operational for the parade as the microphone was unable to be utilized with it. We expect that issue to be resolved in the near future. As you know, it is always busy this time of year with numerous holidays, events, and weather to contend with. Thankfully, thus far we have not had a significant amount of ice or snowfall. Over the past couple of weeks we have started our open enrollment period for our insurance coverage offerings and I believe next year's offerings will be well received with a transition back to Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Kansas. As I mentioned in my last report, this change to Blue Cross will result in an increase in premium for our employees, but the employee appointed insurance committee felt as if that was the best course of action. I've met with a few residents about a variety of topics including personnel concerns, street concerns, and airport project concerns. As usual, I also attended the County Commission meeting and had a good discussion with the Commissioners regarding partnering on projects. They have suggested February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as the potential date for our next joint City/County meeting with the School and Hospital Boards' also hopefully being able to attend. Please let me know if this date will work for your schedules so I can confirm the date with the County.

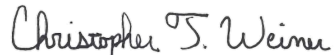
In addition to the joint meeting date, on this meeting's agenda we have the annual consideration of renewing the licenses for our local cereal malt beverage license holders. As usual, my recommendation is to approve these licenses as we have had no issues to speak of justifying the denial of said license. City Clerk Wilson has prepared a comparison sheet for the timeclock/payroll software quotes that we have received. This was provided with his monthly report last month and I have added it to this agenda for your consideration. These quotes were obtained back in October and since we have not made a decision on these yet, these numbers may fluctuate slightly. I believe utilizing a timeclock/payroll software is highly beneficial and would significantly decrease the time and work associated with the payroll process. I know that last year we discussed increasing the amount of the annual Christmas bonus provided to City staff from \$200 to \$225. My question is whether or not the Commission would like to proceed with increasing this amount or if you desire to keep this amount at \$200. Next, is the consideration of the bills and payroll in the amount of \$147,244.27. Finally, you will see the November Financial Report, Departmental Reports, and a proposal from Proseal for street work in 2020. As you can see, this proposal is significant both in scope and cost. This plan would provide a reclamite application to approximately fifty (50) city blocks, or five (5) miles of city street. The total cost would be \$76,491 or a little over \$1,500 per block. As we discussed last year, this product is utilized and well-reviewed by other communities in preserving and maintaining their streets. As also previously mentioned, I believe it is imperative that we implement a pavement maintenance program, rather than just continually investing our resources in overlays as without preservation and maintenance, those overlays will likely need re-overlaid after twenty (20) years. As I've explained previously as well, the reclamite product functions similar to a chip and seal or any other maintenance and preservation type works, it will extend the lifespan of the current condition of the street by approximately five (5) years. Therefore, the proposed maintenance program would be to re-apply this treatment every five (5) years to preserve our streets in quality condition. This initial year, 2020, would be a larger investment in the reclamite work done as we have not done any preservation work on these streets, which are all still in fairly decent condition, within the past few years. Following new overlays, the plan would be to apply reclamite the following year after the overlay is completed, in order to preserve the street in that condition. As

you know, a \$76,491 hit to our street budget next year is over half (55%) of our allocated budget for street work. With the remaining available budget room however, we should still be able to get a few blocks milled and overlaid as well as some curb and gutter, and sidewalk work. I'd also like to remind you that the City of Garnett Christmas Party is being held on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m and hope that you can make it.

The Employee of the Month for November is Troy Hart. Troy has been working extensively on the speaker system around the square. Troy has taken the lead on many activities in town including putting the US flags out on 4th Avenue and the highway during federal holidays, helping with the American Legion Riders for the Celebration of Service and honoring the Vietnam Veterans that were here this past summer, just to name a few. The Electric Department has been working hard through storms and outages, and still making timely deadlines to get seasonal banners changed to adding brackets and more patriotic banners, to running speaker system wire and installing speakers on the square and equipment inside city hall, and then Christmas lights and banners around town. Troy has also been working on the welcome sign lighting options. Troy is a valuable employee and a positive role model to his peers.

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

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager