



## **City Manager's Report**

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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

Over the past couple of weeks we he have been following up on a variety of things and moving forward on others. I've been working with the Anderson County Director of Emergency Management to try and prepare ourselves as best as possible for reimbursement for expenses and damages incurred due to the flooding event we observed last October. City Clerk Wilson and I attended the preliminary disaster reimbursement applicant briefing. We are in the process of compiling information on all of our expenses to submit for consideration and potential reimbursement. The largest item we are hoping to receive reimbursement for is damages out at the reservoir which has caused the significant erosion and headcut in the spillway. Any eligible expenses will be fifteen percent (15%) our responsibility, and reimbursed from the State ten percent (10%), and from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) seventy-five percent (75%). I also attended the Anderson County Development Agency's (ACDA's) monthly meeting and along with Director Turnipseed, answered questions regarding some potential opportunities. I met with local real estate agent and business owner Beth Mersman and a couple of contractors regarding some potential senior housing development possibilities. I will be working with our staff to look to realize this possibility. I asked Director of Public Works Amaya about the possibility of recapping our trash truck tires and he prepared a report (included in your packet) addressing this topic. As noted in the last meeting, we are hosting the Municipal Training Institute Class from the League of Kansas Municipalities at the Garnett Public Library on April fifth (5<sup>th</sup>). As of writing this on Tuesday evening, we have eighteen (18) people registered, with participants coming from as far as Marysville, which is north of Manhattan. We are conducting

interviews this week for the open front office position and we hope to have someone started toward the beginning of next month. I've also been communicating with our engineers on some ongoing projects as well as meeting with other engineers on potential future projects.

This meeting's agenda is fairly full with a plethora of significant discussion topics. First up I have a presentation and proposal from Jason Hoskinson of BG Consultants regarding a proposal to submit a City Connecting Links Improvement Project (CCLIP) grant proposal to the Kansas Department of Transportation for stormwater drainage installation along Maple Street. As discussed at the last meeting, this carries with it a hefty price tag and if desired, we may need to consider financing the project in some fashion. Mr. Hoskinson is also the engineer who completed our Cedar Valley Reservoir Dam Inspection, and is working on our City Map and Boundary update. He is also working on providing me quotes and preliminary budget numbers on some other projects as well. After Mr. Hoskinson, I have Kirk Jurgensen and Michael Frimel from WDM Architects attending to present their proposal on the police department remodel. I have attached their documentation outlining their process proposal in the packet. Out of the firms we met with, WDM is the only firm who has actually indicated significant interest in the project.

Following the aforementioned proposal, Jenny Myers from the Garnett Business and Professional Women (BPW) is planning to attend and request on behalf of the BPW for their annual Garnett Square Fair event, that we close down fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) avenue as well as Oak Street for the event. Due to the construction on the County Courthouse lawn, they will be unable to utilize their usual location for vendors and are hoping to relocate to the street. To my understanding Mrs. Myers is contacting the impacted business owners and obtaining their permission as well as attempting to solve parking concerns. The next item is a resolution indicating Commission support for our community becoming Work Ready Certified. I attended a briefing from the State Department of Education in conjunction with officials from a variety of disciplines including high school education, economic development, and various business leaders. I believe this program could be extremely beneficial for our community as it will be a valuable tool to assist in assessing and improving our workforce development efforts, provide local opportunities for our youth to find successful careers in our local community, and potentially help draw or incentivize business expansion within our community. All of these are specific successes of the

same program in other communities, such as Potawatomie County in northern Kansas. Chief of Police Kurt King has requested to be placed on the agenda to again ask of the Commission to consider and provide guidance on the possibility of transitioning to the Kansas Police and Fire (KP&F) retirement system. As stated in the past, Chief King believes this will be a significant step towards recruiting and especially retaining our law enforcement officers. Chief King is also planning to make his presentation on a vehicle purchase request.

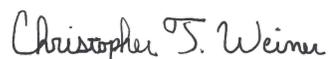
The next item is an agreement with utility service partners who provide an insurance service for our local residents for their own private utility lines. This particular group is highly recommended by the League of Kansas Municipalities and has been working with multiple Kansas communities, and others around the nation, for a few years. As you will notice in the agreement, we would be allowing them to use our logo and likely my signature on their marketing materials. The agreement would be for a term of three (3) years and they would be allowed to send out mailers up to six times within a year. The City would bear no cost, as their staff would manage the marketing, selling the products, and dealing with any claims. The City would generate a minimal amount of revenue as we would receive a small fee (similar to our other franchise fees) per product they sell (\$0.50 per month per product). My main interest is due to the education that this program would provide to all of our residents with explaining what their personal responsibility is. I believe this could cut down on the City receiving future claims for damages as people will hopefully either purchase the insurance, or at least be aware that a situation resulting from their own infrastructure problems, is their responsibility to repair. We have no time limit on this agreement so if more time is desired to think on and discuss the topic that is certainly reasonable. I just wanted to bring it up as to this point I have heard of no negative experiences from this program and I believe it presents some advantages. The next item is the presentation of the initial broad goals that I've come up with for a community focused strategic, comprehensive plan. These are all very broad in nature and need to be drilled down into realistically at least two deeper levels, but I would recommend we engage the community for these discussions. I have been using other well-crafted plans to try and put together a rough plan for us, but without community buy-in, I don't expect for such a plan to receive much support or be accomplished.

The next item is the discussion of our city code provision which mandates conducting loyalty oaths for all of our employees. Due to some concerns in implementation, I have placed it on the agenda for your direction on how to move forward. I also believe it would be valuable for us to restart our efforts to work through and pass our updated City Code. Given that Thursdays seem to be a day which typically works, if we may be able to set something up for the next couple of Thursdays that could get us back started. If something else works better please let me know. The last item is our bills and payroll at a total of \$153,387.21. This payroll total is higher than usual due to the inclusion of the annual clothing allowance for City employees and Mr. Olson's final payout of accrued leave time. We had originally planned to provide uniforms for some departments rather than the clothing allowance as requested by City staff members in those departments. However, those staff members have since left or changed their minds and no longer wish to transition to uniforms. Additionally, we have ran into significant billing problems with our uniform company and therefore have just decided to issue the clothing allowance for this year as has been the tradition. We may revisit this discussion down the road in future years.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation just recently released their county health rankings and we in Anderson County sit slightly below average in their rankings. We can certainly improve these rankings and I think when putting together a strategic, community plan is the best time set some goals on what we want to see and then set out how we're going to accomplish it. Allen County has undertaken similar efforts and has seen their ranking this year jump from 85<sup>th</sup> last year to 38<sup>th</sup> this year. There is absolutely nothing that is impossible for us to accomplish, and as always, I'm looking forward to taking on these challenges.

Please let me know if you have any questions and as always, I appreciate the opportunity to serve this wonderful Garnett community as your City Manager.

Sincerely,

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

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager