

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 08, 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
	Jason Leslie	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.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

MINUTES:

- August 17, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting

Commissioner Deeds made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2020 regular Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF A WOOD CHIPPER:

Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that the equipment they have in their department was used daily and the wood chipper was no exception. Mr. Huber commented that the current wood chipper was purchased in 1994 or 1995 as a used machine from a local tree trimmer and a new one had been in the budget for the last few years. Mr. Huber explained that they had looked at different companies, but found Vermeer Great Plains and Fairbank Equipment out of Wichita. Mr. Huber stated that it was hard to compare apples to apples on a wood chipper; however, we went out for bids

and the specs were pretty vague. Mr. Huber stated that Fairbanks' had sent back two bids and one was for a new unit and the other was for a unit that had one hour on it and that hour was what we had put on as a demo. Mr. Huber explained that Fairbanks' bid on a new machine was \$42,158.94, the used machine was \$42,170.72 and Vermeer's bid for a new machine was \$45,034.96. Mr. Huber added that those costs included sales tax. Mr. Huber stated that they would be trading in the old unit, because it was not worth giving to another department.

Mr. Huber stated that he would recommend to the Commission the purchase of the new demonstrator model wood chipper from Fairbanks Equipment in the amount of \$42,170.72 with a lead time of ten days. With no further discussion, Commissioner Leslie made a motion to approve the purchase of a wood chipper from Fairbanks Equipment in the amount of \$42,170.72. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer. Commissioner Deeds asked if it fit in the budget. Finance Director Garten stated that we had made a lot of gains in the electric and Mr. Huber had saved \$60,000 for this machine, so he had enough. The motion and second carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 090820 ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE FEE SCHEDULE AS AUTHORIZED BY THE MUNICIPAL CODE:

City Attorney Probst stated that all the departments had reviewed the Comprehensive Fee Schedule and it was accurate. Ms. Probst commented that it was organized by activities and by subject matter and would help employees and would be a huge help in adjusting fees at the end of the year having one document in one place.

After a few questions, the following Resolution 090820 was presented to the Commission for their approval: **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE FEE SCHEDULE AS AUTHORIZED BY THE PRATT MUNICIPAL CODE.** Commissioner Meyer made a motion to approve Resolution 090820 establishing a Comprehensive Fee Schedule as authorized by the Pratt Municipal Code. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leslie and carried unanimously.

OPEN AGENDA:

No one in the audience wished to address the Commission.

Reports:

City Manager:

- **Train insurance:**

City Manager Pinkall stated that the Pilot Club train insurance premium was due tomorrow and it was going to go up about \$650. Mr. Pinkall commented that Mr. Rich Sanders had researched other options, but had not found any. Mr. Pinkall explained that the Pilot Club had to purchase a policy as well so that we had an equal piece to pay and he had worked with Ms. Jan Jorns when he was interim City Manager last year. Mr. Pinkall explained that, when working with Ms. Jorns, the City paid 75% and the Club paid 25%, this year it was 50/50 and we would move along the schedule. Mr. Pinkall informed the Commission that he would be having a meeting with the Pilot Club to show them our expenses and maybe get a better resolution. Commissioner Peters stated that the Pilot Club does the chicken noodle dinners and fundraisers to purchase the playground equipment for our parks and they were not rich by any means. Mr. Pinkall stated that ours covers us and theirs would cover them. Commissioner Meyer commented that the premium went down last year. Mayor Schmidt stated that this was for liability issues only. Mr. Pinkall stated that that was correct.

- **Pool closed:**

Mr. Pinkall informed the Commission that the pool was closed and had not been profitable, but was a positive quality of life this summer. Mr. Pinkall stated that Public Works Director Rambat was working on closing it down, but had to let the chlorine dissipate.

- **ED meeting:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that there would be an Economic Development meeting tomorrow and he would be talking to them about a waterline behind the hotels that would tie Fincham Street to Dale Street. Commissioner Peters asked if he had an estimated cost. Mr. Pinkall stated that Water Superintendent Clay had given him better than an estimated cost. Public Works Director Rambat stated that this line would help keep the water connected and keep the chlorine moving.

- **Utility rates:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that there had been some concerns voiced on Facebook about the elevated utility rates and part of that was due to a warmer fall and people staying home. Mr. Pinkall commented that usage has been up with the water and electric and we had not changed anything with the rate structure or the ECA. Commissioner Peters asked if we were not about in the middle when we did that study awhile back. Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that we were. City Clerk Kramer stated that she had researched the usage of some of the ones that had made comments on Facebook and everyone of them had used anywhere from 300 to 500 more kwh than a month ago or even last year. Ms. Kramer also pointed out that there had been a comment about trash charges being larger and she pointed out that the only thing that had changed on trash charges since January was compost had been added in April, but that would be taken off in November.

- **Departments:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that the departments continued to work hard and keeping the line on expenses. Mr. Pinkall commented that he was proud of how they were keeping a positive attitude.

- **Intermediate Housing:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that he had met with Mr. Kelley Hrabe about intermediate housing and he would be coming back and working out some details later. Mr. Pinkall explained that he looks at old buildings or schools to convert them into housing.

- **REAP meeting:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that there would be a zoom REAP meeting on Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Mayor Schmidt commented that Commissioner Deeds would be attending.

- **Security system:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that he was moving forward with a security system for City Hall and it should be installed in the next few weeks.

- **Art Gallery:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that the Commission had been invited to the Art Gallery for a special event on September 11th.

- **Department budgets:**

Commissioner Leslie asked if the departments were back to normal. Mr. Pinkall stated that they were moving forward with some stuff such as Mr. Huber's chipper. Mr. Pinkall commented that he was making sure it was important, but he was still being conservative. Mr. Pinkall added that there was still some reduction in guest tax and some highway funds; however, the enterprise fund was doing fine. Mr. Pinkall commented that travel and tourism and street also need to be careful. Finance Director Garten commented that the mill and overlay project was not as big this year and the street cut back on purchasing the County's excess asphalt and Travel and Tourism had cut down on promotions and advertising. Ms. Garten explained that there were so many events that did not happen, so they did not spend as much.

Public Works:

- **Federal exchange money:**

Public Works Director Rambat stated that he had finished using the Federal Exchange money by doing the south side parking on Seventh Street. Mr. Rambat commented that he was going to keep it closed a few more days.

- **Mill and Overlay project:**

Mr. Rambat stated that a sub-contractor for APAC would be moving in next week and edge mill to get ready for APAC to move in and do the mill and overlay. Mayor Schmidt asked if we keep the stuff that was milled off. Mr. Rambat stated that we did and Street Superintendent Sinclair used it for fill.

- **Lemon Park bathroom:**

Mr. Rambat stated that the parks department had gotten the hand rails installed at the new bathroom facility in Lemon Park. Mr. Rambat commented that Mansel Construction would then put the ADA parking in and then that project would be done

- **Pool project:**

Commissioner Meyer asked where we were with the pool project. Mr. Rambat stated that they had been talking about putting it back together. Mr. Pinkall stated that we did need to restart that. Commissioner Meyer stated that Garden City was looking at \$11 ½ million for theirs and people wanted a splash pad. Commissioner Meyer commented that we had talked about that a little bit and some moms wanted that more. Mr. Pinkall commented that that was another cost issue. Mr. Rambat stated that we would want to be careful putting it in Lemon Park or Zerger Park, because those areas flood bad. Mr. Rambat commented that there was some talk about north of where the train was in Sixth Street Park, Mr. Rambat stated that money was going to be the biggest issue with a new pool. Ms. Garten commented that they were close to a public meeting before the pandemic. Mr. Pinkall commented that he would review what Mr. Kyle McCawley had put together.

- **Dog Park:**

Commissioner Meyer asked about the dog park. Mr. Pinkall stated that he had not approached that yet and he was not sure where the fence was at.

Inspection Department:

- **Scooters:**

Building Inspector Blankenship stated that he had gotten the plans for Scooters. Mr. Blankenship reminded the Commission that Scooters was going where the old KFC was. Mr. Blankenship explained that he had Director of Electric Utilities Huber and Public Works Director Rambat go over the plans also.

- **Weed Letters:**

Mr. Blankenship stated that they continue to send out weed letters and the City Attorney was still working on property nuisances.

Electric Department:

- **Rates:**

Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that he had checked people's usage with City Clerk Kramer when he heard about the complaints and it was due to usage. Mr. Huber commented that some had doubled and it could be because a/c units were not as efficient as they could be and there was a lot of humidity even though it was not as hot as it could have been. Mr. Huber repeated that the electric rates had not gone up in a few years.

- **Lemon Park work:**

Mr. Huber commented that the guys were in Lemon Park burying conduit.

- **Short guys:**

Mr. Huber stated that he was short two guys in each of his departments. Mr. Huber commented that he had just hired an intern from the college full-time. Mr. Huber added that he hoped to get another one later this year. Commissioner Peters asked how many linemen were at the college. Mr. Huber commented that he thought that there were about forty-three.

Police Department:

- **KDOT program:**

Police Chief Humble stated that the drinking/driving KDOT program was successful. Chief Humble explained that he considers not having many was a success.

- **Drug Enforcement grant:**

Chief Humble informed the Commission that they had applied for a drug enforcement grant that had

to go through a board that included the Attorney General. Chief Humble commented that there was a public hearing and they gave us a green light within thirty seconds. Chief Humble stated that Attorney General Schmidt stated that our application was on point and that was what they were looking for, so we were approved for the \$10,332 grant.

- **K-9 Training:**

Chief Humble stated that Officer Gimpel and the K-9 were going to have to be gone for six weeks of training; however, they had reached out to a trainer in Dodge City and he would be coming here on Wednesday's to work with him at no cost to the department. Chief Humble commented that he would not complete the program as quickly as he would have, but he would not put us behind. Commissioner Meyer asked if the two had bonded. Chief Humble stated that they had.

- **Uptick in things:**

Chief Humble stated that the Commission may have noticed an uptick in things, but his guys were getting out more and checking driver's licenses. Commissioner Peters asked if they had any breaks on the burglaries. Chief Humble stated that the leads from the public had helped. Mayor Schmidt asked about the number of calls on the police reports that show up from Cunningham and Greensburg. Chief Humble explained that those were probably traffic complaints in those jurisdictions that do not have an officer and want something checked in our jurisdiction.

Finance Department:

- **Proposal for Auditing Services:**

Finance Director Garten stated that she had sent out proposals for auditing services and should have it on the next agenda.

Mayor and Commission:

- **Airport Authority bills paid:**

Mayor Schmidt asked if anyone knew why the Airport Authority would be paying \$17,000 for an AT&T tower. Mr. Pinkall commented that he would see if he could find out.

ADJOURN:

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

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

GARY A. SCHMIDT, Mayor



7 – September 08, 2020 (Regular Commission meeting)

Kansas

ATTEST:

LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk