

MONDAY

MARCH 15, 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
	Don Peters	Commissioner
	Jeanette Siemens	Commissioner
	Kyle Farmer	Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:	Bruce Pinkall	City Manager
	LuAnn Kramer	City Clerk
	Regina Goff	City Attorney
	Russell Rambat	Public Works Director
	Brad Blankenship	Building Inspector
	Jamie Huber	Director of Electric Utilities
	Nate Humble	Chief of Police

**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 with the exception of Commissioner Deeds.

Mayor Schmidt 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 Schmidt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:**

- March 01, 2021 Regular Commission Meeting
- March 05, 2021 Recessed Workshop/Training Session

Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 01, 2021 regular Commission meeting and the March 05, 2021 recessed Workshop/Training session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peters. The motion and second carried unanimously.

**BUSINESS:**

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR EAST HIGHWAY 54 STRIPING PROJECT:**

Public Works Director Rambat informed the Commission that the street department did not have the equipment or the manpower to stripe Highway 54 and make it last. Mr. Rambat commented that that was a high traffic part of town and what we put down only lasted about two months. Mr. Rambat explained that the Federal Government allocated funds to Pratt and we now have \$93,000 to use as we please on the State highway. Mr. Rambat added that they give the funds to the State and they keep 10% and we keep 90%. Mr. Rambat stated that we did not have to have engineering and we would have \$83,000 to spend

on this project, which would leave us about \$5,000 or \$6,000 shy of the low bid and that could come from the street fund.

Mr. Rambat explained the type of paint that the company would be using that would give it some longevity. Mr. Rambat stated that he sent out three bids and received two back. Mr. Rambat commented that Cillessen & Sons out of Kechi bid \$87,715 and Road Safe out of El Dorado bid \$118,672. Mr. Rambat stated that both had done work in Pratt and had a good reputation; therefore, he recommended the low bid from Cillessen and Sons. Mr. Rambat added that there was a stipulation that the project be done by June 1<sup>st</sup> so that they were finished before Miss Kansas. Commissioner Peters questioned how long it would take to get it done. Mr. Rambat stated that they would take it down to one lane and they would do a lot of channelizing, but he thought it would be a week or week and a half. Commissioner Peters asked if they would work at night. Mr. Rambat stated that they probably would not. Commissioner Peters expressed some concern in the difference in the bids. Mr. Rambat commented that that could be because they were going to be in the area or other circumstances and they had sharpened their pencil or their spring load had been light. With no more discussion, Commissioner Peters made a motion to accept the bid from Cillessen and Sons LLC in the amount of \$87,715 for the striping project on East Highway 54 to be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>. The motion was seconded by Mayor Schmidt and carried unanimously.

#### **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF FINANCING FOR THE NEW SANITATION TRUCK:**

City Manager Pinkall stated that each bank had bid five payments with the first payment at closing and five payments with first payment twelve months after closing. Mr. Pinkall commented that two of the banks also included a third option of the first payment at closing and four annual payments. Mr. Pinkall stated that he had visited with staff and Commissioner Peters and he was supportive of the option of five payments with the first payment twelve months after closing and going with the lowest interest offered by Fusion Bank. With little discussion, Commissioner Peters made a motion to accept the bid from Fusion Bank for the Sanitation truck at 1.945% interest for the total loan amount of \$149,748 and equal installments of \$31,728.20 starting in April 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and the motion and second passed unanimously.

#### **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2105 AUTHORIZING THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ON THE STREETS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY:**

City Attorney Goff stated that the Commissioners had addressed the golf cart subject at the workshop and expressed a desire to go ahead and allow them. Ms. Goff commented that this was a draft of the ordinance, which was a template that had come from the League. Ms. Goff explained that some of the sections were optional, but some were not. Police Chief Humble stated that he had a concern with the liability insurance, because there were going to be accidents. Chief Humble also questioned whether they could or could not be operated on the highway or Main Street. Chief Humble commented that he felt that they could cross but not operate there. Ms. Goff clarified that they could not be on any Federal or State highway over 30 mph. Chief Humble stated that State troopers want that to be clear or they would be cited.

Mayor Schmidt asked if there would be any way a home owner's policy would cover the liability insurance. Ms. Goff stated that Section 200 of the Standard Traffic Ordinances would probably say no to the home owner policy. Commissioner Siemens asked how people were going to become aware of this. Ms. Goff stated that ordinances had to be published before they become law. Commissioner Peters asked if it could be put on our website. Ms. Goff stated that it could; however, citizens were expected to know the law and ignorance was never an excuse. Mayor Schmidt asked what this ordinance would do to Mr.

Jeremy Briggeman who depended on his golf cart for a living. After more discussion on Mr. Briggeman's and other situations, it was decided to table this until another meeting.

**OPEN AGENDA:**

No one in the audience wished to address the Commission.

**REPORTS:**

**City Manager:**

- **Rainbow energy bill:**

City Manager Pinkall stated that the City had applied for the low-interest loan through the State to deal with the high cost of energy for February and we had received a letter from the State Treasurer that they had received it. Mr. Pinkall commented that GRDA was the piece the KMEA manages and they had chosen to expand that; however, we had used both to create our loan amount. Mr. Pinkall explained that the State would be going through the applications tomorrow and we should know if we get our full amount or not. Mr. Pinkall commented that the Bill was for \$100 million on a ten-year plan and, if they exceed the \$100 million, they could adjust the loan amounts by 10%. Mr. Pinkall stated that they had created this loan rather quickly, but we were very hopeful to have the funding tomorrow. Commissioner Farmer stated that he appreciated the hard work on this. Mr. Pinkall stated that we all worked well together to protect our investments. Commissioner Peters asked if we had a reserve fund if it goes over the \$100 million and we need to cover \$300,000. Mr. Pinkall commented that we were planning to add \$.01 to the ECA for ten years. Commissioner Peters stated that he knew that, but that did not help the current deficit. Mr. Pinkall stated that he did not know what we had in cash reserves, but if we had to make that choice, we probably might not be able to do some of the things we had planned on. Ms. Goff reminded the Commission that the cash basis law did not allow us to have an outstanding debt, so we would have to pay it. Commissioner Peters stated that we should be able to tap into those. Mr. Pinkall stated that he hoped that we could. Mayor Schmidt commented that he had read a lot of articles and he felt that the reason that bill went through in forty-eight hours was because these were reserves the State had; therefore, they were not using any new tax money. Mayor Schmidt commented that he felt they would go to the legislators to get more money if the requests get larger. Mr. Pinkall stated that their letter said to contact them if we were in dire need of the funds.

- **Finance Director:**

Mr. Pinkall stated that he had no information from the League yet, but he would talk to them tomorrow. Mr. Pinkall commented that they would vet the applications tomorrow and initiate the interviews. Mr. Pinkall explained that there were two or three from Pratt and one from Kingman. Commissioner Peters asked if they send out letters to those that were not chosen. Mr. Pinkall stated that he was not sure, but he would ask.

**City Attorney:**

- **Vaccinations:**

City Attorney Goff stated that she was on a zoom call with the League and 18.1% of the population in Kansas had been vaccinated with at least one vaccination and our positive testing rate as of Friday was 2.7%, so we were heading in the right direction.

- **COVID funds:**

City Attorney Goff stated that there were more Federal funds coming to the City under a COVID relief package and there were some restrictions on what they could be used for. Ms. Goff explained that the funds could be used for public health emergencies, premiums or grants for essential workers, provide for government services to the extent that our revenue was reduced due to the pandemic and they could also be used for water, sewer or broadband infrastructure. Ms. Goff commented that, when the money went directly to the County under the CARES act, the County denied the City's request to use it for our water system. Commissioner Peters questioned if we would be able to use that money to drill a well. Ms. Goff stated that we would be able to from the way she understood it.

Commissioner Peters clarified that the State gets the money and they distribute it to each County. Ms. Goff stated that a certain amount would go to each County and a certain amount goes to the Cities, which was a much more favorable division for our purposes. Ms. Goff explained that, if the population was greater than 50,000, the money would go from the Federal Government to that City, otherwise it would go from the Federal Government to the State for Cities with a population under 50,000. Ms. Goff added that they would have sixty days to then disburse that money out to those Cities using a formula that includes population, unemployment rate, etc.

**Public Works:**

- **Clean-up week:**

Public Works Director Rambat stated that he was looking at continuing the landfill free week even though we were not sure of our financial situation this year. Mr. Rambat commented that he had visited with County Landfill Supervisor Jason Winkel and they had visited about dates and he thought that the cost last year was around \$5,000 or \$8,000. City Attorney Goff stated that that was a lot less than an abatement bill. City Inspector Blankenship stated that people were using that and it had helped. Mr. Rambat stated that they were going to wait until May to give people time to get things around and he had visited with City Clerk Kramer and they would get flyers out in the next couple of billing cycles.

- **APAC:**

Mr. Rambat stated that APAC would be in town a week from today to do work north of the tracks and a couple of radiuses west over by Home Lumber and Cottingham Street. Mr. Rambat commented that they would then move out to the Sports Complex and work on the parking lots and be done by the end of next week.

- **Outages:**

Mr. Rambat stated that he also had guys out during the outage around the new pump station and well house at the airport by the water tower. Mr. Rambat commented that they had standby generators and natural gas that preformed well and kept everything going. Mr. Rambat explained that they did not have a standby generator for the lift station for the sewage and pond; therefore, the guys had to check on those and keep a gas pump that pumped stuff out to the pond. Mr. Rambat stated that Wastewater Superintendent Angood did have a generator in his budget for this year. Mr. Rambat commented that the guys did a good job keeping that going.

- **Keeping things going:**

Commissioner Peters asked who would know how to do this stuff if Mr. Rambat was to leave us unexpectedly. Mr. Rambat stated that it was not just the bids, but it was the language that someone would need to learn. Mr. Rambat commented that it might take a little piecing together, but it was hard to have someone shadow you and hard to share. Mr. Rambat stated that all of this was on his computer and pretty much fill in the blanks. Commissioner Peters asked if he had a calendar of when things were to be done. Mr. Rambat stated that he did have things on a schedule.

**Inspection Department:**

- **Clean-up week:**

Building Inspector Blankenship stated that clean-up week saves on public nuisances and saves on the budget for mosquitoes and getting those tires out of here, so he appreciated having that on the City's schedule again.

- **Urgent Care:**

Mr. Blankenship commented that he was working on Urgent Care and doing inspections. Mr. Blankenship explained that they had to go in to the pass-through carport on the east side where they had some issues with the heating and air system. Mr. Blankenship stated that you could not rinse transmission fluid and oil down into our system, so they had to put a trench drain with a sand scrubber trap and that would trap all that, which would be able to be cleaned up before it gets into our system.

- **PRMC Orthopedic:**

Mr. Blankenship stated that they were almost done with the plans for PRMC's Orthopedic add on and they had decided to replace the roof tops, which should be finished the middle of next week.

- **Lemon Park Restroom:**

Mr. Blankenship stated that he had gotten a call from Mr. Blake Himmelwright and he wanted to thank the City for doing a good job putting in the bathroom in the park.

- **Tractor Supply:**

Mr. Blankenship informed the Commission that Tractor Supply had bought Orscheln's, but he was not sure what would happen there. Mr. Blankenship stated that he did not think both would stay occupied.

- **Ice Machine:**

Mr. Blankenship commented that he and Mr. Rambat had been working with a gentleman from Inman who wanted to put in an ice machine kiosk at Dillon's. Mr. Blankenship stated that he still had to get some things put together first.

**Electric Department:**

- **Storm damage:**

Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that there was a storm that rolled through about 4:00 a.m. Friday morning that took out about twenty-three poles between Kincheloe's and BTI. Mr. Huber

commented that he had a lot of new guys that got a lot of experience and he also got to go out and work with them. Mr. Huber explained that he contacted KMU about 6:30 a.m. and requested mutual aid and they got three guys from Kingman and four guys from Wellington. Mr. Huber stated that it was a lot of work in a lot of mud. Mr. Huber commented that most of our trucks were 4-wheel drive, but the other Cities' were not, so they had to be pulled out.

Mr. Huber stated that they got the circuit back up and going shortly after midnight, but they still had work to do to get the grain bins up and going, plus clean up. Mr. Huber thanked City Clerk Kramer, City Manager Pinkall and Public Works Director Rambat for all their help, because he did not have to stop and go do those things. Mr. Huber stated that you find out a few things that they need to work on. Mr. Huber commented that they would have a cost in a couple of weeks, but he was thankful that they had everything in stock for the mile of line that had to be replaced. Mayor Schmidt asked if he had a log of what they did and what they could have done better. Mr. Huber stated that he did not, but they would have a meeting when things settled down. Mr. Huber added that they had two power plant guys with them all day also who sat on an old bob cat and punched holes all day.

Mr. Huber commented that this was really early in the year and this was the most poles he had seen down in a storm here. Mayor Schmidt asked if he would replenish the pole supply. Mr. Huber stated that they would, but most of them came out of Houston and the trees were not growing fast enough; however, he had gotten a load in today, but they were a different height. Mr. Huber explained that you make due with what you have. Mr. Huber commented that mutual aid was just not always labor. Mayor Schmidt questioned if they would salvage any of the poles. Mr. Huber stated that they could, but they cut them up and those poles had been up since 1995.

- **Area covered:**

Commissioner Peters asked Mr. Huber to explain the area covered by the City. Mr. Huber stated that we go three to four miles past Iuka, east nine miles between Waldeck and Cairo, three miles west and three miles north. Mr. Huber commented that it was about 115 miles of line.

**Recreation Department:**

- **Turf project:**

Recreation Director Eisenhauer stated that the turf contractor had been onsite working despite a couple of weather delays. Mr. Eisenhauer commented that they had a varsity home game on March 30<sup>th</sup>, and should be ready for that, but probably would not be ready for the JV game. Mr. Eisenhauer informed the Commission that there was a college soccer game Friday and track on Saturday, which would be followed by four more track meets.

- **Dirt at Lemon Park:**

Mr. Eisenhauer commented that the Park Department had taken a lot of dirt from the Sports Complex to Lemon Park and it was looking really good down there.

**Police Department:**

- **Applicants:**

Police Chief Humble stated that he would be holding interviews next week.

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- **Schools:**

Chief Humble stated that Officer Nick Allen was in his fourth week at the academy and doing very well. Chief Humble added that K-9 Officer Danny Gimpel was receiving more certification training this week.

**ADJOURN:**

Mayor Schmidt made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Farmer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

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GARY A. SCHMIDT, Mayor



ATTEST:

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LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk