

October 30, 2017
Garnett, Kansas

The Governing Body of the City of Garnett met in special session on October 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall with the following present: W. Gordon Blackie, Mayor; Jody M. Cole and Greg A. Gwin, City Commissioners; Christopher T. Weiner, City Manager; and Kristina L. Kinney, City Clerk; Jerry Howarter and Les McGhee, County Commissioners; Julie Heck, County Clerk; and James Campbell, County Counselor. Absent: Terry Solander, City Attorney; Dave Pracht, County Commissioner. Whereupon the written request for said meeting as signed by Commissioners Blackie, Cole, and Gwin was read as follows:

We, the undersigned, Commissioners of the City of Garnett, Kansas respectfully request that a special meeting of the Governing Body of the City of Garnett, Kansas be held at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on October 30, 2017 for the purpose of considering the following items, to-wit:

1. Joint City/County meeting
2. Any other lawful business to come before the Governing Body

Signed:

W. Gordon Blackie
Jody M. Cole
Greg A. Gwin

The Clerk was instructed to enter such request at length on the journal.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Blackie.

County Commissioner Howarter reported on the Americans With Disabilities (ADA) ramp project at the courthouse. He said staff is in the process of cleaning out the basement of the courthouse. They estimate completion in 2018. City Clerk Kinney stated that when records are purged at the courthouse the Kansas Historical Society and the Anderson County Historical Society is usually contacted to see if any of the records being purged might be preserved. County Clerk Heck, will contact the historical society on any records that might be preserved.

County Commissioner Howarter reported that a letter was received on the East Kansas Agri-Energy (EKAE) tax appeal. City Manager Weiner agreed and said they are disputing the personal property.

Mayor Blackie asked for a deceleration zone coming into the city limits on Seventh Street before the speed limit lowers to 30 miles per hour. County Counselor Campbell said on the city limit sign, there is a sign for reduced speed ahead. County Clerk Heck said there is also a sign prior to the city limit sign near Zook's residence. County Counselor Campbell stated if the city wants another sign in that area, the city can place it there.

Commissioner Gwin reported that the house across the road from the elementary school which is an eyesore is the city's responsibility and it is being dealt with through code enforcement.

Commissioner Cole questioned if there are only certain days each month that the county landfill will take tree limbs from storms. County Commissioner Howarter replied limbs can be taken to the landfill anytime. City Clerk Kinney stated the old City dump is opened the last Friday of each month for brush and limbs only. When there is a storm, city crews pick up the debris and take it to the old city dump when residents have it stacked in the easement. If residents want to haul their limbs and brush any other time, they can pick up a key for the gate at the old city dump at city hall.

Commissioner Cole said the Kincaid fair had several marching bands from various schools in their parade. She questioned if the date of the Anderson County Fair Parade might be changed in order to draw in more school bands. She noted it would be harder to get them to come if the fair is during the summer when school is not in session. County Counselor Campbell stated that the fair board controls that. County Commissioner Howarter confirmed that the Kincaid fair is after school starts and stated that the fair board is working hard on the fair. Commissioner Cole stated her concern that if the entire fair was moved to after the start of school, it would create challenges for the 4-H livestock exhibition. Commissioner Cole mentioned that separating the livestock exhibition and the parade would likely be the only way to accomplish increasing the number of school bands.

City Manager Weiner said there use to be joint meetings to include the school and hospital boards. He said he would like to expand joint meetings with other governmental entities. Health insurance is something to consider doing jointly. Everyone has to be on board. There could be an individual interest to back out if another group had large claims, but everyone would need to stay on board. He also would like to talk to the hospital on partnering with them on our insurance. Commissioner Cole said she talked to Vicky Mills, CFO at Garnett's St. Luke's Hospital, who said they could help with our insurance.

County Commissioner Howarter said when we first started having additional joint meetings with the school and hospital board, attendance declined and people were not coming so we stopped having those joint meetings. The city and county continued with separate joint meetings because we work together on many projects.

Dennis Arnold, Economic Development Director, reported Kansas Works has new programs that are helpful for new and existing businesses. They will pay a new hire salary for up to a year for training. He is looking at working with the high school as well for

apprenticeship. He is unsure if it can be used by government entities. He will attend a luncheon with Kansas Works on November 16, 2017.

County Commissioner Howarter asked for an update on the company installing fiber optic. Mr. Arnold replied that he has talked to businesses. Commissioner Gwin stated they have brought their line down Park Road to Walnut Street. The hospital and city may go on the fiber. He questioned if the county was interested. County Commissioner Howarter said they would like to see the figures.

County Commissioner Howarter asked about the status of the Highway 169 coalition project. City Manager Weiner said he has not received an email on a meeting yet. He is attending a Southeast Kansas city manager luncheon this week and will see if there is any information on the project yet. He said we should support Coffeyville on getting the Tyson factory. It would be helpful in getting Highway 169 expanded. It's good for economics as well because they will need corn.

County Commissioner Howarter said the plan was to get a four (4) lane highway from the State line to Osawatomie. A study that was done showed Garnett had the worst strip of the highway. City Manager Weiner said the City utility line south of the roundabout will have to be moved to the west and the project should commence at the end of next summer or in 2019. He added that there should be a push anytime Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) acquires right-of-way along the Highway 169 corridor to purchase enough for a four (4) lane road. We should work with all entities along the corridor, even into Oklahoma for large facilities. Mr. Arnold stated Economic Lifelines is a lobbying group for these types of projects.

Commissioner Gwin asked about the Hayes Brand Molding expansion. Mr. Arnold replied that they own the property and are moving forward. There is some activity on the Taylor Forge building.

Mr. Arnold said there is concern for the drainage cutting across the road on East Second Street in the Industrial Park. If more businesses come into that area, we need to look at improvements there and the trucks ability to turn on Catalpa Street. Commissioner Gwin stated there is no more property available in that industrial park for another business to go in there.

Mr. Arnold said he would like an executive session. Dane Hicks, Anderson County Review, questioned which governing body he is requesting an executive session with. County Counselor Campbell said an executive session could be called to discuss non-elected personnel with Mr. Arnold and the County Commissioners present. Mr. Arnold stated that he is the personnel that will be discussed. He would like 10-minutes.

At 7:35 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Gwin, seconded by Mayor Blackie to adjourn to executive session for 10-minutes to discuss non-elected personnel and include City Manager Weiner, Dennis Arnold, and the County Commissioners. On roll call, the following vote was recorded: Ayes – three; Noes – none.

At 7:45 p.m., Mayor Blackie reported that the executive session will be extended for 10-minutes.

At 7:55 p.m., Mayor Blackie called the meeting back to order.

Dennis Arnold explained how he was hired as Economic Development Director with the County and City jointly.

City Manager Weiner stated he does not want to lose the institutional knowledge that Mr. Arnold has when he retires. He stated that he would like someone to work with Mr. Arnold to gain knowledge on contacts and resources. Right now there is one (1) part time person for Economic Development Director and one part time position for a Chamber Director. The Chamber Director is specialized to deal with businesses, commissions and boards. He would like a consultant here for three (3) years to train someone. We can advertise the position and he would narrow the candidates down to two (2) candidates and then they could meet with a representative from each commission.

County Commissioner Howarter said the commissioners are an integral part of the process so they would not put that on the city manager. County Commissioner McGhee said the cost will be more than we pay now because we share the salary with Linn County.

There being no further business to come before the Governing Body, a motion was made by Mayor Blackie, seconded by Commissioner Cole to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

s/ W. Gordon Blackie

Mayor

Attest:

s/ Kristina L. Kinney

City Clerk