

MONDAY

MAY 18, 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 (Remotely)
	Zach Deeds	Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:	Bruce Pinkall	City Manager
	LuAnn Kramer	City Clerk
	Regina Probst	City Attorney (Remotely)
	Diana Garten	Finance Director (Remotely)
	Russell Rambat	Public Works Director
	Jamie Huber	Dir. 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 with the exception of Commissioner Leslie.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

MINUTES:

- May 01, 2020 Special Call Commission Meeting
- May 04, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting

Commissioner Deeds made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 01, 2020 Special Call meeting and the May 04, 2020 Regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2050 REGARDING HOURS OF SALE AT RETAIL OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR WITHIN THE CITY:

City Attorney Probst stated that the City did not do anything that would require us to amend this ordinance; however, our ordinance allowing the 6% increase in cereal malt beverage to be sold muddied the waters for Municode. Ms. Probst explained that, for some reason, Municode replaced the correct hours with the old hours. Ms. Probst stated that the retailers were still legal to be selling on Sundays because we did not repeal that ordinance, but we needed to pass this ordinance. Mayor Schmidt questioned that this would take care of the problem. Ms. Probst stated that it would and she had been in

contact with the League of Kansas Municipalities and they were in agreement. Ms. Probst reminded the Commission that we had to have a sixty-day waiting period when we passed the first ordinance, but we did not have to do that this time since we were cleaning up the code book. Commissioner Meyer clarified that the retailers could continue doing what they were doing now. Ms. Probst stated that they could because Municode had made an error of what our laws were; therefore, we had not repealed anything and this was not a legal issue.

With no more discussion, the following Ordinance 2050 was presented to the Commission for their approval: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 5.24.040 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING HOURS OF SALE AT RETAIL OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.** Commissioner Deeds made a motion to approve Ordinance 2050 regarding hours of sale at retail of alcoholic liquor within the City of Pratt. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer and carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Schmidt stated that these were more ordinances dealing with amendments preparing for the global fee ordinance. With no discussion, the following Ordinances 2051 to Ordinance 2058 were presented to the Commission for their approval: **Ordinance 2051 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 8.20.020 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING THE OPERATION OF VEHICLES WITH LOUD EXHAUST DEVICES PROHIBITED WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; Ordinance 2052 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.08.030 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING THE OPERATION OF MICRO UTILITY TRUCKS WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; Ordinance 2053 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.08.040 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING THE OPERATION OF WORK-SITE UTILITY VEHICLES WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; Ordinance 2054 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.28.040 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF SECTION 10.28.010 WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; Ordinance 2055 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.36.100 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF SECTION 10.36.040 WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; Ordinance 2056 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 12.04.130 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION BONDS WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH; Ordinance 2057 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 12.04.170 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH and Ordinance 2058 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 12.08.020 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT REGARDING EXCAVATION BONDS WITHIN THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.** A motion by Commissioner Meyer to approve Ordinance 2051 – Operation to Vehicles with Loud Exhaust Devices Prohibited; Ordinance 2052 – Operation of Micro Utility Trucks; Ordinance 2053 – Operation of Work-Site Utility Vehicles; Ordinance 2054 – Penalty for Violation of Section 10.28.010; Ordinance 2055 – Penalty for Violation of Section 10.36.040; Ordinance

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2056 – Sidewalk Construction Bonds; Ordinance 2057 – Snow and Ice Removal and Ordinance 2058 – Excavation Bonds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peters and carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON COVID-19 AND GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-31:

City Manager Pinkall stated that we were currently operating under Governor Kelly’s Executive Order 20-31 and under Phase 1.5. Mr. Pinkall explained that Phase 1.5 consisted of no mass gatherings greater than ten, no non-essential travel, no bars, no casinos, no organized sports facilities, tournaments and one of the biggest changes was that barbers, hair salons, nail salons and tanning salons could reopen, but only for pre-scheduled appointments or online check in. Mr. Pinkall informed the Commission that the City was going to open up the playgrounds and have signage up reminding everyone about social distancing and cleanliness. Mr. Pinkall commented that we would sanitize the equipment as we could and wait for the Governor to move to Phase 2, which would increase the mass gathering numbers.

Mr. Pinkall commented that the community was doing well and retail businesses were open and social distancing was going well. Mr. Pinkall stated that the challenges would be with barbers and salons being appointment only. Mr. Pinkall explained that the City building would remain closed and that the online payment, drop box, calling in for permits and mail were working and he still wanted to protect staff from any outside influence. Mr. Pinkall added that we would continue through Phase 1.5 and open cautiously. Mr. Pinkall commented that Phase 2 could potentially allow for the pools to open.

Mr. Pinkall stated that there were still the concerns about the budget situation and not being sure how much the sales tax hit would be. Mr. Pinkall stated that the departments had been proactive and limiting their expenditures. Mr. Pinkall commented that he was confident that we were in as good a place as we could be. Mr. Pinkall stated that everyday more pools were deciding that they were not opening and that was going to be on our radar to decide what we were going to do. Mr. Pinkall explained that he wanted to be able to afford the cost of getting the pool filled up and operating and keeping the staff safe and healthy. Mr. Pinkall stated that that could be a concern especially if we were one of the only ones in the area that open up.

Commissioner Peters asked about churches being allowed to meet with less than thirty people. Mr. Pinkall stated that the Governor did not address them specifically, but he would find out and let him know. City Attorney Probst stated that family groups of ten or less could be in proximity of each other and then six feet and another group and six feet. Commissioner Peters asked if restaurants were being relied upon to follow the rules or if someone was monitoring them. Ms. Probst stated that they were working with them and law enforcement were not trying to engage them; however, they had been to certain residences to have a conversation when gatherings were over one hundred.

REPORTS:

City Manager:

- **Budget:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that we were keeping budget things in line and getting ready to start the 2021 procedure. Mr. Pinkall commented that they did not have a real good handle on it totally, but they were keeping in mind conservative spending. Mr. Pinkall added that they would continue that as we get ready to finalize the budget in July, which would reflect the impact of the pandemic. Commissioner Peters asked if we had heard from Blue Cross Blue Shield about the health insurance. Mr. Pinkall stated that we had met with them last week and we were going to have a tough decision to make. Mr. Pinkall commented that Finance Director Garten had projected a 15% increase, but he thought that was low. Mr.

Pinkall explained that we were looking at other brokers to get other quotes. Mr. Pinkall stated that the first year could be very competitive, but they wanted to do what was best for the staff and the budget.

- **Weed letters & Americare:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that he was reporting for Building Inspector Blankenship and that he wanted the Commissioners to know that weed letters were being sent out. Mr. Pinkall also reported that Mr. Blankenship reported to him that Americare was moving along and had not gotten behind with all the COVID-19 issues.

- **Police report:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that Chief Humble had had a couple of busy days and was unable to attend this evening's meeting, but wanted the Commission to know that they were dealing with a few more break-ins, but nothing that they had not dealt with in the past. Chief Humble also wanted them to know that Officer Gimpel was dealing with the K-9 and it was now at his home. Mr. Pinkall added that Officer Gimpel was enrolled in the KHP K-9 training in September that would help with the retraining of our K-9. Mr. Pinkall also reported that Chief Humble had stated that they were back open to do VIN inspections.

City Attorney:

- **Social distancing:**

City Attorney Probst stated that she was still social distancing on Mondays, but would be in Pratt on Thursdays for Municipal Court and to communicate with department heads. Ms. Probst commented that she was available through email, calls and texts anytime.

Public Works:

- **Maintenance:**

Public Works Director Rambat stated that the guys had been staying busy doing maintenance. Mr. Rambat commented that they were waiting to see what projects could be done with budget money once things settled down and we knew where we stood. Mr. Rambat stated that there were street projects and the pool that would be ready to roll if they got approval, even if they got scaled back. Mayor Schmidt asked if we had had to lay off or furlough anyone. Mr. Pinkall stated that we had not. Mr. Rambat added that we had no part-time help hired and that kept our full-time staff busy and they would be worn out by the end of the summer.

Electric Department:

- **Staying busy/Maintenance:**

Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that the guys at the power plant were cleaning up unit #2 hoping they would get to hold a workshop in November. Mr. Huber commented that the line guys were always busy doing maintenance and they had been replacing street poles that had rotted off and doing other everyday things. Mr. Huber stated that they went five weeks without an after-hour call, which almost never happened. Mr. Huber added that they continued doing tree trimming. Mr. Huber stated that the poles for Angood Field were in, so they would be getting back in Lemon Park to get the underground in.

- **Usage:**

Mr. Huber stated that he had compared March and April kilowatt usage purchased to last year's and there had been 2,000,000 more used and that was due to everyone being home. Mr. Huber commented that he had talked to City Clerk Kramer and we had to get people caught back up on their bills. Mr. Huber stated that Pratt was more residential than industrial, so summer would result in bills getting even more expensive. Mr. Huber added that we needed to start collecting this money when the ban on disconnects was lifted.

Finance Department:

- **Economy and Changes:**

Finance Director Garten stated that she had been watching the economy and the changes there. Ms. Garten commented that Congress was scheduled to meet next Thursday and there were a lot of issues surrounded with that, which could impact us.

City Clerk/Utility Billing:

- **Comprehensive Fee Schedule:**

City Clerk Kramer stated that she was working on the Comprehensive Fee Schedule that would be put in place once City Attorney Probst was done with all the ordinance amendments. Ms. Kramer explained that all the costs that had been removed from the ordinances would be in this fee schedule.

- **Collections:**

Ms. Kramer added to the discussion of Mr. Huber's, concerning disconnects. Ms. Kramer stated that it was going to be a challenge to get customers caught up on their bills since several had made the choice not to pay anything on their bill since February. Ms. Kramer commented that we would be willing to work with the customer as long as they would work with us. Ms. Kramer stated that she would encourage customers to get ahold of the utility department to make a payment arrangement before we were out to disconnect them. Ms. Kramer and City Manager Pinkall commented that circumstances would be looked at individually if necessary and taken seriously as to what steps could be taken to lessen someone's burden. Ms. Kramer commented that the balances had to be paid, but reasonable arrangements could be made.

Mayor and Commission:

- **REAP:**

Mayor Schmidt stated that he was joined at a REAP meeting by Commissioner Meyer, City Manager Pinkall, Public Works Director Rambat and Finance Director Garten. Mayor Schmidt commented that they had talked about becoming a 501-C3 and being able to work as a group in purchasing vehicles and health insurance. Mayor Schmidt commented that we may not want to do that now, but may need it in the future. Mayor Schmidt stated that we did not have to be involved, because we want to buy local. Commissioner Meyer stated that the meetings were very informative and very structured and it was interesting to see how others respond. Commissioner Meyer commented that we were not that different, yet we were. Commissioner Meyer added that the group purchasing was right on track, but we needed to

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try to continue to buy local. Commissioner Meyer stated that Wichita's report on the airport was that they were averaging about a hundred flights a day and it had been about twenty-seven hundred before and they were about to lose some of their flights.

- **Clean-up week:**

City Manager Pinkall explained that we needed to take out the 'clean-up' week, because we would not be picking stuff up. Mr. Pinkall explained that it would be free to take stuff out to the landfill that week. Mr. Pinkall commented that people would still have to go over the scales and show proof of residency and separate things. City Clerk Kramer stated that the flyer would be going out in the bills for both cycles.

ADJOURN:

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

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

GARY A. SCHMIDT, Mayor



ATTEST:

LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk