



City Manager's Report

June 12th, 2018

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

I would first like to thank you all for your attendance and participation at our annual Celebration of Service. The weather refused to cooperate unfortunately, but I believe we had a tremendously successful event nevertheless. I would also like to again recognize and thank our local School Board for their willingness to support this event and allow us to hold it in their high school auditorium.

Over the past few weeks we have hosted our auditors, held an economic development open house at the Taylor Forge property, had the Celebration of Service event, and prepared for multiple other events including the Memorial Day holiday, the first Kansas Dual Sport Safari motorcycle ride, and the 2nd annual Car, Bike, and Truck Show. I have also attended County Commission meetings, our monthly EMP1 Meeting, a meeting with our electric utility consultants on service territory issues, a meeting with Bob Medina from the State on Mr. Gainer's mechanic shop, a special Chamber Board meeting, and conducted many employment interviews for open positions. I also visited with our water plant engineer, Brian Wintle, and he informed me that as of today, June 6th, the final waste stream summary has been presented to KDHE for their approval. This is following the extensive review period KDHE went through to issue comments on the summary. Following this approval, the design process will proceed. Brian also submitted a revised cost summary of our operations to the USDA in order to give a more accurate picture of what our water system financial needs are. Upon USDA's consideration of this revised data, hopefully we will have a different grant threshold which sits below our estimated project cost. Additionally, USDA has informed us that our grant application for the vehicles and tasers will not

be funded at this time. There is hope that more funding may become available toward the end of the Federal fiscal year (August/September), which may afford us reimbursement for these purchases. As articulated in the email I received from Mr. Billings, apparently the requests for funding in Kansas were high and when funding was last distributed, it was not disbursed on a first-come, first-served basis as was originally anticipated. While this is definitely unfortunate, I continue to hold out hope that we'll receive the funding later on this year.

We have been seeing significantly higher energy prices here recently, mainly due to the unusually warm weather we've been seeing, and I expect this trend to get significantly worse for at least the immediate future. Jeffrey Energy Center, the largest electric production facility in the state at 2,178 megawatts, has been shut down following a terrible accident resulting in two fatalities. An investigation is underway to ascertain the exact cause and to enact measures to prevent such future accidents, but until the plant starts back up, production in the area will be significantly reduced while demand continues to climb into the summer.

Our staff has worked extremely hard this past year to stay safe and limit accidents. This diligence has paid off as we saw a sixty percent (60%) reduction in our claims from the previous year. This reduction is for all of our insurance such as property and liability and workers compensation claims. Such dedication to keeping our claims low will help keep our insurance rates as low as possible. I am honored to recognize our Staff's efforts as they also played a major role in the City receiving our largest ever rebate check from our insurance company EMC in the amount of \$30,543.46.

I also need to mention that I was wrong in information that I presented at the last meeting relating to the potential of having five City Commissioners rather than three. City Commissioner Brecheisen-Huss made me aware that the law changed almost ten years ago and she is correct. The Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) now only applies to meetings of Governing Body members which constitute a majority of that Governing Body. Therefore, if we do have a five-member Commission, two members could speak to each other regarding City business without it constituting an open meeting violation. I apologize for presenting incorrect information as I failed to thoroughly research the topic.

As for the agenda items, item A is the discussion of Ordinance 4196 relaxing the living requirements for Planning Commission Board Members. As with all ordinances, I recommend reviewing and discussing this ordinance at this meeting, and then tabling it for action at the next Commission meeting. Item B is the consideration of a funding request for transient guest tax (TGT) dollars from the Greeley Smokeoff. The Smokeoff's request this year is \$2,000, less than the \$2,114 they were awarded last year. While they were awarded \$2,114 last year, they actually only spent \$1,555 of their award. The Tourism Committee met this evening to consider this request and has recommended approval of the requested funds. You will also see the request documentation in your packet. While I want to support regional events and other area communities as much as possible, I would suggest that we keep in mind the source these funds come from and what they are meant to be used for. The trend over the past couple of years has been downwards in terms of our TGT distributions and therefore this correlation would likely suggest that our hotels/motels have not been as successful. This could also just be a cyclical trend and revenues will pick back up in the future. However, I suggest we be selective in funding events that have potential to put people overnight in our hotels. Otherwise, our revenue stream here may continue down this current trend and wind up ceasing altogether. Item C is the consideration of the bills and payroll in the amount of \$255,750.98.

This month's employee of the month is the Electric Department's Bryan Sobba. Bryan is an extremely hard worker who always goes above and beyond to help others. The past month saw numerous sewer and water main breaks and Bryan answered the call working the breaks even into the evening hours by operating equipment and working in the trenches filled with water and sewage. While I am proud to recognize Bryan for his efforts and work ethic I have to commend others as well. Last month's employee of the month, Director of Gas and Water Ken Amaya, was right there in those same trenches working these breaks along with Bryan, Nick Galey, Quenton Trammell, Raymond Arnett, from the Gas and Water Department and multiple employees from our Street Department. Our individual crews are fairly small so when large problems arise like the sewer collapse between 3rd and 4th avenues occur, we need our employees to band together to fix the problem. Our excellent employees are what make

accomplishing these tasks possible and I am honored to recognize all of their efforts and this month specifically, Bryan Sobba, for his work ethic and team mentality.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher T. Weiner".

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager