



City Manager's Report

December 26th, 2017

Honorable Mayor Blackie and Commissioners Cole and Gwin,

The holiday season is upon us you all have a wonderful Christmas and reflect back upon a successful 2017. The City has accomplished much over this year in my opinion, but I believe we are poised for even greater things to come. It has been a pleasure working with you Mayor Blackie and I would like to thank you for your efforts these past five (5) years in working to make Garnett the wonderful community it is.

Over the past couple of weeks I met with Superintendent of Schools Don Blome and we plan to work together this next year on making significant improvements to our baseball and softball fields. I also have met with our information technology (IT) consultants and Vyve Broadband on multiple occasions planning out our transition to better communication infrastructure in our City facilities. Additionally, we will be installing cameras at the Garnett Recreation Center, among other facilities, to allow us the ability to open up the Recreation Center for twenty-four (24) hour access. We believe that this change will facilitate higher usage and increased membership at the recreation center. I also met with the Anderson County Development Agency and discussed future plans for the position of Director of Economic Development – as our current Director, Mr. Arnold, is retiring in January. Our Director of Electric Production and I also attended a meeting of our power purchasing group in Overland Park.

Items A and B on the agenda are addressing the property on 4th Avenue that the Governing Body agreed to sell at our last meeting. City Attorney Solander has drafted these documents and they are ready for your approval. Item C deals with a claim for damages resulting from a dog at large case in which the animal jumped out of the back of our officer's pickup truck

and injured its leg. We have since installed a cage in the back of the animal control vehicle to prevent similar scenarios in the future. As for the claim itself, I believe we are at fault and I would recommend paying the claim; however, I would recommend that we withhold \$200 from the request as that would be the amount of the dog catcher fee that we typically charge. Item D is an agreement with our power supplier, Kansas City Power and Light (KCP&L), which is replacing an existing agreement. The need to revise the current agreement is due to the changes the City has made over the past couple of years in our transmission and service providers. I, along with City Attorney Terry Solander, Director of Electric Production Robert Mills, our electric consultants with the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency (KMEA), and electric attorneys with the Federal Energy Trade Commission (FERC) have all reviewed the proposed contract from KCP&L and are comfortable with the language. I do have a couple of concerns, namely that we are agreeing to pay for the line loss (electricity which is lost in the process of delivering it to us) from the Ottawa substation to Garnett and that KCP&L does not have to guarantee our delivery of electricity in the event they have a labor disturbance (or strike). Unfortunately, after significant negotiation, I believe we have the best agreement we are going to receive. KCP&L will not budge on either the labor disturbance or Ottawa substation issues. Item E is for the consideration of the annual Cereal Malt Beverage (CMB) licenses for our local restaurants and convenience stores. As I mentioned in a follow up email last week, we have located what the resources in the idle investment and stormwater/sidewalk repair funds were used for, causing those funds to reflect a negative balance for a number of years. The \$175,000 in the idle investment fund was utilized to make a payment in the process of refinancing our water tower and sewer lines bond in 2009 and the \$46,204.46 in the stormwater and sidewalk repair fund was utilized to correct a drainage problem on Main Street causing storm water to enter a business at the corner of Fifth (5th) Avenue and Main Street. Both of those funds have now been brought back up to a zero balance through transfers from electric, water, and gas reserves.

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,

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager