

November 28, 2017  
Garnett, Kansas

The Governing Body of the City of Garnett met in regular session on November 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with the following present: W. Gordon Blackie, Mayor; Jody M. Cole and Greg A. Gwin, City Commissioners; Chris Weiner, City Manager; Kristina L. Kinney, City Clerk; and Terry J. Solander, City Attorney. Also attending: Will Mechnig, ACHS Youth in Government Representative.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Blackie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by Bill Driver, Pastor of the United Methodist Church, giving the invocation.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Gwin stated on page 3, second paragraph, the minutes should be changed to read "...move their purchases to another provider"; page 4, fourth paragraph should read "...might be worse"; and page 6, first paragraph should read "...taxes should be increased, and that we are 1 mill lower". A motion was made by Commissioner Gwin, seconded by Commissioner Cole to approve the minutes of November 14, 2017 as amended. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; Noes – none.

### **GOVERNING BODY REPORTS**

Mayor Blackie stated there was a meeting with the engineer on the water plant on November 14, 2017 and asked for an update. City Manager Weiner reported not much savings came out of that meeting, other than eliminating the ultraviolet (UV) disinfectant equipment at a savings of \$272,900.00. On November 24, 2017 a letter was received from Patrick McCool, Kansas Rural Water Association, where three (3) items could have a major impact to lower the price. The letter indicated that the Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC) engineer thinks water is coming from the north lake and the ethanol plant gets that now. PEC based their data on a five (5) year period of 2010 to 2015, when we drew water from the south lake. The data showed high magnesium and since putting in the water line from Cedar Creek, the magnesium has dropped. Mr. McCool believes since we are dumping into the south lake, we are polluting our own water. Mr. McCool questions if the proposed plant might be providing for more sedimentation removal than we need. In addition, Mr. McCool felt it might be possible for the ethanol plant to still get their clean water supply from the old plant and only supply residents with the new plant so we wouldn't need as large of a plant. However that is not an option due to the condition of the old plant and in the near future faced with needing to supply the ethanol plant with their needs from the new plant.

Mayor Blackie stated we need to do our due diligence and have another meeting before we go any further. He wants another meeting scheduled, when he can attend, with the engineer and include the KRWA expert at this meeting. City Manager Weiner will schedule the meeting.

Commissioner Gwin stated he talked to Ken Amaya, Water & Gas Director, today and he has a change of opinion on what he originally thought on the water plant in terms of the proposed \$13 million cost for the new plant. Based on further discussions, he feels as if that number may be accurate to fulfill our needs.

Commissioner Cole said in addition to the UV equipment savings, we could possibly eliminate the need for a basin if the reduced levels of iron and magnesium are low enough.

City Manager Weiner reported we have not charged the costs for the treated waste water that the ethanol plant uses. The ethanol plant has significant expenses in treating the water they obtain. If we increase the plant size to two (2) million gallon capacity rather than one and a half (1 1/2) million gallons, the ethanol plant might help finance since they won't have the expense of treating their non-potable water they get from us. Commissioner Gwin stated the City has a big win with the State because the ethanol plant is using the water from the sewer plant.

Commissioner Gwin questioned if the city manager had met with any of the rural water districts. City Manager Weiner replied he has not. He met with City Attorney Solander to review the contracts and whether we have the ability to modify the contracts with a rate increase.

Commissioner Gwin stated the Christmas Parade was the best he's seen in a while and the weather was beautiful.

Will Mechnig questioned whether it would be possible for the schools to tour the water plant or if there was a liability concern. City Attorney Solander replied a tour would have to be structured to keep out of the dangerous areas of the plant.

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gwin, seconded by Commissioner Cole to appoint Michael Brown to fill the vacant position on the airport advisory board, expiring January 1, 2019. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; Noes – none.

City Manager Weiner requested tabling the appointment to the Standing Committee for Artwork. An interested applicant has not submitted the letter of interest.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cole, seconded by Commissioner Gwin to give City employees a \$200.00 Christmas bonus. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; Noes – none.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gwin, seconded by Mayor Blackie to approve the semi-monthly claims in the amount of \$338,434.20. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; Noes – none.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

The general report of City Manager Christopher T. Weiner was received and discussed, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Commissioner Cole stated she received the warrants at 5:00 p.m. today and asked to receive those at least by the Friday before a meeting so they can review them. City Manager Weiner reported that he will have the agenda packet out this Friday for the next meeting and he will send the warrants out the week prior to the meeting.

The 2017 election certification was provided to the governing body.

City Manager Weiner reported that the public hearing for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant request for three (3) vehicles will be held at the next city commission meeting. The grant would provide 55% funding by USDA if approved.

City Manager Weiner reported the City's Christmas party will be on December 15, 2017 at the Garnett Knights of Columbus Hall at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Governing Body, Mayor Blackie adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

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s/ W. Gordon Blackie

Mayor

Attest:

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s/Kristina L. Kinney

City Clerk