A) CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Matt Christenson called the November 16, 2020 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION
The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Invocation was given by Pastor Jon Harrison.

C) ROLL CALL & APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Council Present: Mike McBeath, Mark Trummel, Chance Little, and Haley Kern. Pam Reves was absent. Staff present: Administrator Stacy Barnes, Chief of Police Aaron Webb, and City Clerk Christy Pyatt.

McBeath made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Kern seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

D) CITIZEN COMMENTS
There were no comments submitted in advance.

E) CONSENT AGENDA
Trummel asked if check 28973 from Tourism for the MT Liggett museum grand opening had to pass through the 5.4.7 Art Center? Barnes explained that the museum is running under the Arts Center’s 501(c)3 designation. Contributions received that are tagged for the project will go solely to the MT Liggett museum. Kern noted that Tourism was told expenses will exceed the amount approved by Tourism. The Foundation has also approached the County Commissioners and the Chamber. The City of Mullinville will be approached tonight. The group has 2 grant applications out as well. McBeath made a motion, seconded by Kern, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

F) ITEMS OF BUSINESS
1. Receive Kerri Ulrich, Kiowa County Public Health Officer, for COVID-19 Updates
Kiowa County Public Health Officer Kerri Ulrich announced that she does not have COVID-19. She was tested last week due to symptoms of a sinus infection and quarantined while awaiting those results. The County has had 108 total cases, 9 of those being positive currently. The County has seen its fifth COVID related hospitalization and its first COVID related death. Kansas is ranked 9th in the country for new cases, for population based COVID testing. Ulrich has reviewed the percent positivity for Kiowa County. We are in the “red zone” at 18.18%. Our number of testings is going up, which is what is wanted, but the number of positive cases keeps rising as well. With the continuing rise of cases, several entities within the county are making adjustments. Long-term Care facilities are now testing twice per week, the pharmacy is now back to curbside delivery, and the Health Department has made several scheduling adjustments. Ulrich encouraged everyone to be proactive during the holiday season. Ulrich has received several citizen concerns regarding the hunting lodge. With the start of hunting season, there is an increase in out of town/out of state traffic. Ulrich has spoken to Jason Johnson, Upland Inn, and discussed what his hopes are for the strategies they will be taking to protect their guests and the public. Ulrich encourages all citizens to be proactive in their own steps to protect themselves by wearing masks, washing their hands, and social distancing when they are out in public. There is no mask mandate in Kiowa County. Ulrich questions how enforcement would work in a situation like that. Wearing a mask reduces the viral load. This could make you less sick if you contract the virus. She strongly cautions citizens in the days preceding Thanksgiving.
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Little asked where the general public could look up the quarantine guidelines and rules for COVID. Ulrich recommended www.kdheks.gov, which is updated frequently. From there, a person would select the “coronavirus” link, and then “local health departments and healthcare providers” for all things COVID related. Ulrich confirmed that KDHE establishes the guidelines for pandemic response. She believes what is confusing to some is when people are allowed a modified quarantine because they are an essential worker. Counties are allowed to determine what is an essential worker because an essential worker in western Kansas may not be as essential in eastern Kansas. Some essential workers are allowed to go back to work earlier, utilizing a specific kind of mask, than someone in the general population would be. Little and Ulrich agreed that placing the KDHE link on the County Health Facebook page would be helpful. Ulrich acknowledged that the situation is very challenging because each case is different, and there are many factors that must be considered.

Kern asked about the accuracy of some of the different testing techniques, specifically the saliva test. Ulrich explained that Kansas is being moved into more zoned areas of testing. Ulrich is researching tests that will be available in our region, which is the Dodge City/Garden City region. Saliva tests will be an option in our Region. Rapid tests are not as effective as those sent off, with the possibility of false negatives, allowing for more exposures. Trummel asked if Kiowa County has had positive cases that were asymptomatic. Ulrich stated that there have been a small number of cases, mostly discovered during pre-surgical testing. Most who have tested positive were experiencing no symptoms or mild symptoms. There have been few who were very sick.

2. Rhonda Fernandez, Professional Insurance Consultants, 2021 Employee Benefits

Council welcomed Rhonda Fernandez, PIC, to present the proposed 2021 Employee Benefits package. After researching several options this year, Fernandez recommended the City continue with BCBS of Kansas. With current benefits remaining the same there would be a 12% rate increase based on today’s enrollment. Carriers are taking into consideration their COVID related claims. There will be no rate change for Delta Dental. Earlier this year, employees received a pandemic related refund of one month’s premium. There will be no change in premium for Sunlife or Vision Care coverage. Employee Benefits, which allows employee insurance premiums to be pre-tax, will also have no rate change. Fernandez went over the Explanation of Benefits for each type of coverage the City offers. Telemedicine will be available again in 2021 (BCBS), something that can be very helpful during the pandemic. With this service you can view the credentials of the available physicians before you select one. Should you need to utilize the service more than once, you can choose to see the same provider again. This service helps, in some cases, to save employees the $300 ER visit co-pay.

Fernandez discussed what she found during her “insurance shopping” this year. Aetna was found to have high deductibles. Level Funded Plans, similar to self-funded plans, are becoming more common in groups this size; however, Fernandez believes that the current co-pays would have nickel and dimes employees. She would like to keep the Level Funded Plan option on the table over the next couple of years, as more companies are emerging. Fernandez found United Healthcare numbers to be close to those of BCBS, but the network in this area is still weaker than that of BCBS.

