



2020

<u>Vision Statement:</u> "The Good Neighbor City" where quality of Life is available to all! <u>Mission Statement:</u> To promote the existing peaceful atmosphere while providing quality services to our community through public awareness, public safety, communication and beautification, utilizing economic development as a means to enhance a positive future.

# City Hall will be closed December the 24th & 25th for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Vacancy Announcement Animal Control City Manager



### City Council Meeting – Thursday, December 17th, 7 pm

### LIFE CHANGES & WELLNESS CENTER, INC.

Located at 8515 NE 25<sup>TH</sup> Spencer, Oklahoma 73084 will for the 1st year be a part of the Child Nutrition – Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to feed children ages 6-19. For more information you may contact Mrs. Gail Dial – Director @ 405-796-7045 or 405-204-6761.

# Mayor's 2020 Summary

Greetings City of Spencer:

The year 2020 has been like no other in recent memory for the world. Our nation has been faced with a once in a century health crisis, racial division, mistrust sown by those whom we have asked to lead and an economy filled with uncertainty. All of these things will not stop the efforts of our community to work. I would like to take a moment to speak to our residents and give a brief update of continued efforts to move our city towards greatness.

1. The MOST important responsibility any one in authority has in leading people is safety. Our city council has adopted and maintained an Emergency Declaration for masks and gatherings within the city limits. It is with the safety of ALL our citizens that we approved the mandates. Leadership requires leaders to make tough decisions that may not be popular, but ultimately will keep those being lead safe. Our community has not been spared the impact of the COVID-19 virus. At the time of this writing we have been documented with 285 positive cases (225 have recovered) with 3 people lost to the virus. It is imperative that we as a community continue to practice our safety measures to slow down the infection rate.

- 2. We have worked this year to improve the financial standing of the city. Through sound financial measures to eliminate outstanding liabilities, we are on pace to pay off our outstanding tax debts. There are still negotiations ongoing toward some debts, but we are prepared to address them once the negotiations are done.
- 3. It is now time to see the clouds move away. As stated above, we have placed a priority on improving the city's finances. The economic impact of COVID-19 has devastated many communities due to closures of businesses and loss of income of the individuals within the communities. I can say that the City of Spencer has seen an INCREASE in the sales tax revenue received. We have a new furniture business, a relocated home healthcare headquarters and a potential new business on NE 23<sup>rd</sup>. WOW, and there are more things to come!!
- 4. We have refinanced our civic bonds and will use the new financing for paying off outstanding debts and economic development. Kringlen Park will be remodeled completely. There will be a new rodeo arena and other projects in the park that will provide entertainment for families and facilitate a happy and healthy community. We will update some smaller water lines within the city. (We will continue to seek ways to bring city water to every resident within the city limits). Every household that has a water meter will be fitted with a new electronic meter. This will eliminate human error in the processing of water bills.
- 5. Speaking of NE 23<sup>rd</sup>, the City of Spencer in partnership with the City of Midwest City has received a grant from the University of Oklahoma to renovate the NE 23<sup>rd</sup> Street corridor between our cities in conjunction with Oklahoma County. The University is taking on the project to imagine what the area could look like with landscaping and potential renovations on both sides of the street.
- 6. THE movie making headquarters for Oklahoma is in Spencer. Prepare for the growth. Congratulations!!
- 7. We will have 70 NEW homes being built along N. Midwest Blvd. starting in 2021.
- 8. The USDA 1890 National Scholars Program is a partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Langston University, Oklahoma's only 1890 historically black land-grant university. The program provides an all-expense paid opportunity to attend the prestigious Langston University. Full-tuition, books, fees, summer work, and room and board are provided to all recipients of the scholarship. Students must pursue a degree in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences or related academic disciplines. After completing the summer work and academic requirements, USDA could choose to convert the student to permanent, full-time employment without further competition. This program is available to high school seniors and current college students who are admitted to Langston University.

For more information about the scholarship program and for an application visit:

#### https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/1890NationalScholars.

A complete application must be submitted by January 31, 2021. Contact Shalonda Guy-Kangah, at 405-306-3152, for questions or more information.

 The October Ice Storm has left our community with many trees down. We have started the process of having FEMA assist with the funding of the clean-up. We anticipate having our application approved later in December and pick-up of trees in January.