

MONDAY

MARCH 02, 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:	LuAnn Kramer	City Clerk
	Regina Probst	City Attorney
	Diana Garten	Finance Director
	Nate Humble	Chief of Police
	Russell Rambat	Public Works Director
	Brad Blankenship	Building Inspector
	Jamie Huber	Director 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 lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

- February 18, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting

Commissioner Meyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peters and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Building Inspector Blankenship stated that he had informed the Commission a couple of years ago that there was a need for a new Comprehensive Plan and he had put it in his budget for 2020. Mr. Blankenship stated that this was something that the City needed and he added that the last time this had been done was twenty years ago. Mr. Blankenship stated that things that the citizens had wanted in the last Comprehensive Plan had come to be, such as Blythe Family Fitness Center, the new high school and Green Sports Complex. Mr. Blankenship explained that this was a Statutory requirement.

EBH Engineer Luttrell stated that he had worked on the plan twenty years ago and that plan had finally come to fruition. Mr. Luttrell commented that the staff and Commission at that time had taken the plan seriously and were extremely active to get it implemented. Mr. Luttrell commented that there were only a couple of planners in the State and he had worked with Mr. Russ Ewy in the City of Anthony and informed the City that they were in good hands with Mr. Ewy.

Mr. Ewy stated that he had met with staff in late January and then had come to the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Ewy commented that they were on the cusp of getting the plan in place in the next eight to nine months and the Commission would be apprised of what was going on. Mr. Ewy stated that the City Commission had final authority of approval. Mr. Ewy informed the Commission that he had a great discussion with the Planning and Zoning Committee about the finer details. Mr. Ewy explained that a Comprehensive Plan was a collection of all different policies, regulations and ideals, which were gathered from staff and engineers on what the twenty-year vision was for Pratt. Mr. Ewy commented that the Commission would see him throughout 2020. Mayor Schmidt asked how we go about involving the larger community or what part the Commission played in getting this done. Mr. Ewy stated that that was one of the main thrusts when he had visited with the P & Z Commission about it. Mr. Ewy added that it was not always that easy even with today's technological society. Mr. Ewy commented that it was hard to get people motivated if they were happy with how things were in Pratt. Mr. Ewy stated that one of the most beneficial tools would be a survey, which would give us moderate success in getting the public's thoughts.

Mr. Ewy mentioned that a marketing director could work on press releases for the media; however, each town was different in how they got information to the public. Mr. Ewy stated that you needed a well visited website to beat the drum that this process was on-going and that they could participate throughout the process. Mr. Ewy stated that the current plan was effective because of public input and he hoped to replicate that. Mayor Schmidt asked if he would rather have smaller meetings rather than ones that filled up the Municipal Building. Mr. Ewy stated that he hoped for option 'b' and there would no critical decisions from the public for about the first third part of the project. Mr. Ewy explained that there would be a town hall style meeting out side of City Hall and with advanced notification. Commissioner Peters commented that the Governing Body did a retreat with WSU and there was a summary of thoughts that could be made available to him. Mr. Ewy stated that that would be a wonderful example for an activity that could be incorporated with a Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Ewy explained that they were not trying to reinvent the process, but put together a collection of different activities done by the City over the last twenty years. Mr. Ewy commented that they look at the history of Pratt and then try to project the population into the future. Mr. Ewy added that they take a look at the background from a wide angle and apply what they learned to move the plan forward.

Commissioner Meyer commented that he had been a member of the Planning and Zoning Committee and this was a daunting task and he appreciated the professional input. Mr. Ewy stated that they would be working for Mr. Luttrell, EBH Engineering, and that would be beneficial, because they had the knowledge of civil engineering and were also from Pratt. Mr. Blankenship apologized to Mr. Luttrell that he did not have a contract this evening; however, he would have one at the next meeting.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL ON INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT CONCERNING CITY'S MEMBERSHIP TO REAP:

Ms. Laura Rainwater, REAP Executive Director, stated that she had been with REAP for about a year and their goal was to be the regional collaborator between all levels of government. Ms. Rainwater commented that they set regional priorities and one was transportation, another was behavioral mental health and another was workforce development. Ms. Rainwater introduced Mr. John Waltmer, who was from Hesston. Mr. Waltmer stated that he was one of the regional directors for REAP and his story was

about like Pratt's. Mr. Waltmer explained that he had run for Mayor and had held that office for twenty-five years and then went to work for Harvey County as a special project's director. Mr. Waltmer stated that, during the course of that, he learned about REAP. Mr. Waltmer commented that they deal with things that affect everyone who lives in the City limits and were influenced by things outside the boundaries. Mr. Waltmer stated that he appreciated the REAP corporation and he talked about things that could make a difference in their cities.

Mr. Waltmer stated that, if you join the REAP corporation and were not engaged, you were going to be disappointed. Mr. Waltmer commented that the only way to get value was to engage in it and the only way to value the educational experience was to engage in the subject matter, learn from other members and build relationships. Mr. Waltmer stated that Wichita had some issues with high cost fares when people flew out of Mid-Continent Airport and they had engaged the legislature to look at bringing in a low-cost carrier. Mr. Waltmer commented that they were now able to get Southwest and have a low-cost carrier going in and out of the new airport. Mr. Waltmer stated that that was dollars well spent; however, Wichita could not have done it on their own, but together they could and did.

Ms. Rainwater stated that Fair Fares was how REAP got started and one of their first initiatives was to get more affordable airfares out of Wichita. Ms. Rainwater commented that they were currently working on broad band access at the State and Federal level. Ms. Rainwater commented that Sheriff Easter and Chief Ramsey started a coalition and were working on bringing another bed hospital into the south central region. Ms. Rainwater explained that seventy-five percent of incarcerated people had mental issues and needed help. Ms. Rainwater stated that there were no other organizations that wanted to take on passenger rails, but it was one of REAP's top priorities. Ms. Rainwater commented that they were making a connection from Oklahoma to Newton and they had to show that they had regional support.

Commissioner Leslie asked if they had worked with KDOT and the communities that were involved with the bypass. Ms. Rainwater stated that there was a transportation coalition that meets monthly in Wichita and representatives from all over the region clear up to Lindsborg were on the map and she realized that Pratt had priorities and would get put on that map also. Ms. Rainwater stated that there was a regional Mayor's meeting on April 9th and the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Corrections would be there to address the Mayors. Ms. Rainwater also talked about the regional meeting being on April 3rd at WSU.

Commissioner Peters stated that the work force was a real concern to him in Pratt. Commissioner Peters questioned how REAP could help Pratt. Ms. Rainwater explained that REAP falls under the Workforce Alliances of South Central Kansas; however, she was not an expert on workforce. Commissioner Meyer commented that we tend to partner with west cities, but most of the workforce comes from the east; therefore, we were in the middle. Commissioner Meyer commented that he hoped we could benefit from the partnership. Mr. Rainwater stated that it was all about partnership and you did learn a lot. Chamber Director Kim DeClue stated that she had met with Mr. David Tolan and he was working on regionalizing everything in the State. Ms. DeClue commented that it would be a great partnership and he had nothing but great things to say about it.

Mayor Schmidt asked where we go from here and if City Attorney Probst had any problems with the Interlocal Agreement. Ms. Probst stated that she had approved it as to form, but there were no real issues. Ms. Rainwater reminded the Commission that they meet from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. once a month at the Workforce Center at 21st and Amidon. Ms. Rainwater added that there was only one voting member; however, all of the Commission could come. With no more discussion, Commissioner Meyer made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with REAP as presented. Commissioner Leslie made the second motion and carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2019 ADOPTING THE KANSAS HOMELAND SECURITY REGION E HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:

City Attorney Probst stated that the Commission needed to approve this ordinance in order to receive FEMA funding and it would also adopt the State Homeland Security Hazard Mitigation Plan. Public Works Director Rambat stated that we had done this in the past; however, they had updated a few things. With no more discussion, the following Ordinance 2019 was presented to the Commission for their approval: **ADOPTING THE KANSAS HOMELAND SECURITY REGION E HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.** Commissioner Leslie made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019 as presented. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO THE AMENDMENTS IN PREPARATION FOR THE GLOBAL FEE ORDINANCE:

City Attorney Probst stated that this item needed to be tabled due to some variances in the codes from the year 2017 and 2018. Ms. Probst commented that City Clerk Kramer printed out the current ordinance and then she did the amendments and there was enough of a difference from 2017 and 2018 that she wanted to review them again.

OPEN AGENDA:

- **Library and Teen Center:**

Library Director Killough stated that he had already talked to the County and was here to address the City Commission about the Teen Center funding and to get some direction. Mr. Killough commented that he had implemented sixteen external programs and they were all working. Mr. Killough explained that one of his favorites was an after-care program, which provided snacks for kids. Mr. Killough stated that he was interested in partnering with the Teen Center to move the kids from the library to there. Mr. Killough explained that the art walk would be moved there and they planned on having seasonal parties there as well as Lego competitions and video competitions. Mr. Killough stated that the Teen Center had to succeed and \$150 more from the City would help and he understood that it may have to wait until the 2021 budget. Mayor Schmidt stated that he wanted to sit down with him sometime to ask some more delicate questions.

REPORTS:

City Attorney:

- **Solar Farm:**

City Attorney Probst stated that Director of Electric Utilities Huber, City Manager Pinkall, Mayor Schmidt and she had a teleconference with Tortious about the erosion at the solar farm. Ms. Probst commented that Tortious stated that they wanted to get it fixed; however, she was not sure what that meant and no dollar figure had been talked about. Ms. Probst explained that they would have another teleconference tomorrow.

- **False Alarm registry:**

Ms. Probst stated that she had been working with Police Chief Humble concerning a false alarm registry; however, the cost was high. Chief Humble stated that it would not pay for itself, but was a great program.

Chief Humble explained that the cost was fair if you had the call volume. Ms. Probst commented that they were looking at alternatives.

Public Works:

- **State wide tornado drill:**

Public Works Director Rambat reminded the Commission that the State wide tornado drill was tomorrow.

- **Minor repairs at the pool:**

Mr. Rambat stated that he was having two separate contractors look at the pool for minor repairs and hopefully we would be able to avoid last year's situation. Mr. Rambat explained that they had measured off so many feet of joint material between the concrete slabs and the contractors said that you should not do that. Mr. Rambat commented that they would remove joints and finish those out that need to be redone and do a skim coat on the shallow end. Mr. Rambat stated that the cost should be below what the City Manager could approve. Mr. Rambat added that he wanted to get this addressed and get it over with since we were probably two to four years out on a new pool. Mayor Schmidt asked how deep they go. Mr. Rambat stated that the joint material ran the length of the pool and was about two feet wide. Mr. Rambat commented that there were too many joints in there and some had gotten wide with the weather and the weight and temperature of the water.

- **Shortage of employees:**

Mr. Rambat commented that he was still short three employees in the street department, but they did do interviews Wednesday. Mr. Rambat added that City Clerk Kramer, Fire Chief Kramer, Sanitation Superintendent Dyche and Street Superintendent Sinclair had all set in on the interviews since they were all looking for an employee. City Attorney Probst stated that there had been some interview training earlier in the day so that we would not violate any laws of dissemination.

Electric Department:

- **Adjusting lights:**

Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that the guys would be adjusting lights at the park on Thursday night.

- **Internship:**

Mr. Huber stated that he would be doing interviews for internships and they would start in the middle of May and work through August.

- **Wood Chipper:**

Mr. Huber commented that he had started the process to purchase a wood chipper. Mr. Huber explained that he had had the old chipper in the shop three times already. Mr. Huber stated that this was in the budget and he did have a couple of companies coming out with demos that were comparable with what they had now. Mr. Huber added that the old truck was purchased used in 1992 and it was an 80's model.

Police Department:

- **Resource Officer:**

Police Chief Humble stated that he had visited with USD 382 Superintendent Helfrich about the grant for a resource officer and what they were going to put into it. Chief Humble commented that they would do 100% of it for the first three years and renegotiate on the fourth. Commissioner Meyer commented that we would be paying for that employee anyway.

Finance Department:

- **2019 statements:**

Finance Director Garten stated that she had finalized the 2019 year end statements and was ready for the audit. Ms. Garten commented that January 2020 would come out this week and February would follow.

Mayor and Commission:

- **Collaborative meeting:**

Mayor Schmidt stated that all of Kansas dealt with assessments of buildings, equipment, policies, and employees. Mayor Schmidt commented that churches were particularly important and his church would be meeting with Mr. Chuck Callahan on March 11th and he would like for him to come and look at the City when his schedule would allow it.

- **Corona virus:**

Mayor Schmidt stated that he had asked Commissioner Meyer to do some checking on how prepared the hospital was for the corona virus. Commissioner Meyer stated that the hospital would follow all the CDC guidelines and they had an adequate supply of gowns and gloves. Commissioner Meyer added that they were protecting that supply because it was hard to replace those items right now. Commissioner Meyer stated that the hospital was on top of this and he took comfort knowing that.

- **Gravel race:**

Commissioner Meyer stated that he had visited with Mr. Eric Sutter about the Gravel Bike Race and he was interested in using Merchant Park this year.

RECESS:

Mayor Schmidt made a motion to recess until March 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. for the City/County Joint Meeting.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

GARY A. SCHMIDT, Mayor



Kansas

ATTEST:

LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk