



## **City Manager's Report**

September 22, 2020

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

The past couple of weeks have been nice with some cooler weather. I've been meeting with staff on various operational, budgetary, and residential issues as well as attending our committee meetings for the Visioning and Strategic Plan Steering Committee, Planning Commission, and Economic Development. At the Planning Commission meeting, there was a request to rezone a property on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue from residential (R-3) to commercial (B-1) which was unanimously recommended for approval. Given that this month has five Tuesdays rather than the typical four, the applicant has requested that we hold a special meeting for consideration of this request if the Commission is available. As you may recall, the rezoning process provides for a fourteen (14) day protest period after the Planning Commission meeting for an opposition petition to be filed. The conclusion of this fourteen-day period will be September 29<sup>th</sup>, so if the Commission would like to hold a meeting anytime on the 30<sup>th</sup> or thereafter to accommodate this request we certainly can. We will likely have a contract with KwiKom to potentially consider at such a meeting as well as the contract is still currently under development. Otherwise, we will need to wait until our next regularly scheduled meeting, October 13<sup>th</sup>, to take up these topics. After conferring with our auditor, we have been advised to disregard the executive order deferring the 6.2% payroll tax, and still collect and submit these taxes as normal. Our staff has been almost unanimous on preferring this route regardless, as owing it next year is certainly not desirable. I spoke with the County Commission again regarding clean-up week and it is still their intention to provide an annual free 1,000-pound dump voucher starting next year in lieu of our normal two clean-up weeks. They stated at their meeting that these vouchers will be sent out with tax documentation at the end of the year. I conducted interviews for Water Treatment Plant Operators, and I hope to have another operator starting shortly. I am also still advertising for a Director of Public Works in hopes of finding a viable candidate who is a good fit.

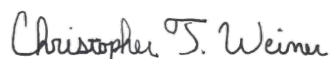
I reviewed the email billing proposal from City Clerk Wilson and hope to have that finalized and ready for presentation for our first meeting in October. I am still requesting times from each of you to finalize the Municipal Code review before the end of 2020. I am willing to meet via Zoom or however we can make this happen as it desperately needs completed. Tomorrow will be the preconstruction meeting for the reconstruction of the airport's fueling apron project and we are looking forward to getting it kicked off. Our airport continues

to see increased traffic and is being a tourism generator. I have received confirmation from County Emergency Management Director JD Mersman that we have been approved for funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the community storm shelter that we are installing near the law enforcement impound building. As you may recall, our share of this \$24,000 project is \$6,000 as the County is also covering \$6,000 while FEMA pays \$12,000. Director of Economic Development Julie Turnipseed and I met with the Mayor of Topeka and candidate for our district's U.S. House Seat, Michelle De La Isla, and we spoke about our community's strengths and challenges.

This meeting's agenda is rather short with just a few items with the first being the consideration of a CDBG-CV grant in the amount of \$5,087.17 to Cut-N-Up Barber Shop. The second topic is the appointment of two voting delegates for the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) Annual Business Meeting. Traditionally, the Commission has appointed the Mayor and the City Manager as the voting delegates for these positions, with the Mayor Pro-Tempore and City Clerk as alternate delegates. This entire conference and business meeting will be completed virtually this year with an online platform. I have included a copy of the League's flyer for more information about this year's conference. Please let me know if you would like to attend virtually, as we will need to get you registered within the next couple of days. The final item on the agenda is the consideration of the semi-monthly bills and payroll in the amount of \$144,663.17.

Thank you all for allowing me to continue to serve this wonderful Garnett community as our City Manager.

Sincerely,

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

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager