



City Manager's Report

March 24, 2020

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

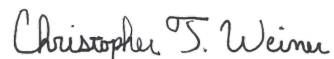
As I am writing this report, all City services are still being provided to residents. As you know, the situation with the COVID-19 virus is ever changing and this could possibly be old news by the time you read this. City Hall is closed to the public but all dropboxes, online services, and drive through are still keeping staff busy. We are still reading meters, billing for services, answering an increasing number of customer calls, issuing pet licenses, and many more new tasks that have arose from the pandemic. Our utility departments are utilizing caution on job sites and have been instructed to avoid personal contact if at all possible. The Recreation Center remains closed and the library is closed to the public but staff is in the process of finding creative ways to make sure patrons still receive books. As a whole, we are enforcing handwashing and sanitization. The announcement of school closures has directly affected members of our staff. I am working with employees on how to lessen the burden as much as possible. Area businesses and residents will continue to suffer if the impact of this pandemic grows. We have to support each other the best we can, keep faith, and stay positive.

On this meeting's agenda we have the annual proclamation designating April as 'Fair Housing Month', and a request from the Anderson County Corn Festival (Cornstock) for \$4,500 of funding from our Transient Guest Tax fund. As requested, I have also placed on the agenda for discussion our existing camping regulations as we see increased demand for long-term usage of our camping spots with the area construction projects starting. The fourth item is slated for open discussion regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and our local concerns. As we've been discussing, this has already had a major impact and my personal opinion is that it is likely to continue to get worse before it gets better. You will also find in your packet the summary of a recent study conducted by the Imperial College of London and other health and disease specialists. As addressed in this summary we need to be focused, locally as well as nationally, on mitigation and

suppression of COVID-19 cases. While most (approximately 80%) people will exhibit no to mild symptom, approximately twenty percent (20%) of the population will require hospitalization. Without any mitigation or suppression measures in place, the research estimates that approximately eighty percent (80%) of the population would be infected by the virus. Obviously, this is why we have instituted these measures of social distancing and quarantine. Around thirty percent (30%) of all hospitalized cases require critical care. Therefore, if Garnett sees even a 40% infected percentage, approximately 260 people will need hospitalization here locally with 78 of those requiring critical care. This is well above our local hospital's (or even those of our region if they are overwhelmed as well) capacity to treat those in need of care. Again, this is why this situation is so critical and these measures have been established. Here is the link to the data supporting the previously referenced summary. <https://doi.org/10.25561/77482> The last item on the agenda is the approval of the bills and payroll in the amount of \$139,316.51.

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