

April 3, 2017
Garnett, Kansas

The Governing Body of the City of Garnett met in special session on April 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall for a joint city/county Commission meeting. Those present: W. Gordon Blackie, Mayor; Greg A. Gwin and Jody M. Cole, City Commissioners; Joyce E. Martin, City Manager; Terry J. Solander, City Attorney; Jerry Howarter, Les McGhee and Dave Pracht, County Commissioners and James Campbell, County Counselor. Absent: Kristina L. Kinney, City Clerk and Julie Heck, County Clerk. No citizens were present.

After the meal, the meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Gordon Blackie.

Whereupon the written request for said meeting as signed by Commissioners Blackie, Gwin and Cole was read as follows:

We, the undersigned Commissioners of the City of Garnett, Kansas respectfully request that a special meeting of the Governing Body of the City of Garnett, Kansas be held at the City Hall at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of considering the following items, to-wit:

1. Joint City/County Commission Meeting
2. Any other lawful business to come before the Governing Body

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ W. Gordon Blackie

/s/ Greg A. Gwin

/s/ Jody M. Cole

Whereupon the written request for said meeting was entered at length on the journal.

Commissioner Gwin asked if the county road crews would be able to chip and seal any roads for the city this year. Prices provided by Lester Welsh, county road supervisor, do not provide enough information for the City to determine an actual cost to chip and seal. County Commissioner Les McGhee said it would be the city's responsibility to measure the length and width of each road to be repaired. The City Manager said this had been done. The cost of road rock is predicted to increase by 75 cents per ton. The county commissioners said Lester

had estimated that it would cost approximately \$120,000 to chip and seal seven (7) miles of road. It was suggested that the city should consider doing a leveling course on selected streets this year followed by the county doing the chip and seal in 2-3 years.

Problems with the Anderson County Landfill supervisor were discussed. The City Manager outlined several incidents of his refusal to take certain materials which caused street crews to go to Allen or Franklin County. Comments he has made to city employees were discussed. The County Commissioners apologized for these incidents, saying the city wasn't the only one who has had problems with him. They asked that they be contacted as soon as these incidents occur.

Location of an iron sculpture on a county building was discussed. The County Commissioners will let the City Manager know which building it should be placed on.

Replacement of the sidewalk and curb along the south side of the one-way parking lot was discussed. County Commissioner Howarter said he recalled that the county chose not to replace this sidewalk several years ago because they felt it was the city's responsibility since it adjoined the one-way. Estimates to replace the sidewalk and curb are \$25,000 - \$30,000. The County Commissioners suggested that the sidewalk be torn out and not replaced; rather consider planting grass because they believe very few people use the sidewalk. The City Commissioners concurred and instructed the city manager to get cost estimates to replace the curb only.

City Commissioner Gwin said the commission continues their search for a new city manager and are in negotiations with one of the candidates.

City Commissioner Gwin thanked the county for allowing free dumping at the landfill during the spring and fall clean-ups. Thanks were also offered for allowing free dumping of residential structures that are torn down in the city.

County Commissioner Howarter discussed the following items:

1. Refinancing the bonds for the reconstruction of Highway 169 and Seventh Street. The city manager will check with Piper Jaffray to determine if these bonds are callable.
2. Installation of a system computer to operate the heating and air conditioning systems at the Law Enforcement Center. It is estimated that the cost to install this system will be recouped in 4-5 years because of reduced utility bills.

3. Repairs of the courthouse roof will require a 150' crane to be in the one-way and in the street on each side of the courthouse. A pad will be laid under the outriggers but the possibility exists that a footprint might be left in the asphalt.
4. Installation of a new elevator at the west door of the courthouse from the basement to the third floor is planned.
5. A new heavy-duty lift will be installed at the county shop to service the county fire trucks. This will make it much easier and safer for county maintenance personnel to work on heavier pieces of equipment.
6. Provided an update on East Kansas Agri-Energy's appeal before the Board of Tax Appeals. There are two (2) issues to this appeal, one dealing with classification of the property and fixtures and the other with what they are actually valued at. This will require two (2) separate hearings. The County has hired an appraiser and outside legal counsel to help with this case. To date they have paid \$25,000 for the appraisal. Part of the problem is that BOTA is not bound by previous rulings, rather they have to start over for this particular plant.
7. They are waiting on the committee to meet again to finalize the names that are to be placed on the veteran's memorial wall to be located on the north side of the courthouse. Leon Lickteig is the contractor.
8. Asked if the city had received a letter from the Chamber about the fireworks display. The City Manager explained that the Chamber doesn't have the needed funds to do this anymore. City Commissioner Gwin said that perhaps transient guest tax funds should be used. No decision was made.
9. The County's health insurance continues to rise. The possibility of the city and county joining together under one plan will be investigated.
10. Finding volunteer firefighters continues to be a problem. The same holds true for law enforcement officers.

Discussion was held on a date for the next joint meeting. It will be July 10, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Everyone agreed the city commission meeting room is the best place to hold these meetings. The County will be the host.

At 8:25 p.m. a short recess was taken. The County Commissioners left the meeting.

At 8:30 p.m., the meeting was called back to order. The City Manager discussed a grant she had submitted on behalf of the Garnett Community Foundation and the “firestorm” it had caused with a local individual and grant writer. The manager stated this was the grant she discussed in her general report dated March 28, 2017 and she wanted to make sure the commission remembered the discussions about the grant.

The City Manager left the meeting at this point.

At 8:35 p.m., Commissioner Cole moved to go into executive session with the City Attorney present to discuss contract negotiations with Christopher T. Weiner, candidate for city manager, for one hour. The motion carried unanimously.

At 9:35 p.m., the commission came out of executive session. Mayor Blackie moved to recess this special meeting, the same to resume at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, 2017 in the commission room at City Hall. In the interim, the city attorney was directed to continue background and reference checking of the candidate. Motion carried unanimously.

The special meeting called for Monday, April 3, 2017 and recessed to 7:30 p.m. on April 5, 2017 was reconvened and called to order in the commission room by Mayor Blackie at 7:30 p.m. with the following present: W. Gordon Blackie, Mayor; Greg A. Gwin and Jody M. Cole, City Commissioners and Terry J. Solander, City Attorney. Not present: Joyce E. Martin, City Manager and Kristina L. Kinney, City Clerk.

Upon coming to order, Mayor Blackie moved and Commissioner Gwin seconded that the commission go into executive session for one (1) hour to discuss personnel, specifically to continue discussions with City Attorney Solander regarding hiring a new city manager. The motion carried unanimously.

At 8:35 p.m., the commission came out of executive session and in open meeting, Mayor Blackie moved and Commissioner Gwin seconded to extend the executive session for 30 minutes for the same purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

At approximately 9:00 p.m., the discussions in executive session having been completed, the commission awaited until 9:05 p.m. at which time the open meeting resumed. Brief discussions with City Attorney Solander to exchange e-mail information were held.

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At 9:06 p.m., Commissioner Cole made a motion to adjourn, said motion seconded by Mayor Blackie. The motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

s/ W. Gordon Blackie

Mayor

Attest:

s/ Kristina L. Kinney

City Clerk