

MONDAY

MAY 10, 2021

The Governing Body of the City of Pratt met in a Recessed City/County joint meeting in the Commission Room located in City Hall.

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| PRESENT: | Gary Schmidt | Mayor |
| | Don Peters | Commissioner |
| | Zach Deeds | Commissioner |
| | Jeanette Siemens | Commissioner |

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| ALSO PRESENT: | Bruce Pinkall | City Manager |
| | LuAnn Kramer | City Clerk |
| | Regina Goff | City Attorney |
| | Rick Shriver | County Commissioner Chairman |
| | Dwight Adams | County Commissioner |
| | Tom Jones | County Commissioner |
| | Lori Voss | County Clerk |
| | Tyson Eisenhauer | County Counselor |

CALL TO ORDER:

The recessed meeting was called to order by Mayor Schmidt. The Mayor instructed the City Clerk to note that all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Farmer.

Mayor Schmidt reminded the audience that this meeting may be taped and/or recorded.

BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION ON LEC AGREEMENT:

County Commission Chairman Shriver stated that the State had some concerns on how the 911 funds were being handled and they had said they should go to whoever had dispatch. Commissioner Shriver commented that the County owns the equipment in the dispatch center and the City had the employees. Commissioner Shriver explained that they had come up with a plan with the help of Dispatch Superintendent Stockwell and Chief Humble and they would be turning the funds over to the City to make the State happy. Commissioner Shriver commented that there would be a 911 Advisory Council to see where those funds go that would include the Chief of Police, the Sheriff, City Fire Chief Kramer, Mr. Stockwell, Head of EMS, Head of Rescue, one member of rural fire departments, one member from City Commission and one member from County Commission. Commissioner Peters stated that the main thing to point out was that it would not make any difference how those funds were appropriated out. Commissioner Shriver agreed and stated that there was a narrow window on what you could spend them on. Commissioner Shriver added that we were trying to make the State happy, because they were not liking our agreement much.

County Counselor Eisenhauer stated that, if we go in that direction, Article 8 of the LEC Agreement would have to be changed in the way he and City Attorney Goff were going. Mr. Eisenhauer commented that it would have to happen for the City to get the ORI and the City would have to execute an ordinance. Ms. Goff stated that she had a copy of the Reno County Agreement with the City of Hutchinson regarding

what the Emergency Communications Board would look like. Ms. Goff commented that the resolution from Rice County established the separate departments of Rice County Communications that provides for the position of Supervisor and it has five laws for the Board established and how they would operate and who would be a party to the board. Ms. Goff also explained that each Body would pass an ordinance authorizing the Board to act and agree on the 911 funds. Commissioner Peters asked if the Advisory Board approved something and if it would then come to the City Commission for their approval. Ms. Goff stated that she felt that the Advisory Board had the authority. Mr. Eisenhauer stated that there was a Statutory clearance that you can reach out to the State letting them know that you need to buy something and they would let you know yes or no. Commissioner Shriver stated that the City would be the bookkeeper for the 911 funds and would have to turn that over to the State to be audited at the end of the year. Mr. Stockwell stated that he knew that it had to be monitored. Mr. Eisenhauer explained that one of the regulations relating to the ORI was that they should have a separate budget within the City budget. Commissioner Peters asked if 911 had a balance now. Commissioner Shriver stated that it had around \$6,000 and it came in every month.

Mr. Eisenhauer commented that one thing that came up in their meeting was how to address their property that was in dispatch now and it should probably be addressed in the LEC Agreement. Commissioner Shriver stated that it should be kept simple in that the County was responsible for the equipment and the City was responsible for the employees and the day-to-day operations. Mr. Stockwell stated that most of the equipment was already marked in some way as owned by the County and he had it inventoried. Mayor Schmidt asked who did repairs or replacements. Chief Humble stated that, if it was related to dispatch, each would take care of their own. Mayor Schmidt asked if the 911 account was use it or lose it at the end of the year. Commissioner Shriver stated that it was not. Mayor Schmidt commented that he assumed that the County Clerk took care of the accounting side of that for them, so our Finance Director would take that over. Ms. Goff stated that that would be the way it would be once the State approved the Ordinance. Mr. Eisenhauer stated that he would like for the LEC Agreement to be approved also.

Commissioner Peters asked when the Advisory Board would meet. Commissioner Shriver stated that they would have to get established. Mr. Eisenhauer stated that the LEC Agreement needed to be modified to fit our situation and give us some structure. Ms. Goff agreed and stated that we did not want to reinvent the wheel. Mayor Schmidt asked where we go from here. Mr. Eisenhauer commented that he needed to doctor a document. Ms. Goff stated that she needed to build a document and get it to our Commissions and then we could meet again. Mr. Stockwell stated that he would work on the ORI system and get that done. Mr. Stockwell add that that would be his goal. Commissioner Peters asked what a target date should be. Mr. Eisenhauer stated that he had a motion to file, a motion to confirm along with working on the LEC Agreement. Ms. Goff stated that she probably needed at least thirty days, so she thought June 11th would be a good day. Mr. Eisenhauer stated that that would be a good target day for him as well. Ms. Goff stated that she would have an ordinance to the City Commission the first meeting in July. Ms. Goff added that June 17th would be a good date for a LEC meeting.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON CITY/COUNTY ISSUES:

- **Evidence Room:**

Commissioner Peters commented that he had talked about, and visited, the evidence room with Chief Humble a couple of years ago and it had been overflowing and crowded. Commissioner Peters commented that Sheriff White had stated that he would get someone in to do some construction in there and he wondered if anything had been done with that yet. Commissioner Shriver asked if it had changed since the last LEC meeting. Chief Humble stated that it had not. Mr. Eisenhauer stated that Sheriff White had come into one of the County Commission meetings and told them that he had not liked the numbers he was given. Commissioner Shriver commented that he did not remember that, but he did remember that

he was going to hire it done because he did not have time to do it himself. Commissioner Shriver stated that he would try to get with him and see where it was at. Commissioner Peters asked how critical that was. Chief Humble stated that they were making do. Chief Humble explained that they were having to make multiple trips to the KBI and they were having to delay picking things up. Chief Humble stated that they were getting our KBI reports back, but we were essentially storing things up there.

- **Training Room:**

Commissioner Peters asked how the training room was working. Chief Humble stated that it was going well. Chief Humble commented that they were using the library and it was set-up for what we have and the TV had been upgraded the components for power points and they had been invited to some of the training.

- **Full Staff:**

Commissioner Peters asked if they were fully staffed. Chief Humble stated that he was down two officers and four dispatch. Commissioner Jones asked how you cover for that many. Chief Humble stated a lot of overtime. Chief Humble stated that he had two retire very close together and one that was not going to work out and one that was going to go to work at what she had gone to school for. Commissioner Shriver stated that you cannot just stick someone in a chair to do that job. Commissioner Peters asked how you advertise for that job. Chief Humble explained that they advertise nationally, on social media, Kansas 911 and KPOA. Commissioner Shriver commented that it takes a certain person to dispatch. Chief Humble stated that we were not the only ones going through this. Chief Humble explained that Topeka was too and they were working twelve-hour shifts, off four hours and back for another twelve. Ms. Goff asked what our starting wage was. Chief Humble stated that it was \$17.76 and others range around \$20, but we have better benefits than some agencies. Chief Humble added that it was hard to see past the paycheck for some.

- **Security:**

Mayor Schmidt stated that the City had been talking about security for our meetings since they start at 5:00 p.m. and there was no way to have much protection since the employees go home at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Schmidt commented that we hope that nothing was going to happen here, but we wanted to be proactive and we have been having officers here during meetings. Mayor Schmidt asked if the County had any plans. Commissioner Shriver stated that they probably should talk about it. Mayor Schmidt stated that we could talk about it another time and we know it will cost us some overtime. Commissioner Shriver commented that mental health is a crisis and unfortunately, you have to commit a crime to be put in jail. Chief Humble stated that they had some security issues at LEC so they put in a buzz in system so dispatch knows who is there. Chief Humble commented that it was fairly inexpensive. Chief Humble stated that he could also install software on his I-Pad that would allow him to see who wanted to come into a meeting that might be running late and he could go let them in.

- **County project:**

Mayor Schmidt asked if there had been delays in materials in the County project. Commissioner Shriver stated that they had a progress meeting last Wednesday and most of it was on site. Commissioner Shriver explained that they split the building up and Building A is Fire and EMS bays, Building B is meeting room and EOC offices, Building C is base for EMS and Building D is living quarters for EMS. Commissioner Shriver stated that they were almost done with the footing on Building B and the electric and plumbing were going smooth. Commissioner Shriver explained that they had had some issues with

some contractors wanting to bill for current prices instead of when they did the project, but got that taken care of. Commissioner Shriver commented that the weather had not been too much of an issue, but they were moving along. Commissioner Shriver stated that the materials were in the warehouse and were all here, but not on site.

Commissioner Shriver commented that when the PVC was brought on for the heating and air, the filtration system was going to cost \$30,000 a year to change the filter, so they got rid of that and one complete boiler, which saved somewhere around \$300,000. Commissioner Shriver stated that they ended up going with individual units that will be serviced locally. Commissioner Peters asked what the due date was to be done. Commissioner Shriver stated that it was around the end of March 2022. Commissioner Shriver stated that the building was moving forward. Commissioner Peters asked if any of the contractors were local. Commissioner Shriver stated that Robert Smiley was the only local one.

- **Braum's:**

Commissioner Shriver asked about Braum's. City Manager Pinkall stated that COVID put their schedule about a year down the road.

- **Water quality:**

Mayor Schmidt stated that he had concerns about the water quality and nitrates near the lagoon at the County project. Commissioner Shriver stated that he assumed that KDHE had to sign off and the contractors said they did not. Commissioner Shriver commented that he was not the guy to talk to, but the one you could see from the highway was a catch point and the sewer pond was on the north.

- **Lake:**

Chief Humble stated that the guys taking care of the lake were doing a great job. Chief Humble commented that with all the campers and ball games going on, there was never any trash when they drive around it.

ADJOURN:

Mayor Schmidt made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peters and carried unanimously.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

GARY A. SCHMIDT, Mayor



ATTEST:

5 – May 10, 2021 (City/County Joint meeting)

LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk