

GENERAL REPORT  
December 27, 2016

1. Employer's Mutual Insurance Company is requiring the City to adopt a "Return to Work Program" which covers injured employees. I have asked Human Resource Director Jenny Myers to attend the meeting to explain why this is a very good program and how it will benefit the city and their employees. Information is included with your agenda packets.

2. As we have done for several years, there is a need to amend some funds in the current budget year. A copy of the notice of hearing is attached to this report.

The SEK fund is controlled by the library board. They received extra grant monies this year and voted to paint and re-carpet a portion of the building. Both improvements were badly needed and greatly improve the overall appearance of the interior of the building. Andrea is to be commended for continuing to apply for and receive grants through SEK. These grant monies reduce the strain on the tax supported library fund and help with the purchase of books, computers and building repairs.

The Capital Improvement Budget needs to be increased to cover the additional work done on the North Lake Road. Monies provided by the Racing Association, Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival and transfers from utility reserves will cover the extra expense. I continue to review the bill received from Killough. At this point they are willing to assume some of the milling charges on Prairie Plaza Road but I feel they need to absorb some of the asphalt charges too. So this bill has not been paid. The bill for the city's share of the Cedar Valley Road improvements has not been paid either. The first bill received was incorrect and hasn't been resubmitted for payment. I contacted the county about this again as the bill needs to be paid by the end of the year.

At the last joint commission meeting, the county requested a list of streets we would like their help to chip and seal in 2017. I believe Farrel and Lester have talked about this so we will provide this list right after the first of the year so the county can determine if any of the roads will fit into their budget.

3. Ordinance #4167 concludes the rezoning issue for 407 West Second Avenue. This was approved by the Governing Body at the December 13, 2016 meeting.

4. Since I hadn't heard from the commissioners, I wondered if you have looked at the property at 13<sup>th</sup> & Elm. A contractor was hired to remove the single wide trailer, city crews hauled the brush away and loaded the debris into a roll-off dumpster that was brought here by the Ottawa Sanitation Company. The fine paid by the property owner will not begin to cover the expenses the city incurred but the lot is no longer an eyesore. The owner has been in contact with me and knows he will be receiving a bill for the charges.

5. It is my opinion that 2016 has been another very successful year. The ten year sewer improvement plan was started with a great deal of work done along Highway 59 and some of the feeder streets to the east. A new camera was bought for John's crews to use to determine if a sewer line has collapsed or if there are tree roots that need to be removed. Extensive work was done to the UV system at the wastewater treatment plant as well. The Walnut Street electric line project still remains incomplete as we wait for the telephone company to move their lines onto the new poles. The commission and new city manager will need to decide about the water plant improvements, oversee the south bound turn lane project on Highway 59, continue discussions about the installation of high speed internet, resurrecting the PRIDE program in Garnett along with day-to-day operations and other projects the commission has in mind.

It is my opinion that all of the advisory boards are on solid ground and have good people in their leadership roles.

The city departments are strong with good supervisors in control. I recently hired the gas superintendent and a meter reader so there are no vacancies until after the first of the year.

I talked with Kansas Fiber Net representatives and they believe they have done everything they can, at this point, to interest business owners to subscribe to their service. We plan to meet after the first of the year. Roberta Erickson, who has been our VYVE representative, has announced her retirement effective the end of this year. No replacement has been hired.

Friday's Christmas party was very well attended with most of the employees showing up at 10:00 a.m. through the lunch hour. All of them expressed their gratitude for the Christmas bonus. Everyone agreed this type of party is good as they felt very comfortable visiting and talking about their holiday plans. Another plus – every department was represented and some of the night shift employees were able to stop by and meet some of their fellow employees.

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