

THURSDAY

JUNE 27, 2019

The Governing Body of the City of Pratt met in a Recessed Budget Work Session in the Commission Room located in City Hall.

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

ALSO PRESENT:	Roy Eckert	City Manager
	LuAnn Kramer	City Clerk
	Diana Garten	Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER:

The recessed 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.

BUSINESS:

BUDGET WORK SESSION-DAY 2:

The Commission, City Manager and Finance Director met at 9:00 a.m. for the second day of the budget work session. The Commission continued discussions with department superintendents until everyone had had a chance to visit with them about their individual budgets for 2020.

- **Fire Department:**

After little discussion with Chief Kramer, Commissioner Peters made a motion to increase training session fees from \$10 to \$15 as requested. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmidt and carried unanimously.

- **Donations and Contractual Services:**

- **Pratt Area Humane Society:**

Commissioner Leslie made a motion to fund the Pratt Area Humane Society \$36,000 plus a utility allowance of \$6,000 in 2020 as stated in their current agreement, which provides for boarding facilities and care for dogs picked up by Animal Control and the Police Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmidt and carried unanimously.

- **Blythe Family Fitness Center:**

Commissioner Peters made a motion to approve the 2020 monetary assistance request from the Blythe Family Fitness Center in the amount of \$20,000 per year plus rental fees applicable for court use by the

Recreation Department. Commissioner Schmidt seconded the motion. After some discussion on the level of funding, Commissioner Deeds stated that he would prefer to leave it at the 2019 level of \$25,000, because the request was for \$30,000. Commissioner Deeds commented that he felt that the benefit of the Blythe Family Fitness Center to the community in comparison to the train in Six Street Park was very high and he asked the Commission to consider the funding request relative to the amount of support and maintenance of the train. Mayor Meyer asked for a show of hands in favor of the motion on the table. Mayor Meyer noted that four Commissioners were in favor of the motion and one was opposed. The motion passed with four approved and one opposed vote by Commissioner Deeds.

- **Food Bank:**

Commissioner Leslie made a motion to continue the 2019 donation amount of \$300 per month to the Food Bank in 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmidt and carried unanimously.

- **Chamber of Commerce:**

Commissioner Leslie made a motion to continue to support the Chamber of Commerce in 2020 at \$1,500 per month plus expenses incurred relating to Travel and Tourism. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peters and carried unanimously.

- **Hope Center:**

Commissioner Leslie made a motion to fund the Hope Center at the same level in 2020 as 2019 in the amount of \$550 per month. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peters and carried unanimously.

- **Circles:**

Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to approve the funding request from Circles in the amount of \$500 per month for the 2020 budget year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deeds and carried unanimously.

- **Teen Center:**

Commissioner Deeds made a motion to approve the 2020 funding for the Teen Center at \$500 per month. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leslie and carried unanimously.

- **American Legion:**

Despite the American Legion not returning the required forms for the 2020 budget request, both Commissioner Leslie and Commissioner Peters stated that they had knowledge of the American Legion and spoke in support of continuing the monthly donation of \$150. Commissioner Leslie made a motion approving continued support of the American Legion in 2020 at \$150 per month. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion. The motion and second passed unanimously.

- **Youth Core Ministries:**

Youth Core Ministries had not returned the required paper work for the 2020 budget year; however, the Commissioners were asked to wait on approving funding until Commissioner Deeds had a chance to make a phone call to verify information concerning the organization, Commissioner Deeds stated that if

was still a viable request for operations at the Barron Theatre. After little more discussion, Commissioner Peters made a motion to approve \$300 per month to Youth Core Ministries in 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmidt. It was agreed by the Commission that it would be stressed upon Youth Core Ministries how important it was to provide financial information and submitting the application in a timely manner in the future, which helps the Commission make their decision. The motion and second to continue funding Youth Core Ministries \$300 per month in 2020 passed unanimously.

- **Pratt Area Economic Development Corporation:**

Commissioner Leslie made a motion to continue with the Pratt Area Economic Development Corporation's agreement for \$15,000 per quarter and to budget an additional \$15,000 in 2020 for the City Economic Development expenses. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deeds and carried unanimously.

- **Utility Rates:**

Finance Director Garten informed the Commission that the water rates needed to be raised to service the debt on the waterline to the airport and for increased capital in the water department. Ms. Garten stated that \$50,000 would have to cut from the water department budget if the Commission did not want to raise the rates. After some discussion on the other utility rates, it was decided to leave the rates in the water and sanitation funds per the current ordinance and to research electric rates of other cities; however, Commissioner Peters made a motion to increase the base rate for ¼", 1" and 1 ½" lines by \$2.00 per month and 2", 3", 4" and 6" lines or larger by \$4.00 per month effective September 01, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leslie and carried unanimously.

- **Cost of Living:**

Finance Director Garten reminded the Commission that a 3% cost of living adjustment was included in the 2020 budget proposal. Commissioner Peters asked how the City could absorb the increase in health insurance in 2019 and the 5.72% for 2020 without passing it on to the employees. Commissioner Peters stated that the compensation to the employees was significant and should offset the 3% cost of living. Ms. Garten explained that she had left room in the 2020 budget for the 3% cost of living increase; however, the Commission had budget authority to grant it at a later time if they wanted to wait on making that decision. After little more discussion, the Commission agreed to allow budget authority for a 3% cost of living adjustment on any type of payroll increase on or before the first payroll in 2020.

- **Tax Levy and Budget Approval for Publication:**

Finance Director Garten reminded the Commission of the 2.13 mill increase in the tax levy that had been proposed. Commissioner Peters questioned the budget forms included in the notebook. Ms. Garten stated that they were the forms required to be completed and filed with the County and the State. Ms. Garten commented that they reflect the proposed budget figures and, once any adjustments that had been discussed were made, the Commission would approve the publication and there would be a public hearing and final approval. Ms. Garten added that this would be the City's legal budget once these steps were taken and the budget was filed with the County and State. Ms. Garten stated that she would make the minor changes and the public hearing on the 2020 proposed budget would be on August 05, 2019. The Commissioners were all in agreement to move forward with the publication of the proposed budget for 2020.

Executive Session:

Commissioner Schmidt made a motion to have an executive session on Monday, July 01, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. to consult with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney/client relationship. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leslie and carried unanimously.

RECESS:

Upon proper motion, the meeting was recessed until Monday, July 01, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. for the executive session for attorney/client privilege.

Doug Meyer, Mayor



ATTEST:

LuAnn Kramer, City Clerk