



## **City Manager's Report**

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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

The past few weeks have been busy as we've been preparing for the rescheduled Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival, Halloween festivities, and starting to prepare for the winter and Christmas season. We have just experienced our first snow and the community looks picturesque in my opinion. We saw our local election results conclude with a incumbent victory for Mayor Cole and a majority of the community voted in support of the move to a five-member City Commission. Please provide me with direction on how to proceed in this regard as there are numerous possibilities. We have been working on various projects including another airport grant, the KDHE water loan application, plans for electric system improvements, police department staffing issues, and working toward our health insurance renewal with a new benefits consultant. I am also in the process of interviewing candidates for our open City Clerk position. We also saw the opening of our recreation center as a 24-hour facility and Bettis completed the street paving projects in town.

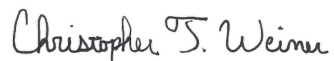
This agenda sees a proposal for a prepaid natural gas option for our natural gas supply. As you will see in the documentation, the plan is to essentially purchase natural gas ahead of time at discounted prices in the expectation that we will see a cost savings as a result. This is similar to the process we already go through for both natural gas and electricity but this will require Commission approval once KMEA distributes the contracts. As we previously addressed, the wastewater department is in need of a different vehicle to haul our sludge from the treatment facility. As requested by Commissioner Gwin, we reached out the equipment supplier he named and found another option that, while not cheaper, is much preferred. As you will see

in the attached documentation, the two options we are considering are a 2008 or a 2013 Ford F-550. In conducting research and from prior experience, I believe the 2008 F-550's are rather unreliable and costly due to engine issues. The 2013 has the additional benefit of being two feet longer, allowing us to haul the same tonnage of waste sledge spread out over a larger area, thereby reducing the risk of waste being piled up too high. While the cost is obviously more than we would like, I recommend purchasing the 2013 F-550. I have also compiled a utility and fees rate comparison with a few neighboring communities to try and give an idea of where we stand compared to our peers. As I mentioned previously, I believe we need to adjust our rates to make them more stable and to also increase revenue for our utilities (with the most pressing being wastewater and sanitation). Our bills and payroll for this cycle total \$188,249,33.

Jenny Schooler is this month's employee of the month as she is a wonderful employee and always has a smile on. I commend Jenny for her constantly positive attitude and bubbly personality. She is an incredibly hard worker and always seeks opportunities to assist others where she can. October's financials look to be sitting fairly well as we continue to have a good year in this regard. Unfortunately, one of the biggest reasons for this financial success is that we are and have been understaffed due to challenges in finding employees to fill our vacancies. With the improving economy and low unemployment, we are seeing the unfortunate effect of losing employees to better paying positions that become available. The Chamber's annual Christmas Parade is the Saturday after Thanksgiving and I encourage your attendance and participation if available.

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,



Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager