Greensburg City Council
July 6, 2021
City Hall

A) CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Matt Christenson called the July 6, 2021 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

C) ROLL CALL & APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Council Present: Mark Trummel, Chance Little, and Haley Kern. Absent: Pam Reves. There is currently one vacant Council seat. Staff present: Administrator Stacy Barnes and City Clerk Christy Pyatt.

Trummel made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Little seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

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 3-0.

F) ITEMS OF BUSINESS
   1. Animal Control/Code Enforcement Agreement with City of Haviland
Barnes has been working with Haviland's Mayor Aaron Stokes, developing a draft animal control/code enforcement agreement. The document, which outlines the responsibilities of each City, has been reviewed by both City Attorneys. The Enforcement Officer would be a Haviland City Employee. Greensburg would pay an annual contract fee, which is currently shown as $10,000. Greensburg would provide a vehicle for use in both cities. The City owns a van, previously used by Public Works, that has been parked since the end of January, which can be utilized. Barnes has discussed coverage with the City's insurance provider. Both cities would continue to utilize their respective dog facilities, but Haviland has a state certified cat facility that Greensburg does not have. Each city has additional adopted codes that would be enforced by the officer (i.e. weeds, structure, and property codes). As drafted, the contract would be for a 1-year term, at which time both parties would have an opportunity to review its conditions. Either party may exit the contract with 60-day notice. The Haviland Council will review the draft next Monday.

Trummel felt that the draft sounded one-sided, with which Kern concurred. Discussion was had on the various costs that would be covered by the contract price and what would be in addition to those costs. It was determined that items such as fuel and vehicle repairs are not specified in the draft contract. Little asked if this employee would be responsible for dealing with skunks and raccoons. Barnes clarified that wildlife are to be handled by Wildlife and Parks. This contract is for resolving issues with domestic animals and City code enforcement. Christenson advised that Staff will attempt to split the cost as evenly as possible; however, it is difficult to do until the program is actually utilized. Little asked where the contract price would be paid from. Barnes clarified that it is budgeted under Police for the 2022 budget. Barnes believes that there is adequate budget authority to cover costs for the remainder of 2021. Trummel would like to see a break-down of the proposed fee. Discussion was had on trying to account for all costs within the contract price. Trummel would like to see the cost of fuel split 50/50
when the bill comes each month. Little mentioned that establishing a certified cat facility may be more cost effective than having a contract.

Consensus was to run some preliminary numbers on costs to each city, and make the cost split as equal as possible. Both Councils could review the contract next year with actual costs.

2. City Attorney Contract Renewal
A contract for City Attorney services is offered annually by Kerbs Law. The 2021-2022 contract terms are identical to years past, with the exception of compensation. Kerbs has not had a rate increase in several years. Barnes stated that at the proposed price they would still fall below the state wide average. Rates shown would go to $200/hour beginning September 1st. Noting that a rate increase is a sign of the times and that the Court has been keeping Kerbs Law busier than in the past, Trummel made a motion, seconded by Kern, to approve the contract with Kerbs Law as presented. The motion passed 3-0.

3. Ordinance #1106 Adding Section 7-112 to Chapter VII, Article 1 of the City Code Regarding Fire Department Vehicle Lighting and Permitting
Police Chief Aaron Webb has been discussing with Fire Chief Theron-McKinney the possibility of allowing City firefighters to outfit their personal vehicles with lights and sirens, to be used when responding to a call. The Ordinance proposed tonight would add a section to the Fire Department section of the Code of the City of Greensburg, outlining a permit process for such use. The Ordinance describes what would be permitted, references state statute, and is only applicable for responding in City limits. Both Webb and McKinney feel such a code would allow volunteers the ability to get to the fire station in private vehicles, rapidly, but more safely.

Trummel asked if each vehicle would be inspected by Webb before lights or sirens are used? This is correct. In addition, firefighters would only be allowed to exceed the posted speed limit up to 15 mph while responding. Little was satisfied with the Ordinance, as both Chiefs have discussed the proposal. Christenson pointed out that the Ordinance provides repercussions for abuse of the equipment. Little seconded Kern's motion to approve Ordinance 1106. Christenson asked for a roll call vote, which passed 3-0.

4. Policy Waiving Special Assessments for Properties Sold at Sheriff Auction
Barnes apologized to Council for not bringing a proposal on waiving special assessments for properties sold at Sheriff Auction sooner. Rather than examining assessments on a case-by-case basis, she asked that they consider a blanket policy waiving such fees, in hopes of getting properties in the hands of responsible owners. Special Assessments for these properties are on the tax bill belonging to the previous owner, not the new owner.

Kern voiced that if waiving a fee assessed to the prior owner makes a property more desirable to a responsible buyer, it's money well spent. Little requested clarification of what special assessments would be included. Barnes stated that properties sold at Sheriff Auction have not yet been deeded to new owners. New owners have not taken possession yet, and the City has been having to mow some of these properties this year. Mowing fees for this year have not yet been submitted to the County Clerk and would appear on a future tax bill. Barnes was aware that some properties for sale at the last auction did not sell over concern that a future buyer would be assessed mowing fees that had yet to be assessed. At a Sheriff's Auction, taxes and special assessments that are delinquent are automatically waived. This policy would waive all current special assessments associated with mowings occurring prior to the transfer of ownership.

Kern made a motion to approve the proposed policy. Trummel second, and the motion passed 3-0.
G) CITY STAFF REPORTS
Barnes reported to Council on the following topics:

- **KDOT IKE Projects Announcements:** This week Governor Laura Kelly and Secretary Julie Lorenz will announce the first highway modernization and expansion projects to be committed to construction by the Kansas Department of Transportation as part of the bipartisan Kelly Administration Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE). The 10-year IKE program was approved by the Kansas Legislature and signed into law by Governor Kelly in April 2020. Southwest region projects will be announced in Dodge City at 11am and south-central region projects in Wichita at 1pm on Wednesday. Both announcement ceremonies will also be livestreamed on the KDOT Facebook page.

- **Kansas Representation to American Public Power Association Board:** Colin Hansen, director of Kansas Municipal Utilities, was recently appointed Chair of the APPA board of directors for the coming year. In his first speech as chair, he mentioned Greensburg as a great example of resiliency. Barnes spoke with Colin and he said he will have several more opportunities to talk to national groups and will continue to use Greensburg in his presentations. Barnes has provided him photos and video to aid in his presentation. Recently, Barnes did an interview with a writer for the APPA magazine, which will be coming out in the near future.

- **2022 Budget Timeline Update:** Jim Kennedy will be working on the City’s 2022 budget tomorrow. He and Barnes will meet to go over the draft document, and then it will be presented for council’s final review before an August 16th public hearing.

- **Kiowa County Economic Development Director:** The KCED board has hired Julie Lyon to serve as part-time Economic Development Director through the end of the year. She started the week before last and is here a couple of days a week.

- **City Staff Updates and Projects:** Public Works has continued work on street patching. There have been some issues with an area in the 300 block of W. Lincoln holding. Staff is looking at other repair options. The 224 S. Spruce Land Bank property have been deeded over to the new owners. A new swing seat has been ordered for the Big Well Park playground. Cables on the original seat had frayed, and it has been taken down for safety purposes. Heather Coyne started last week as Tourism/Big Well Director. We continue to advertise for a Public Works position that has been unfilled since a retirement in January.

- **Fire Department Fundraiser:** Tomorrow evening the Fire Department will once again be delivering hamburgers and hotdogs door-to-door as a fundraiser. Orders must be called in to Peter Kern ahead of time.

Christenson asked if there were any questions for Barnes. Little voiced that He believes Power-Ups do a great job of organizing the annual, community Fourth of July celebration, but it is his opinion that the spent fireworks should not be left for Public Works to cleanup. This year, July 4th fell on a Sunday. City employees had Monday as a designated holiday, so the fireworks remained at the curb until Tuesday morning. Little asked if the Big Well was open on Monday, which Barnes confirmed was the case. Little stated that he did not feel the fireworks remaining on the corner looked good to visitors. Barnes advised that it took Public Works 10 minutes or less to scoop up the pile. Volunteers had already cleaned the street, where the fireworks were launched, and placed the fireworks at the curb to allow them to cool. Volunteers also walked the park, picking up trash after the event. Little voiced concern over hot debris being piled. He stated that the City is short staffed, and already donated toward the cost of the fireworks. Trummel asked if in the future a dumpster could be placed nearby so Power-Ups could place the debris in the dumpster and spray it down with water. He asked if Power-Ups was a City organization. Barnes reminded Council that City Staff has scooped the debris pile up the day after the event for several years. This year, because of Monday being a holiday, the pile sat for an extra day. Barnes
clarified that Power-Ups began as a grass roots effort to encourage people to step-up and be active in their community. She confirmed that there are, however, several active members that are associated with the City (herself, Pyatt, former Council Member McBeath, Council Member Kern, and Mayor Christenson).

Trummel asked where we are at with the Industrial Park survey. Barnes reminded Council that she had previously reported the survey being delayed. She will follow-up with the surveyor on a time frame. Trummel believes the project could have continued if we had just moved it across the street. Barnes reminded Council that the airport would be surveyed at the same time. Trummel asked if there were any street projects planned for the summer, as in the past. Barnes has been having conversations with the Public Works Superintendent. He is getting some outside advice on how to best deal with some reoccurring street issues.

H) GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS
Kern advised that she will not be present at the July 19th Council Meeting.

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

Matt Christenson, Mayor

Christy Pyatt, City Clerk