

MONDAY

MARCH 30, 2020

The Governing Body of the City of Pratt met in a Special Call meeting in the Commission Room located at City Hall.

PRESENT:	Gary Schmidt	Mayor
	Doug Meyer	Commissioner
	Don Peters	Commissioner (Remotely)
	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
	Brad Blankenship	Building Inspector
	Jamie Huber	Dir. of Electric Utilities

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Special Call meeting was called to order by Mayor Schmidt. The Mayor instructed the City Clerk to note that all Commissioners were present and that Commissioner Peters was attending remotely.

**BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSSION ON COVID-19:**

City Manager Pinkall commented that this meeting was to prepare for the Joint City/County meeting at 4:00 p.m. and to talk about how we were going to manage this situation together. Mr. Pinkall stated they would discuss what steps we were both taking. Police Chief Humble commented that his department was administering the legal side of things and would be monitoring the parks and playground equipment. Mr. Pinkall stated that he had let people know by social media that the parks and playgrounds were shutting down. Mr. Pinkall commented that they had talked about putting that in control of the management or the police at the last Emergency Management meeting.

Mr. Pinkall stated that the police department might get some push back from citizens, but they would manage that in a proactive way, which was what we strive for. Chief Humble stated that the feedback had been positive. Chief Humble commented that tensions were higher with people being at home and feeling like they were violating the order if they leave there. Chief Humble explained that everyone was looking for recommendations and guidance. Mr. Pinkall stated that the park department had been putting out signs and barriers about the parks and playground equipment. Mr. Pinkall stated that outdoor activities would follow the guidelines if they kept their social distance of 6'. Chief Humble stated that shutting off the playground was fine, because it was a carrier of the disease. Chief Humble commented that basketball and baseball would be okay if they kept their distance; however, a true basketball game would not give them distance. Mr. Pinkall stated that he agreed with that and he had seen a few people out shooting hoops at the tennis court, but there were no games going on. City Attorney Probst stated that she agreed with what had been stated and the Governor's office had stated that that was part of the decisions

and discretion of the County. Mr. Pinkall commented that mass gatherings could be limited, but the stay-at-home could not. Ms. Probst commented that the Governor's order supersedes all other orders a County might have made.

Mayor Schmidt asked if some of the daily incident reports were officer initiated. Chief Humble stated that that was in response to recent burglaries and they were periodically checking doors during patrol and documenting the time. Mr. Pinkall stated that he had met with City staff this morning and they had discussed what essential functions were and creating a plan for them. Mr. Pinkall commented that they would be trying to focus on essential duties and keeping staff working. Mr. Pinkall added that we may have to make some adjustments and help out other departments. Mr. Pinkall commented that there were some water line issues where Braums would be and we wanted to keep those activities going.

Commissioner Leslie questioned if we were still applying our late fees to the utility bills. Mr. Pinkall stated that we were and we were hanging door hangers. Mr. Pinkall added that we were removing the disconnection verbiage. Mr. Pinkall stated that things could change and that we would see what happens in two months. City Clerk Kramer stated that the late fees on the last cycle were the same people that usually received a cutoff notice. Commissioner Leslie asked what we would do if this starts to affect others. Mr. Pinkall stated that we could change it then and he added that we were dealing with this one step at a time.

Mr. Pinkall stated that, with the change with schools and staying at home, he wanted to ensure that the employee's families were doing well. Mr. Pinkall commented that the Federal Government was going to allow an additional two weeks of discretionary leave rather than having to use accrued time. Commissioner Meyer asked if there were any financial projections on the loss of revenue of sales tax. Mr. Pinkall stated that the projection was that sales tax could decrease 30% to 35% if this continues. Commissioner Meyer questioned how we accommodate for that. Mr. Pinkall commented that we would miss a large chunk of taxing revenue through property tax and sales tax as well as utilities. Commissioner Meyer asked if we were stopping discretionary items. Mr. Pinkall stated that he was looking at all those things and he was looking at all expenditures over \$100. Mr. Pinkall added that he had not implemented a detailed plan.

Commissioner Meyer asked if we had a reduction in the work force. Mr. Pinkall stated that we had not yet. Commissioner Meyer commented that this could go on until May or June. Mr. Pinkall stated that they were looking at April 15<sup>th</sup> as just a start date; however, there had been 368 cases with 8 deaths. Mr. Pinkall commented that there was one confirmed case in Stafford County and the college employee was from Reno County. Mr. Pinkall stated that he would move forward more quickly and get the Commissioners his thoughts.

Mr. Pinkall stated that you could go to the KEFF website and it would help determine if a business was essential. Commissioner Leslie stated that they should have been notified if they were essential. Mr. Pinkall commented that the Smoke Shop was deemed essential, but the County had the authority for that. Mr. Pinkall added that they would talk about that with the County today. Commissioner Leslie asked if we would enforce that. Mr. Pinkall stated that it goes to the County. Ms. Probst stated that the executive order gave the authority to the local authority. Chief Humble stated that they would go to the business and the business would be sent to the State if they would not comply. Mr. Pinkall stated that it could be a Class A misdemeanor; however, there was a fine line between City and County on that. Mr. Pinkall commented that he had confidence that Chief Humble would fulfill that order.

Mr. Pinkall stated that we needed to move forward in the way the State was leading us. Commissioner Meyer asked if the fire and police shifts could be covered if someone got sick. Commissioner Meyer stated that we needed to supply basic needs for safety. Commissioner Leslie commented that the firemen

were taking extra precautions. Mayor Schmidt stated that there was criticism that there was no plan nationally and we should be thinking about a local plan. Mayor Schmidt added that we should set a limit on the budget due to the lack of revenue in bills. Commissioner Meyer questioned what we would do if essential personnel became sick. Mr. Pinkall stated that he was looking at each department and looking at separation issues. Mr. Pinkall explained that Chief Humble and Detective Ward were not getting together to prevent both of them getting something at the same time. Mayor Schmidt stated that we should do a flow sheet as that develops. Mr. Pinkall commented that that had been talked about. Commissioner Meyer stated that everyone had adapted quite well and people were staying calm, cooperative and encouraging. Mayor Schmidt suggested keeping track of how we were doing things. Mr. Pinkall stated that Emergency Preparedness Director Branscom would give us some feedback so that we would learn things. Chief Humble stated that we were not unique, because other Cities were going through this. Chief Humble commented that he had visited with the City of Andover department and they were willing to talk about how they were adapting. Chief Humble stated that they were talking about putting a plan together, because it was so unknown what we were going to encounter. Chief Humble added that things would change once we get our first positive case. Chief Humble stated that he would make the plan public when it was completed.

**ADJOURN:**

Mayor Schmidt made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Commissioner Meyer. The motion and second passed unanimously.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

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GARY A. SCHMIDT, Mayor



ATTEST:

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LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk