

MONDAY

MAY 01, 2023

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

PRESENT:	Zach Deeds	Mayor
	Gary Schmidt	Commissioner (via zoom)
	Jeanette Siemens	Commissioner (via phone)
	Kyle Farmer	Commissioner
	Doug Meyer	Commissioner
ALSO PRESENT:	Bruce Pinkall	City Manager
	LuAnn Kramer	City Clerk
	Brent Carver	Finance Director
	Nate Humble	Police Chief
	Regina Goff	City Attorney
	Russell Rambat	Public Works Director
	Brad Blankenship	Building Inspector
	Jamie Huber	Director of Electric Utilities
	Larry Eisenhauer	Recreation Director

CALL TO ORDER:

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

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Meyer led the audience in the invocation and Mayor Deeds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2023 regular Commission meeting. Commissioner Meyer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF A NEW MOWER AND DECK FOR THE CEMETERY:

Cemetery Sexton Jeff Gilmore stated that the grasshopper mower was the best mower and it had gone up in price. Mr. Gilmore commented that the 700 series mower was more user friendly and had a rear discharge, which would keep them from throwing rocks and stones at cars. Mr. Gilmore explained that the new deck would also hook up to the four-year-old mower that also had a rear discharge. Mr. Gilmore stated that they intended to sell the other two mowers on Purple Wave. Public Works Director Rambat stated that they like to keep a three or four year rotation because they were used non-stop starting in the spring and they do a great job with maintenance at the cemetery.

Mr. Gilmore stated that they started putting money back into the mowers and getting six years out of them was good. Mayor Deeds asked if we would get pretty good money out of the used ones. Mr. Rambat stated that we did get good money out of them on Purple Wave. With no more discussion, Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve the purchase of a grasshopper mower and deck for \$19,541.79 from Grasshopper. Commissioner Meyer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF A USED RUBBER TIRE ROLLER:

Public Works Director Rambat stated that he had discussed the plan for a used rubber tire roller with the Commission at the last meeting; however, it had not worked out finding a good used one on Purple Wave. Mr. Rambat commented that Street Superintendent Sinclair had found a used one in Omaha, Nebraska and gone there to look at it, run it and came back pleased with it. Mr. Rambat explained that it had 1400 hours on it and was a 2013 compared to the 1977 one we did have. Mr. Rambat commented that that would be moving us up quite a few years. Mr. Rambat added that we would be able get back out there and overlay streets and alleys.

Mr. Sinclair stated that they had been looking since last year for a used rubber tire roller and thought it would be easy, but there were not any in Kansas. Mr. Sinclair commented that a new one would take until about the end of October to get and cost around \$100,000. Mr. Sinclair explained that this 2013 model had aged out of a fleet and was a good machine and a lot safer than their old one. Mr. Sinclair added that it should last us a good twenty years also. Mr. Rambat commented that this was higher than what we had talked about, but it would leave a sufficient amount in reserves. Mr. Rambat stated that we had already given them \$1,000 down to hold the machine. Mayor Deeds stated that this was a good opportunity and asked if the \$1,000 was refundable. Mr. Sinclair stated that we would get it back on the price of the machine or a check if we did not take it. Mayor Deeds commented that that would not force our hand. With no more discussion, Commissioner Farmer made a motion to purchase the rubber tire roller from Midwest Machinery Company out of Omaha, Nebraska for \$38,700 minus the \$1,000 deposit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer and carried unanimously. Mr. Sinclair was asked if he had to go up to get it and he stated that the shipping was included.

OPEN AGENDA:

- **Morris Smith:**

Mr. Morris Smith addressed the Commission with some constructive criticism. Mr. Smith stated that he had lived in Pratt for about a year and was amazed with the parks, pool, tennis courts and the facilities for the community. However, Mr. Smith lived at 919 South Ninescah Street and was having issues with 18 wheelers going up and down his street and he was worried about his dog getting run over. Mr. Smith commented that he had about twenty sewer cats that did what they wanted on his porch and his car, so he let his dog out so he could run them off and the 18 wheelers could not see him even if they were going down the road slowly at the height that they were. Mr. Smith commented that he would like to see that stopped before his dog got run over and he did not believe in guns.

Mr. Smith began talking about one more issue and that was the electric bill deposit and that it was not citizen friendly; however, the three-minute limit had expired. Mr. Smith stated that he had given the Commission his number if they had any questions.

REPORTS:

City Manager:

- **Finance Director position:**

City Manager Pinkall stated that the Finance Director position had been posted in the Hutch News, Pratt Tribune, City website, Indeed, Zip Recruiter and the League. Mr. Pinkall commented that they had already gotten six or seven applications and not all were in Kansas. Mr. Pinkall added that the goal was to have interviews by the time Finance Director Carver left.

- **Busy weekend:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that it was a busy weekend and he thought it all went well. Mr. Pinkall commented that he had visited all the events, such as the softball games at Sixth Street, Lemon Park and Green Sports Complex, Kids Fair at Lemon Park and the Open Gravel Race that hosted 395 riders from nineteen states and one from Canada. Mr. Pinkall added that Mr. Eric Sutter did a great job keeping that going.

- **Budget:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that he had been working on the budget timeline with Finance Director Carver. Mr. Pinkall commented that they would get with the departments on May 17th to the 19th and there was a workshop on May 22nd that Mr. Carver would be attending. Mr. Pinkall stated that the audit was scheduled for May 25th and 26th and we would keep moving forward from there. Mr. Pinkall added that we would hopefully approve the budget in August, but we had until October 1st at the latest.

Mr. Pinkall commented that he had been working with Mr. Carver concerning budget, AGH, and anticipating a replacement. Mr. Pinkall stated that they had gotten all passwords from department heads and known deadlines, concerns, and the Municipal Investment accounts, which he was still learning.

City Attorney:

- **Sexual harassment training:**

City Attorney Goff stated that she had set up a sexual harassment training and there would be three sessions with one being tomorrow afternoon at 1:00 p.m. in the Commission room, a zoom meeting on May 9th in the morning and the last one also a zoom meeting on May 16th in the morning. Ms. Goff added that the employees had to attend one of those three meetings.

- **Erroneous Billings:**

Ms. Goff stated that she had given the Commissioners a copy of the policy to handle incorrect utility bills, whether they were billed too much or under charged. Ms. Goff commented that this needed a motion to approve if they agreed or give her direction on how to amend it. Ms. Goff added that she had used a model from a couple other cities and one went back twelve months and the other went back twenty-four, unless they could determine the date that the error started. Commissioner Meyer stated that he appreciated that it was short and to the point. With no discussion, Commissioner Meyer made a motion to approve the policy of Correction of Erroneous Bills Issued by the City of Pratt as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and carried unanimously.

- **Migratory birds:**

Ms. Goff stated that she had been working with Verizon on how to discourage the migratory birds around their tower by the fire station and that neighborhood.

- **IdeaTek:**

Ms. Goff stated that she had also been working with Building Inspector Blankenship, Public Works Director Rambat and Water Superintendent Clay concerning negotiations with IdeaTek and them using the antenna on the water tower. Ms. Goff stated that they had met with their attorney and given them several additives to their contract and we were just waiting to hear back from them. Commissioner Farmer asked if there would be any problems with the EPA and them putting things on our water tower. Public Works Director Rambat stated that Water Superintendent Clay had checked to make sure that the frequency range did not interfere with our water wells; however, that had not been narrowed down yet. Mr. Rambat explained that it had been discussed putting their equipment external of the water tower, but we had since gotten new information from IdeaTek that needed to be shared with our radio guy. Mr. Rambat explained that it was a low wattage hand rail mount; however, we wanted our radio guy to be comfortable with it.

Public Works:

- **Recognition:**

Public Works Director Rambat congratulated and wanted the following employees to be recognized for furthering their education:

- Jeff Shanline Class 1 in Water (Already a Class 4 in Wastewater)
- John Morgan Class 4 in Water
- Jacob Amerine Class 2 in Water
- Crystal Swinney Passed CDL class

- **Bureau of Local Projects:**

Mr. Rambat stated that the Bureau of Local Projects would be here Thursday at 11:30 a.m. to do a field check on the South Main project from Eighth Street to Tenth Street. Mr. Rambat explained that Mr. Scott Mullen with the local KDOT office would join them along with City Manager Pinkall and they would walk the project so they could see the big picture.

- **KMU Conference:**

Mr. Rambat stated that he had attended the KMU Conference last week and attended the lead and copper class. Mr. Rambat commented that Water Superintendent Clay was way ahead of the game being at 90% already and even the presenter was just getting started. Mr. Rambat explained that, by getting this done, it would allow us to get grants and funding. Mr. Rambat stated that this was giving the State of Kansas a map of where potential lead contamination areas could be. Mr. Rambat commented that they have us focus on those samples. Mr. Rambat explained that they have you take five samples where the water had been sitting still in your house and they take the second one and fifth one, which tells them if the source is in the pipes within your house or the water coming in your house. Mr. Rambat stated that if it was lead followed by galvanized pipe, they would make you replace the galvanized pipe. Mr. Rambat stated that the spreadsheet was very detailed for every address and we had hydrovaced every service line and documented it with size and type.

- **Pool:**

Mr. Rambat stated that he had been emailing the pool guys two or three times a week with little tweaks, but this was the best winter weather for this project.

Building Inspections:

- **Pilot train:**

Building Inspector Blankenship informed the Commissioners that the train derailed this weekend; however, street employee Nick Lauffer was on that train and he was able to get a tractor and put it back on. Mr. Blankenship commented that it would still have to be addressed. Mr. Blankenship stated that he had visited with Park Superintendent Quint and he had agreed to take over the train with the inspections and everything when he retires in a couple of years, but he could not address this issue this week because all the departments were short handed due to the free landfill week.

- **Pool:**

Mr. Blankenship stated that the pool was moving along good. Mr. Blankenship commented that the deep and medium parts were done and the zero entry was being worked on now. Mr. Blankenship explained that the zero entry was done just opposite of the deep end by doing the walls first and then the floor; however, the walls were shorter and would go faster. Mr. Blankenship stated that they were also working down in the search pit that no one could see and that pit was deep and had two different chambers in it. Mr. Blankenship explained that they worked seven days a week to get the slides done and he had heard a lot of positives about them. Mr. Blankenship commented that they delivered the blue roof for all the buildings and they were running out of room for the materials so they were using Haskell Street and had closed off on the north side.

Electric Department:

- **Policy passed:**

Director of Electric Utilities Huber thanked the Commission for passing the policy on incorrect billings.

- **Replacing LED's:**

Mr. Huber stated that the line guys were replacing LED lights on First Street as they went out. Mr. Huber explained that the company had been sending them to us free because they were faulty lights that had been purchased three years ago.

- **New line:**

Mr. Huber stated that the line guys had put in a half mile of new line to a resident on Country Club Road and would get the temporary in place this week.

- **CT meters:**

Mr. Huber stated that he had sent out two guys on the metering side to check the 165 CT meters to make sure the multipliers and everything in billing matched. Mr. Huber explained that there were a lot of things that could make these meters fail, such as broken wires. Mr. Huber commented that he did not have a test

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set for these meters; however, he might look at purchasing something like that but it was expensive. Mr. Huber added that the 3 phase meters had to be sent off to be tested, which was also expensive.

- **New truck:**

Mr. Huber stated that he still did not have a new truck and all they were waiting on was a red plastic dead man button.

- **KMU Conference:**

Mr. Huber stated that he also attended the KMU Conference last week and there were a lot of conversations about Federal funding and infrastructure funding. Mr. Huber commented that they asked how many cities had applied and about a 1/3 raised their hands and only one had gotten it, so Kansas had kind of gotten denied funding for whatever reason.

- **House Bill 2227 and 2228:**

Mr. Huber stated that they had talked about House Bill 2227 and 2228 that dealt with net metering and third party PPA's and both of those got sidelined, which was good. Mr. Huber commented that that kept cities exempt from having to go to net metering and we could continue to run our Federal generation policies.

- **Chargers:**

Mr. Huber stated that Charge Points contacted him today and wants to come talk. Mr. Huber commented that the EV world was starting to move around here. Mr. Huber added that it was talked about at the conference; however, cities did not want to be involved, they just want to sell power to them and they did not want to manage or operate them.

- **Award Ceremony:**

Mr. Huber stated that there was an award ceremony at the conference and Power Plant Superintendent Bryan Evans was awarded the Power Plant Operator Award of Excellence. Mr. Huber commented that that was great for us and a good job for him. Mr. Huber stated that the City of Pratt has represented well at the conference by being awarded four awards in the last ten years.

Recreation Department:

- **Busy weekend:**

Recreation Superintendent Eisenhauer stated that they had a busy weekend with forty-two softball teams playing 101 games on six fields. Mr. Eisenhauer commented that they estimated 3,000 people here just for the softball games. Mr. Eisenhauer stated that the Open Gravel Race brought in 379 racers and the Kids Fair had at least 800 kids, so he thought there had to be around 4,400 people in town this weekend.

- **Next weekend:**

Mr. Eisenhauer stated that next weekend there would be track and ballgames at Green Sports Complex so parking would be an issue, where it was not last weekend with no track meet.

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- **Commercial:**

Mr. Eisenhauer stated that they have a new commercial on KWCH and it was Why Live in Pratt and it would eventually be on the website.

- **Revenue:**

Commissioner Farmer asked if he knew how much revenue they made this weekend. Mr. Eisenhauer stated that he could get an economic impact done but, after paying umpires, etc., he thought it was probably about \$15,000. Mr. Eisenhauer added that the motels and restaurants did well too.

Police Department:

- **No struggles:**

Police Chief Humble stated that his department had no struggles this weekend and Lemon Park worked out great. Chief Humble commented that they escorted the Open Gravel Race out of town and that went off without a hitch.

Finance Department:

- **Budget:**

Finance Director Carver stated that he had sent out the budget worksheets to the departments on the 24th and had been chatting with INCODE over some issues with the proposed budget reverting back to the 2020/2021 numbers. Mr. Carver commented that it took them a week to get that fixed.

- **Audit:**

Mr. Carver stated that the auditors would be here May 25th and 26th, but City Clerk Kramer, Accounts Payable Clerk Eastes and he had already uploaded about 90% of what they needed.

- **Workshop:**

Mr. Carver stated that there was a workshop on May 24th that would be very valuable for anyone that would be doing budgets on the administrative level. Mr. Carver commented that he would be doing it as a webinar, but it gives a deeper dive to explain how to do the budget with instructions and explains new Statutes and teaches the revenue neutral rate.

- **KMIP:**

Mr. Carver stated that the first-year pool general obligation bond payment was due on or before May 31st. Mr. Carver explained that he took the first-year donation money and put it in the investment pool to pay the first bill on or before June 1st; however, he kept it in the pool too long. Mr. Carver explained that they wanted the bill paid twenty days before June 1st. Mr. Carver stated that he got it covered because payment notification was in there. Mr. Carver stated that when it was out of the investment pool on the 22nd, he would take it out of KMIP on the 23rd and put it in the account at People's Bank to make that payment. Mr. Carver stated that this was very important so that was why he had mentioned it.

Mayor and Commission:

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- **Brent leaving;**

Mayor Deeds asked when Mr. Carver was leaving. Mr. Carver stated that he planned on May 31st being his last day.

- **Proclamation:**

Mayor Deeds stated that he had signed the proclamation for Endangered Children and it was out on social media.

- **Clean-up Week:**

Commissioner Siemens stated that she wanted to recognize those that had helped with clean-up on about five different homes. Commissioner Siemens commented that Mr. Monte Hostetler, Ed and Sharon Barrett and Robert Smiley all had helped and the recipients were all so grateful.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner Farmer made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer and carried unanimously.

ZACH DEEDS, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk