

January 22, 2019
Garnett, Kansas

The Governing Body of the City of Garnett met in special session on January 22, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall with the following individuals present: Greg A. Gwin, Mayor; Jody Cole and Brigitte Brecheisen-Huss, City Commissioners; Chris Weiner, City Manager; Travis Wilson, Interim City Clerk; and Kurt King, Police Chief

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gwin called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Discussion of Police Department Staffing Concerns. Police Chief Kurt King presented a proposal to decrease the number of officers to seven (7) and use the budgeted money for the eighth officer to fund a KP&F retirement benefit program for the department. He explained he has done a study comparing KPERS with eight (8) officers versus KP&F with seven (7) officers and found the cost to be equivalent. City Manager Weiner commented that 2019 would be a trial period to see if the change to KP&F was doable with the existing budget. If it works, the city would potentially adopt KP&F to improve officer recruitment and retention in 2020.


Mayor Gwin asked if Chief King had looked at or given any concern to the wage itself. Chief King explained it is a two-part piece. If an officer was to transfer to Ottawa Police Department, they would receive the KP&F benefit and would make four (4) to five (5) dollars an hour more. Realistically we cannot compete with both their wage and retirement, but if we made the switch to the KP&F retirement program we would be closer. He also mentioned the pay scale needs to be evaluated.

City Manager Weiner agreed the City could only afford one (1) option budgetarily and also felt KP&F would be the best choice with a review of wages in the future.

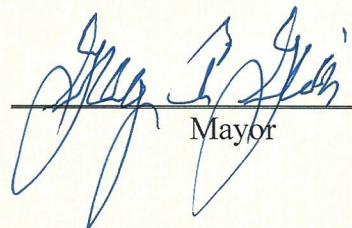
After discussion, City Manager Weiner stated staff could put together a report on comparable sized cities as well as those within a reasonable geographic area of 100 miles and the regional impact that we have compared to other cities. Commissioner Brecheisen-Huss and Commissioner Cole requested the report include communities around Wichita and the incentives they offer. Mayor Gwin requested the wages of our officers, years of service, and what their position is to know where we are at.

With no further business to come before the commission, Mayor Gwin adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:



Interim City Clerk



Mayor