

MONDAY

JULY 20, 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
	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 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 Peters led the audience and staff in the invocation and Mayor Schmidt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

- July 06, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting

Commissioner Peters made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 06, 2020 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF OPTIONS TO REPAIR OR REPLACE TAPPING MACHINE:

Water Superintendent Kelvin Clay informed the Commission that their inline tap machine had gone down and either needed to be repaired or replaced. Mr. Clay stated that this machine was the first off the shelf when doing a project and they were currently using a loaner. Mr. Clay commented that the current machine was manufactured in 1940 and some parts were still available; however, some were not. Mr. Clay explained that the cost option to rebuild the old unit was from Mueller Corporation at \$13,752.59 plus tax on the parts only. Mr. Clay stated that to replace the old unit

with a Mueller C1-36 drilling machine, Salina Supply had bid \$21,359.64 plus tax and Municipal Supply out of Nebraska had bid \$22,336.88 plus tax,

Mr. Clay stated that the funds to pay for this would come from the 454-999 line item that was normally used for a water well that would go down or any other unexpected failures; however, currently there was \$28,297.31 in there. Commissioner Peters asked if we would trade-in the old one or keep it. Mr. Clay commented that there was no salvage value. Commissioner Peters asked about the warranty on a new one. Mr. Clay stated that the C1-36 had a one-year warranty. Commissioner Peters questioned if he had done business with both Salina Supply and Municipal Supply. Mr. Clay stated that he had. Commissioner Peters asked what a tapping machine was used for. Mr. Clay explained that it was used when running a new main and being able to tap into an existing line so that they did not have to shut down anyone's service. Mr. Clay added that this machine could do anything from a 3" line to a 12" line.

With no more discussion, Commissioner Peters made a motion to approve the purchase of the Mueller C1-36 Drilling machine from Salina Supply for \$21,336.88 plus tax. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deeds. Mayor Schmidt asked what the lead time was to receive the new machine. Mr. Clay stated that it would be about two months so they would keep the borrowed one until then. The motion and second passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR THE 2020 MILL AND OVERLAY PROJECT:

Public Works Director Rambat stated that he had sent out two bids for the 2020 mill and overlay project and had gotten one back from APAC-Kansas. Mr. Rambat commented that APAC had been the contractor for the last four or five years and had been really good about working with the City and the public. Mr. Rambat stated that his intention was to fill in the center on North Main Street to the City limits, but it had been done a couple of times and not held up very well. Mr. Rambat explained that it was a lengthy process to get on the railroad's right-of-way, so we did not do a lot around tracks. Mr. Rambat commented that there would be a little striping on the south bound lane that they had to add to the bid. Mr. Rambat stated that he picked out good solid streets where the overlay would give them another ten years. Mr. Rambat added that Third Street from Oak Street to Thompson Street would finish us out to Howard Street and those were busy streets used by locals and would take some of the pressure off of Sixth Street.

Mr. Rambat stated that APAC-Kansas was the only bid and it came in at \$146,590.68 and he recommended moving forward with that. Mr. Rambat explained that they had used the Federal Exchange money for the drainage south of the Green Sports Complex so it would get used under the time frame, so this project would come out of the street money. Mr. Rambat added that curb and ADA projects would come later. Finance Director Garten added that there was about \$46,000 still in the Federal Exchange Project Fund. With no further discussion, Commissioner Meyer made a motion to approve the bid from APAC for the 2020 Mill and Overlay Project in the amount of \$146,590.68. The motion was seconded by Mayor Schmidt and carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 072020 – CITY CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND RESOLUTION:

City Attorney Probst stated that this resolution was a template from the League and states that the City agrees to pay back funds if those funds were not used by the end of the year. Ms. Probst commented that it became clear after their discussion with the County that they had concerns that they would be liable and that was not the case. Ms. Probst pointed out one change in the seventh

“WHERE AS” and that was changing the word ‘my’ to ‘the City’.

Discussion followed with the City Attorney, City Manager and Finance Director explaining how the local SPARK sub-committee was created and there being no transparency in that process and the City not being represented on that sub-committee. It was explained that the City had requested \$500,000 of the \$1.8 million provided to Pratt County since the City accounts for the majority of citizens and provides the majority of infrastructure in Pratt County; however, the City was only awarded \$30,000 which was 2% of the funding provided to the County. Several items that the City had requested reimbursement for were denied while the same expenditures were approved for other taxing entities and that there was much concern expressed that the requests made by the taxing entities had not been made available to the public or to the other taxing entities. Those concerns were expressed to Ms. Heather Morgan since full disclosure was expected under Kansas’ requirement of open Government. The County did not vote on the proposal provided by Ms. Morgan due to the City’s objections and the City was allowed an opportunity to resubmit and present our requests at the taxing entities meeting on Friday, July 17, 2020. The local SPARK committee should be meeting this week and the County will be making its final decision on Monday, July 27, 2020. (This information was provided by City Attorney Probst to ensure its accuracy.)

With no further discussion, Commissioner Deeds made a motion to approve the amendment to Resolution 072020. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Deeds then made a motion to approve Resolution 072020 concerning the City Coronavirus Relief Fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peters and carried unanimously.

OPEN AGENDA:

No one in the audience addressed the Commission.

REPORTS:

City Manager:

- **Budget:**

City Manager Pinkall stated that the budget process was coming together and he was getting a handle on what it looked like.

- **Insurance:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that he had continued to work with City Clerk Kramer on health insurance and going through options. Mr. Pinkall commented that he hoped to narrow things down and have it ready for budget. Mr. Pinkall added that one was a fully funded option and other options were self-funded.

- **COVID-19:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that Pratt had 28 confirmed cases of COVID-19. City Attorney Probst commented that two of those cases were hospitalized; however, they were not in the Pratt hospital. Ms. Probst added that the Wichita hospitals were at capacity and it was a growing concern. Mr. Pinkall stated that we still needed to be concerned.

Mr. Pinkall stated that the department heads and staff were staying safe and working individually

and wearing masks when needed. Mr. Pinkall commented that he had plenty of masks in his office if anyone needed some.

- **Art Museum:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that there was a membership to the Filley Art Museum for the Commissioners since the City was a Legacy Member and that gave them access for the next coming year. Mr. Pinkall added that he also had four guest passes if they would need them.

City Attorney:

- **Staying busy:**

City Attorney Probst stated that she had been staying busy with the CARES act funding as well as Municipal Court being up and going again. Ms. Probst commented that there were a lot of trials starting up again. Ms. Probst stated that she had been working on the global fee schedule with City Clerk Kramer and that would be going out to the department heads to go over and make changes to and then it would be on an agenda for the Commission's approval. Ms. Probst stated that she had added a legal risk pamphlet in the information portion of the packet from the League and she felt it would be a good idea to put a sign up near the river in Lemon Park to prevent the City from being held liable in the event of an accident.

Public Works:

- **New Signs coming into town:**

Public Works Director Rambat stated that he had ordered new big green signs as you come into town from Taylor Printing since the ones out there were pretty faded.

Electric Department:

- **Day to Day operations:**

Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that the guys were doing their day to day operations and there were no new projects. Commissioner Peters asked if he could figure out how much the solar farm had saved us. Mr. Huber stated that that would be too hard, but it had saved us. Mr. Huber commented that the day to day cloud cover made a difference. Commissioner Peters stated that he had people ask him. Mr. Huber stated that it did save us transmission charges. Mr. Huber added that the load was getting consumed pretty quickly now. Commissioner Deeds asked if the energy cost adjustment had a swing to it. Mr. Huber stated that it was pretty calm and the natural gas prices were pretty calm. Mayor Schmidt asked if we were still selling excess capacity. Mr. Huber stated that we were selling it every month no matter what and it was based off of what we produced and we would be doing that for a few more years.

Building Inspections:

- **Pilot Club train:**

Building Inspector Blankenship stated that the Department of Labor would be here this week to inspect the Pilot Club train. Mr. Blankenship commented that guys from the electric department and the street department had come and helped him get some things done and he had hired a local contractor to

straighten the track. Mr. Blankenship stated that he had Morgan Diesel come out and do their yearly check-up. Mr. Blankenship added that there was a check list that had been sent out and he had everything that had been requested ready to go. Commissioner Peters asked if the Pilot Club had funds set back to pay for the repairs. Mr. Blankenship stated that he did not know if they did or not. Commissioner Peters asked if we paid Morgan Diesel if they send us the bill. Mr. Blankenship stated that we did.

Police Department:

- **Masks:**

Chief Humble stated that the officers were going out more and were now wearing masks all the time.

- **Graduate:**

Chief Humble informed the Commission that Officer Gilmore graduated on Friday and would be returning to work this evening.

Finance Department:

- **Budget work session:**

Finance Director Garten stated that the budget work session was set to start next Monday at 8:30 a.m. and go until they were done on Tuesday. Ms. Garten added that they might have to tweak the schedule since the department heads would be seeing the schedule for the first time in the next few days.

- **Loan Amendment No. 2:**

Ms. Garten informed the Commission that the Loan Amendment No. 2 in the back of the packet was changing the first payment on the waterline to the airport to February 2021. Ms. Garten stated that it did not change the loan amount, but just when to make the first payment.

Mayor and Commission:

- **REAP:**

Mayor Schmidt stated that he had been attending the REAP webinars on Zoom along with Commissioner Meyer and the big thing last week was to approve REAP going to a 501c3. Mayor Schmidt commented that there were long term benefits of being members of REAP, which only cost about \$1,800 or \$2,000 per year. Ms. Garten commented that the membership was paid for by Economic Development. Mayor Schmidt commented that it was well worthwhile. Mayor Schmidt stated that each County or City receives information that they did not usually get and it was an interesting process. Mayor Schmidt explained that, as a 501C3 member, we would have access to cheaper vehicles through Ford Motor Company; however, we would not have to be a part of that because we want to buy local. Mayor Schmidt added that we might be able to get a group rate with Blue Cross Blue Shield by being in a larger pool and getting a lower rate.

- **Insurance:**

Commissioner Peters asked if they would be able to see the health insurance options before budget on Monday. City Manager Pinkall stated that he could share that. Commissioner Peters stated that he would

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like to see the options side by side.

RECESS:

Commissioner Deeds made a motion to recess until Monday, July 27th at 8:30 a.m. for the budget work session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer. The motion and second passed unanimously.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

GARY A. SCHMIDT, Mayor



ATTEST:

LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk