

MONDAY

JANUARY 11, 2021

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 Goff	City Attorney
	Nate Humble	Chief of Police
	Russell Rambat	Public Works Director
	Brad Blankenship	Building Inspector
	Jamie Huber	Director 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 Peters led the audience and staff in the invocation and Mayor Schmidt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

THANK YOU FROM DR. CALVERT:

Dr. Calvert took a moment to thank the City Commission for their cooperation in the partnership on the Track and Soccer Field. Dr. Calvert recognized the out-going Commissioners and welcomed the new ones.

MINUTES:

- December 21, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting
- January 07, 2021 Special Call Commission Meeting

Commissioner Leslie made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 21,2020 regular meeting and the January 07, 2021 special call meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer and the motion and second carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR RECOGNITION:

- Commissioner Jason Leslie:

City Manager Pinkall stated that it had been a pleasure working with Commissioner Leslie the past three years and he appreciated the time he had put in. Mr. Pinkall commented that being a City Commissioner is, at times, a thankless job, but he had represented the community in a positive manner and he had made a difference in Pratt. Mr. Pinkall thanked Commissioner Leslie for his service and presented him with a glass desk plaque that represented his three years of service.

- Commissioner Doug Meyer:

Mr. Pinkall then addressed Commissioner Meyer. Mr. Pinkall stated that Commissioner Meyer's six years had been one of a kind with his involvement with the solar farm, the day-to-day activities of the City and the City finances, among many other things that were unparalleled in this day and age. Mr. Pinkall commented that Commissioner Meyer's commitment and drive, along with his pride in Pratt, made us proud to call him our Mayor, our Commissioner, our colleague and our friend. Mr. Pinkall stated that The City was a better place to live, work and visit because of him and it had been a pleasure. Mr. Pinkall presented Commissioner Meyer with a key to the City. Commissioner Meyer stated that the six years went fast and he got to meet a lot of interesting people. Commissioner Meyer commented that he always assumed that when you turned on the water, you had water, flip your lights on, you had power and we have great streets. Commissioner Meyer stated that we see improvements and he now knew where the money came from and he had taken the parks, cemetery, fire and police for granted before and he had learned a lot different. Commissioner Meyer commented that the fire department was a well-oiled machine because of David Kramer and their equipment and training. Commissioner Meyer added that the police department was run well because Chief Nate Humble was the perfect man for the job. Commissioner Meyer stated that people say there are no heroes, but the day that there were children lost in that fire, there were real heroes there and the day there was a shooting on North Main Street, there were heroes there too. Commissioner Meyer commented that, in his six years as a Commissioner, there has not been a Commissioner that came here with a personal agenda, but they wanted to make Pratt a better place to live. Commissioner Meyer stated that it was easy to sit up here to approve the budget, because the City staff made it all happen. Mayor Schmidt commented that Commissioner Meyer was his student at one time; however, the last four years, he was his student and he was grateful for that. Mayor Schmidt commented that the last year and a half of his tenure as Mayor was difficult, but Commissioner Meyer did an outstanding job.

- Mayor Gary Schmidt:

Finally, Mr. Pinkall presented Mayor Schmidt with the Mayor's gavel plaque. Mr. Pinkall stated that Mayor Schmidt had dealt with many unusual things over the past year and he had set an outstanding example of leadership. Mr. Pinkall thanked Mayor Schmidt for his hard work and commented that he had certainly earned the title of Mayor of the City of Pratt and added that he was an example for all of us to follow.

CERTIFICATION OF NOVEMBER 03, 2020 CITY GENERAL ELECTION:

City Clerk Kramer read the election certification letter she had received from County Clerk/Election Officer Voss confirming that Mr. Kyle Farmer and Ms. Jeanette Siemens had received the majority of the votes in the November 03, 2020 general election.

OATH OF OFFICE GIVEN TO NEWLY ELECTED CITY COMMISSIONERS:

City Clerk Kramer administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Kyle Farmer and Commissioner Jeanette Siemens and they took their place at the dais.

REORGANIZATION OF PRATT CITY COMMISSION:

- **Nomination for Mayor:**

Commissioner Peters made a motion to nominate Mayor Schmidt to serve another term as Mayor for 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deeds and the motions carried unanimously.

- **Nomination for Vice-Mayor:**

Mayor Schmidt stated that he would make a motion to nominate Commissioner Peters as Vice-Mayor. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and the motions carried unanimously.

- **Designation of Official City Depositories:**

City Manager stated that the City had accounts with The Peoples Bank, Legacy Bank and First State Bank and he recommended that this continues in 2021. Commissioner Siemens made a motion to approve The Peoples Bank, Legacy Bank and the First State Bank as the Official City Depositories. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and carried unanimously.

- **Designation of Official City Newspaper:**

City Attorney Goff stated that K.S.A. 12-1651 required that a City designate an official City newspaper and the requirements were that it be published at least fifty times each year and that it did so the prior year. Ms. Goff commented that it must be entered at the post office of publication as second-class mail matter and more than 50% of the circulation must be sold to the subscribers either on a daily, weekly, monthly or yearly basis. Ms. Goff clarified that it could not sit on a shelf at Kwik Shop and that it shall have general paid circulation on a daily, weekly, monthly or yearly basis in the county and shall not be a trade, religious or fraternal publication. Ms. Goff stated that there were two newspapers that fit those categories and they were the Pratt Tribune and the Hutchinson News. City Clerk Kramer stated that the Hutchinson News was about three times more expensive to publish something than the Pratt Tribune and they also charged for affidavits. Ms. Kramer explained that the subscribers were about the same, because there were so many that look at those type of things online now. Commissioner Siemens asked if you could publish online. Ms. Goff stated that we were trying to get legislature to change so we could, but not yet. Commissioner Peters asked if we had had any problems with deadlines. Ms. Kramer stated that we had not. Commissioner Peters made a motion to designate The Pratt Tribune as the official City newspaper. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PRATT JAMBOREE EVENT ON OCTOBER 8, 9, 10, 2021:

Ms. Stacy Hanson addressed the Commission concerning an event that started out being a 40th class reunion. Ms. Hanson stated that the committee talked about how they had friends in other classes and they wanted to invite them and then they talked about friends at Skyline and PCC and that led to an event for all of Pratt. Ms. Hanson commented that this would be a big focal point for all of Pratt and bigger than what Miss Kansas was and would bring alumni from past years. Ms. Hanson commented that she would like to see this as something that would continue each year and she was seeking out all civic organizations to get involved and sponsor various activities that could be fun for everyone. Ms. Hanson explained that there would be a cruise event on Friday and she would be working with businesses on First

street and have live music, Saturday there would be yoga in Lemon Park and events in Sixth Street Park for families, karaoke in Merchants Park and drama clubs in Jack Ewing Park and Saturday night there would dancing to live music.

Ms. Hanson stated that they have a ton of ideas and it was going to be free to everybody. Ms. Hanson added that they were looking for financial support; however, they had sponsorships all over the world. Ms. Hanson stated that they would have Pratt Jamboree things for sell and 50/50 tickets. Ms. Hanson explained that the 50/50 ticket were tickets that could be purchased and the winning ticket got half of the money and the other half would be put back for next year's event. Ms. Hanson commented that she expects the event to cost around \$50,000 to \$80,000 and would be volunteer driven. Commissioner Peters asked if she had a committee in place. Ms. Hanson stated that she had a small one, but she needed some strong leaders and a lot of people to carry all of this off. Commissioner Peters questioned if she had been to Travel and Tourism yet. Ms. Hanson stated that she had not. Commissioner Peters stated that he was excited and that Oktoberfest had been a great success. Commissioner Peters questioned if this would be a conflict with that since they usually had their event the last weekend of September. Ms. Hanson stated that she had spoken with them and they were waiting on the football schedule and people had to have some time off to travel.

Ms. Hanson stated that they also wanted to have a beer garden and also wine, but she sees that being on a side street with TV screens. Mayor Schmidt stated that that takes a special ordinance. Mayor Schmidt added that there were two high schools and a college so there were homecomings to think about. Ms. Hanson stated that she had a meeting with Ms. Becca Flowers and would speak with Mr. Steve Blankenship and Ms. Lisa Miller. Ms. Hanson stated that the football schedules were up to the schools and she did not want to overshadow any school event. Commissioner Farmer asked if she would require masks for this event. Ms. Hanson stated that we would have to wait and see. City Attorney Goff stated that there was no guarantee for the alcohol license. City Manager Pinkall commented that we have dealt with big groups as far as sanitation, barricades, law enforcement and highway issues. Mr. Pinkall stated that he would get feedback from staff, but it was doable. With no further discussion, Commissioner Peters made a motion to approve the Pratt Jamboree to have their event on October 8, 9, 10, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF 2021 CEREAL MALT BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR KWIK SHOP:

Police Chief Humble stated that Kwik Shop was a little late to the game, but they did get their application for their cereal malt beverage license in and they checked out and passed the background check. Chief Humble recommended that the Commission approve their application. With no further discussion, Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve the 2021 Cereal Malt Beverage license for Kwik Shop. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peters and carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RATE INCREASES IN THE COMPREHENSIVE FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2021:

City Attorney Goff stated that there were not many changes, but there were some built in water, sewer and sanitation rate changes. Ms. Goff commented that, in order for the rates to take effect, the Commission would need to pass Resolution 011121 that adopts the amendments to the Comprehensive Fee Schedule.

The following Resolution 011121 was then presented to the Commission for their approval: **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE FEE SCHEDULE AS AUTHORIZED BY THE PRATT MUNICIPAL CODE.** Commissioner Deeds made a motion to approve Resolution

011121 to establish the Comprehensive Fee Schedule with regards to rate increases. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE REZONING OF 104 N. OAK FROM R-4 MULTI-FAMILY TO C-S HIGHWAY SERVICE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

Building Inspector Blankenship stated that 104 North Oak Street had once been the old boys home office and they had asked that it be rezoned to highway services, which was contiguous to the highway. Mr. Blankenship commented that this type of thing could not be done in this neighborhood unless it had been a home occupation, which it was not. Mr. Blankenship stated that this came before the Planning Commission on December 17th and they approved it. City Attorney Goff stated that the Commission needed to approve Ordinance 2101 to rezone this property.

With no further discussion, the following Ordinance 2101 was presented to the Commission for their approval: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OR DISTRICT OF LOTS SEVEN (7), AND EIGHT (8) OF SIMPSON'S SUBDIVISION OF THE CITY OF PRATT, PRATT COUNTY, KANSAS UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN THE ZONING AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS, AS INCORPORATED IN THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS.** Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve Ordinance 2101 amending the zoning classification of 104 North Oak Street. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deeds and carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE LOW BID FOR THE CCLIP HIGHWAY PROJECT AND TO AGREE TO PAY THE REMAINDER OF THE CITY'S 10%:

Public Works Director Rambat stated that this was the highway project on the west side from New Street to Mound Street and it had taken him eight years to finally get approved for the 90/10 funding. Mr. Rambat commented that KDOT had gone out for bids and they had accepted the low bid from Vogts Parga Construction LLC out of Newton in the amount of \$744,514. Mr. Rambat explained that we had paid \$55,000 for engineering, which means we still had a balance of \$37,000 to get to our 10%. Mr. Rambat commented that they did not have a start date yet, but he was thinking it would be between late spring or early fall. Commissioner Peters asked if we had done business with this company before. Mr. Rambat stated that we had not, but he thought that KDOT probably had. Commissioner Peters questioned if that money was set aside. Mr. Rambat stated that he was sure that Finance Director Garten had set that aside. Commissioner Deeds asked City Manager Pinkall if he was comfortable with the finances. Mr. Pinkall stated that he was. Mr. Rambat stated that it was in a capital improvement fund and put back for this project. With no more discussion, Commissioner Siemens made a motion to accept the low bid from Vogts Parga Construction in the amount of \$744,514 and to agree to pay the remainder of the City's part of \$37,000 for the CCLIP highway project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and carried unanimously.

OPEN AGENDA:

No one wished to address the Commission.

REPORTS:

City Manager:

- **Help with finances:**

City Manager Pinkall informed the Commission that he had asked Ms. Rebecca Post to assist us in getting the finances in order and help close out 2020. Mr. Pinkall stated that the biggest hill was to find out where things were at.

- **Turf Project:**

Mr. Pinkall informed the Commission that Recreation Director Larry Eisenhauer would be on the next agenda to discuss the turf project. Mr. Pinkall stated that he had been working hard on it.

- **Track and Soccer Field:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that the score board was being installed at the Track and Soccer field and it was a big improvement.

- **Sandy Creek Committee:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that he would have some information on the committee concerning the Sandy Creek development and also some numbers to look at.

- **Sales tax for December:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that the sales tax for December, which was actually October sales, was \$182,266.93 and a little below last year. Mr. Pinkall commented that the totals together showed that we collected \$2.2 million, so we held steady even though COVID gave us some challenges.

- **Orientations:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that he would like to plan orientations with the two new Commissioners sometime soon. Mr. Pinkall commented that he would be okay if it was individually.

- **Ad for Finance Director:**

Commissioner Peters asked if Mr. Pinkall had put together an ad for Financial Officer. Mr. Pinkall stated that he had looked at it and Ms. Goff had more thoughts and he would send it to the Commissioners first before posting it with the League.

City Attorney:

- **Recreation Department:**

City Attorney Goff stated that there was a letter at the back of the packet from an attorney regarding a trust providing the recreation department with some funds. Ms. Goff added that those funds should be distributed in the next month.

Public Works:

- **Mower Bids:**

Public Works Director Rambat stated that he had gotten with Park Superintendent Quint and they were going out for bid for two new mowers and should have those on the agenda the first meeting in February.

- **ADA Parking Lot:**

Mr. Rambat commented that the ADA parking lot was done in Lemon Park and that was the last piece of the new bathroom in Lemon Park.

- **Waterline to the airport:**

Mr. Rambat stated that the water line at the airport had been online for a month and had been working flawlessly. Mr. Rambat commented that it was a big deal to get water up there and that it was quality drinking water. Mr. Rambat added that they were looking at moving forward to getting better quality wells by drilling a couple of test holes north of the solar farm. Commissioner Peters questioned how much it would cost to drill a well. Mr. Rambat stated that it would be about \$2,000 for a 2” hole and we had the money set aside, but we were waiting for the paperwork to clear from KDWR. Mr. Rambat explained that that did not hold us to anything; however, there were several wells along the river that we needed to do something with.

Inspection Department:

- **Parkwood Village:**

Building Inspector Blankenship stated that he was still doing inspections at Parkwood Village, but they were almost done.

- **Urgent Care:**

Mr. Blankenship commented that Urgent Care was getting started this week and he had talked to them about three COVID rooms that Pratt Family Practice was going to put in. Mr. Blankenship stated that he had discussed the cast iron and cooper that was required, so he felt he had gotten them squared away.

- **Structures:**

Mr. Blankenship stated that the structure on Iowa Street looked good and the bushes and trees had been cleaned up. Mr. Blankenship commented that he would be working with City Attorney Goff on 207 Starr Street, because it needed to be taken down. Mr. Blankenship stated that it was unsanitary and the structure was breaking apart.

Electric Department:

- **Fully staffed:**

Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that he was finally fully staffed in both departments and he had just hired a new lineman.

- **Year in review:**

Mr. Huber commented that he would have his year-in-review report for the Commissioners at the next meeting. Mr. Huber stated that they had not done as much as they had planned due to COVID.

Police Department:

- **New Officer:**

Police Chief Humble stated that he had hired a new officer. Chief Humble stated that Officer Nick Allen had no experience, but would be attending the academy on February 15th.

- **COVID:**

Chief Humble stated that they had been hit pretty hard with COVID, but had not had to outsource. Chief Humble commented that they had pulled together and were doing business as usual.

Mayor and Commission:

- **PPE:**

Mayor Schmidt stated that the City had not applied for PPE last year because we got money through the CARES act; however, they were opening it up again. Mayor Schmidt commented that he did not know if we would qualify, but he wanted staff to talk it over and see if we should participate. Mayor Schmidt stated that there was a lot of complaints about corporations getting money, but there was a great deal of money that did not get taken in the last round.

- **Appreciation for outgoing Commissioners:**

Commissioner Deeds stated his appreciation for former Commissioner Meyer and Commissioner Leslie. Commissioner Deeds commented that there were an awful lot of things that Commissioner Meyer made happen.

Commissioner Farmer stated that he looked forward to the next three years and also thanked former Commissioner Meyer and commented that he would be calling him for advice.

Commissioner Peters thanked former Commissioner Meyer and stated that he was a tremendous Commissioner and Mayor. Commissioner Peters commented that he had stepped up when he had to deal with the solar farm and he went above and beyond when necessary. Commissioner Peters stated that he was proud to serve with him for four years.

ADJOURN:

Mayor Schmidt made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

GARY A. SCHMIDT, Mayor

9 – January 11, 2021 (Regular Commission meeting)



Kansas

ATTEST:

LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk