



City Manager's Report

September 10th, 2019

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

As you know, the past couple of weeks have been busy with our budget workshops and a variety of other meetings. I met with Jason Hoskinson from BG Consultants who I've been working with on the Maple Street drainage (KDOT) project. Thursday of last week I attended the League of Kansas Municipalities' Legislative Policy Committee meeting where we discussed what the legislative priorities for the League and Kansas cities and towns should be in this next 2020 legislative session. I, along with airport advisory board members and other City staff, also met with Caleb Coltrane and Josh Peters from Garver, our airport consultants, on the progress of our airport master plan. We are getting close to wrapping up this project. I also met with Sarah Unruh and Amelia Jordan from Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC), our water plant project engineers, on the progress of our new water treatment facility design project. As I explained in our recent budget workshop, we are still awaiting approval from the Osage Nation on the Cultural Resources Survey, from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism on the Park Land Conversion proposal, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) of the anti-degradation report for the new water treatment facility to continue design work much further. PEC submitted our anti-degradation report (the study on the plans for our water plant lagoons) to KDHE at the end of July. To my understanding, KDHE has 180 days to review the report and make comments after it has been assigned. Unfortunately, this department of KDHE is extremely short-staffed right now and there is a significant backlog of projects awaiting assignment. Mrs. Unruh informed me that based on her experience, once a project gets assigned (even though KDHE has six months to review it) it typically takes eight to ten weeks to get approved. We know we are in the stack of projects awaiting assignment and have asked where we are in that stack

for an idea of when we might expect assignment and hopefully eventual approval. I also met with information technology specialists who work for the City of Ottawa, as they were gracious enough to make the trip here to inspect and give advice on our system. They have provided a couple suggestions that we will implement to hopefully realize improvements in the audio quality of our *Facebook* live broadcasted City Commission meetings. I also met with representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) regarding our airport industrial park and the previous grant we received from them. I have received back responses from most of our Steering Committee members and believe our first meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12th.

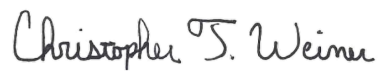
On the agenda this meeting is the consideration of a claim for damages from Bob and Nancy Brownback due to a sewer main backup in May of this year. I was awaiting an additional claim of replacement carpet or a rug prior to placing it on the agenda. However, after speaking with Mr. and Mrs. Brownback, they indicated that they have no further claims that they wish to add to the request. This particular request is stemming from the significant rain event which also caused the north lake bridge to collapse. The water volume was so high that our sewer main on first avenue backed up into the Brownback's home (basement); which, according to our wastewater staff, has never had sewer backup issues before. As you can see from the provided claim information, the Brownback's called a plumber to clean out their line. The plumber recommended that they install a backflow prevention device, which according to Mrs. Brownback they have since done. No contact with City staff was made regarding the backup prior to contracting with the plumber. The Brownback's claim is for \$214.00, the amount of the plumber's bill. The second action item is a proclamation designating September 21st, 2019 as National Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Day. This is a proclamation that the City has traditionally done annually. Item C is the ordinance that was tabled at our last meeting due to the desire to add "2019 Edition" to the description and to allow for City Attorney Solander's attendance in order to provide any clarification if desired. Item D is our annual selection of voting delegates for the League's Annual Conference. My recommendation would be to follow the same process as we have historically – name the Mayor, Mr. Gwin, and City Manager, myself, as our delegates,

with another willing Commissioner and City Clerk Travis Wilson as the alternate delegates. The bills and payroll this cycle total \$226,303.29.

This month's employee of the month is Monica Hill. Monica has been a tremendous addition to our City Hall front office as she brings a wonderfully cheery attitude and infectious smile every day. She is a great team player and is picking up all aspects of the front office job very quickly. She is extremely friendly to all customers, both external and internal and is a joy to work around. Monica is an exemplary employee and I am extremely glad we got lucky in bringing her in to City Hall.

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

Sincerely,

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

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager