



City Manager's Report

May 26th, 2020

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

I would first like to congratulate Mayor Brecheisen-Huss on her new baby girl. It is an incredibly exciting time and I am happy for you.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have continued to manage the ever-changing situation regarding the ongoing pandemic. Additionally, I have conducted interviews for our open Director of Public Works position and have been pleased with the quality of candidates we had apply. I have offered the position to an individual that I hope to be able to announce at our Commission meeting. Additionally, I have been working with Director of Economic Development Julie Turnipseed, Anderson County Clerk Julie Wettstein, and Anderson County Commissioner Jerry Howarter on making joint applications for funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coronavirus-19 grant program recently released. I appreciate each of these individuals, especially the team of Julie's for spearheading the effort to put together quality applications for each of us. This funding is on a first come, first serve basis, but given the amount of funding requests expected within such a short time period – we expect most communities will receive less than they requested. We are working with the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission (SEKRPC) who is helping with the grant writing and application, as well as they will manage the administration and auditing required as part of a CDBG grant. SEKRPC has extensive experience working with CDBG grants and as such, they should provide enormous value. They get paid via an administrative fee, taking a portion of any grant dollars received. Being in their twelve-county region, we do not have to pay any upfront fee for the grant writing and application services.

As was mentioned at the last meeting, Commissioner Gwin discovered and reported an issue with an apparent tunnel underneath the south lake spillway. I asked Jason Hoskinson from BG Consultants for his thoughts on the situation after sending him some pictures and a video. I've included his response in your packet, but to summarize, he would suggest replacing the spillway box structure entirely (due to its condition) and fix the tunneling, or "piping" underneath the spillway through a few different options. His estimated cost is approximately \$100,000.

Due to the recent rains over the past month, we have seen increased runoff of dirt, grass, leaves, and other debris and chemicals into our public water supply at Cedar Valley Reservoir. These result in increased levels of iron and manganese which cause discoloration and alterations in taste and odor. Our water quality levels never exceeded quality standards set by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) but in order to try and keep levels under control and maintain quality water, we have initiated a free chlorine burnout. This has been effective in reducing the level of iron and manganese in our drinking water. We plan to continue with the burnout for the next few weeks and will be flushing fire hydrants in conjunction with the burnout. I have attached the informational we issued regarding the burnout process.

I visited with our Kansas House Representative, Mark Samsel, multiple times within the past two weeks regarding the final day of the legislative session tomorrow (Thursday, May 21st) and the most concerning bills which are being considered for passage. Additionally, our auditors started our 2019 financial audit this week remotely and we're hoping to have it finalized within the next couple of months. I would like to thank Sami Jo Peine for assisting with the conversion of the camping reservations on to RecDesk. Sami has demonstrated exceptional knowledge of the program and has worked diligently to get the information online. As you know, Sami is still part-time at the Recreation Center. She is an ideal candidate for fulltime employment when the time is right, especially with the additional responsibilities that the camping reservations bring along with the successful programs she is already running.

As for the agenda, the first item is a public hearing for the CDBG-CV grant. We'll have this hearing shortly before the regular meeting, at 5:50 P.M. Following this public hearing, we'll have another public hearing (at 6:00 P.M.) for the USDA-RD Community Facilities grant application for the purchase of new police vehicles and in car laptops. After both of these hearings, we can start

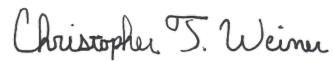
the regular meeting where I expect multiple members from the Garnett Country Club to be in attendance to request additional funding in order to offer benefits for their course superintendent. I also expect Carey Spoon to be in attendance from the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission (SEKRPC). As I mentioned earlier, Carey and the SEKRPC are assisting with the CDBG-CV grant and Carey will be taking the signed hard copies of the approval documents in order to submit them with our application. After the CDBG-CV discussion, the grant application through USDA for the police department's vehicles is next. Item D, is an ordinance we have spoken about previously, regulating parallel generation. This ordinance sets in place rules for any customer tied into our electric grid who has behind the meter generation capabilities (or wishes to install such capability). This is recommended for safety purposes as well as well as to modify our existing rate structure to prevent all other customers from subsidizing the electric tie in from a customer with parallel generation. I have included all of the application materials and the required process for connecting parallel generation facilities to our system. I would suggest you review and offer feedback on this ordinance and table for action at our next meeting. As discussed at the last meeting, item E is consideration of establishing a landbank as this was tabled at the last meeting. Lastly, is the consideration of the bills and payroll in the amount of \$140,379.08.

Unless the Governor extends the prohibition on utility disconnects again, we will be able to disconnect utilities for non-payment on June 1st. However, our current plan is to issue letters to all of these customers letting them know of their delinquent status and that they will have their utilities disconnected on June 25th unless they have paid their bill in full or worked out an extended payment agreement with the city office. If you would like us to shut off utilities earlier, or to provide a more extended timeline, please discuss this and provide alternative direction. We have also completed our water tower inspections of both water towers. As you can see from the included report and photographs, the mid-town water tower is in good condition but will likely need repainted within the next five to ten years. The west water tower, while much newer, is having issues with pitting and rust on the interior of the tank. Maguire Iron will return and fix these issues and repaint the areas which they address. Currently, we are still doing well with regard to other States and communities with regard to our Census self-response rate. While we

have dropped a little in the rankings, Kansas sits in 11th (out of 50 – 64%), Anderson County is 25th (out of 105 – 63.2%), and Garnett is 94th (out of 614 – 67.6%). As you know, getting our entire population counted is critical for a multitude of reasons, including federal and state funding and governmental representation.

Safety and health to all your families, and if you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Sincerely,

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

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager