

MONDAY

JANUARY 09, 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 Schmidt 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 December 19, 2022 regular Commission meeting and the December 30, 2022 Recessed Commission meeting. Commissioner Peters seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF MAYOR:

City Manager Pinkall honored Mayor Deeds with the Mayor's plaque and thanked him for his time and energy, commitment, and devotion to the City. Mr. Pinkall commented that he felt that Mayor Deeds' leadership had led the City through some challenging and exciting times. Mr. Pinkall stated that the City of Pratt was a great place to live and for him to work due to his guidance. Mr. Pinkall thanked Mayor Deeds for many hours of putting himself in support and encouragement of City staff. Mayor Deeds accepted the plaque and stated that it was an exceptional honor that he appreciated.

RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER PETERS:

Mayor Deeds stated that it had been a pleasure to work with Commissioner Peters. Mayor Deeds commented that he felt it was unique how engaged Commissioner Peters was as a Commissioner and taking on things and looking into things. Mayor Deeds commented that a second thing was courage, because he would take on anything even if it was uncomfortable. Mayor Deeds stated that another thing was care and Commissioner Peters genuinely wanted what was best for the City.

City Manager Pinkall stated that it was a privilege and an honor to have Commissioner Peters serve the City. Mr. Pinkall commented that his time and energy were true examples of his caring for the community. Mr. Pinkall stated that he was going to miss his detailed, well thought out and challenging questions and observations. Mr. Pinkall added that he did not want Commissioner Peters to be a stranger and his door was always open to his thoughts. Mr. Pinkall thanked Commissioner Peters for his service and commitment and that he had truly made a difference in the community.

Commissioner Peters stated that it had been a learning experience the last six years and there were a lot of challenges. Commissioner Peters commented that Commissioners try to meet challenges head on and do what was best for the City. Commissioner Peters stated that it had been a privilege and an honor.

CERTIFICATION OF NOVEMBER 08, 2022 ELECTION:

City Clerk Kramer read the election certification letter she had received from County Clerk/Election Officer Voss confirming that Commissioner Gary A. Schmidt and Doug Meyer had received the majority of the votes in the November 08, 2022 general election.

OATH OF OFFICE GIVEN TO NEWLY ELECTED CITY COMMISSIONER:

City Clerk Kramer administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Gary A. Schmidt and Doug Meyer and they took their places at the dais.

REORGANIZATION OF PRATT CITY COMMISSION:

- **Nomination for Mayor:**

Commissioner Schmidt stated that he appreciated all that Mayor Deeds had done as the Mayor in 2022 and that there had not been much coasting. Commissioner Schmidt nominated Zach Deeds as City of Pratt Mayor for 2023 and, if there were no other nominations, he would suspend the rules and vote Zach Deeds as Mayor by acclamation. Commissioner Farmer seconded the nomination and it passed unanimously.

- **Nomination for Vice-Mayor:**

Mayor Deeds made a motion to nominate Commissioner Meyer for Vice-Mayor. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and it passed unanimously.

- **Designation of Official City Depositories:**

City Manager Pinkall stated that the City utilizes accounts with The Peoples Bank, Legacy Bank and Fusion Bank and he recommended that this continue in 2023. Commissioner Siemens made a motion to approve The Peoples Bank, Legacy Bank and Fusion Bank as the Official City Depositories. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmidt and carried unanimously.

- **Designation of Official City Newspaper/News Source:**

City Attorney Goff stated that the Commission had passed a Charter Ordinance that allowed the City to use the City website as the official news source and there was a Statute that allowed Cities to do that. Ms. Goff commented that we had done that legally and the cost to publish in the Hutch paper was very expensive. City Manager Pinkall added the timing of things being published works much better using the website. With no more discussion, Commissioner Siemens made a motion to designate the City website as our news source. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON 2022 PRATT JAM AND 2023 PRATT JAM ACTIVITIES:

Ms. Dedra Brant informed the Commission that the 2022 Pratt Jam had about 1,300 people attend the two day event. Ms. Brant commented that the four newest hotels were either at 90% capacity or sold out. Ms. Brant stated that the restaurants had been concerned that their business would be lacking with the food vendors; however, they had a stellar weekend. Ms. Brant mentioned that the merchants helped sell buttons, which helped them a lot.

Ms. Brant stated that when they began planning Pratt Jam was when COVID hit and they had to put the brakes on, but things could not have gone better when it finally happened. Ms. Brant explained that there were seven class reunions and about a hundred and fifty college athletes that helped move a downtown activity to the park and that was a lot of work. Ms. Brant commented that they also had two hundred from the Liberty Leadership Group. Ms. Brant commented that there were things they would need to tweak, but they wanted to do it again and make it better. Ms. Brant stated that they would like to put out a survey and find out what people would like to see done every year.

Ms. Brant stated that she had come tonight to thank everybody in here for the success of Pratt Jam and for the Tourism for their financial support. Ms. Brant commented that she would like the support of the City to move forward in getting started on the 2023 Pratt Jam. Ms. Brant added that they would start advertising on Facebook to get the word out. Ms. Brant commented that she would be taking the lead this year, but Ms. Stacy Hanson would be part of the leadership group. Commissioner Farmer asked if they were going to have it the same time as homecoming again. Ms. Brant stated that they were going to have it the same weekend as before; however, it was not going to be homecoming this year. Public Works Director Rambat stated that he thought it went really well and should not be a big deal. Commissioner Siemens stated that she thought that it was very well done. Ms. Brant stated that they did not go in the hole and that was a good thing. Ms. Brant commented that they wanted to do the beer gardens again. City Attorney Goff reminded Ms. Brant that they had to do the resolution every year. Ms. Brant stated that she was glad to know that.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF 2023 CEREAL MALT BEVERAGE APPLICATION FOR CIGARETTE OUTLET:

Police Chief Humble stated that the Cereal Malt Beverage application for Cigarette Outlet met all the requirements. With no discussion, Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve the 2023 Cereal Malt Beverage License for Cigarette Outlet. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Siemens and carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF SALARY ORDINANCE 2301:

City Manager Pinkall stated that the ordinance before the Commission was similar to the one previously; however, he had initiated ranges as it goes down to the different departments and had gotten away from the matrix of the percentage salary scale. Mr. Pinkall commented that that would give the department heads a way to fit raises in between and not to have to go to the 3% each time. Mr. Pinkall explained that this would give us more flexibility plus it would match what the plan was that the Commission had to stiffen each staff member and adding it to their salary. Mr. Pinkall stated that there would also be another percentage that could be utilized to reward those which could be done easily per person's salary and not using the scale. Mr. Pinkall added that this would be easier to explain to employees.

Mayor Deeds added that, as a point of verification, total salaries for the year were at 4% and these were extraordinary circumstances and they were not going to be doing that every year. Mayor Deeds commented that they were giving more in salary increases than they ever had before. Mayor Deeds explained that, whether it was 3 in 1 or less, this honors the intent of the ordinance when it talks about the cost of living and performance evaluations. Mr. Pinkall stated that there were performance based pieces that had not been there in the past.

With no more discussion, the following Ordinance 2301 was presented to the Commission for their approval: **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2118; CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION OF HOURLY EMPLOYEES AND SALARIES OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF PRATT, KANSAS.** Commissioner Farmer made a motion to approve Salary Ordinance 2301. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer and carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT TO LEPC:

City Manager Pinkall stated that this was the Local Emergency Planning Committee and they were led by the County and all taxing entities work together. Mr. Pinkall commented that there were table top exercises and they discuss what different resources there were and who takes charge. Mr. Pinkall stated that there were several things across the County and how we would combine them to take care of the population. Mr. Pinkall commented that we hope that we did not have to use it, but hope that we have the plan in place if we do. Mr. Pinkall explained that we had to have one Commissioner on the Committee to receive Federal funding.

Mayor Deeds asked if anyone would be interested in being on the Committee. Public Works Director Rambat stated that they meet quarterly or every three to four months. Mr. Rambat added that the last one was the middle of December and they had simulated an F5 tornado. Mr. Rambat explained that the City had relied heavily on radios in the past; however, now we use our phones. Mr. Rambat stated that he recently started replacing those radios and would give one to the County because they would need to stay in contact with the City in some cases of a disaster. Mr. Pinkall stated that they had talked about what happened in Greensburg and Andover. Commissioner Meyer stated that it was unique for everyone to come together in one room. With little more discussion, Mayor Deeds made a motion to appoint Commissioner Siemens to the LEPC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and carried unanimously.

OPEN AGENDA:

No one in the audience wished to address the Commission.

REPORTS:

City Manager:

- **Pool:**

City Manager Pinkall stated that the pool meetings were still happening and they were discussing the color scheme. Mr. Pinkall commented that they had talked about the slides following the school colors with one being green and one being blue. Mr. Pinkall stated that they were still looking at a summer opening. Mr. Pinkall suggested that the Commissioners go by and see the elevation of the areas and added that they were moving along even with the weather conditions.

City Attorney:

- **Personnel Manual:**

City Attorney Goff stated that she was going over the personnel manual with City Manager Pinkall, Finance Director Carver and City Clerk Kramer and hoped to have that on a future agenda.

Public Works:

- **Sidewalk project:**

Public Works Director Rambat stated that the Commissioners had approved the sidewalk project last fall; however, Mr. Brian Arensdorf had not had time to start it until this week. Mr. Rambat commented that there were new parts of town that he had gone out and marked because the old markings had worn off. Mr. Rambat added that people saw him out there and they were very appreciative.

- **Down Employees:**

Mr. Rambat stated that the water department was down two employees again. Mr. Rambat explained that there were a few situations during the cold snap where the guy on standby had to go out alone and that was tough. Mr. Rambat commented that he and Water Superintendent Clay had talked about it and they were going to start having multiple people on call and not just one. Mr. Rambat commented that they needed to think outside the box to see if he could bring in people from the outside.

- **Dump Truck:**

Mr. Rambat stated that the water department had their eye on a local dump truck and they had already talked to Finance Director Carver. Mr. Rambat commented that the purchase of the backhoe would be put on hold for another year so that he could get this dump truck. Mr. Rambat added that this would be on the next agenda.

- **Water Study:**

Commissioner Farmer asked about the water study and when the Commissioners would learn more. Mr. Rambat stated that we had a meeting the other day with Mr. Alan Luttrell from EBH and Commissioner Meyer had attended. Mr. Rambat commented that the meeting would be happening sooner than later to talk about the future needs for water in Pratt, the nitrate issue with our ground water and a water distribution treatment plant. Mr. Rambat stated that EBH would be doing a round table discussion with the Commissioners to discuss water rates and the research Mr. Alan Luttrell from EBH did on the history and funds up to the end of last year. Mr. Pinkall commented that this would be a beneficial workshop to help understand this.

Inspection Department:

- **Unsafe Structures:**

Building Inspector Blankenship stated that he would be receiving bids on two of the four structures that were to be torn down and they were 123 South Iuka and 721 North Thompson. Mr. Blankenship informed the Commission that the structure at 123 Washington had already been torn down and the other one at 720 South Jackson had been given until March 1st. Mr. Blankenship commented that he had a couple of others that he would be starting on for this year.

Electric Department:

- **Year in Review:**

Director of Electric Utilities Huber stated that he would have the year in review at the next meeting.

Recreation Department:

- **Basketball:**

Recreation Director Eisenhower stated that basketball had started with around four hundred kids and fifteen teams from out of town. Mr. Eisenhower commented that the men had also started and four of those teams were from out of town.

Police Department:

- **Year's report:**

Police Chief Humble stated that the year's report was down considerably for 2022 and he felt that it was due to the officers having more exposure in the community and more community policing. Chief Humble commented that Facebook had also helped.

- **Employees:**

Chief Humble commented that he was down two officers; however, he got a call from one that was certified. Chief Humble stated that Officer Mason Eck would be leaving to go to the academy on the 13th.

Finance Department:

- **Year-end checklist:**

Finance Director Carver stated that he had been working on his year-end checklist on how to close and open a year. Mr. Carver commented that he had created a document where anyone could do it. Mr. Carver added that there was also a PDF with the table of contents that also contained passwords and logins.

Mayor and Commission:

- **Joint meeting agenda:**

Mayor Deeds stated that he was working on an agenda for the joint meeting and if anyone had something to add they needed to let him know.

- **Desk Manual:**

Mayor Deeds stated that it was discussed at the December workshop about having a desk manual for cross training and how important that was.

- **ED Development:**

Commissioner Meyer stated that there needed to be a replacement for his seat on the Economic Development Board. Mr. Pinkall commented that they had one application, but it had not been put on Facebook or our website yet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Deeds made a motion to go into executive session for thirty minutes for non-elective personnel and to return at 6:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farmer and carried unanimously.

Mayor Deeds made a motion to return from executive session at 6:35 p.m. with nothing to report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer and carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

Upon proper motion, the meeting was adjourned.

ZACH DEEDS, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

LUANN KRAMER, City Clerk