Kern made a motion, seconded by McBeath, to renew employee benefits with BCBS for 2021. The motion passed 4-0.

3. Consider Fire Vehicle Purchase

City Fire Chief Theron McKinney presented a request for a light rescue truck for the Fire Department. To purchase a new unit would be approximately $150,000. He has found it very difficult to get a grant for such a purchase. A rescue vehicle would take care of 95% of calls within the City, including EMS calls. Having only large trucks makes it too easy for everyone to respond in personal vehicles. McKinney hopes
to alleviate some of the liability of personal vehicle response. The proposed unit is for sale by the City of Clarksville, Texas for $36,500. It is a 2002 Ford F-550 4x4 crew cab quick attack rescue truck. The unit has a 7.3 Ford turbo-diesel engine, 34,000 miles, automatic transmission, Vanguard DM950D 250 GPM diesel pump, and a capacity of 500 gallons of water and 20 gallons of foam. McKinney stated that with a unit such as the one proposed, responders could be done with a call by the time the pumper truck airs up. During a call last week it took 5-10 minutes to air up the truck. The call ended up being a false alarm. With the amount of remaining budget funds that have been transferred into Fire Equipment Reserve the last couple of years, the fund could be replenished in approximately 4 years. Volunteers from the department would be sent to pick-up the unit.

Kern asked if the unit was in good working order. McKinney stated that the unit has seen “town use only.” They have replaced the turbo and some injectors. He feels it has lots of life and should do everything we need it to do.

McKinney was asked if the unit would be used in the county also. He responded that they may put the jaws-of-life in it. Also, air packs are difficult to get to on the current truck. Easier access will make responders safer, and they will have their gear on scene (not always the case when they respond in personal vehicles).

Trummel made a motion to approve the purchase at $36,500. McBeath seconded. McKinney clarified that the department had already sent $1,000 out of their fundraising account to Clarksville to hold the vehicle. The motion passed 4-0. The expense will be taken from the Fire Equipment Reserve.

4. Ordinance #1102 Amending City Code Ch. 1, Sections 1-302, 314-320 Regarding Department Heads
Barnes offered Ordinance #1102, amending City Code Ch. 1, Sections 1-302, 314-320 regarding department heads. Council previously approved changes to the Position Classification and Pay Plan. The City Code needs to be updated to reflect those changes. Kern made a motion to approve the Ordinance as presented. McBeath seconded. Christenson called for a roll call vote, which passed 4-0.

5. Resolution #2020-09 Amending the Procurement Policy
Barnes presented Resolution 2020-09, amending the City’s Procurement Policy. The current policy was adopted in 2016. The proposed Resolution would reflect previously made department head changes and remove the reference to purchase orders, something the City has not used for several years. Kern made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-09. Trummel seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

G) CITY STAFF REPORTS
Barnes reported to Council on the following topics:
• 2019 Financial Scorecard: The Kansas Power Pool has provided a financial scorecard for 2019 on our electric utility. This is available for the governing body to review in Dropbox under the KPP folder. According to their ranking system, we received an average performance rating. One thing identified to complete is a rate study. Barnes is working with them to provide the information needed to complete this study. The City’s cash balance is healthy, providing for 206 days of operating expenses. Some of the other items addressed in the study are already being remedied by changes that have been made for 2020 and 2021.
• Airport Grants: Last week KDOT announced awards for their Cost Share and Kansas Airport Improvement Program grants. Unfortunately, the City's airport project was not selected for either program. Barnes has been discussing other potential funding options with Lochner. Barnes provided a link to the list of 14 Cost Share awardees, as well as a list of KAIP Program awardees.
**Planning Commission Public Hearing:** An application has been submitted to the Greensburg Planning Commission, requesting a Conditional Use Permit to use the former Carriage House facility as a foster care facility. This public hearing is Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 6:30pm. The Planning Commission’s decision will then come before the City Council for consideration.

**Community Christmas Events:** Pending changes due to COVID, the following holiday events are planned in the community: Miracle on 34th Street Play at the Twilight Theatre (Dec. 5 & 6, 12 & 13, 19 & 20); Lighted Christmas Parade (Sunday, December 6th, 6pm); Community Christmas Concert at FUMC (Wednesday, December 9, 7pm); hay bale decorating contest (Sat. Dec. 12th, 10am-2pm); community tree decorating in Starlight Park (Dec. 19 5-6pm); Candy Cane Lane (Dec. 19-25, 6-9pm)

- This week employees are reading meters and preparing the monthly billing statements and newsletter to be sent to customers.
- **City Hall Hours:** City Hall will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Little asked if Staff was still working on street patching. Trummel stated KDOT most recently repaired the north side of Bay and Hwy 54. He believes that, due to trucks turning off the highway there, the area needs to be dug out and packed rather than another loose asphalt patching.

**H) GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS**

Kern asked if trash pickup would be altered next week, due to Thanksgiving being on Thursday. Barnes advised that trash pickup will still be on Wednesday Thanksgiving week.

**I) ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further to discuss, Christenson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

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Matt Christenson, Mayor

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Christy Pyatt, City Clerk