

GENERAL REPORT

January 10, 2017

1. As the deputy city clerk, Colette will administer the oath of office to Commissioner Gwin. This will be followed by reorganization of the commission with the election of mayor and mayor pro tem.

2. The Tourism Advisory Board met on January 4th and considered the application submitted by the Knights of Columbus for the G-Town Smokin Showdown. Their vote was unanimous to recommend the commission approve the application in the amount of \$1,050. The amount paid in 2016 was \$920.

This leads to the consideration of an agreement between the City and the Knights of Columbus to have this event at the North Park fairgrounds on April 28 and 29, 2017. The agreement has been drawn in the same format as previous years.

3. The second agreement is for the annual Anderson County Corn Festival to be held at the North Park on September 22-24, 2017. Again, the usual format is followed.

These are the first of several agreements for annual events held at the North Park. Sponsors like to have them approved as soon as possible so their advertising can start and they can contact the participants to get the dates on their calendars. We always ask the commission for approval of these agreements and have never had any problems with any of the sponsoring organizations.

4. The two (2) resolutions listed on the agenda are standard housekeeping matters that are required to be approved by the Governing Body the first meeting of each year. These resolutions approve the banks where the city deposits funds as well as the newspapers where legal documents need to be published.

5. We continue our efforts to master the computer programs to wrap up 2016 and start 2017. It has been a year since we were trained on the new budget program and we find ourselves "scratching our heads" to make sure things are done correctly. Because of this, the warrant register will not be sent to you with the rest of the agenda items today. We hope to have it ready to send to you on Monday so you can have time to review the expenditures prior to the meeting Tuesday night.

6. I have completed my final review of the 2016 budget and have made several notes for the commission and new manager to consider when preparing the 2018 budget. There are so many unknowns when staff prepares a budget 18 months ahead of when the fiscal year concludes in December. We never know when severe weather, including lightning, will hit and cause damage to the electrical components at the sewer treatment plant and the electrical system. Another problem is we don't always know when people plan to retire the next

year which can cause a large payout of vacation and sick leave. This will happen in 2017. Repairs to vehicles can catch us off guard as a great deal of the equipment is getting old which requires more maintenance. While holding expenses might look good, it can be very bad as staff tries to live within the approved budget. Because of the recently adopted state legislation, I worry about the tax supported funds' ability to provide the level of service we have in the past several years. Hopefully the matter of the ethanol plant's assessed valuation can be resolved quickly so the city, county and school district can accurately know what their mill levies will be.

Something else I am looking at is ways to increase revenues for the general fund. We have discussed this briefly but need to give it serious consideration as soon as we can.

7. Since the last meeting, vacancies have occurred on two (2) of the city advisory boards. Dave Lybarger has resigned from the Airport Advisory Board saying his schedule doesn't allow him the time he feels he needs to commit to be a good member of the board. Scott Rogers resigned from the Garnett Community Foundation as he has decided to direct his efforts to the Your Community Foundation in Allen County. Both advisory boards would like a chance to contact people to serve on their respective board then make recommendations to the commission. Both boards will require city residency for their vacancies.

8. Andy Frye has submitted his notice that he will retire the end of March. I will list this job opening in the local papers and on HR Partners as I feel it is very important to have someone in place that can work with Andy as long as possible. Andy is the Building Official/Zoning Officer which is a very important position in our city ranks.

9. The winter weather is being handled very well by all departments. The town border stations are keeping up with the natural gas demand; street crews had no problems taking care of the roads; trash crews, utility departments and the meter reader are tolerating the very cold weather as best they can.

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