

GENERAL REPORT

November 8, 2016

1. Resolution 11/08/16-1 has been prepared authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the contract between the City and the Kansas League of Municipalities so the search for my replacement can begin.

2. At the last meeting there was some confusion about appointments to the economic development board. I have spent a considerable amount of time going back over minutes and memos regarding this matter. I have also talked to County Clerk Phyllis Gettler who researched the county records.

In February of 2006, the former city manager sent a letter to the County Clerk discussing what he deemed a "conflict" with the membership of this board because there were five (5) county residents compared to two (2) city residents. The original agreement said a minimum of three (3) members would be selected from within the corporate limits of the city so he was correct to call this matter to the county's attention. With the recent resignation of two (2) city residents and the relocation of another member from the city to the county, the make-up of this board has become lopsided again.

It is Terry's and my opinion that appointments to fill the unexpired terms of Bill Craig and Mike Hill need to be city residents. When another vacancy occurs, it should be replaced with a city resident. I am strong in my feelings about this because, in addition to the annual amount transferred from one of the utilities to economic development, the city provides office space, vacation, sick leave and holiday benefits and an administrative assistant to help with the preparation of agendas, reports and website creation. The County pays an annual amount.

Phyllis plans to talk to the County Commissioners to see if they want to continue with this appointment schedule, i.e. three (3) city residents appointed by the City Commission three (3) county residents appointed by the County Commission and the seventh member appointed by the board. Does the city commission wish to follow the original agreement?

3. Burt Peterson and I met with representatives from KsFiberNet on Thursday, October 29 to request an update on their plans to bring high speed internet service to Garnett. Tony Russell, who is VP of Business Development/Sales, Debbie Edwards and Bob Wallentine discussed the progress they have made so far. Burt and I were very impressed with Mr. Russell and his knowledge of what they hope to do in Garnett and the other cities. We told him that we need to have a cost estimate to install the fiber for the entire service area. Without that information, we can't help them "sell" their product to those businesses who might benefit from it the most. They have made contact with the school district and hospital.

A representative from their company will meet with the city's electrical engineer to walk the system to look at the existing poles in order to determine which ones they can attach to and which ones they can't because there is not enough span width between the services (cable, television and city) that exist on the poles at the present time.

We have asked for a larger map that shows the route they plan to follow with fiber installation. By having that, it will be easier for me to identify the location of businesses that might be interested in the high speed service then give their names to Debbie and let her make contact with them. Burt and I offered to do whatever we can to help.

It was agreed to meet sometime the third week of November to receive an update on their progress. We all agreed to meet on a regular schedule which I believe will encourage all of us to be diligent in whatever role we assume.

4. Terry continues to work on an agreement between the City and GENCO to install two (2) power beams on the water tower. We need to meet with the IT person for GENCO so we can get answers to some specific questions before the agreement can be finished.

5. The Chamber needs to know if any of the City Commissioners plan to ride on the float during the Christmas parade.

6. The City received a donation of \$1,840 from the Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival Group. They want it earmarked for improvements to the North Lake road therefore the money will be deposited in the Capital Improvement Fund where the majority of the street funds are.

Farrel and I continue to monitor the bridge on the east side of the North Lake and it appears to be holding up very well. We will do this throughout the winter months to determine what, if anything, needs to be done in the spring or early summer of 2017.

7. A contract engineer working for the phone company has been in Garnett most of the week as they continue to prepare plans to move their equipment along Walnut Street.

8. The final plans for the southbound turn lane on Highway 59 are being reviewed by the City, KDOT and MKEC who is the city's engineer on this project. We will either meet or have a conference call to make sure everyone understands what is going to happen and when. Superintendent Don Blome will be included in these discussions.

9. The beautiful weather helps crews complete their fall and summer projects. Street crews have been busy patching streets, trimming and removing trees and installing the new street name signs in the Fourth Ward. This is the final phase of this project. They have also been working on the airport administration building and have installed the new door.

Park crews have been busy closing bathrooms, spraying, mowing and trimming trees. When colder temperatures get here, they will start sorting through the tattered flags that fly at the cemetery during the Memorial Day holiday to replace them with new ones that were bought thanks to the generosity of the Brinkmeyer family and friends.

The fire department will be burning off a great deal of the weeds and grass on the north, west and east side of the North Lake as well as the native grass that surrounds the north side of the ball complex. They have been planning this for several months now. Some of the new firefighters need training on the new county grass fire truck so Pat is anxious for this to happen.

Electricians are installing the Christmas decorations along Highway 59 and in the downtown area.

I am reviewing all of the financial reports to see if there are any funds that will need to be amended before the end of the year.

City staff is preparing for the new utility billing conversion which will take place the end of this month. Conversion of the cemetery records is the last phase of the new computer software.

10. City Attorney Solander will not attend the meeting tonight.

11. City Hall and services will be closed on Friday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day.

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