

MONDAY

JANUARY 16, 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
	LuAnn Kramer	City Clerk
	Regina Goff	City Attorney
	Nate Humble	Chief of Police
	Russell Rambat	Public Works Director
	Brad Blankenship	Building Inspector
	Jamie Huber	Director of Electric Utilities
	Larry Eisenhower	Recreation Director

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 Siemens led the audience and staff in the invocation and Mayor Deeds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 09, 2023 regular Commission meeting. Commissioner Siemens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF DUMP TRUCK FOR WATER DEPARTMENT:

Public Works Director Rambat stated that this was a truck that Water Superintendent Clay had found in town and was considering purchasing. Mr. Clay stated that the dump truck they were using now was unreliable and did not always make it back to the shop when out on a job. Mr. Clay explained that this one was a 2009 dump truck, was the same size as the one they were replacing and had 43,000 miles on it. Mr. Rambat stated that they had checked with all the vendors for a truck like this and this was the only one we found without going out of town. Mr. Clay stated that he had been building a budget for this for

four years but it was not going to last another four years. Mayor Deeds stated that he appreciated the new funding request form but it could use a few tweaks. Finance Director Carver commented that Mr. Clay keeps a close eye on his budget and had this all planned. With no more discussion, Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2009 dump truck from Southwest Truck for \$59,950 for the water department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Siemens and carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE BID FOR THE DEMO AT 803 S. IUKA:

Building Inspector Blankenship stated that this was a continuation of the houses that he wanted to take down and it was the third one out of the four. Mr. Blankenship commented that he had sent out four bid requests and got two back. Mr. Blankenship explained that Simpson's was the low bid at \$10,500 and they had done a lot of work for us. Mr. Blankenship asked for the Commission's approval of the bid from Simpson to demo the structure at 803 South Iuka for \$10,500. Commissioner Schmidt questioned if there was a timeline. Mr. Blankenship stated that he had put February 1st, but he knew they would get it done.

Commissioner Meyer made a motion to approve the bid from Simpson Dirt Construction for \$10,950 to demo 803 South Iuka. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion. Mr. Blankenship added that the bid was high due to the house and basement being full of stuff. Mr. Blankenship stated that KDHE did not let you leave any brick or anything there because it was considered trash. Mr. Blankenship added that the basement had to be filled back up with dirt.

Finance Director Carver stated that these funds would be encumbered from Mr. Blankenship's 2022 budget along with the two other structures because he needed his 2023 budget for other things. Mr. Blankenship added that the estimate on this house and the one at 721 North Thompson would be about \$22,000. Mr. Blankenship added that the one on Jackson Street would not come before the Commission since it was under \$10,000 and the City Manager could approve it. Mr. Blankenship stated that all he had to do was make sure that the sewer line was sealed with concrete and that everything comes out of the basement. With no more discussion, the motion and second passed unanimously.

OPEN AGENDA:

- **Lemon Park & Dog Attack:**

Mr. Jeff Slaughter informed the Commission that his wife and daughters were walking their two small dogs last Sunday and on the second lap around the park, his wife decided to let the girls play. Mr. Slaughter stated that there was a lady sitting on a bench with a pit bull mix on a harness leash and another was laying down under the bench and, as she walked by, the one under the bench took after her and the other dog also took off dragging the lady. Mr. Slaughter stated that their little dog got off her leash and ran under a car and his wife picked up the other one so there were no injuries; however, if his girls had been there, the story would have been different. Mr. Slaughter added that the lady got the dogs in her car and took off before his wife could get any information.

Mr. Slaughter stated that he had gotten a copy of the ordinance and he had called about how many tickets had been written for no leashes and it was twelve. Mr. Slaughter commented that he had no problem with pit bulls, but we needed to do something with being safer being in the park. Mr. Slaughter stated that the officer was nice, but had it been the 85-year-old man that was walking in the park later, he would have been hurt. Mr. Slaughter asked if there could be signage in the park. Mr. Slaughter also stated that the \$50 fine was a joke and the 1st offense should be \$250 and \$500 for the second. Mr. Slaughter stated that his wife went on Facebook trying to find out who this lady was and this was not an isolated incident and about fifteen or twenty people reached out.

