



## **City Manager's Report**

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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

Over the past couple of weeks I have been working more on the budget conversion process and had meetings on that process with our auditor and our software provider, Tyler Technologies, in order to ensure we are going to wind up with the best results. I also met with a couple of our tenants who lease land from the City for farming purposes. I attended the County Commission meeting and provided them with our streets list and they indicated that Lester had visited with them about it and that they were leaving it in his hands. We also discussed the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan and they are open to expanding the parameters that the County participates in to most of the community south of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and east of Maple Street. I believe this will probably also be at least a five-year agreement proposed, rather than the customary two-year agreements. I would like to schedule a workshop to discuss our future street plans at some point in the near future. We have been working on a plan and pulling together pricing for equipment to be able to do chip and seal work ourselves as previously outlined.

In the recent planning for a new community event, it came to my attention that we have not historically charged for electric usage by vendors at community events. Some of these vendors are non-profits who use the event and the vendor stand as a fundraiser, and others are for-profit businesses. We have typically granted the Fair a set amount of electric usage (3,500 kWh last year) and then charged for their usage over that. We have also historically had in the agreements with the go-kart organizations (as you can see in this packet) a charge for refuse service. However, to my knowledge they are the only community events which have been obligated to pay for this service. In my opinion, as a general rule, we should not grant free utility

service to anyone. I want to be as supportive as possible of community events but I don't believe we should be providing free utilities to entities generating revenue off of that utility usage. Additionally, it becomes a challenge to determine what qualifies as a community event and what does not. Is it a question of the nature of the event? Is it a threshold of attendance? Are vendors who set up for the 100/50 mile run which just recently passed through town different than those who are at Cornstock? If vendors set up for recreational sport games do we give them free electricity? My belief is that we should charge for utilities in all of these scenarios. Our customers should not pay for the electric usage of another business making money off of that usage. Along the same lines of uniformity, I believe we should either charge all events for trash service or don't charge at all. I do not believe we should charge the go-karters for trash service when we don't charge other events which generate much more trash. My recommendation is to table the go-kart agreement on the agenda and have me remove the section relating to trash. I believe we should waive trash fees associated with any event (assuming the trash from the event is properly picked up), up until the point that the trash is beyond a full truck load. Once that point is reached, I will ask the County Commission if they will consider waiving the dumping fees for trash associated with that particular event (as the event will obviously benefit the County as well). By taking this approach, I believe we establish the best policy for the City while we also support our community events.

As for the agenda, item A is a proclamation designating the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month. Item B is a proclamation from the East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation (ECKAN) designating May as Community Action Month. Item C is the revised agreement with the Enduro Club as their spring event was postponed due to weather. As mentioned earlier, I recommend tabling this agreement to remove the trash fees section if you are in agreement with my proposal. Items D through G are the appointments to various City boards and committees whose terms are up or have existing vacancies. Item H is our semi-monthly checks and payroll in the amount of \$165,645.07.

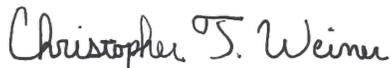
Police Officer Daniel Frazier is this month's Employee of the Month. Daniel is working hard to develop a new Police Explorer program. While Officer Frazier always has his hands full with his law enforcement duties, he has taken the initiative to research and implement this program for

our community's youth. Daniel's enthusiasm to inspire area youth in the career path of law enforcement and to be good citizens is admirable beyond the realm of his normal duties and exemplifies what we look for in our law enforcement professionals and all employees. Additionally, as mentioned last meeting, I believe Officer Frazier will be in attendance to offer a brief summary of the police explorer program. I would also like to congratulate Director of Gas and Water, Ken Amaya, on earning his Class III (3) Kansas Drinking Water Certified Operator. Director Amaya worked extremely hard, putting in numerous hours of his own personal time to be able to test for this certification earlier this week. Director Amaya was being hard on himself to make it in time to test this week as if he missed this test, the next available testing date is four months away in August. Director Amaya passed the Class III (3) Operator test on his first attempt, which has a fail ratio of 65% for first time test takers. I am extremely proud of Director Amaya and congratulate him on his hard work.

Unfortunately, we did not receive the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for a replacement firetruck that we were hoping for. As you can see in the included email from Garnett Fire Department Captain Mersman, we need to be planning for a replacement fire truck purchase sooner rather than later.

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

Sincerely,

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

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager