

MONDAY

MAY 02, 2022

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

PRESENT:	Zach Deeds	Mayor
	Don Peters	Commissioner
	Gary Schmidt	Commissioner
	Jeanette Siemens	Commissioner
	Kyle Farmer	Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:	Bruce Pinkall	City Manager
	LuAnn Kramer	City Clerk
	Regina Goff	City Attorney
	Brent Carver	Finance Director
	Nate Humble	Chief of Police
	Russell Rambat	Public Works Director
	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 Farmer led the audience and staff in the invocation and Mayor Deeds led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:**

- April 18, 2022 Regular City Commission Meeting

Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2022 regular City Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Siemens and carried unanimously.

**BUSINESS:**

**HOPE CENTER DISCUSSION:**

Pastor Scott Powell stated that he was the Pastor of the Nazarene Church and also the President of the Hope Center and he introduced Director Pam Ford. Pastor Powell commented that they were here to let the Commission know who the Hope Center was today compared to what they were in the beginning. Pastor Powell explained that they began with a mission of coordinating together to service the community and the needs of families. Pastor Powell stated that they had a conversation in 2013 and decided that they did not want to be a lending tree, but help find solutions to problems. Pastor Powell commented that their motto was one place, one voice, one stop and one person.

Pastor Powell stated that the ministerial alliance had a benevolent fund of \$3,000 when they started and they were not sure what to do with that. Pastor Powell commented that they wanted to know how many resources they could get. Pastor Powell explained that they pitched an idea and this would be one place to start to connect. Pastor Powell stated that they did not know until then that there was a Salvation Army in town and there were funds available. Pastor Powell commented that the steering committee met for six months and Dr. Hopkins donated 314 South Main Street to them and they launched in January 2014.

Pastor Powell stated that they served four hundred nineteen families in Pratt in 2014 and brought \$25,622 back into the community, which was up from the \$3,000 before. Pastor Powell commented that people had a better understanding of what they do now and they were up to nine hundred seventeen in 2019. Pastor Powell explained that they had many more people come through; however, they did not do an application. Pastor Powell stated that COVID hit in 2020 and they brought \$57,230 back to the community and the dynamics changed where there were bigger needs. Pastor Powell added that \$150 did not get them over the hump anymore and it was closer to \$250 to \$300. Pastor Powell stated that they returned \$69,926 back into the community and served four hundred eighteen families and 2022 was going to be a bigger year with more people coming through.

Pastor Powell stated that their first practical purpose was to connect people to the resources and Ms. Ford was aware of what was available and could quickly provide good direction. Pastor Powell commented that many agencies come in to help, because people did not always just need money but maybe a coat, food or had health concerns. Pastor Powell stated that Ms. Ford hands Circles a list of people that she feels would be helped by them. Pastor Powell commented that the second purpose was to have immediate assistance to people in need. Pastor Powell explained that they were not a money tree and they asked what they had to put on the table. Pastor Powell added that Ms. Ford comes to the Advisory Board who then ask more questions. Pastor Powell stated that they were there to help people financially to get them over the hurdle; however, financial help goes directly to the vendors and not to the people. Pastor Powell commented that their third purpose was to coordinate and work alongside many coalitions, such as the Drug and Endangered Kids Fair, Health Resource Commission and LEPC. Pastor Powell stated that they continue to grow and only serve Pratt County, but they had talked to many different counties about their story. Pastor Powell commented that we would take our template and our board would administrate to get other entities up and running.

Pastor Powell stated that funding was very serious and there were administrative costs involved and they partnered with churches in the community. Pastor Powell commented that those churches choose the amount of engagement they want to buy in with. Pastor Powell explained that monthly donations through the City and County had allowed them to have the building and utilities. Pastor Powell stated that they house the Agape Health Clinic, a medical equipment loan closet, paper pantry and a food pantry, when available. Ms. Ford stated that the food pantry was possible through Convoy of Hope and RN LeAnn Hall was also employed there, along with Ms. Lisa Hart who helps with Medicare topics.

Mayor Deeds stated that this was a tremendous community asset and it was necessary for the City to know what they were doing. Mayor Deeds commented that they were taking a holistic approach and he was very grateful for it. Commissioner Schmidt asked how many volunteers there were with all the entities that were involved. Pastor Powell stated that that was hard question to answer. Pastor Powell explained that Ms. Ford was the one full-time employee at the Hope Center. Pastor Powell stated that the Agape Clinic would not happen without volunteers and that included the doctors. Commissioner Peters asked if there was a limit of times they could come in. Ms. Ford stated that they could come in to the food pantry once a month and get a prefilled bag, once to the paper pantry and once a year financially. Pastor Powell explained that the first tier was when they came in for the first time, the second was to look

at their budget and the third tier was to go to Circles. Ms. Ford stated that she had a good working relationship with the girls at the City and they give her insight into the situation.

Pastor Powell commented that he had visited with former Sheriff Vernon Chinn and asked him who these people were and he had told him that they were transients. Pastor Powell stated that we were not even helping our own community; however, they had a decal for the window now that had helped trim down the transients. Pastor Powell commented that he felt confident in this community and there was a true need out there. Pastor Powell added that the Hope Center takes some of the pressure off and helps them find a better resource with a bigger budget. Commissioner Peters asked if the numbers from 2019 were couples. Pastor Powell stated that it was household. Commissioner Peters questioned how many were tier 2. Pastor Powell stated that there were very few. Commissioner Peters commented that he did not know that there was a Salvation Army in town. Pastor Powell stated that Ms. Ford takes care of that. Commissioner Peters asked if you could just drop a monetary donation off here then. Ms. Ford stated that you could and then she would have to send it to the main office.

Commissioner Farmer stated that you do not hear of this much, living in rural Kansas, but he felt it was awesome that larger communities were coming to us help start their program. Commissioner Farmer asked how someone would qualify for funds. Ms. Ford explained that she talks to the person and builds a relationship with them and she could tell what needs they had. Ms. Ford commented that she submits it to the Advisory Board to see how much money they had to contribute to the situation. Pastor Powell stated that the Advisory Board consisted of people well connected in the community and they were pretty gracious. Pastor Powell commented that they did not throw money out the window and there were some who had abused the system. Ms. Ford stated that, having a background in education, she knew of poverty situations, those that did not make the best decisions and she gave that type of information to the board. Pastor Powell stated that they lead with compassion and grace.

Commissioner Peters stated that Ms. Ford had a tough job listening to the sad stories. Pastor Powell informed the Commission that they had an anonymous donor through South Central Community Foundation that donated \$20,000 to help people with utilities. Pastor Powell explained that they got connected with Ms. Ford and they felt that it was better geared being dispersed through the Hope Center and the donor added that they would give more when this ran out. Pastor Powell stated that that showed the credibility of the Hope Center and that we were the right agency to disperse things like that. Commissioner Schmidt asked if they had a good relationship with the police department. Pastor Powell stated that they had a great relationship with them and the hospital.

Commissioner Farmer asked how many they had helped this year. Ms. Ford stated that they were 65% higher than the first quarter last year; however, that could be because of higher dollar needs. Pastor Powell added that utility bills would be getting higher with summer coming in. Commissioner Schmidt asked if they help with job searches. Ms. Ford stated that she keeps up with openings and also helps with online applications and resumes. Commissioner Peters questioned if they give people advice on how to interview for a job. Ms. Ford commented that she did that too and there was a Hope Closet, which was its own entity. Pastor Powell stated that they had business cards created with all their main resources and a contact person on the website.

#### **OPEN AGENDA:**

No one in the audience wished to address the Commission.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **City Manager:**

- **KMU Conference:**

City Manager Pinkall informed the Commission that he had spent three days at the KMU Conference with Director of Electric Utilities Huber and Power Plant Superintendent Evans. Mr. Pinkall stated that it was very informative and he had met new people. Mr. Pinkall added that he had spent his time on the electric side even though there were water and wastewater programs available.

- **Municipal Building roof:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that the roof at the Municipal Building had been completed. Mr. Pinkall commented that EMC had been overwhelmed with weather issues, but it should be finalized soon. Commissioner Peters asked if he knew how much they would cover. Mr. Pinkall commented that he had not gotten that figure yet; however, it should be a majority of the cost.

- **Electric loan rate:**

Commissioner Farmer questioned if the rise of interest rates would affect our electric loan. Mr. Pinkall stated that that was a set rate and was funded by the State. City Attorney Goff stated that it could go up, but there was a cap on it. Mr. Pinkall added that Director of Electric Utilities Huber had it figured into the ECA.

- **Training Center:**

Commissioner Farmer asked about the fire department's training center. Mr. Pinkall commented that they had bought the modules over time and the department had done research on how to stack them. Mr. Pinkall added that the firemen were doing some of the work. City Clerk Kramer added that Trand Inc. had volunteered to help get the containers stacked.

- **Chamber meeting:**

Commissioner Farmer asked if Mr. Pinkall had attended the Chamber meeting. Mr. Pinkall stated that he had and they chose to move forward and Ms. Wellbrock was back in Hays. Mr. Pinkall commented that they were back to hiring a new director, but he was not sure of the process. Mr. Pinkall stated that Ms. Susan Pixler was still there part-time and Ms. Wellbrock was available for consultation. Finance Director Carver commented that they had elected not to hold the group meeting.

- **Pool:**

Commissioner Schmidt asked if there was anything new on the pool. Mr. Pinkall commented that he was waiting to get through the Thursday workshop with Mr. Cowan for the financial piece. Mr. Pinkall stated that they needed to get the pool committee back together and look at the funding options that we could afford. Commissioner Schmidt commented that he had talked to County Clerk Voss and, if we want a ballot issue, we needed to get it going. Mr. Pinkall stated that that was right and those were things he was working on.

**City Attorney:**

- **Quiet week:**

City Attorney Goff stated that it had been quiet in her department and she continues to work on contracts and working with Bruce.

**Public Works:**

- **Pool repairs:**

Public Works Director Rambat stated that he had spent some time down at the pool on Saturday. Mr. Rambat commented that he had washed it out with the fire hose.

- **Curb project:**

Mr. Rambat commented that he had been out walking the streets painting curbs and sidewalks. Mr. Rambat stated that he would probably go out for bids in the next month or two. Mr. Rambat explained that he liked to give the contractors from the middle of summer to the end of fall to complete the project.

- **Water Study:**

Commissioner Farmer asked about the water study. Mr. Rambat stated that they had tried to pick a date to go visit some cities like Garden City and Goodland, but decided to pull back on that. Mr. Rambat commented that Water Superintendent Clay would be going to Goodland with EBH Engineer Mike Younger next week. EBH Engineer Jerry Starkey stated that it was still in the process and he would have a report soon.

**Recreation Department:**

- **Municipal Building roof:**

Recreation Director Eisenhauer stated that all was good with the roof at the Municipal Building; however, there was a sizeable leak. Mr. Eisenhauer commented that they would be working that out with the insurance company once they knew there were no more leaks.

- **Open Gravel Race:**

Mr. Eisenhauer informed the Commission that there were around four hundred fifty bikers in the Open Gravel Race this past weekend. Mr. Eisenhauer reported that one had to go to the hospital and the last one arrived back in Pratt around 11:30 p.m.

- **Job opening:**

Mr. Eisenhauer commented that there was a second shift maintenance/fire truck driver position open and they had almost gone through all their overtime budget. Commissioner Peters asked how they had advertised for the position. Mr. Eisenhauer stated that they were online and in the paper.

- **Tennis courts:**

Commissioner Schmidt asked about the progress on the tennis courts. Mr. Eisenhauer commented that it was still a work in progress, but they did have two done and three started. Mr. Eisenhauer explained that the weather this week would make it tough, but we could see some movement. Mr. Eisenhauer stated that they brought an eight or ten man crew last time they were out.

**Police Department:**

- **Cyber assessment:**

Police Chief Humble stated that they had a cyber assessment done by Homeland Security. Chief Humble explained that they tried to infiltrate the system and there was zero probability of a host coming into the system. Chief Humble added that there were a few issues that could be tidied up and Mr. Mike LaClair had those taken care of. Chief Humble stated that this meant that Homeland Security would be comfortable with us helping them out if necessary.

- **Trilogy training:**

Chief Humble stated that he would not be at the next meeting because he would be attending Trilogy Training through the FBI. Chief Humble commented that this would help with management and also on the Federal level. Chief Humble added that there would be two more classes this summer.

- **Good detective work:**

Chief Humble took a moment to acknowledge Detectives Jeff Ward and Joseph Ohler for their work on a local child porn arrest. Chief Humble stated that it was an amazing job done by the detectives and they had been recognized by KBI and in Oklahoma. Chief Humble added that no one personally was affected.

**Finance Department:**

- **Tax updates:**

Finance Director Carver stated that he had given the Commissioners a sales tax update. Commissioner Farmer asked if we would be affected when they remove the food sales tax and if it would affect the 2023 budget. Mr. Carver commented that he did not think it affected local sales tax if a City chose not to remove it. City Attorney Goff stated that there was a new version of that bill that includes local; therefore, we would be affected. Ms. Goff added that she would give Mr. Carver a copy of that bill.

**Mayor & Commission:**

- **ED meeting:**

Mayor Deeds asked when the next Economic Development meeting was, because he wanted to attend. ED Board Member Doug Meyer stated that he thought it was Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

- **Thursday workshop:**

Commissioner Farmer thanked the Commission for scheduling Thursday's workshop so he could attend.

- **Kid's Fair:**

Commissioner Siemens stated that Circles had a booth at the Kid's Fair last weekend and she thanked Mr. Eisenhower for getting them a couple of tables.

**RECESS:**

7 – May 02, 2022 (Regular Commission meeting)

Commissioner Farmer made a motion to recess until Thursday, May 05, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Deeds and carried unanimously.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

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ZACH DEEDS, Mayor



ATTEST:

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LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk