

MONDAY

JUNE 05, 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
	Jeanette Siemens	Commissioner
	Kyle Farmer	Commissioner
	Doug Meyer	Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:	Bruce Pinkall	City Manager
	Nate Humble	Police Chief
	Regina Goff	City Attorney
	Russell Rambat	Public Works Director
	Jamie Huber	Director of Electric Utilities

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 Schmidt 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 May 15, 2023 regular Commission meeting and the May 22, 2023 recessed meeting; however, the May 30, 2023 minutes were tabled due to some changes that needed to be made. Commissioner Siemens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON CIRCLES PROGRAM:

Ms. Katharine Cummins thanked the City for their donation every month to the Circles program. Ms. Cummins commented that Ms. Mary McCune was still helping them with financials and she was working from her home. Ms. Cummins stated that Circles started fifteen years ago last March. Ms. Cummins explained that some drop out, because it was more than what they thought it would be, and others complete college classes or get employment raises. Ms. Cummins explained that they collect data every six months from leadership families on what was working and was not, such as point of status, housing status, checking and savings status, and account debt. Ms. Cummins shared that the 2022 numbers were that there was a decrease in unemployment by 15%, a decrease in debt by 12% and an increase in income in the first six months was up by 27%. Ms. Cummins stated that one leader had to drop out because they moved and one had gotten a grant to attend college and she had just successfully finished her first year at McPherson.

Ms. Cummins shared a case about a family that had four children and had entered the program five years ago. Ms. Cummins commented that they were tough, inspiring, strong and they now had ten children, which some of those were fostered. Ms. Cummins stated that they had completed a lot of goals by buying their first home, two new vehicles, paid off debt and he had earned a CDL. Ms. Cummins commented that she had sent a letter stating that this was all due to the Circles program.

Ms. Cummins stated that they would be starting a new youth program next month and it would teach them about nutrition, volunteering, relationships, mental health and exercising. Ms. Cummins added that this was going to be for youth ages five to ten years old. Commissioner Siemens thanked them for taking hold of the program and they were a good example of how the Circles program works. Commissioner Farmer echoed what Commissioner Siemens had stated and that he had been invited to speak to the group on civic engagement next month. Commissioner Schmidt stated that they had all thought about coming as a group to one of the meetings to observe.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF 2024 PRATT LIBRARY BUDGET REQUESTS:

Mayor Deeds asked if City Manager Pinkall had talked with Mr. Killough. Mr. Pinkall stated that he had not. Commissioner Meyer stated that his requests were very thorough and he felt it could be approved and have that done for the budget. Commissioner Meyer commented that this was not your typical library. Mayor Deeds stated that he had walked through it during the Art Walk and it was amazing. Mayor Deeds added that he thought there were maybe sixty people in there during the Art Walk. With no further discussion, Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the appropriate additional mill as approved by Statute to the Library budget. The motion was approved by Commissioner Meyer and carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION WITH PRATT AREA HUMANE SOCIETY CONCERNING AGREEMENT:

Ms. Roxanna Prater thanked the Commission for their support and informed the Commission that they had recently met with City Manager Pinkall, Police Chief Humble, and City Attorney Goff. Ms. Prater commented that they had had the idea of taking on the dog catcher duties. Ms. Prater explained that, if they were to take that on as the Humane Society, it would be as dog catcher not animal control and they would work Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ms. Prater added that they would not go looking for dogs and would only respond to calls. Ms. Prater stated that, for doing this, they would need the cost of a full-time employee of \$36,000 on top of what they get now, so about \$72,000 a year plus the truck and equipment. Ms. Prater commented that they would work closely with the police department. Ms. Prater stated that, if that did not work, they would ask for an increase in their monthly stiffen to \$3,250 and ask for \$7,000 for utilities instead of the \$6,000.

Mayor Deeds asked if there was any Statute for making this change. City Attorney Goff stated that the City had to provide animal control, but we could contract it out. Commissioner Schmidt asked what the difference was between catcher and control. Ms. Goff stated that animal control had to do with all animals. Chief Humble added that you had to have State permits and there was the matter of reporting and getting that information to the State. Chief Humble added that you also set traps for wildlife. Commissioner Meyer asked if they would do that. Ms. Prater stated that they would not. Commissioner Farmer asked if they would look for lost dogs like people post on Neighbors Helping Neighbors on Facebook. Ms. Prater stated that they would. Commissioner Meyer asked how many dogs Animal Control takes to the Humane Society in a year. Chief Humble commented that he was not sure, but maybe twenty to twenty-two. Commissioner Meyer stated that it was less than fifty. Ms. Prater stated that it was. Commissioner Meyer questioned that they did not take feral cats; however, they did take domesticated cats. Ms. Prater stated that they did and they had a program call Nip & Tip that helps with that.

Mayor Deeds asked how we would address the wild animals if we went this direction. Chief Humble stated that he would have to look into it. Mayor Deeds commented that we did have wildlife incidents. Chief Humble stated that they do set traps for the racoons and have about three or four requests a week for skunks and/or possums every week.

Commissioner Farmer asked if they would charge the owner if they give the dog back. Ms. Prater stated that they probably would not if they did it immediately; however, they would if they housed it. Commissioner Schmidt asked if they would be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday and 24/7. Ms. Prater stated that they would be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Commissioner Schmidt asked Chief Humble if they were 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. now. Chief Humble stated that they were now unless they are vicious, then we take them by the office; however, we do not do at large. Commissioner Schmidt asked what the cost comparison would be now by what they were asking for. Chief Humble stated that he would have to look at his budget.

An audience member asked how long they keep them before they were euthanized or if this was a no kill shelter. Ms. Prater commented that they had euthanized some animals, but they had some that had been there for over a year. Mayor Deeds asked what the advantage was to having an in-house dog catcher rather than how we do it now. Mayor Deeds added the question if there was a deficiency now. Ms. Prater stated that there was not a deficiency now, but they would be able to utilize those resources better in the shelter by working with the animals, working as a kennel technician and animal control.

Mayor Deeds stated that this was a big decision and he would like to see the Commission discuss it in the budget workshop. Ms. Prater commented that she would submit their budget this week. Commissioner Schmidt committed that a lot of people make donations and he asked if that went into a trust fund or if it was separated from the regular income. Ms. Prater stated that they just had a general fund unless the donation was designated to a certain place. Ms. Prater added that they got a \$48,000 donation last year, but their expenses were \$106,000. Ms. Prater commented that they would not be able to operate without those. Mayor Deeds informed Ms. Prater that they may have more questions before the workshop.

OPEN AGENDA:

No one wished to address the Commission.

REPORTS:

City Manager:

- **Re-appointment to Planning and Zoning:**

City Manager Pinkall stated that they had gotten the application finished for the Planning and Zoning Commission; therefore, Mr. Robert Schmisser had submitted his for the re-appointment recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mayor Deeds asked City Attorney Goff if this was a motion or a consensus. Ms. Goff stated that a motion would cover both. Mayor Deeds made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Mr. Robert Schmisser as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Siemens and passed unanimously.

- **Exercise:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that the exercise equipment was being worked on in Sixth Street Park and the park department was helping so that it was to their satisfaction. Mr. Pinkall commented that it would be located fairly close to the playground equipment.

- **Chamber coffee:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that the Chamber Coffee held at City Hall had a good showing of about twenty people.

- **Miss Kansas Week:**

Mr. Pinkall commented that this was Miss Kansas week and the parade would be Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

- **Pool:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that they continue to have the pool meetings each week and Public Works Director Rambat and Building Inspector Blankenship spend a lot of time there. Mr. Pinkall commented that it was a quality project and they were still on schedule and on budget.

- **Thank you:**

Mr. Pinkall thanked the entire staff for working with the change of Finance Director Brent Carver leaving. Mr. Pinkall commented that everyone has chipped in and Payroll Clerk Eastes was doing other things and AGH was helping also.

- **Recreation:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that Recreation Director Eisenhauer was absent, but he did want the Commission to know that this was the first night for the Recreation program with baseball and softball starting at Green Sports Complex. Mr. Pinkall commented that there was a twenty-six team tournament this weekend also at the Complex.

- **Exercise Equipment:**

Commissioner Schmidt asked how much the playground equipment was costing the City. Mr. Pinkall stated that it was just the department's time, but the clubs purchased it. Mr. Pinkall added that the park department would be mowing around it. Commissioner Schmidt asked if there was any action needed by the Commission. Mr. Pinkall stated that it should be less than \$5,000.

- **Hot & Cold Water Towers:**

Commissioner Meyer asked if the City owned the Hot and Cold water towers. Mr. Pinkall stated that he was not sure, but he would check on that. Commissioner Meyer questioned the garden area. Mr. Pinkall commented that he thought that was the Garden Club. Public Works Director Rambat stated that he did not know if there was a group or not, but we have had the towers inspected and painted. Mayor Deeds asked how much it cost to have them repainted. Mr. Rambat stated that they needed to be inspected, so he would get a cost quote. Mayor Deeds commented that that is what Pratt is and we would need some Travel and Tourism funds for that. Mr. Rambat stated that he would be glad to spearhead that.

Mr. Rambat explained that EBH had been involved with filling them with sand. Commissioner Meyer stated that this conversation came about when he was visiting his daughter who lives in Arizona.

Commissioner Schmidt asked what the relationship was when it was pumping water and the ice plant. Mr. Rambat stated that the ice plant was separate from the water towers and never utilized it to its full potential. Mayor Deeds asked if they could check on reconditioning Travel and Tourism funds. Mr. Pinkall stated that he would take a look at it. City Attorney Goff stated that they had a rule that, in order to consider a request, you had to have an application by the first of the month.

- **Park sign:**

Commissioner Farmer asked about the park sign across from Humble Pie. Mr. Rambat stated that they were going with steel pipes and that was going to have to be integrated into the wood framing, but they were working on it.

- **Memorial Day:**

Commissioner Farmer commented that he was asked why the City did not do anything for Memorial Day. Mr. Rambat stated that we used to and it was at the airport. Mr. Rambat commented that those people got older and the younger ones did not take it over. Mr. Rambat stated that it could be brought before the Cemetery Board to see if they would do it and we would do what we could do to help out.

City Attorney:

- **Meeting with AGH:**

City Attorney Goff stated that she had a meeting with AGH on Wednesday and would be discussing the picture of what they would need from us. Ms. Goff commented that she would report to Mr. Pinkall to see how that relationship was going to work.

- **Meeting:**

Ms. Goff commented that she would be in Overland Park on Friday to attend a meeting that was held only twice a year.

- **Scott Loyd Group:**

Ms. Goff stated that we had gotten information to the Scott Loyd Group and Mr. Carver had done a good job getting us lists and he was very organized. Ms. Goff commented that she had gone through his cheat sheets and had gotten acquainted with INCODE. Ms. Goff stated that they had gotten her as the fourth signature on purchase orders and removed Mr. Carver on bank accounts.

- **Pool:**

Ms. Goff commented that she had gone to the pool with Mr. Blankenship to see their progress. Ms. Goff stated that it did not look like they were far away from getting it done.

- **Meetings:**

Ms. Goff stated that she had kept busy going to meetings. Ms. Goff commented that she also takes phone calls from Chamber Director Smith and she works well with her.

Public Works:

- **Lemon Park cameras:**

Public Works Director Rambat stated that the cameras were now working in Lemon Park and he had shared that with Police Chief Humble. Mr. Rambat commented that you could see incoming and outgoing vehicles and people and it was clear so you could get license plate numbers.

- **New supervisor:**

Mr. Rambat stated that Sanitation Supervisor Compton retired and Mr. Josh McCray had been appointed as the new supervisor. Mr. Rambat stated that he was very capable of doing the job and he had been working with him on their budget.

- **Wastewater:**

Mr. Rambat stated that he had been down at the wastewater plant helping them due to two pumps going down in the pipe gallery for the digestors.

- **Cost Share projects:**

Mr. Rambat commented that the State would be announcing the cost share project recipients tomorrow. Mr. Rambat stated that this was the second time he had tried to get that for the road behind Home Lumber.

- **Miss Kansas:**

Mr. Rambat stated that he sent out a mass email to remind everybody that the Miss Kansas parade was this Saturday. Mr. Rambat commented that he did not think they would forget because we had done it for so many years.

- **Pool painting:**

Commissioner Schmidt questioned the pool getting painted with it raining every day. Mr. Rambat stated that as long as the temperature was above 60° the priming paint would dry in one hour. Mr. Rambat explained that they use an epoxy paint and it would allow you could fill the pool in five days. Mr. Rambat commented that they plan ahead and do not get ahead of themselves. Mr. Rambat stated that they get guys down there and get two coats of that epoxy paint on there and then they seal all the joints with the same color as the paint. Mr. Rambat stated that he had a lot of confidence that they would be able to do it.

Electric Department:

- **Hail Storm:**

Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that they were still collecting information on the hail storm. Mr. Huber commented that they found one traffic light on Fifth Street, so they went back to look at them and found thirty-eight more. Mr. Huber added that all the Christmas lights on Main Street were broken. Mr. Huber stated that he had gotten with Chamber Director Smith and she was going to bring that up at their meeting tomorrow. Mr. Huber added that several of the roofs were damaged at the power plant and windows were broken, so it was more than they thought.

- **Outage:**

Mr. Huber stated that Commissioner Meyer had asked about the outage this past weekend. Mr. Huber commented that some of that was from all the rain and the trees were starting to fall over.

Police Department:

- **Click it or Ticket:**

Police Chief Humble stated that the numbers were down for their Click it or Ticket program this year, but they did get funding for some new equipment.

- **Thefts:**

Chief Humble informed the Commission that there had been thefts of out buildings and they had been checking cameras of neighbors. Chief Humble stated he only had two or three on staff per shift.

- **Hail Damage:**

Chief Humble stated that they had hail damage to several vehicles and EMC had appraised them. Chief Humble commented that one patrol car that was in an accident in 2022 they had just gotten back because it was so hard to get parts.

Mayor and Commission:

- **Appreciation:**

Commissioner Farmer stated that he had missed Law Enforcement Month last month, so he asked Chief Humble to let his guys know that we appreciate them.

Commissioner Farmer stated that Fireman Appreciation Day was May 4th and he thanked them for all that they do.

- **Rotary:**

Commissioner Meyer stated that Chief Humble was the guest speaker at Rotary and he did a fantastic job.

RECESS:

Mayor Deeds made a motion to recess until Tuesday, June 2nd at 4:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and carried unanimously.

ZACH DEEDS, Mayor

(SEAL)

8 – June 05, 2023 (Regular Commission meeting)

ATTEST:

LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk