

June 7, 2016
Garnett, Kansas

The Governing Body of the City of Garnett met in special session at 6:00 p.m. on June 7, 2016 at Mr. D's Restaurant with the following present: Greg A. Gwin, Mayor; W. Gordon Blackie and Jody Cole, City Commissioners; Joyce E. Martin, City Manager; County Commissioners Jerry Howarter, Les McGhee and Gene Highberger; Phyllis Gettler, County Clerk. Absent: Terry J. Solander, City Attorney and Kristina L. Kinney, City Clerk. Whereupon the written request for said meeting as signed by Commissioners Gwin, Blackie and Cole was read as follows:

We, the undersigned, Commissioners of the City of Garnett, Kansas respectfully request that a special meeting of the Governing Body of the City of Garnett, Kansas be held at Mr. D's Restaurant at 6:00 p.m. on June 7, 2016 for the purpose of considering the following items, to-wit:

1. Joint City/County Commission meeting
 - a. road projects
 - b. city wide clean-up relating to commercial customers
 - c. tax sale
 - d. ethanol plant
 - e. Church Furniture property

2. Any other lawful business to come before the Governing Body.

Signed:

Greg A. Gwin
W. Gordon Blackie
Jody Cole

The request will be entered at length on the Journal.

The meeting, which was hosted by the city, was called to order by Mayor Gwin at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Gwin asked for a report on repairs to the road leading to the Cedar Valley Reservoir. County Commissioner McGhee said county road crews had started on the preliminary cleaning of ditches. County Commissioner Howarter advised that the county road supervisor had

under estimated the cost to repair this road; however, the estimate of \$32,760 given to the city at the last joint meeting is all they will expect the city to pay.

Mayor Gwin asked about the possibility of the County helping with some street repair in Garnett. County Commissioner Howarter said that Lester Welsh, County Road Supervisor said he didn't want to do this as he didn't have time. Mayor Gwin responded that Mr. Welsh works for the county and, as such, could be instructed to help if the County Commissioners felt this was something that could be done as a joint venture. City Manager Martin asked if the county would be willing to review a proposal for their 2017 budget that included a list of specific streets that could be chipped and sealed. The county commissioners agreed to look at a proposal.

Mayor Gwin asked and received an explanation concerning the assessed valuation of the ethanol plant. The County Commissioners advised that the ethanol plant owners have hired an attorney who will continue to fight the amount established by the county appraiser. It is anticipated this matter will go before the Board of Tax Appeals with no early resolution expected.

Mayor Gwin said that he noticed the Garnett Church Furnishings building on South Oak Street was being demolished. County Commissioner Les McGhee said that Zook Construction had been hired by the Prosperity Foundation to complete this work.

Discussion was held on the pending tax sale. City Manager Martin asked about the building belonging to Denise Law and the IRS lien that had been filed and how this might affect someone wanting to buy the property at the tax sale. No one from the county had an answer, however County Clerk Gettler said she would investigate the matter.

City Manager Martin said that during the last city-wide spring clean-up, county landfill supervisor Scott Garrett advised her that commercial customers could not be included in the free dumping. She said that for as many years as she could remember, the city had always included them. County Clerk Phyllis Gettler said the county didn't include any commercial customers. The City Manager asked for a yes or no answer and County Commissioner Howarter said no. The County Commissioners continued the conversation by saying the county absorbs the \$1 per ton state assessed charge on any house demolition debris which amounted to approximately \$12,000 in 2015. Mayor Gwin thanked the county commissioners for providing these services to city residents.

The City Manager asked the County Commissioners if they had any regulations in place to require county property owners to clean-up and remove nuisances. The response was no. She asked them to look at 906 East Fourth then talk with the county counselor to see if something could be done about this property. County Commissioner Howarter said there were several buildings in the county that need to come down, citing one in Lone Elm that had burned. It was asked why they didn't follow condemnation procedures with no answer received.

The County Commissioners asked who cleaned up the square following the BPW square fair. The City Manager replied that the boy scouts were hired by BPW to do this. It was stated that they should be commended for doing such an excellent job. County Commissioner Howarter asked if the county was included as an additional insured on the BPW's insurance policy. The City Manager will pass this question onto the BPW president.

County Commissioner Howarter said the county would be refinancing the bonds that were issued to construct the law enforcement center. This refinancing will save the county approximately \$700,000 - \$800,000 in interest costs. The county has \$500,000 in reserves from revenues received for out-of-town prisoners. They will use this money to reduce the principal amount owed on the bonds.

County Commissioner Howarter said that the Senior Citizen organization received a grant from the Goppert Foundation to tear down the two buildings owned by Todd Barnes. The county will allow this debris to be taken to the landfill for no charge. Mr. Howarter also said that J. D. Mersman was applying for a grant to purchase a rescue boat. The estimated cost is \$30,000 of which \$10,000 will be paid by the sheriff's department. The City Manager said the grant application will be done through the Garnett Community Foundation as they have a 501 (c) 3 rating which is required by the Goppert Foundation. She and Mr. Mersman are putting a proposal together that will go before the Goppert board in mid-July.

County Clerk Phyllis Gettler provided an update on the new budget and mill levy laws. She said the state was requiring all taxing entities to give notice by July 1st if they plan to raise their mill levies this year. Beginning in 2017, very strict rules will be in place to raise local levies. It was agreed to have this information available by July 1st would be nearly impossible.

Mrs. Gettler discussed the new election laws and said she was still waiting to receive information from the Attorney General's office whether or not the city will need to have a primary election in August since there are four (4) candidates for city commissioner.

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Mayor Gwin asked if the recycling efforts had increased by people using the trailer located in Country Mart's lot once a month. The County Commissioners said yes it had and they believed it just took some time for people to know that the trailer was available.

Discussion was held on continuing these joint meetings on a quarterly basis. The City Manager encouraged the commissioners to continue this practice. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 6, 2016 with the county serving as hosts. The time and location will be provided at a later date.

There being no further business to come before the joint commissions, Mayor Gwin declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

s/s Greg A. Gwin

Mayor

Attest:

s/s Kristina L. Kinney

City Clerk