

# Mayor Year End Report - 2022

## Major Initiatives and Projects

**KDOT CCLIP** – complete

**Water treatment plant settling ponds** – mostly complete

**Sewer project** – slated for completion in May 2023

**Comprehensive Plan for City:** IBTS has presented our city with a draft and we are moving towards completion.

**Condemnation and removal of three unsafe or unfit structures:** We removed three unfit and dangerous structures and codes coordinated with home owners for the removal of 4 structures. We have had a few building permits for homes so the investment to clean up our city with the hope it would open the door for more homes seems to be moving in the right direction. We would like to thank the Linn Co Commissioner's for waiving the dumping fees for the debris from those condemnations.

**New Fire Station-** anticipated advertisement for bid is in February 2023.

- **ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds - \$170,769 dedicated to the New Fire Station**
- **First Option Bank Trustee Foundation - \$100,000 grant for the New Fire Station**

### **Fire Department:**

- 15<sup>th</sup> year for our Fire Department to serve hotdogs on Halloween
- Sharing Tree Project – gifts for 20 families and 52 children.

**Water Plant Analysis of current capacity:** MW Engineering completed the review of the plant history and current plant mechanics. A master capital improvement plan will be established for maintaining the current capacity and for possible future capacity increase.

**Streets** – planning stages

**Stormwater** – the master plan is in progress – We did have a survey to ask our patrons for help in targeting problem areas

**Cemetery Regulations** in the Codes of the City of La Cygne was replaced with updated policy in 2021

- Including purchasing the Simple City module that will make all the cemetery files electronic
- Information Board

**Water purchase agreement with LVL** – Completed. The City of Linn Valley received the Letter of Conditions from USDA in September 2021 providing \$7.2 million in grants and \$10.2 million in a low-interest loan to proceed with the water project.

**Annexation:** We annexed 12 ½ acres into the city at the industrial park.

**Christmas light racks** and dedicated storage

**Council Meetings:** Going forward the meetings will be held at 7:00 pm the first and third Wednesday of the month. Previously in winter months meetings were held at 6:00 pm. We also modified our agenda to improve the efficiency of the meetings.

**Special meetings:** This year our Council and support staff attended quite a few special meetings and performed extra work for various committees. This requires a lot of extra time outside of council meetings. That really helps move business along but does require extra commitments and we appreciate that dedication from everyone involved.

**Proclamations** – Esther Shields honoring her lifetime of community service. Bree Allan honoring her achievements in scholarship and athletics and specifically winning State Championship.

**Outreach to Schools** – Going forward we want to keep a close relationship with the schools for individual achievement – art displays in City Hall, Government Day and Job fairs.

**Park** – We made a decision in coordination with Lincoln Township to repeal Charter Ordinance #7 (Approved as Charter No. 6) which establishes a Park Board and return to the governing body being responsible for the provisions of K.S.A. 12-1304 relating to the management and control of a public park. We sincerely thank everyone of our citizens who have served our area by taking a turn on the Park Board over the last 30 years. There will still be volunteer opportunities to plan events like Blast in the Park.

- *Pickleball* – The council approved painting the tennis court so that it can be used to play Pickleball.
- *Vandalism* – This year the park was repeatedly vandalized. We have our officers patrolling more often and some areas had to be locked up in order to prevent damage.

**Update existing fee schedule** – Moving towards fees that reflect the actual cost of city administrative time, publication cost and outside review by certified individuals

**Community Center** – Now used as the drop off for Meals on Wheels program as well as continued use for Governing Body meetings and Municipal Court and the occasional rental.

**Revised Job descriptions, Pay Schedules and review process** and set clear guidelines for staffing for our city.

**Businesses** -In 2021, we had quite a few new businesses open in our community. We are excited to report this year those businesses are still in operation thanks to the support from patrons. A couple more businesses opened up this year. The city hall staff continues to work on finding incentive programs or grant opportunities for new business owners.

**Safety Award** – La Cygne earned a Gold Award for Safety Practices from KMIT safety auditors.

**Emergency gas supply and cost situation** – *In 2021* The City Council chose to use \$350,950 of the reserve fund to pay the gas supply bill that was incurred because of the astronomical charges during the two-week arctic blast event which occurred in February 2021. The city did not to pass any of the costs for that bill to our customers.

*Follow up:* KMGA continues to keep the city advised of the current market prices for gas. KMGA has modified their process for the amount of volume to purchase on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month index and is being more aggressive on daily purchasing when weather forecasts are predicting extreme arctic storms. KMGA has continued to follow up on the situation of the 2021 arctic blast in regards to investigations being performed by FERC.

## **Policy updates and changes**

- Article 18 DRAFT Factory Built Home District (Revision 11-16-2022). – Almost complete
- Article 22 DRAFT Off-Street Parking Regulations.
- Article G. Discipline – Employee Policy and Procedures.
- Article 5. Parking
- Water and Sewer Rate Analysis: Carl Brown proposal.
- ATV/UTV Regulations.
- Chapter 11. Public Property, Article 2. Parks and Camping.
- Ethics and Customer Service Training.
- Social-Media Policy.
- Chapter 6. Fire, Article 2. Fireworks.
- BNSF Quiet Zone

## **Things we may see in 2023**

- Develop and share “4 truths about our city”
- Reflective house numbers for each address in our city
- Town hall meeting in February
- Video and/or Livestream for our council meetings
- Whiteboard to aid in discussions for our meeting room
- Meeting on FEMA Flood Map revision

## **Activities in the city**

- Dog days
- Swanfest
- Blast in the Park
- Prayer Breakfast
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Christmas on Broadway
- Two elections – August and November
- City Wide Clean Up and Garage Sales
- Memorial Day events
- Veterans Day
- Ray of Hope Fish Fry
- Customer Appreciation Day – City Hall
- Thanksgiving meal
- Dancetopia in June
- Spring Fling