

MONDAY

JUNE 15, 2020

The Governing Body of the City of Pratt met in Regular Session in the Commission Room located at City Hall

PRESENT:	Gary Schmidt	Mayor
	Doug Meyer	Commissioner
	Don Peters	Commissioner
	Jason Leslie	Commissioner
	Zach Deeds	Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:	Bruce Pinkall	City Manager
	LuAnn Kramer	City Clerk
	Regina Probst	City Attorney
	Diana Garten	Finance Director
	Nate Humble	Chief of Police
	Russell Rambat	Public Works Director
	Jamie Huber	Dir. of Electric Utilities

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Schmidt. The Mayor instructed the City Clerk to note that all Commissioners were present.

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Commissioner Leslie led the audience and staff in the invocation and Mayor Schmidt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:**

- June 01, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting

Commissioner Leslie made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 01, 2020 Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leslie and carried unanimously.

**BUSINESS:**

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL FOR THE 2020 HOT AND COLD CLASSIC DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT AT MAY DENNIS PARK ON JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>:**

Mr. Joseph Burt stated that they had cut the number of players for the Hot and Cold Classic Disc Golf Tournament to eighty due to COVID-19 and made it an online registration only. Mr. Burt commented that they would not be congregating in one area for very long and people would be keeping score online as well. Mr. Burt explained that lunch and intermissions would be in cars or at supporting local businesses and hydration would be on their own.

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Mr. Burt asked that there be extra trash containers, if that was possible. Public Works Director Rambat stated that he would leave the carts there and they could put them where they wanted them. Commissioner Deeds asked what their numbers had been in the past. Mr. Burt stated that it was usually around ninety or so. Commissioner Deeds made a motion to approve the 2020 Hot and Cold Classic Disc Golf Tournament on June 27<sup>th</sup> at May Dennis Park. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PRATT HIGH SCHOOL PROM AT MERCHANT PARK ON JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> FROM 8:30 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M.:**

City Manager Pinkall stated that he could combine the next two agenda items since they were similar. Mr. Pinkall explained that both Pratt High School and Skyline High School were requesting the use of Merchant Park for their Prom and wanted to block off 4<sup>th</sup> Street from Main Street to the alley. Mr. Pinkall commented that some wanted to move farther down on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, but that was the stopping point because of the residents that live in the Parrish Apartments. Commissioner Peters asked if they were blocking off anything on Main Street. Mr. Pinkall stated that they had not asked for anything and he thought that it would be better if they did not. Mr. Pinkall commented that there would be extra trash receptacles. Commissioner Meyer asked about restroom facilities. Mr. Pinkall stated that the Municipal Building was available. Commissioner Leslie questioned if the school had asked for a police presence. Police Chief Humble stated that they had not. Mr. Pinkall commented that he had not thought about that, but he would get with those sponsors and address those things. Mayor Schmidt asked if they would be dropping off the participants on Main Street. Mr. Pinkall stated that he assumed it would be on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. With no more discussions, Commissioner Leslie made a motion to approve the use of Merchant Park on June 20<sup>th</sup> for the Pratt High School Prom from 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on conditions to be discussed by City Manager Pinkall to make the decisions on bathroom facilities, police presence and drop off points. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL PROM AT MERCHANT PARK ON JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> FROM 8:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M.:**

With no discussion needed, Commissioner Deeds made a motion to approve the use of Merchants Park on June 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. for Skyline High School Prom contingent on Mr. Pinkall's discussion with sponsors. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer and carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL FOR YOUTH CORE MINISTRIES TO HAVE A FUN NIGHT AT MERCHANT PARK ON JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> FROM 4 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M.:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that this event was a little different, but it was with Youth Core Ministries and they would be having refreshments and playing games and having music on July 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mr. Pinkall commented that they would also like to have 4<sup>th</sup> Street blocked off from Main Street to the alley. Mr. Pinkall stated that this was a younger group of people; however, no one was being dropped off in cars. Mayor Schmidt asked who made a call if there were to be bad weather. Mr. Pinkall stated that it would be that group's responsibility or the police would assist. Mr. Pinkall stated that the maintenance person would be on duty at the Municipal Building also. Commissioner Meyer made a motion to approve the use of Merchant Park on July 11<sup>th</sup> by Youth Core Ministries for their Fun Night from 4:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leslie and carried unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

**City Manager:**

- **Executive Session:**

City Manager Pinkall requested an executive session for acquisition of property at the end of the meeting to last fifteen minutes.

- **Recap of last couple of weeks:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that staff had prepared well for the opening up of the facilities. Mr. Pinkall commented that the Open Gravel Race was last weekend and they had around 285 bikers. Mr. Pinkall stated that it was hotter than they had planned, but it was well planned out and went well. Mr. Pinkall explained that there were also thirty teams in town for a baseball tournament and they had played late into Saturday evening. Mr. Pinkall stated that there was enough of a crowd that they used the excess parking both days. Mr. Pinkall commented that there had been spots marked to remind people where to stand to be 6' apart and the dugouts and restrooms were kept sanitized. Mr. Pinkall added that players only touched certain baseballs and there had been a good plan in place. Mr. Pinkall commented that the next tournament would be in two weeks. Mr. Pinkall stated that recreation activities would start next week.

- **Openings:**

Mr. Pinkall informed the Commission that the pool would be opening Wednesday with adult swim starting at noon and opening to the public at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Pinkall stated that there would be no concessions, no chairs or lounges, no pool toys and no slide for now, but we would be adjusting as we went along. Mr. Pinkall also stated that there could be lessons in July and the swim team camp was as scheduled with Tonya Harrison.

Mr. Pinkall stated that the Pilot Club Train would be opening up on the 18<sup>th</sup> and they had given the Commission their COVID-19 guidelines. Mr. Pinkall added that they would be given a sprayer to spray things down tomorrow. Mr. Pinkall explained that they were monitoring the things that they could and he would bring anything out of the ordinary before the Commission. With no more discussion, the Commission was in agreement with the COVID-19 plan to stay safe the Pilot Club had provided.

- **Park Bathrooms:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that three bathrooms in the parks would be opened and the park employees would be keeping them clean and as safe as possible.

- **Iowa Street Trail:**

Mr. Pinkall commented that Mr. Dewayne Bryan had the funds for Phase 2 of the Iowa Street Trail and there would be no funds needed from the City. Mr. Pinkall stated that Public Works Director Rambat would put together the bids for Phase 2.

- **Budget Management:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that all the departments had done an excellent job in their budget management.

Mr. Pinkall commented that we were limiting part-time help and were trying to maintain everything with the current staff. Commissioner Leslie asked if we were close to a point where we could open up the budget to the departments. Mr. Pinkall stated that he thought that we were really close and we would know more when we got the sales tax report at the end of this month. Mr. Pinkall stated that that would include the first full month of COVID-19. Mr. Pinkall stated that the State had predicted 12%. Mr. Pinkall commented that once they got those numbers, he and Finance Director Garten would make a plan. Mr. Pinkall commented that patience had given them a positive outlook and they had had their two full days of budget discussions with their department heads. Mr. Pinkall added that there was a lot to learn and this was a good budget to look at and to move forward with.

- **County meeting:**

Mr. Pinkall reminded the Commissioners that there was a County meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Municipal Building and it was concerning the new EMS facility.

**City Attorney:**

- **Legislative Updates:**

City Attorney Probst stated that she had legislative updates and would bring them to the next meeting.

**Public Works:**

- **ADA rails:**

Public Works Director Rambat stated that he was getting prices for the ADA rails for the bathroom at Lemon Park and also for the parking area.

- **Waterline at airport:**

Mr. Rambat commented that he had talked to Water Superintendent Clay and APAC might have the waterline at the airport online by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **Phosphorous removal:**

Mr. Rambat stated that he had met with the State at the wastewater treatment plant and they were looking at phosphorous removal. Mr. Rambat explained that it was not a mandated thing, but they had talked about what we could do and not add any new expenses and by doing some of the work ourselves. Mr. Rambat stated that our numbers were not horrible and added that the State wants numbers at one or below.

**Electric Department:**

- **Outages:**

Commissioner Meyer asked when the last time was we had a power outage. Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that we had a few with the high winds, but they were just minor. Commissioner Peters asked if we had to purchase quite a bit of energy with the 95°. Mr. Huber stated that we had purchased some. Commissioner Peters asked if he knew what we had been

paying. Mr. Huber commented that it was about two or three cents per kilowatt.

**Police Department:**

- **New Vehicle:**

Police Chief Humble stated that he had talked to Lanterman Motors and they have started the assembly lines again and we are first on the line to be kicked out. Chief Humble added that they had been shut down where the vehicles were at due to COVID.

- **Uptick in arrests:**

Chief Humble stated that there had been an uptick in arrests for drugs since the officers were back out and having more direct contact with citizens. Chief Humble stated that officers were wearing masks; however, one was in quarantine. Chief Humble commented that they had gotten more masks from Emergency Preparedness Director Tim Branscom. Commissioner Peters asked if there was a particular drug they were getting. Chief Humble stated that it was more meth. Commissioner Leslie asked if it was from locals or travelers. Chief Humble commented that it was locals. Commissioner Peters asked if they were having to serve warrants. Chief Humble answered that they were serving warrants.

Commissioner Peters asked if there were domestic disputes or personal property issues. Chief Humble stated that it was more property issues, but also domestic. Chief Humble explained that it was dog issues or how neighbors were parked. Commissioner Peters asked if they had any arrests in the Kwik Trip robbery. Chief Humble stated that they did not, because they did not have a whole lot to go on.

Commissioner Meyer thanked Chief Humble for allowing him to do a ride along to see what they do. Commissioner Meyer stated that he was impressed with Officers McAbee, Stitt and Gilmore and how quick they could get out of their vehicles. Chief Humble stated that they could thank the Commission for buying those type of vehicles, because the Impalas had not been that easy to get out of. Commissioner Meyer stated that their website had all the officer's pictures along with dispatchers and animal control. Commissioner Meyer commented that their home page had their mission statement that states 'The Pratt Police Department is a dedicated group of individuals who are committed to working with the community to make the City of Pratt a safe desirable place to live, work, and visit. Our mission is to partner with the community to solve problems and improve public safety in a manner that is fair, impartial, transparent, and consistent.' Commissioner Meyer added that it talks about integrity, professionalism, service and perseverance. Commissioner Meyer stated that the public should always respect the police department. Chief Humble commented that they had had a lot of positive feedback from people and they bring in treats. Chief Humble stated that the community had shown positivity when others did not see that and they appreciate what we were doing along with the volunteer fire and EMS. Commissioner Leslie stated that it takes a special person to be in law enforcement and it was scary to see the direction our nation was going in.

**Finance Department:**

- **Audit:**

Finance Director Garten stated that the audit was complete and they would present it at the next meeting.

- **Meeting with departments:**

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Ms. Garten stated that the departments had turned in their final requests and those were being complied. Ms. Garten mentioned that the budget meetings with the Commissioners would be around July 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and the hearing would be August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- **Revenue sources:**

Ms. Garten stated that revenue sources were predicted to be down 12%, which were the State numbers based on April sales. Ms. Garten commented that some places would be higher and some lower. Ms. Garten explained that by the end of the year it could be about 10% or about \$200,000. Ms. Garten stated that one thing she did know was that the highway tax money was going to be down \$20,000, liquor tax was down 19% which was about \$2,700 and guest tax was down 12% in the first two quarters. Ms. Garten commented that the good news was that valuations were up a few \$100 and inflation for 2020 was up .9%.

- **June 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative session:**

Ms. Garten stated that she was going to hit on a couple of highlights from the June 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative session. Ms. Garten explained that only one bill was passed; however, it had a lot of information and one thing that was involved was the COVID claims liability. Ms. Garten stated that that gave the Cities and communities a little bit of immunity against risk management that we were concerned about. Ms. Garten added that there could be some gross negligent issues that we would be liable for, but basic cases would not be able to come against us.

Ms. Garten stated that the second thing in the bill was how they were going to distribute the \$1.25 billion from the Federal Government. Ms. Garten commented that the SPARK committee that was put together had come up with the idea that \$400 million of that would go down to local government, but it would go through the Counties. Ms. Garten simplified that by stating that instead of going to 600 Cities, it would go to 105 Counties and they were to share with the Cities. Ms. Garten explained that they would share \$194 per capita, which would be \$1,000,000 to Pratt County with a population of 6,000. Ms. Garten stated that there were stipulations on how the money could be spent, which were for COVID expenses and it could not replace lost revenue and had to be spent by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Garten commented that they may try to get the money distributed by July and that would give us five or six months to get it spent or it had to be returned. Ms. Garten stated that there was another pool of money being distributed dealing with economic hardship and number of cases in your County. Ms. Garten added that we would probably not get much of that money.

Mayor Schmidt asked if we knew how many of our small businesses took advantage of the PPP. Ms. Garten stated that she could not tell him the number of businesses; however, it was \$18 million in Pratt County through the SBA. Mayor Schmidt commented that that started out as an eight-week program and they extended it to a sixteen-week program and now they had extended it again. Ms. Garten stated that they not only extended it, they reduced the number of employees that had to be retained and broadened other expenditures that it could be spent on. Ms. Garten explained that they could now use that money for utilities rather than just wages. Ms. Garten stated that, on top of that \$18 million, the County paid out \$168,000 in CBG loans to local businesses.

**Mayor and Commission:**

- **Zoom meetings:**

Mayor Schmidt stated that he had visited with City Manager Pinkall and they feel that this would be a good time to discontinue the zoom meetings. Mayor Schmidt commented that all of the Commissioners

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and staff were able to attend the meeting this evening and things were looking more normal.

- **Crosswalk:**

Commissioner Deeds stated that the overflow for the ball tournaments this weekend worked well at the Sports Complex. Commissioner Deeds mentioned that a crosswalk there might be beneficial.

- **Executive Session:**

Mayor Schmidt made a motion to go into executive session at 6:25 p.m. for discussion prior to acquisition of real estate and to return at 6:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leslie and carried unanimously.

Mayor Schmidt made a motion to return from executive session at 6:40 p.m. with nothing to report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deeds. The motion and second passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN:**

The meeting was adjourned by proper motion and second.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

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GARY A. SCHMIDT, Mayor



ATTEST:

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LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk