A. CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Matt Christenson called the February 1, 2021 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, Pam Reves, and Haley Kern. Chance Little was absent. Staff present: Administrator Stacy Barnes. City Clerk Christy Pyatt was absent.

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

D. CITIZEN COMMENTS
There were no comments submitted in advance and nothing from the audience.

E. CONSENT AGENDA
Kern made a motion, seconded by McBeath, 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
Public Health Officer Kerri Ulrich provided a brief COVID-19 Update. Kiowa County currently has 19 active, positive cases. The County also has its first confirmed case of reinfection, meaning someone who previously tested positive was reinfected and tested positive 60-90 days after their first infection. Kiowa County was on a downward trend on positive cases, but what Ulrich did not take into account was the testing rate. The testing rate in Kansas dropped significantly in January. She will be reviewing if that testing rate is affecting Kiowa County as well. County Health provided their first community COVID-19 vaccination clinic last week, giving out 140 doses in 2 hours. While unpacking from the clinic, they received another 100 doses. Tomorrow they will be able to provide another 100 first round vaccinations. Patients are scheduled in 15-minute increments to minimize exposure. Another 100 first round doses and 100 booster doses will be coming in next week. The Department has recently seen an increase in vaccination interest, now that the public is more assured that rounds one and two are more readily available. With the second round of the Moderna vaccine some patients are experiencing slight symptoms such as redness and swelling of the injection site and fever for about 1 day.

   Kern asked if the antibodies produced by vaccination last longer than those produced by the virus itself. She asked if citizens would have to be vaccinated again in 90 days to remain protected. Ulrich confirmed that the antibodies in the vaccination create a stronger immunity than an actual infection, noting that everyone who contracts the virus has a different immune response. At this point, they are told that the vaccine is good for 90 days. Based on the data being seen, Ulrich anticipates that the CDC will soon officially increase that exemption/immunology time to up to one year. If you complete both doses, you receive an exemption to quarantine right away, you do not have to wait for the vaccine to take effect.

   Christenson noted that he has heard positive feedback on the efficiency of the recent community clinic. Ulrich acknowledged the community partners/volunteers that made the clinic a success.
2. **Michael Rainger, Energy Saver Today**

Michael Rainger, Energy Saver Today, addressed the Council in January and advised that he was conducting a feasibility study. He is still working to complete that study, which includes community feedback. This morning, Rainger met with the County Commissioners. At that meeting, Energy Saver Today launched an eco-education program. This is a free service for up to 100 citizens (who own a building). The program focuses on energy and how it cycles within a building. This is considered a case study, the eighth that the company has performed. If their application works here, where there is renewable energy production, the company believes it will work anywhere in the U.S. With success of their application here, Energy Saver Today would begin a national campaign this summer and fall. Rainger anticipates tourism publicity for Kiowa County with the launch of the application.

3. **Convene as Land Bank Board: Consider Application to Purchase 502 S. Elm**

Christenson recessed the Council and convened them as the Land Bank, to consider an application to purchase 502 S. Elm from the Land Bank. The application to purchase is from Abbey Rudd, who lives across the street from the land bank property. The application was included in the meeting packet. Ms. Rudd has stated that she would utilize the property for camper and boat storage, as well as a possible garden. Though she would have a water hydrant placed on the property, she does not currently have plans to build any structure on the property. Barnes outlined the policy for purchase of buildable residential properties from the Land Bank. Buildable lots are generally sold for $300. Buildable lots for non-buildable purposes are sold for $10.00 per frontage foot. This property is 75’x 150’. 30 days prior to the sale or transfer of any property, Staff would publish a notice of the sale and notify adjacent property owners of the pending property available for sale.

Reves asked if Ms. Rudd later decided to build an accessory structure on the property if the Council would have any say. Barnes explained that the process would start with Staff advertising a public hearing before the Planning Commission and notifying property owners within a 200 ft. radius of the property. If approved by the Planning Commission, the Council would then have to approve the construction of an accessory structure without a primary structure before a permit could be issued. The applicant is aware of the land bank policy and permit process just discussed.

Trummel made a motion to approve the application to purchase. Kern seconded, and the motion passed 4-0. With nothing further to discuss, Christenson adjourned the Land Bank and reconvened City Council.


Included in the meeting packet was a financial report for 2020. Overall, the finances are healthy. The General Fund as a whole shows revenue exceeded expectations and expenditures were lower than anticipated. The net loss of the General Fund is $41,424.05. There was an increase in court and police expenditures, due to increased activity; however, there was also a significant increase in court revenue. In addition, the regular transfer to the General Fund from the Electric Fund was not done this year. In 2021, a $50,000 transfer is budgeted. Expenditures within the Electric Fund will be a bit higher than shown in the meeting packet. Staff discovered after it’s publication that the last KPP bill for 2020 is not reflected in these figures, as originally thought. That will also change the revenue/expenditure ratio. Barnes asked for questions from the Council, of which there were none.

5. **Playground RFP Community Feedback Review and Design Selection**

At the last Council meeting, Barnes was instructed to bring back community feedback on the 5 playground design submittals for the swimming pool park. Barnes placed an online survey on the City’s Facebook page. As of 4 pm Friday there were 174 responses, with Option 2 leading the results, followed by Option 3. There was also an “in-person” opportunity for feedback at City Hall. Option 3 had the most votes. Last week Barnes went to the school and visited each class for grades K-5, to get their input. By
far, the kids preferred Option 3. Additional feedback through social media, word of mouth and from the kids could be helpful in adding features in the future. Handicap swings and a zipline have both been recommended.

After a brief discussion, consensus was to select Option 3 and work with the company, AB Creative, to obtain pricing on the suggested additions.

6. **Ordinance #1103 Speed Limits**  
At the last Council meeting, Council approved speed limit changes and stop sign additions within the city. Speed limit changes require an Ordinance. Stop sign changes require a resolution. Proposed Ordinance #1103 amends the speed limits on South Main St. to 20 mph from Kansas Ave. to Scott St. and all city streets (except South Main St. and Kansas Ave.) to 25 mph. Kern made a motion, seconded by Reves, to approve Ordinance 1103 as presented. Christenson requested a roll call vote. The motion passed 4-0.

7. **Resolution #2021-02 Stop Signs**  
As approved at the last Council meeting, Resolution 2021-02 would officially establish 4-way stops at the intersections surrounding the pool park. Reves voiced strong opposition to the idea. She requested alternatives be considered, noting that outside of summer traffic to the pool, she does not feel there is much traffic on some of those streets. There was concerned voiced that stop signs would not solve traffic issues, but simply shift them to another street. The option of four 2-way stops was discussed. This would hopefully slow down traffic, without requiring a vehicle to have to stop twice within a block. Consensus was to table the resolution to allow Barnes to discuss possible options with Police Chief Webb.

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

- **2021 Street Maintenance Plan:** The Public Works Department has been working to identify areas that have “alligator cracking” of the streets. A map showing the approximately 30 areas in need of repair or replacement was provided. The Department is preparing now to mobilize once temperatures warm to an appropriate level for street repair.
- **2020 Audit:** Reps from Kennedy McKee arrived this morning to begin the 2020 audit.
- **Highway 54 Mill and Overlay:** Last week Barnes spoke with Scott Mullin, the area engineer for KDOT. He said there are plans to mill and overlay Highway 54 this summer and that will include through the City. Staff will be notified when they are close to beginning the project.
- **Airport:** Barnes met with an ag sprayer based out of Ulysses last week who is interested in using the City’s airport for aerial application in this area. He has asked to bring in a tank trailer to be parked on the gravel parking area temporarily (a day or two) while here working. Barnes has authorized him to do so. Also, Barnes has been consulting with Lochner regarding the RFP for infrastructure improvements at the airport, discussed at the last meeting.
- **Pet Registration Clinic:** The City’s annual pet vaccination and registration clinic, in partnership with Greensburg Veterinary Clinic, is set for Thursday, February 25th, 10am-3pm, at the clinic. Participants are asked to make an appointment ahead of time and then wait in their cars until Staff asks them to enter the building.
- **Police Department Updates:** Chief Webb is continuing EMT classes and Officer Erickson has completed his first week at KLETC. As Ulrich mentioned earlier, Webb has been assisting County Health with their community COVID vaccination clinics. He is also working with the Public Works Department on ordering and placement of speed limit signs with the recent approval of those changes in the City limits.
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- **Next Council Meeting:** Due to the President’s Day holiday, the next City Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 16th, at its regular time.
- **Water Leak:** Public Works was working today to repair a water leak on South Grove St. that occurred over the weekend.

Trummel asked about recent repairs to the highway, due to City waterline leaks, that have involved concrete rather than asphalt. Barnes clarified that there will be some concrete work as well. She asked Mullin if this was an opportunity for the City to move the waterline out from under the highway. He has advised that they will only be milling the asphalt down a few inches, rather than tearing out and replacing.

H. **GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS**

There were no additional comments from the Governing Body.

I. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – In accordance with K.S.A. 75-4319(b) for personnel matters of non-elected personnel. 10 minutes

Trummel made a motion to go into executive session for non-elected personnel until 7:00 p.m. McBeath seconded, and the motion passed 4-0. Council returned to open session at 7:00 p.m. with no action taken.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing further to discuss, Christenson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Matt Christenson, Mayor

Christy Pyatt, City Clerk