Mayor Deeds stated that he was sorry this happened and he was glad he brought it to their attention, City Attorney Goff stated that vicious animals were an issue and she does prosecute them. Ms. Goff commented that the City had just amended the cost to be \$250 and the ordinance makes that crime easier to prosecute. Ms. Goff explained that the Municipal Judge did not have any discretion on the second offense and the animal had to be euthanized and the first level was that they had to leave the City. Ms. Goff apologized that they had to go through that. Mr. Slaughter asked if there could be some type of signage with the number to the police department. Ms. Goff stated that that had been discussed and they had also discussed cameras at the beginning of the park. Ms. Goff commented that they would have seen that car leave the park and been able to locate her.

REPORTS:

City Manager:

- **City/County meeting:**

City Manager Pinkall reminded the Commission of the joint meeting this Wednesday, January 18th at 2:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building.

- **Pool:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that the pool was moving along nicely and they had rebar set in the deep end. Mr. Pinkall commented that, if the weather continues, they might get to pour concrete walls in the deep end.

- **Chamber Gala:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that the Chamber Gala was February 2nd from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Fair Grounds if anyone would like to go. Mr. Pinkall commented that the City was a Chamber member, so they just needed to let him know. Mr. Pinkall explained that the event would be more social and interactive this year. Chamber Director Smith stated that they were going to do something a little different this year and have it be more for social appreciation. Ms. Smith commented that the nominations were out there and if anyone wanted a ballot she would email them one.

- **ED meeting:**

Mr. Pinkall commented that the ED meeting this month had been canceled. Mr. Pinkall stated that the applications were on the website and they had gotten positive feedback and he felt the application process was working well.

City Attorney:

- **League updates:**

City Attorney Goff stated that she had participated in the League's updates that they would be doing weekly so they could stay up to date on anything that effected City government.

- **Tax document:**

Ms. Goff commented that she had been working with Finance Director Carver to get a tax document requested by the pool fund donor.

Public Works:

- **Regular meetings:**

Public Works Director Rambat stated that he had a meeting with his department heads and they were going to start their weekly meetings back up like they had before COVID. Mr. Rambat commented that he had asked them for summarized monthly updates to keep the Commission up to date, which was hard for the cemetery and sanitation to do since they do the same thing about every day. Mr. Rambat added that he would not have all of them do it at one time.

- **Wastewater:**

Mr. Rambat stated that Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Shanline had emailed him about some updates in 2022 and they were as follows:

1. They had received the approved uv disinfectant system and it was installed and working well. All the e coli samples had come back good from the State.
2. They did an upgrade on their Scada system, which was a small computer that operates the plant automatically and gives us tighter security and that was working well. Mr. Rambat explained that once they get IdeaTek out there it would also increase security because they continuously get emails from KDHE about water and wastewater treatment facilities being popular places for people to go after ransom ware.
3. They did maintenance on the belt press and replaced the belt which makes the sludge that they haul out to the landfill.
4. They did maintenance on their sewer machine that goes through thirty-six miles of sewer main. Mr. Rambat stated that it had been pretty good the last few years, but drought dries out the roots and could be more of a challenge. Mr. Rambat explained that the roots not only come into our pipes but also the roots that come into the laterals that were hooked into the people's line and hook back into ours. Mr. Rambat stated that, when they identify a problem, they notify the home owner that they need to get a plumber to take care of the tree roots.

Mr. Rambat commented that Mr. Shanline did extend an invitation to any Commissioner to visit the wastewater plant. Commissioner Farmer stated that he did a couple years ago and it was very interesting.

- **CAD mapping:**

Mr. Rambat stated that he had been working on updating the CAD mapping, which was something he did for Building Inspector Blankenship. Mr. Rambat commented that the map included any new boundaries.

- **Short employees:**

Mr. Rambat stated that the water department was still short employees, but they watched the KRWA site. Mr. Rambat commented that there were a lot of older guys retiring and KMU was starting an apprentice program to see if they could get people interested. Mr. Rambat explained that they were looking for younger people for summer help. Mr. Rambat added that this stresses the guys out that were there.

Building Inspection:

- **Pool inspections:**

Building Inspector Blankenship stated that he did a rebar inspection by the pressure drain at the deep end of the dive well. Mr. Blankenship commented that they mentioned that they could be pouring at the end of the week. Mr. Blankenship commented that they needed an electrician to do some bonding, which means they would grab different sections of rebar at a single point from starting to the end and come back to the breaker box. Mr. Blankenship added that the bonding included any piece of metal including bolts, ladders, diving boards and rebar that had to be bonded so people did not get shocked.

Electric Department:

- **Poles:**

Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that they did finally receive a load of poles last week.

- **Power Plant:**

Mr. Huber stated that the power plant was still running and should untie Wednesday. Mr. Huber commented that Sunflower wants to replace one of their breakers on West River Road and those dates were the 20th and 21st. Mr. Huber stated that this was a month run. Mayor Deeds asked if we got compensated if we stay running to accommodate someone else. Mr. Huber stated that we were getting compensated now.

Police Department:

- **Active shooters drill:**

Police Chief Humble stated that his department along with the Sheriff Office, EMS, USD 382 and the safety director from the Kansas Department of Education held a live active shooter situation at the school. Chief Humble commented that there had been a lot of planning and meetings by zoom and it went very well. Chief Humble explained that Pratt Police Department had five officers and SRO Gimpel was purposely injured. Chief Humble explained the four scenarios with the three-minute response time being the worst case. Chief Humble stated that they would have additional training and see what they had learned from this. Commissioner Farmer stated that, as a participant, it was a great learning experience on what to do in a live situation and he thought it went very well. Commissioner Meyer stated that he got to tag along and the planning was incredible and he was impressed how the police and sheriff worked together and their different capabilities. Commissioner Meyer commented that our police did incredible and he thought it had taken five minutes and it was actually twelve minutes. Commissioner Siemens stated that she was in the area and, for a minute, was wondering what was happening, but then remembered. Chief Humble stated that he was there to observe and it was incredible watching and observing when it was live. Commissioner Farmer stated that the live fire made you want to book it out of there.

- **Law Enforcement Day:**

Commissioner Farmer stated that last Monday was Law Enforcement Day and he wanted to let Chief Humble and his department know that he appreciated everything that they do for the community and keeping us safe. Commissioner Farmer commented that they do a great job.

Finance Department:

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- **End of Year:**

Finance Director Carver stated that the end of year financial numbers were not as quick to be calculated as a normal month and it takes a few extra weeks. Mr. Carver commented that a lot of invoices would continue to come in and have to be included into the 2022 numbers until mid-March.

City Clerk/Utilities:

- **New rate billings:**

City Clerk Kramer stated that the first bills with the new rates went out at the end of last week; however, they did not take any calls today with questions.

Mayor and Commission:

- **Accessing reports:**

Mayor Deeds stated that it would be an on-going process accessing the reports and what they were going to look like moving forward. Mayor Deeds explained that this came from the workshop and everybody agreed that this was high priority, so he had been working on it and intended to stay on top of it until they were satisfied.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Deeds made a motion to go into executive session for non-elected personnel until 6:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer and carried unanimously.

Mayor Deeds made a motion to return from executive session at 6:20 p.m. with nothing to report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and carried unanimously.

RECESS:

Commissioner Meyer made a motion to recess until Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building for the City/County meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and carried unanimously.

ZACH DEEDS, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk

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