

TUESDAY

September 03, 2019

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

PRESENT:	Doug Meyer	Mayor
	Gary Schmidt	Commissioner
	Don Peters	Commissioner
	Jason Leslie	Commissioner
	Zach Deeds	Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:	Bruce Pinkall	Interim 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

CALL TO ORDER:

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

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Peters led the invocation and Mayor Meyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

- August 19, 2019 Regular City/County Commission Meeting
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Mayor Meyer mentioned that the City/County meeting was not a recessed meeting that was called to order, but a regular one. Commissioner Peters questioned the statement on page four of the regular Commission meeting minutes that stated that the dispatch would be a 50/50 split, but there were no decisions made. Commissioner Peters commented that he did not agree with that. City Attorney Probst stated that those were the items that would be discussed at the next LEC Committee meeting. With no further discussion, Commissioner Deeds made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmidt and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS:

PRATT REAL ESTATE BOARD:

Mr. Rich Sanders, Sanders Real Estate and Insurance Company, explained that the real estate group board merged with McPherson and Hutchinson; therefore, they were now an area board. Mr. Sanders added

that they still had Pratt Chapter status. Mr. Sanders stated that, with the City Manager situation in August, the Board would like to throw their hat in the ring and let it be known that they would like to see Mr. Bruce Pinkall as the new permanent City Manager. Mr. Sanders commented that Mr. Pinkall knows the people in town and know the issues.

Commissioner Peters asked if the collaboration was beneficial. Mr. Sanders stated that it was one of those situations that were being force fed. Mr. Sanders explained that the National Association had come out with a lot of requirements and, financially and size wise, the smaller boards just could not meet. Mr. Sanders stated that the consolidation of seventeen boards in Kansas resulted in seven left after the merger. Commissioner Peters asked if they had quarterly meetings. Mr. Sanders stated that they meet monthly. Mr. Sanders commented that this gave them financial abilities and services that they did not have before. Commissioner Leslie asked what those services were. Mr. Sanders stated that there was a joint lock box that could be accessed by using your phone, miscellaneous downloads through phones, along with access to Hutchinson and McPherson markets. Mr. Sanders commented that there were realtors from Wichita showing property here in Pratt. Commissioner Leslie questioned if there was a fee to get into it. Mr. Sanders stated that it was expensive, but you got a lot. Mr. Sanders added that you also get more access to training, so this was a good move overall.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR THE HIGHWAY 54 PROJECT:

EBH Engineer Mike Younger stated that he was presenting a draft agreement for the preliminary phase of the improvements on 54 highway between Mound Street and New Street. Mr. Younger reminded the Commission that this was approved through KDOT and would be a 90/10 split. Mr. Younger added that this was for the physical year 2021, but the funds should be available from KDOT in July 2020. Mr. Younger explained that he would work with the City's share to get a design now and go out for bids when the funds were available. Mr. Younger explained that they would not have to go through the selection process since the City of Pratt funds would be paying for preliminary engineering. Mr. Younger stated that the second half of the project would be the construction engineering on site and it would put the City over their 10%; therefore, KDOT would have to be a part of that. Mr. Younger added that all KDOT checks could be a year long process.

Public Works Director Rambat stated that he did not think there would be any issues with entrances and it was pretty much a no go on anything new. Mr. Younger commented that they would be ecstatic to remove any of the existing ones. Mr. Younger added that this was a bad street to back onto. Commissioner Peters asked if this was for both sides of Highway 54. Mr. Younger stated that it would be full width. Mayor Meyer questioned if the curbs and gutters were separate. Mr. Rambat stated that they were not and that the project included main line pavers with the curb built in. Mr. Younger stated that this would also include rework and overhaul of two storm inlets.

With no more discussion, Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the engineering contract to EBH for \$55,000 for the Highway 54 project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deeds and passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR FOUR MIL FOR THE 2020 AIRPORT AUTHORITY BUDGET:

Finance Director Garten stated that this was a formal request from the Airport Authority Board for the four mil for their 2020 budget. Ms. Garten commented that they wanted a formal request for the four mil so that it was in the minutes. Ms. Garten explained that they had to have the Commission's approval to access the three mil and the other mil was available if they needed a grant match, which could be without

Commission approval. Ms. Garten stated that they did need the additional one mil; however, this would not affect the City's budget at all. Commissioner Leslie made a motion to approve the request for four mil for the 2020 budget for the airport. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peters and carried unanimously.

OPEN AGENDA:

No one in the audience wished to address the Commission.

REPORTS:

City Manager:

- **Track and Soccer Field:**

Interim City Manager Pinkall stated that they had gotten all the hydro mulch around the long jump at the track and soccer field and they were looking at October 16th as a completion date for the turf. Mr. Pinkall commented that the Management Committee met with Chamber Director DeClue and they would be setting a date for the grand opening down the road. Mr. Pinkall added that the Commissioners should let him know of any dates that would not work for them. Mr. Pinkall stated that he wanted to do it during the week so that the community could come together.

- **Pool Plan:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that there had been a phone conference with Mr. Kyle McCawley from Lamp Rynearson concerning the pool situation. Mr. Pinkall commented that they would put some ideas together and look at locations and cost. Mr. Pinkall added that they wanted to try to come up with what the community would need. Mr. Pinkall commented that the Commission should let him know if they had ideas for the members of the committee and he explained that there had not been a number of people set for this committee. Mr. Pinkall stated that there would be initial meetings where they would discuss the needs and wants and have numbers for the budget; however, these would just be ballpark figures. Mr. Pinkall stated that Mr. McCawley had gotten the City a proposal five years ago, so they would be building from that.

Mr. Rambat stated that the right size pool could keep the ball rolling. Commissioner Peters questioned if Mr. Rambat would be the chair person for the committee. Mr. Rambat stated that he had been told that he would be involved. Mr. Pinkall commented that he would be heavily involved since he knew the ups and downs. Commissioner Peters asked if there was a sewer line that the pool was built over and could it be moved. Mr. Rambat stated that there was and it could be replaced or case it. Mr. Rambat added that it could be offset a little in the deep end; however, the material under there was permanent and if it could be damaged. Mr. Rambat added that it was three foot below the deep end. Mr. Pinkall stated that this was a major project for community involvement and to get a plan to move forward. Mr. Pinkall commented that he was not sure if it would be after next season or not.

- **Mitigation Plan:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that a few staff members and he had met with Emergency Preparedness Director Tim Branscom and had received some updated information. Mr. Pinkall explained that you could not apply for a grant without this plan in place. Mr. Pinkall commented that we had been denied for the first round. Finance Director Garten explained that this comes after a FEMA disaster and the State had three declarations declared. Ms. Garten commented that we were denied for the first round; however, we had

submitted for the second round because you never know. Mr. Pinkall stated that we had asked for a generator. Commissioner Peters asked if we would purchase one whether we got the grant or not. Mr. Pinkall stated that they were expensive, but Director of Electric Utilities Huber could get one place up with the generator.

- **Municipal Building:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that they had the transformer pad set at the Municipal Building. Mr. Pinkall commented that it looked messy now, but it would be cleaned up and would look nice. Mr. Pinkall stated that the air conditioning units were on in the lobby and the Commission room. Mr. Pinkall explained that they would finalize the wiring to the front once the transformer was set. Mr. Pinkall added that they would paint the pvc pipe white that was coming out of the building, which was one of the cosmetic things they would do to make it look nicer. Mr. Pinkall commented that they would be putting a fence on the south side to protect the air conditioning units.

- **Recreation Department Transition:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that the transition in the recreation department was going well. Mr. Pinkall stated that he had talked to Mr. Larry Eisenhauer and Ms. Amber Chisham and there was a learning curve on the sprinklers. Mr. Pinkall informed the Commission that Mr. Mike Jones had not had a full summer of mowing; therefore, the schedule was off a little. Commissioner Peters asked if he thought that everything was well. Mr. Pinkall stated that he did and they were staying positive.

- **KDOT Meeting:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that he had attended the KDOT meeting and had met a lot of area City Managers. Mr. Pinkall added that Mayor Meyer and Finance Director Garten had also attended. Mr. Pinkall commented that it was informative and they wanted you to imagine yourself in twenty years and what you would be doing. Mr. Pinkall stated that that gave you perspective on the highway plans. Mayor Meyer commented that they were moving in the right direction and they had a plan. Mayor Meyer added that he did not know if that would involve the bypass in the next twenty years or not.

Public Works:

Street:

- **Street Work:**

Public Works Director Rambat stated that the street department had been working on overlaying areas on North Main Street where the asphalt was breaking down. Mr. Rambat commented that this would help get more life out of it. Mr. Rambat added that they had worked on the area west on Simpson Street and it looked better. Mr. Rambat commented that they would be doing some other alleys and streets in the next couple of weeks.

- **Mark's Retirement:**

Mr. Rambat stated that Park Superintendent Mark Eckhoff would be retiring this Friday and Mr. Louis Mayes would be taking the supervisor position. Mr. Rambat commented that he would be getting this put out to the public to replace a position in that department.

- **Help Needed:**

Mr. Rambat stated that they had had a run on departments needing to replace former employees. Mr. Rambat commented that they were a couple short in the street department and also in sanitation. Mr. Rambat explained that some departments wind down after summer; however, the street department needed to be fully staffed during the winter months. Mayor Meyer asked if there was a common theme for people leaving. Mr. Rambat stated that it was hard to make a living as a maintenance person; however, we try our best to encourage them to better themselves by getting their CDL license or working towards a higher class status. Mr. Rambat added that we do reward for those things. Commissioner Peters questioned if the benefit package meant much to them or if money per hour was top priority. Mr. Rambat stated that that was up for discussion, but young people have a hard time starting out and making ends meet. Commissioner Peters asked what the starting wage was. Finance Director Garten commented that the chart starts at \$11.07, but there was some flexibility that would come with qualifications. Commissioner Peters asked if they ever got overtime. Mr. Rambat stated that they did not get too much; however, it did depend on the department.

Building Inspections:

Building Inspector Blankenship informed the Commission that Americare continued to move forward. Mr. Blankenship stated that they had done the last pour on Thursday or Friday and the carpenters were right behind them, followed by the electricians and plumbers. Mr. Blankenship stated that Cornejo was working out there and they would have the curb and guttering in before the building was completely done. Mr. Blankenship added that things would slow down once they get inside. Commissioner Peters asked if the plumbing and electrical were local. Mr. Blankenship stated that they were not, but that was because we did not have the manpower. Mr. Blankenship commented that there were about twelve electricians at a time and two companies of plumbers doing two different things.

- **Weed Letters and Housing:**

Mr. Blankenship stated that he continues to send out weed letters and still cleaning up housing. Mr. Blankenship commented that he had given City Attorney Probst a few and those were moving forward. Ms. Probst commented that those subpoenas had been completed.

Police Department:

- **Rise in Calls:**

Police Chief Humble stated that he had noticed a slight rise in calls with the start of school, but this happens every school year. Chief Humble commented that the Elementary Child Advocacy Center had started up a shop here in Pratt and it was a great benefit. Chief Humble explained that they would have to go to Great Bend if we did not have one here. Chief Humble commented that it was hard for families to get assistance. Commissioner Peters stated that he had attended the Open House there and he was glad they were here. Commissioner Peters commented that he would not have thought that we had enough volume to warrant a facility in Pratt; however, she had told him that he would be surprised. Commissioner Peters added that he had asked that they come to a Commission meeting and give a little presentation to them. Chief Humble stated that this was a good source of information, but it was very tricky when it comes to kids. Commissioner Peters stated that the set-up was great. Chief Humble agreed and added that the people doing the interviews was great.

- **K-9:**

Chief Humble informed the Commission that the K-9 had not had any call outs; but he was training every month.

- **Open Carry at Wal-Mart:**

Chief Humble stated that the Wal-Mart manager had come in and talked to him about the stores requesting no open carry. Chief Humble commented that they would be increasing the security and having people put them back in their vehicles. Mayor Meyer asked if this was a national Wal-Mart initiative. Chief Humble stated that it was and it would cause some stir and that was why they wanted law enforcement to know. Mayor Meyer questioned if they could do that. Chief Humble explained that they would be politely requesting.

- **High School Games:**

Chief Humble stated that he had been approached by Mr. Swank about providing security last year at the Andale game due to how big the game was going to be. Chief Humble explained that they would like to have two officers at every home game and we would get reimbursed. Commissioner Peters asked if this was for football only. Chief Humble stated that that was all they had talked about for now.

- **Active Shooter Training:**

Chief Humble stated that he had attended an active shooter class and there was actually an officer involved shooting while he was there, so he helped with traffic control. Chief Humble explained that they had discussed the importance in putting numbers above doorways in schools, because it helps first responders know their exact location. Chief Humble commented that he had visited with Mr. Helfrich and Mr. Swank to see how they could get started using this step to make responses quicker.

Chief Humble stated that statistics were amazing on what was out there and it was a daily thing. Mayor Meyer asked if the school was still interested in an officer presence during school hours. Chief Humble commented that they would be talking about seeing more presence; however, it was not a permanent thing. Commissioner Peters asked if it was legal to do a walk through with a drug dog. Chief Humble stated that they could in open areas but, with the expectations of privacy, they would have to do it themselves. City Attorney Probst added that, if the dog alerted while walking the halls, that would be probable cause. Mayor Meyer questioned if they do that themselves. Chief Humble stated that they contract that out and those dogs alert on other things, such as bombs. Chief Humble commented that people call in what they view as a crime, so there were a lot of civil issues.

Finance Department:

- **FEMA Funding:**

Finance Director Garten stated that the City had gotten FEMA funding from the flood, and this one covered the fencing in the park. Ms. Garten commented that she had received \$98,000 on the first phase and there was one more check coming for administrative costs that would be between \$3,000 and \$4,000. Commissioner Peters questioned if it covered labor. Ms. Garten stated that it did. Mayor Meyer asked how this affected our budget. Ms. Garten stated that the expenditures were within budget, but it would have to be amended if a disaster took you over your budget.

- **Mitigation Plan:**

Ms. Garten stated that she was in the meeting with Mr. Branscom concerning the Mitigation Plan and it was something you had to have if there was a disaster.

City Clerk/Utility Billing Department:

- **Linemen:**

City Clerk Kramer reminded the Commission that Director of Electric Utilities Huber and several linemen had traveled to Florida to help with hurricane relief.

Mayor and Commission:

- **Library Attorney:**

Mayor Meyer stated that he appreciated the Library Director letting the City know of their change in attorneys.

- **Ditch by Track:**

Commissioner Peters asked if they would be starting on the enclosure of the ditch by the tracks. Mr. Rambat stated that they were done pouring the floor and forming up the walls. Mr. Rambat commented that KDOT had helped pay for the Tenth Street project and he was looking at turning straight south, which would be looked at with Smiley Concrete. Mayor Meyer asked if Smiley Concrete would be doing that. Mr. Rambat explained that he had sent out two quotes, which were to Meis Construction and Smiley Concrete. Mr. Rambat added that Smiley had come in a little smaller and he was local.

- **Detwiler Bridge:**

Commissioner Peters questioned how the Detwiler bridge was coming along. Mr. Rambat stated that he had given Jerry Henning the go ahead to get started. Mr. Rambat commented that Ms. Detwiler was fine with it being done either this week or next.

- **Social Media:**

Commissioner Leslie stated that he kept a presence on social media and we should watch our comments so that we did not give a false impression.

ADJOURN:

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

DOUG MEYER, Mayor



8 – September 03, 2019 (Regular Commission meeting)

Kansas

ATTEST:

LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk