



City Manager's Report

May 14th, 2019

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

Over the past few weeks we've been working on a variety of projects. I met with Director Hulett and a couple of different senior housing contractors. We conducted another airport master plan update meeting and are making progress on getting this update completed. We have also received notification that our grant application for crack sealing our airport runway has been approved by the Kansas Department of Transportation's (KDOT's) Aviation division. This grant will total up to \$40,500 with the City's match being \$4,500 for a total project cost of \$45,000. We are in the process of receiving bids.

Director of Public Works Ken Amaya, Foreman of Streets and Stormwater Jason Wettstein, and I met with representatives from KDOT and BG Consultants to discuss the storm water issues on Maple Street. While there are numerous project submittals from across our region and only four projects of these will be selected for funding, I am optimistic about our chances for funding. Unfortunately, the City Connecting Link Improvement Program (CCLIP) grant program parameters are rigid and therefore, KDOT was unwilling to increase their project share above \$1,000,000; even though they have maintenance responsibilities for the road and we are improving the road and saving them future money. As you know, if we are awarded the grant from KDOT, our responsibility for the project will be \$400,000.00. I have been working on a financing mechanism in which we can hopefully utilize our utility reserves to finance our grant match, and then repay those reserves to the utilities over the next few years. This financing mechanism will keep resources available for some transportation projects this year and next, while also minimizing the interest paid from our transportation dollars in the coming years to complete the project.

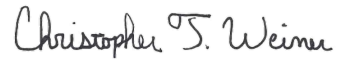
Fire Chief Tate and Director Mills have been tasked with overseeing the City's Emergency Operations Plan. The committee has met several times and is actively working to create a useable EOP plan for Garnett. We are holding an emergency operation exercise next week. I hope to build on this exercise to include other community agencies and organizations to be better prepared as a community in the event of a significant emergency or disaster. As you may know, the Methodist Church is currently our only severe weather shelter. I have been working with County Emergency Management Director J.D. Mersman on developing other storm shelters. I have been working with Director Amaya and Foreman Wettstein on a street improvement plan that will be ready by our next Commission meeting for your review. Director Mills and I met with our engineers and contractor on the SCADA system and Cooling Tower improvements and we will see both projects commence here shortly. I attended a meeting put together by Director of Economic Development Julie Turnipseed with local lenders and contractors to discuss our problems with housing and deteriorating properties. I believe this was an extremely valuable meeting and we hope to build on it with future discussion and progress on this front. Director Mills and I will be attending the KMU Annual Conference this week in Wichita.

This meeting's agenda is very light again as most of what we have is informational in nature. There are a couple of sets of minutes to approve and the lone action item is on the bills in the amount of \$358,986.64. This total is larger than normal due to the payment of our annual premium for property and liability insurances (\$176,872).

This month's Employee of the Month is Director of Parks and Recreation Phil Bures as Phil has spent a considerable amount of time and effort in keeping the department going while being shorthanded, working through part failures, and more. He has worked to minimize his overtime while also filling in at the Rec Center. He has worked tirelessly on ballfield maintenance, learning and then putting our new equipment to work. He also maintains the RecDesk website, consistently updating it with accurate and changing information. His passion and dedication to wanting to bring a health and wellness perspective to the recreation center in the midst of all that he has going on is commendable. Thank you Phil for always bringing a high level of passion and dedication to our parks and recreation system.

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

Sincerely,

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

Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager