

TUESDAY

JULY 25, 2023

The Governing Body of the City of Pratt met in Recessed 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
	Aleta Eastes	Finance Department

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The recessed meeting was called to order by Mayor Deeds. The Mayor instructed the Clerk to note that all Commissioners were present.

**BUSINESS:**

**BUDGET WORK SESSION:**

- **Municipal Judge:**

General discussion was had concerning the salary and health benefit for the Municipal Judge position. Ms. Goff stated that Mr. Eisenhauer did receive a letter last year that the City would be looking at this during the budget for 2024. Mayor Deeds commented that any changes should be phased in over a couple of years as Commissioner Siemens had suggested. After a long discussion, no decisions were made on the Municipal Judge's salary or benefits at this time.

- **Hope Center:**

Ms. Goff stated that the Hope Center was receiving \$550 from the City currently and requested \$1,000 for 2024. Commissioner Siemens stated that a person comes in the first time, but does not always get something the second time. Commissioner Farmer stated that he had talked to Ms. Pam Ford and she helps them the first time and then tries to get them into the Circles program if they come in again. Commissioner Meyer commented that maybe they asked for \$1,000 hoping for \$750. With little more discussion, it was decided to give the Hope Center \$750 for the 2024 calendar year.

- **Pratt Area Humane Society:**

Ms. Goff stated that the next topic was the Humane Society and they had made an earlier presentation to the Commission about taking over animal control. Commissioner Meyer stated that he was not in favor of them taking over animal control and he explained that Chief Humble had stated that the City might take four dogs a month out there. Commissioner Schmidt commented that they were only going to work 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., no weekends and not look for the animals. plus they wanted the truck. The monthly

payment of \$3,000 was discussed as well as the yearly utility allowance of \$6,000. After little more discussion, Mayor Deeds stated that he was in favor of increasing their utilities to \$7,000 and keeping their general amount the same. The remainder of the Commission agreed.

- **Teen Center:**

Ms. Goff stated that the Teen Center had requested an increase from \$500 to \$750. City Manager Pinkall stated that there was a lot of activity throughout the school year and it was a valuable service. Commissioner Siemens stated that they drew a good number of students. Commissioner Meyer commented that it was a good investment. Ms. Goff stated that it gives the kids a place to go. Commissioner Farmer stated that he was in favor of giving them the additional \$200. No one disagreed.

- **American Legion:**

Ms. Goff informed the Commission that she had not gotten any response from the American Legion, but reminded the Commission that we did not help maintain the building anymore. Commissioner Meyer commented that they could go to Travel and Tourism if they had a special event. Commissioner Schmidt stated that he had heard that the building was for sale. Commissioner Farmer asked if we had the right of first refusal. Mayor Deeds stated that that was the way Mr. Bob Blasi did with the VFW building. Ms. Goff stated that she was not sure. Commissioner Meyer stated that we should go ahead and give them the \$150 in 2024 with a reminder that they needed to communicate with us.

- **Youth Core Ministries:**

Ms. Goff stated that they put that anything extra would be helpful. There was little discussion on the monetary request and Mayor Deeds stated that it should stay the same. There were no objections.

- **Blythe Fitness:**

Mayor Deeds stated that this was unique as it was paid out of tourism; however, the numbers were up with gymnastics and other events. Mayor Deeds added that they had a lot of pull outside of Pratt. Mr. Pinkall commented that they were busy with stuff going on during the weekends. Mayor Deeds stated that they were an asset to the businesses during the winter for their cash flow. After little more discussion, it was decided to leave their contribution the same in 2024.

- **Circles:**

Ms. Goff stated that Circles was requesting the same amount in 2024. Commissioner Schmidt asked how many units there were in Kansas. Commissioner Siemens stated that there were not as many as there used to be.

- **Department Heads:**

The remainder of the day was spent with the department heads and discussing their budgets.

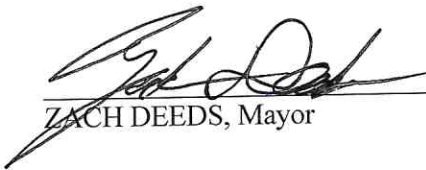
**RECESS:**

With proper motion, the meeting was recessed until Wednesday, July 26, 2023 8:00 a.m.

3 – July 25, 2023 (Budget Work Session #1)



(SEAL)



ZACH DEEDS, Mayor

ATTEST:



BRIANNA GARTEN, City Clerk