A) CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Matt Christenson called the November 18, 2019 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION
The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Invocation was given by Tony Factor.

C) ROLL CALL & APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Council Present: Mike McBeath, Mark Trummel, Pam Reves, Sandy Jungemann, and Haley Kern. Staff present: Administrator Stacy Barnes, City Clerk Christy Pyatt.

Reves made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. McBeath seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

D) CITIZEN COMMENTS
Carolyn Irvin thanked Staff for work on the state fishing lake road and encouraged regular maintenance.

E) CONSENT AGENDA
Jungemann made a motion, seconded by Kern to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

F) ITEMS OF BUSINESS
1. Mark Chesney, Kansas Power Pool Update
Mark Chesney, Kansas Power Pool, was present to give an update on KPP activity and to answer any questions the Council may have. The annual KPP rate setting meeting is December 13th. Chesney is anticipates that a decrease of approximately 4 mil/kwh for next year will be presented to membership for approval.

Reves asked how many windfarms KPP has across the state. KPP does not own any windfarms, but has contracts to draw energy from 2, including the one south of Greensburg. She then asked about transmission lines that have recently been constructed, to which Chesney stated there is still work to be done over the next several years to alleviate transmission congestion. Within 5 years, KPP will be completely out of coal powered energy. Two cycle engines have the ability to come online much faster than coal. Christenson asked if KPP will be building some of their own transmission lines. Chesney spoke of a 2 mile low voltage line to be constructed near Cunningham. KPP estimates a savings of $2 million over the next 10 years. KPP will be renewing a contract this week with GridLiance, a partnership that will reduce the cost of constructing lines to the Southwest Power Pool.

2. Rhonda Fernandez, Professional Insurance Consultants: 2020 Employee Benefits
Christenson welcomed Rhonda Fernandez to present the proposed 2020 Employee Benefits package. Fernandez recommended some consistency for 2020. The City will see a 14% increase overall with BCBS. With an employee census of under 50 employees, BCBS age rates the group. Fernandez briefly discussed a level funding option. At end of the second year, whatever premium is not used through level funding, 50% remains with the carrier and 50% would be returned to the City. Fernandez and Barnes prefer to review this option closer through the coming year. Fernandez collected bids from Aetna and United, but ruled them out due to the necessity for employees to have high deductibles in order to keep monthly premiums consistent. Fernandez and Barnes will continue to converse quarterly in the next year, but will
be more aggressive after second quarter, in preparation for the 2021 budget. Fernandez will continue to watch what is coming for smaller groups. Delta Dental will have a slight decrease in 2020, with great new benefits for kids. They have pooled the City with all groups under 100 employees, preventing major rate changes. Sunlife (life insurance) will have no changes for the coming year. Vision Care Direct has never had a rate change since it’s been in Kansas. Flex spending can be added to Employee Benefit Corp. if the City so chooses. For their cafeteria plan the City pays a flat annual fee. Fernandez will discuss the options of an HRA Plan vs a HAS plan. Through an HRA, unused funds stay with the city. With an HAS, unused funds go to the employee.

Reves asked for confirmation of what percentage the City pays of an employee’s health insurance. The city has paid 80% for a number of years.

Jungemann made a motion, seconded by McBeath, to approve the 2020 Employee Benefits package as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Moderate Income Housing Project Conditional Use Permit
Pyatt advised the Council that the Planning Commission had held an advertised public hearing on October 30th to consider the previously discussed Conditional Use Request to construct 2 duplexes at the corner of Oak and Garfield through the Kansas Housing Resource Center Moderate Income Housing grant program. Staff has applied for the grant and hopes to have an answer in the next few days. Two neighbors of the proposed development were present at the hearing. They asked several questions related to the site plan, construction, management, and income guidelines of the project. At the end of public comment, the two voiced their support of the development. Planning Commission voted to recommend to the Council approval of the application, pending grant approval.

Reves made a motion to approve the Planning Commission’s recommendation to approve the conditional use permit for 212 E. Garfield and 620 S. Oak, pending grant approval. Kern seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

G) CITY STAFF REPORTS
Barnes reported to Council on the following topics:

- **Elections Results** – Mark Trummel will retain his seat on the Council and be joined by Chance Little in mid-January. Jungemann did not seek re-election. Barnes has a question in to the League of Kansas Municipalities regarding the timing of swearing in newly elected officials at the January 21st Council meeting vs. January 13th when the new terms begin.

- **KDOT Local Consult Meeting** - Barnes attended the District 5 Local Consult Meeting in Great Bend to hear about and discuss KDOT’s plan for the next 10 years and beyond. Literature provided at the meeting reveals 20 top tier regional expansion projects. Hwy 54 passing lanes throughout Kiowa County is part of the list. A project number has been assigned to the expansion, but no timeline has been set yet. The continued Hwy 54 four lane expansion was also on the list. Representatives from Pratt requested that KDOT continue connecting current 4 lane construction. Barnes concurred. Four lane expansion from the Kiowa County line east to Pratt was also discussed.

- **Big Well Beam Update** – Last Friday Staff participated in a phone conference with PEC regarding their engineers report and recommendations for fixing and resealing the wooden beams at the Big Well Museum. PEC’s recommendation was to apply a pressure injected epoxy into the ends of the beams, sanding, and then re-sealing each beam.

- **Ohio Street Repair** - During their Friday conference call with PEC, Staff asked for their
recommendation for concrete thickness, joint spacing, and reinforcement suited for the heavy traffic crossing Ohio Street to utilize the coop scales and elevator.

- **Street Sealing** – Heft and Sons completed the street sealing project today.
- **Police Chief Job Posting** - The hiring committee for the police chief job posting consists of Barnes, Christenson, Trummel, and Sheriff Tedder. The committee has chosen to repost the position until November 29, 2019. Sites posted on include the City’s website, Kansas Peace Officers Association website, Indeed.com, Merchant’s Directory, Kowa County Signal, Pratt Tribune, and the Dodge City Daily Globe newspapers.

Mark asked about the charges from PEC for the Big Well and Ohio Street evaluations. Barnes stated that PEC has done consulting for the City numerous times while charging nothing. Due to the level engineering required for the Big Well structural assessment there will be charges assessed. PEC has confirmed that the cost will not exceed $5,000. Trummel also noted that he had seen an airplane tied down at the airport. Barnes confirmed that a hunter had flown in for the weekend. Tony Sturgeon has flown in and out as well.

**H) GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS**
Kern announced that Dec 1st will be the annual lighted Christmas Parade, vendor fair, business open house, and Santa visit.

**I) ADJOURNMENT**
With nothing further to discuss, Christenson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Matt Christenson, Mayor

Christy Pyatt, City Clerk