



City Manager's Report

May 8th, 2018

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

The past couple of weeks have been extremely busy with a staff shortage. City Clerk Kristina Kinney has taken some time off and so for the time being Nancy Hermreck will be serving as our Interim City Clerk. We have hired Linda Vestal part-time as a utility clerk and her first day was today, May 2nd. We are still in the process of looking for a wastewater operator, water operator, and will also be looking for a street department employee as Mr. Farrell King has informed us of his pending retirement in June. We also still have vacancies on the airport board, walker art committee, and tourism committee.

The rest of this week I plan to be in Wichita for the annual Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) Conference and Board Meeting for KMEA and KMGA. City staff, City Attorney Solander and I held a meeting earlier this week regarding our procedures regarding code enforcement and I believe we will see significant improvement with regard to these issues throughout the community in the coming months. As you may be aware, we recently had two police chases in or near the community, with one unfortunately resulting in a fatality. Our department was minimally involved in both cases. I have discussed our standard operating procedures regarding the Fire Department responding the medical calls with Chief Tate and have attached some background information in your packet from Captain J.D. Mersman regarding these situations as well. Our procedures are geared toward only responding in situations in which we legitimately have an opportunity of making a difference in a life saving situation. I believe the prevalence of such situations here recently has caused the perception that our fire trucks and department respond to situations frequently which may be unwarranted.

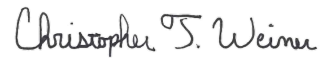
We have been awarded designation as a Qualified Opportunity Zone from Governor Colyer. We are still awaiting particulars of this program and how exactly it will work – as the State is still awaiting particulars from the Federal Government – but recognition deserves to be given to Director of Community Development Susan Wettstein as well as Student Government Representative Will Mechnig for their efforts in coming up with ideas for potential projects for the program and Mrs. Wettstein’s success in securing the designation for Garnett. Mrs. Wettstein recently attended the Heartland Economic Development Conference and I believe she has returned with valuable information and tools to help facilitate economic development in our community.

As for the agenda items, item A is for discussion of possibly increasing the number of City Commissioners from three (3) to five (5). Item B is regarding the renewal of the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. As addressed in my last report, the County has decided to expand the boundaries of their participation in this program to generally those areas south of First (1st) Avenue and east of Maple Street. Through discussions with the County Commission, I believe it is also their preference to approve a five (5) year agreement rather than two (2) years. If you are agreeable to increasing the term to five (5) years and desire to keep the other parameters we have had in the past the same, I will have a resolution prepared for your approval at the next City Commission meeting. I recommend we set up two special meeting dates to hold workshops to discuss the 2019 budget, streets plan, and city code on June 9th and June 23rd from 8 – 12 a.m. each day. The semi-monthly bills and payroll total is \$158,713.41.

Kenneth Amaya is this month’s employee of the month. Mr. Amaya has went above and beyond the call of duty in preparing himself for and passing his Class III Operator certification with the State of Kansas. Ken is an excellent employee, a terrific leader and a true team builder. I am proud to recognize Ken for his service to our community. We have prepared both City email addresses and business cards for you, please let me know if you want any additional information on your business cards. This year’s Celebration of Service will be on May 24th at 7:00 P.M. and the Joint City/County meeting will be at Mr. D’s at 6:00 P.M. on June 18th unless you are unable to make this time, in which case I request alternative dates to take back to the County Commission.

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 black ink that reads "Christopher T. Weiner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager

Employee of the Month



April 2018

*The City of Garnett recognizes
Kenneth Amaya*

in recognition of his dedication, passion and hard work.

Thank you Kenneth for your service to our community.

Signed Christopher T. Weimer *Date* May 2nd, 2018