A) CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Matt Christenson called the May 3, 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: Mark Trummel, Pam Reves, Chance Little, and Haley Kern. Mike McBeath was absent. Staff present: Administrator Stacy Barnes and City Clerk Christy Pysz.

Christenson stated that Michael Rainger advised just before the meeting he would be unable to attend. That Item of Business will be skipped. Reves 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
Kern made a motion, seconded by Trummel, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

F) PROCLAMATION: JOPLIN, MISSOURI TORNADO 10TH ANNIVERSARY
Christenson read a prepared proclamation, commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Joplin, MO tornado. The City received a very courteous proclamation from the City of Joplin on the 10th Anniversary of our tornado disaster, congratulating us on our recovery and resiliency. A nice plaque containing the proclamation will be sent to the City of Joplin.

G) ITEMS OF BUSINESS
1. Street Closure Request, Triangle Rodeo Club
Staff has received a request from the Triangle Rodeo Club for a street closure for the May 28th and 29th rodeo. The closure would be at the intersection of Bay and California, to control traffic into the rodeo grounds and to reduce the number of entry gates needed. Barnes has administratively approved their request for closures for their rodeo parade, as it is an annual event. Trummel made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Kern. The motion passed 4-0.

Rainger had advised prior to the meeting that he was unable to attend tonight as previously planned.

Chief Aaron Webb provided information in the meeting packet regarding recommended changes to Sections 23 and 25 of the Greensburg Police Department Policy Manual. These sections cover juvenile arrest procedures, at-risk youth, and runaways. The changes requested are upon recommendations from Kansas Juvenile Intake. Reves made a motion to approve the changes requested. Kern seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.
4. **Convene as Greensburg Land Bank: Consider Request to Purchase 224 S. Spruce**

Christenson recessed open session of the Council and convened them as the Greensburg Land Bank. Staff has received a request from Jon and Diane Sarver to purchase 224 S. Spruce from the Land Bank. The Sarver’s plan to build a home in the next year and included preliminary house plans with their application. Barnes noted that typically lots used for this purpose have been sold for $300. Reves made a motion to approve the request. Little seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Staff will begin the required advertising of the property, as provided within the Land Bank policies.

Christenson closed the meeting of the Land Bank and re-opened Council’s open session.

County Commissioner David White joined the meeting but had nothing additional to bring to the Council. He advised that he plans to begin attending Greensburg Council meetings, as he does those for the City of Muldavinville, to be aware of what is going on in his district.

**H) CITY STAFF REPORTS**

Barnes reported to Council on the following topics:

- **Playground Update:** The new playground equipment for the swimming pool park is scheduled to be delivered the week of May 17th. Installation will begin shortly thereafter.

- **Kiowa County Tax Sale Results:** Last week, Kiowa County held a Sheriff’s Sale for properties with delinquent taxes. Ten properties sold, four did not. Those properties will be on the next tax sale. A list of properties that did and did not sell was provided for Council. Though Barnes advised at the sale that the Council was willing to consider waiving additional mowing charges that had not yet been assessed, there was some hesitancy on the part of a few potential buyers. Staff did not realize before the sale that any charges that had yet to be part of the delinquency would be assessed to the new owner, unless the Council chooses to dismiss them. Barnes suggested that Council consider a policy to forgive any unassessed specials when properties are sold at tax sale. The hope of holding a tax sale is to get delinquent properties into the hands of responsible owners. The County hopes to begin holding sales on an annual basis, rather than waiting several years as they have done in the past.

- **Kansas Statewide Housing Study:** The State has announced that it will be conducting a statewide housing needs assessment to determine current housing opportunities, identify goals and develop strategic initiatives for housing development efforts in the state. Tomorrow Barnes will virtually attend the southwest Kansas region forum, which will provide additional information about the process.

- **Spring Clean Up Day:** Nisly Brothers posted on their Facebook page that for the spring clean-up day in Haviland and Greensburg on April 24th over 10 tons of trash was hauled off.

- **Business Park Building Update:** As previously mentioned, a topographic survey of the proposed building site for the spec building in the Business Park is due to be completed in the coming days.

- **City Staff Updates and Projects:** Staff continues to advertise for the Tourism/Big Well Director position. Jared Shriver started as a lineman apprentice today. Staff has been working on spraying weeds, mowing, fixing electrical issues, and filling the swimming pool. A new backstop fence kit has been ordered and will be installed at Sunset Park. Three trees were planted last Friday for Arbor Day, one at Starlight Park and two at Sunset Park.

- **Police Department Report:** A report of April Police Department activities was provided in Drop Box, by Chief Webb, for Council’s review.

Kern stated that she had a citizen ask if Nisly’s were only available on a Saturday to do the annual Spring Clean Up Day. Barnes stated that she could ask them about other options, but that a week day would be difficult with their regular route schedule and that Sundays would more than likely not be an option.
Reves asked how the State Housing Assessment would be compiled, by city or by county. Barnes will know more about the mechanics of the process after tomorrow’s round-table regional meeting. Reves asked if they couldn’t use information taken during the recent census. Barnes noted that portions of the census have been released, and she anticipates that the remainder will be released in the next couple of months. The State has hired a consulting firm to perform their assessment.

Reves noted that the trees at the swimming pool park are starting to leaf out. She believes that the City will have a beautiful park once they begin to grow. Barnes advised that K-State Research and Extension had let her know a few weeks ago that they had an arborist in town. Upon inspection of trees on Main Street and in City parks, he reported identifying some issues with older trees at Davis Park. The other trees seem to be healthy.

Reves has been asked by a citizen about the property across from ball fields, at Ohio Ave. and Olive Street. Though acknowledging the property is kept mowed, the citizen feels that the structures on the property are an eyesore. Council discussed that it has been a while since they have taken any action on abatement proceedings. Most recently they have focused on 2-3 properties at a time. Christianson feels it would be appropriate to review the list of properties that are in code violation and move forward with the most pressing.

Trummel asked if Public Works was going to install the new playground equipment at the swimming pool park or if the company that sold the equipment would do the install. Part of the sale price included installation. Barnes noted that installation of the back stop at Sunset Park would be done by Public Works. Also, Staff will be using the City’s skid steer to unload the playground equipment and to remove any dirt necessary for the installation.

Christenson brought up the assessed mowing fees that were not part of the delinquent taxes on properties in the Sheriff’s sale. Those fees will carry over to the new owners if the Council does not take action to forgive them. Rather than forgiving the fees on a case-by-case basis after each sale, Christenson suggested creating a blanket policy that, in the case of a Sheriff’s auction, all mowing fees previously assessed to a property will be forgiven. There was concern amongst the Council that the fees would be forgiven and then a family member of the original land owner would purchase the property and give it back to the land owner. Commissioner White advised that those who purchase these properties cannot themselves have delinquent taxes, and they cannot purchase a property and then deed it back to the original owner for 10 years. Reves expressed hesitancy in a blanket policy. Discussion was had on the low expectation of recovering mowing fees in general. With the goal being to do what they can to make sure the property gets in the hands of an owner that will take care of it, Christenson recommended having City Attorney Clayton Kerbs involved in developing a policy to bring back to Council for discussion. Trummel suggested possibly waiving the fees with the caveat that if the new owner does not maintain the property, the old fees will be reassessed. Christenson recommended discussing options at a later date.

I) GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS
There were no additional comments from the Governing Body.

J) ADJOURNMENT
With nothing further to discuss, Christenson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.