



City Manager's Report

July 14th, 2020

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

In my last report I informed you that in-person meetings had picked back up, and now unfortunately I am having to change my tune. We have returned our weekly staff meetings to Zoom and some advisory boards are also choosing to return to online meetings. I have followed the County's recommendation on the mask mandate and have recommended that all staff wear masks when dealing with the public. However, masks are mandatory for staff when dealing with the high-risk population, for example when we participate in the Meals on Wheels delivery program. I continue to attend the County Commission meetings in hopes of finding a solution to holding Clean-Up Week. Staff at the Anderson County Landfill still have concerns over their increase in refuse collections due to the pipeline project and out-of-county servicers and are uncertain if they will be able to allow us to hold the clean-up. My hopes are to come to an agreement with the County that will serve our residents without creating too large of a burden on Landfill staff.

Three more cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed this week in Anderson County, this continues to indicate that this virus is beginning to spread among our community. The task force continues to meet weekly via Zoom due to the increase in cases. I will echo what I stated in my last report, staff is still being encouraged to wash their hands, wear masks, and remain socially distanced when able. If cases continue to rise or if a city employee becomes exposed, I plan to return to rotational shifts and have employees who are able to, work from home. As you know, the situation is ever-changing, but the safety of the public and City staff is my top priority.

We have been very busy holding interviews for all of our open positions. Caleb Stephens recently left his position as a Utility Plant Operator to join the Navy, and we wish him luck on his endeavors and thank him for his service. Zach Smothers interviewed for and is transferring from his current Utility Plant Operator position into the open Public Works Laborer position. Jim Wilson will be retiring from his Utility Plant Operator position on July 31st. We are sad to see Jim leave but are excited to see what his retirement plans are. I would like to thank Jim for his 23 years of service with the City. It has been our pleasure working with him!

If you are keeping track, that leaves us with three open Utility Operator Positions that we have advertised and interviewed for. Joining our team to fill one of those positions is Patric Vandenberg. Patric shows great potential and we are excited to have him! We are hoping to make offers on the last two positions soon. I am also pleased to announce that we have filled our open Building Inspector and Zoning Official position. Garrett Gross will be joining us on the 27th of July to begin training with Mr. Frye. We are excited about the knowledge and skills that Mr. Gross brings to our organization! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Frye for once again filling in as our temporary Building Inspector and Zoning Official.

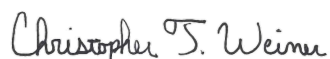
The first business item on the agenda is the presentation of our 2019 financial audit by our auditing firm, Jarred, Gilmore, and Phillips. As you can see from the included audit documentation, 2019 was another good year financially for the City. In the past two years (1/1/2018 – 12/31/2019), the City's audited financial position has improved by \$2,539,730.11. The City's financial position improved by \$1,439,908.90 in 2019 alone, a 20.86% increase in cash reserves compared to the beginning of the year (a 43.76% increase in cash reserves compared to the beginning of 2018). Second on the agenda is the consideration of amending the residency requirement policy. City Clerk Travis Wilson has compiled in his report a plethora of documentation to provide information on what other communities do as well as both response time comparisons and mileage comparisons to locations both within and outside of the County. My suggestion here is to consider which brings more value to the organization, a larger potential talent pool for staff, or physical property ties and paid taxes to the County. Both certainly have positives and negatives, but my recommendation would be that a larger talent pool to draw from for staff positions is the better option.

The third item on the agenda is consideration of amendments to recently passed ordinance 4212 related to Food Trucks. As you are aware, we have received a significant amount of negative feedback on this from the public and potential food vendors (mainly due to the \$300 licensing fee). However, we have ran into two other issues specifically relating to the length of time that was allotted for the vendors, and the types of vendors in which the Ordinance requires obtain a license. I have included the original ordinance that was passed and the proposed amendments for, what will be Ordinance 4213. Having this back on the agenda, I expect that we may have some citizen's to be heard requesting a decrease in the licensure fee or the establishment of a less expensive, shorter time frame permit. The next item is the consideration of the new agreement with the Garnett Country Club which they have approved. This meeting's bills and payroll total \$313,783.74.

I would like to recognize Sami Jo Peine as this month's Employee of the Month. Sami Jo has been doing an incredible job developing, organizing, and putting on numerous recreational events in this challenging pandemic landscape. Sami Jo always brings an upbeat and friendly attitude and is willing to help anyone with anything. While she is currently just a part time employee, she consistently goes above and beyond and has demonstrated exceptional creativity by organizing new events and activities for the children of Anderson County to participate in at no cost. In addition to the new youth programming she has covered shifts at the rec center when needed, wrote a terrific grant proposal for a Blue Cross Blue Shield grant (hopefully we'll get it next time), offers personal training services, and has started additional adult recreational programs such as pickleball. Sami Jo is personable, knowledgeable, as well as very enthusiastic about what she does. I am excited about the new programs that she is bringing to our community and we are very fortunate to have her in our community and on our City team. Thank you for your service Sami Jo! Her supervisor, Director of Parks and Recreation Phil Bures has drafted a more in-depth breakdown of what she does as well that I have included for your information.

Safety and health to all your families and thank you for continuing to allow me to serve this wonderful community of ours. 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