

MONDAY

APRIL 20, 2020

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

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| PRESENT: | Gary Schmidt | Mayor |
| | Doug Meyer | Commissioner (Remotely) |
| | Don Peters | Commissioner (Remotely) |
| | Jason Leslie | Commissioner (Remotely) |
| | Zach Deeds | Commissioner (Remotely) |

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| ALSO PRESENT: | Bruce Pinkall | City Manager |
| | LuAnn Kramer | City Clerk |
| | Regina Probst | City Attorney (Remotely) |
| | Diana Garten | Finance Director (Remotely) |
| | Nate Humble | Chief of Police (Remotely) |
| | Russell Rambat | Public Works Director |
| | Brad Blankenship | Building Inspector (Remotely) |
| | Jamie Huber | Director of Electric Utilities (Remotely) |

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 stated that most of the Commissioners and staff were attending the meeting remotely. Mayor Schmidt commented that this would be a lot more informal due to the different ways of doing things.

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

MINUTES:

- April 06, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting

Mayor Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 06, 2020 Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leslie and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2038 PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC CODE 2020 EDITION:

City Attorney Probst stated that this ordinance was requested by City Inspector Blankenship. Ms. Probst explained that the 2020 Edition of the National Electrical Code would replace the prior 2017 Edition that had been adopted in 2017. Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that there were not a whole lot of changes in this new edition. Mr. Blankenship commented that this came about due to a call that Mr. Huber had received from another City needing a code clarification. Mr. Blankenship stated that this was necessary to clear up some old language. Mr. Blankenship added that this had to be done every ten years for FEMA and Flood Plain management; however, this would only be three years. Commissioner Meyer asked if this would cause any burden on electrical contractors. Mr.

Blankenship stated that there were very few changes between the two editions.

With no more discussion, the following Ordinance 2038 was presented to the Commission for their approval: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 15.11.010 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE, 2020 EDITION; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.** Commissioner Meyer made a motion to approve Ordinance 2038 adopting the National Electrical Code, 2020 Edition. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deeds and carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Probst stated that this was self-explanatory and the old ordinances were there for comparison. Ms. Probst added that she had taken out any specific dollar amounts. With no discussion, the following Ordinances were then presented to the Commission for their approval: **Ordinance 2039 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.60.140 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING THE INTOXILYZER BREATH TESTING FEE WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; Ordinance 2040 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.76.110 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING INSPECTION FEES WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; Ordinance 2041 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.76.120 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING COPYING FEES WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; Ordinance 4042 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.76.130 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING PREPAYMENT OF FEES WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; Ordinance 2043 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.80.030 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING EXEMPT PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH and Ordinance 2044 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 5.20.090 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING LICENSE FEES WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.** Mayor Schmidt made a motion to approve Ordinance 2039 – Breathing Testing Fees, Ordinance 2040 – Inspection Fees, Ordinance 2041 – Copying Fees, Ordinance 2042 – Prepayment of Fees, Ordinance 2043 – Exempt Property and Ordinance 2044 – License Fees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leslie and carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

City Manager:

- **Recognize the staff:**

City Manager Pinkall stated that he wanted to recognize the staff and their excellent services to the citizens. Mr. Pinkall commented that he was watching them carefully and everything was operating smoothly. Mr. Pinkall stated that the operating procedures were as usual and he added that sanitation had started picking up compost carts. Mr. Pinkall explained that there were a lot of people spending time outside and the parks were open and busy. Mr. Pinkall stated that the bathrooms and equipment continue to be closed to the public.

- **Pool project:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that the pool project had been put on hold for now and there would be a lot of things to consider before we got there.

- **Drop Box:**

Mr. Pinkall commented that the City offices remain closed; however, there were different ways of paying the utility bills and one was the drop box.

- **Budget process:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that the budget process had been put on hold for a short period due to the uncertainty currently. Mr. Pinkall commented that they would be thinking of things we wanted to get accomplished in 2021.

- **Two weeks out:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that he was looking two weeks out and would not be making any big decisions. Mr. Pinkall commented that we would be adjusting as things progress and we would not be left behind. Mr. Pinkall added that we needed to be patient, conservative and pro-active with new challenges. Mr. Pinkall stated that we wanted the citizens to know that we were positive and our community would be safe when we open up again.

- **Nice surprise:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that there was a citizen that was going to supply meals to all the City employees on Friday. Mr. Pinkall commented that the meals would be delivered to the City office and would be picked up by someone in each department.

- **Pool questions:**

Commissioner Deeds asked how they should respond to someone who asked about the pool this summer. Mr. Pinkall stated that we were doing a few small things in case the pool would be able to open. Mr. Pinkall added that, if we could not open this year, it would be there for the following year. Mr. Pinkall stated that we were looking forward two or three weeks ahead and would be listening to the health experts. Mr. Pinkall asked that everyone be patient and we would do our best to keep everyone safe.

Commissioner Peters questioned if the pool committee was on hold for now also. Mr. Pinkall stated that they were and there would be a lot of discussion on whether it could be opened back up. Mr. Pinkall commented that he did not want to give a false sense that it was going to open and budget might also be a challenge. Mr. Pinkall stated that they would get back together if this clears up.

- **Comprehensive Plan:**

Commissioner Peters asked if COVID-19 was delaying the Comprehensive Plan from moving forward. Mr. Pinkall stated that they were keeping the plans, but they had put most things on hold so that we could do our essential services. Mr. Pinkall added that we would not be going full steam ahead until we see a light at the end of the tunnel.

- **Soccer field employee:**

Commissioner Peters asked if the full-time soccer field employee was mowing at the parks. Mr. Pinkall stated that they were helping the park department out. Mr. Pinkall stated that Interim Park Superintendent Quint had not added anyone to their summer help, so they had incorporated the soccer field and the Sports Complex employees so nothing got behind. Mr. Pinkall added that the employees were also doing projects at the Community Center and the Municipal Building.

- **Economic Development Program:**

Commissioner Peters had questions about small businesses making it through this and looking at the ED committee for loans. Commissioner Peters stated that downtown looked like a ghost town. Finance Director Garten stated that the County had some funds for the loans and fifteen or twenty businesses had gotten them. Ms. Garten commented that CDBG was working for more money; however, the emergency loan funds had been spent. Ms. Garten added that ED would be open to something like that as a last resort. Mr. Pinkall commented that many institutions had reached out to their customers to get payroll protection plans and they needed to be proactive to get their customers in to get that Federal stimulus package.

City Attorney:

- **Working from home:**

City Attorney Probst stated that she had been working from home for a couple of weeks, but had gotten caught up with Municipal Court Clerk Jamie Walker. Ms. Probst commented that she had been working with private councils through emails and calls and several trials had been continued until June. Ms. Probst added that she had been working on something with City Manager Pinkall and Police Chief Humble as well. Ms. Probst stated that she was paying attention to the Governor's briefings and the bi-weekly updates on legal issues. Ms. Probst commented that there were daily emergency meetings and there were currently zero active cases in Pratt and only one positive; however, the west half of the country had a spike in cases at the beef plants.

- **Out of town people:**

Commissioner Deeds asked if she had heard any suggestions or discouragement in regards to people coming in to shop from out of town. Ms. Probst stated that interstate travel could not be restricted, but there were hunters from Colorado that were having to quarantine for fourteen days. Ms. Probst added that essential workers were semi-truck drivers. Chief Humble stated that they were testing in those hot spots, but there were no restrictions on the County.

Public Works:

- **Ramp project:**

Public Works Director Rambat stated that Mansel Construction had been working on the ramp project at the bathroom in Lemon Park. Mr. Rambat commented that he would be talking to them about pouring a small parking area for ADA parking and easy access. Mr. Rambat added that he would be talking to Park Superintendent Quint about landscaping ideas for that area.

- **Pool work:**

Mr. Rambat stated that he had gotten a contractor in today to work on the pool and they were going to pull out 100' of joint material. Mr. Rambat explained that the joints move with weather conditions so they would be removing a lot of the old material and replacing it with material that would not need to be painted. Mr. Rambat informed the Commission that a second contractor would be applying epoxy paint in the baby area and there would be glass beads incorporated to prevent slipping.

- **Grant pay back:**

Mayor Schmidt asked how we were on the pay back from the grant for the Lemon Park bathroom. Mayor Schmidt commented that he thought it had to be complete before payment was made. Finance Director Garten stated that we had gotten back \$100,000 and had turned in expenses to date for reimbursement. Ms. Garten explained that this was a short-term construction project and the ramp project had been delayed.

- **Waterline at airport:**

Commissioner Peters asked how the waterline project at the airport was going. Mr. Rambat stated that he had received something that they were going to start mid-month. Mr. Rambat commented that things change weekly with the virus, so he was not sure how that company functioned.

Inspection Department:

- **Lemon Park bathroom:**

Building Inspector Blankenship stated that the bathroom in Lemon Park had cost a little more than first thought and we had been slated for two bathrooms. Mr. Blankenship commented that it would not be realistic right now to do another bathroom and go for another loan. Mr. Blankenship stated that they would finish what we had and go from there.

- **Stout street:**

Commissioner Meyer asked if Mr. Blankenship had heard anymore about the bathtub on Stout Street. Mr. Blankenship stated that he had not had any phone calls.

- **Abandon Vehicles:**

Commissioner Meyer questioned if we had an ordinance pertaining to abandoned vehicles. Mr. Blankenship stated that we had always had an ordinance. Commissioner Meyer commented that we had quite a few. Mr. Blankenship commented that he would check on them if he was given the addresses. Mr. Blankenship added that that was complaint driven and he did write letters to the owners.

Electric Department:

- **Cooling tower:**

Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that the cooling tower project was finished after months of waiting. Mr. Huber commented that Unit 7 was back online and he was glad that was done.

- **Navajo travel:**

Mr. Huber commented that he had a conference call regarding the Navajo travel and it had been postponed until this fall or even next year.

- **Solar Farm:**

Mr. Huber stated that Younie Lawnsapes had sprayed out at the solar farm and they were hoping to get a plan to move forward. Commissioner Meyer asked who was paying for this. Mr. Huber stated that Inovateus was and they had no problem with it.

Police Department:

- **Crime down:**

Police Chief Humble stated that crimes were down and some of that was due to less people traveling through town. Chief Humble commented that things had been pretty slow and he hoped it would stay that way. Commissioner Peters stated that the daily log showed thirty-eight crimes on April 10th and that did not sound like things were slowing down. Chief Humble explained that complaints go in the computer as a crime and that was not the case all the time. Commissioner Peters questioned if some of this was officer initiated when they were going to a business and checking for open doors. Commissioner Peters stated that it looked like burglaries were down. Chief Humble stated that they have had very few.

Finance Department:

- **Watching Federal Government:**

Finance Director Garten stated that she was watching the Federal Government and what that means for State and local governments. Ms. Garten commented that a majority of funds would be going to Johnson and Sedgwick counties. Ms. Garten stated that we needed to watch our own revenue and anticipate that it was going to be going down. Ms. Garten added that the bond market was questionable right now.

Public Comments through Zoom:

City Attorney Probst asked that it be put in the records that there were no public comments during the zoom meeting.

ADJOURN:

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

Gary A. Schmidt, Mayor

7 – April 20, 2020 (Regular Commission meeting)

ATTEST:

LuAnn Kramer, City Clerk