



The Governing Body of the City of Pratt met in the Commission Room located at City Hall.

PRESENT:	Kyle Farmer	Mayor
	Jeanette Siemens	Vice-Mayor
	Brad Blankenship	Commissioner
	Monte Hostetler	Commissioner
ABSENT:	Doug Meyer	Commissioner *Joined by phone at 5:12pm

ALSO PRESENT:	Regina Goff	City Manager
	Jeff Shanline	Public Works Director
	Robert Walker	City Inspector & Interim Chief of Police
	Jamie Huber	Director of Electric Utilities
	Justin Crouch	Recreation Director
	Todd Hoffman	Fire Chief
	Cody Smith	City Attorney
	Aleta Eastes	AP/Finance Clerk
	Tara Laughlin	AGH/Finance
	Brianna Garten	City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Farmer. The mayor noted that Commissioner Meyer was absent.

Mayor Farmer reminded the audience that this meeting may be recorded and/or taped.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Farmer led the audience in the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Ms. Goff asked to amend item 6.2 Plague at Avenue of Flags honoring Leroy G. Wells to the next meeting. Mayor Farmer made an amendment to the agenda to add Declaration of Support for City Manager Regina Goff as 6.9.

MOTION: Mayor Farmer made a motion to approve the April 6, 2026 agenda, with the discussed amendments, as presented. Second by Commissioner Hostetler and carried unanimously.

MINUTES:

MOTION: Mayor Farmer made a motion to approve the March 13, 2026 special call meeting minutes, the March 16, 2026 regular meeting minutes and the March 27, 2026 special call meeting minutes, as presented. Second by Commissioner Blankenship and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS:**Drug Endangered Children Proclamation**

Joy Schwartz, Pam Ford and Tracey Beverlin, of the Drug Endangered Children Alliance of Pratt, approached the Governing Body to request the signing of a proclamation declaring April 22, 2026 as National Drug Endangered Children Awareness Day. They also expressed appreciation for allowing the kids' fair on April 25th, 2026 at 6th Street Park.

Mayor Farmer read and signed the Drug Endangered Children Alliance Proclamation.

Plaque at Avenue of Flags Honoring Leroy G. Wells

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

Funding Request for Asphalt Recycler

Nick Lauffer approached the Governing Body to discuss the purchase of an Asphalt Recycler for the street department. Small street repairs (patching) are completed on a daily basis. The current process uses a cold mix that takes time to cure, requires frequent replacement, and results in uneven surfaces. The purchase of an asphalt recycler will allow the department to produce our own hot mix asphalt. This will significantly improve our ability to perform timely and durable street repairs as well as reduce materials costs.

MOTION: Commissioner Hostetler made a motion to approve the KM Asphalt Recycler from CraftCo in the amount of \$105,600.00, as presented. Second by Commissioner Siemens and carried unanimously.

Funding Request for Batting Cages at Green Sports Complex

Justin Crouch approached the Governing Body to discuss the need for additional batting cages at Green Sports Complex. Currently, batting cage availability is very limited for use outside the high school teams. Adding another 30'x70' cage will increase use from our young athletes and travel teams during local practices and increase use for opposing teams at games and tournaments. The layout can be split into four batting cages or two bullpens. Funding will come from the Rec 52 Fund, which includes some travel ball funds and trust funds. Mr. Crouch stated Claudine Riney's family was supportive of their trust funds being spent on this project for local youth.

MOTION: Commissioner Blankenship made a motion to approve the batting cages not to exceed \$20,000.00, as presented. Second by Commissioner Siemens and carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2604 City's Parallel-Generation Regulations, Interconnection Standards, and Service Riders

Jamie Huber approached the Governing Body to discuss residential standards for solar and wind. In basic terms, interconnection standards are the City's rules for when a customer wants to connect a privately owned electric generation system (most commonly rooftop solar) to Pratt's electric utility system. They address matters such as how the customer applies, how the system is sized, what safety and metering requirements apply, and how any excess electricity sent back to the City's system is handled. The City previously adopted interconnection standards under Ordinance No. 1907. The ordinance today adopts a revised set of interconnection standards to

reflect recent changes in Kansas law governing parallel generation service and customer-owned generation facilities. The revised standards update, among other things, the sizing formula, aggregate capacity limits, exported-energy compensation framework, application timelines, metering language, export-limiting device provisions, and related operational provisions. The ordinance also supersedes prior inconsistent interconnection standards while preserving existing approved agreements unless a new application or agreement is later required. Mr. Huber recommended approval of Ordinance 2604.

MOTION: Mayor Farmer made a motion to approve the Ordinance No. 2604 Updating the City's Parallel-Generation Regulations, Interconnection Standards, and Service Riders, as presented. Second by Commissioner Hostetler and carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2607 Amending Chapter 8.32 Relating to Weeds

Jeff Shanline approached the Governing Body to discuss updating language to be in align with K.S.A. 12-1617e. The amendment establishes a clear definition of weeds and applies to all property types. A one-time annual notice gives the property owner five days to comply or request a hearing.

MOTION: Commissioner Hostetler made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2607 Amending Chapter 8.32 Relating to Weeds, as presented. Second by Commissioner Meyer and carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2608 Amending Chapter 8.04 Property Nuisances

Jeff Shanline approached the Governing Body to discuss changes to Chapter 8.04 including adding sight triangle obstruction to property nuisances for traffic safety. These changes establish a structured enforcement process with up to 10 days to comply (previously 15 days), with the option to request a hearing. The city can abate after that timeframe. The cost recovery is completed by billing or special assessments. Commissioner Hostetler highlighted that we have a deteriorating property issue and he intends to work with the City Attorney to improve our mechanisms to reduce city costs.

MOTION: Commissioner Blankenship made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2608 Amending Chapter 8.04 Property Nuisances, as presented. Second by Commissioner Hostetler and carried unanimously.

Pratt County Flood Risk Review Meeting Notes and Floodplain Map Addition

Jeff Shanline approached the Governing Body to discuss floodplain mapping updated from KDA. Staff was supportive of the proposed changes, including the additional floodplain areas identified in the Northeast part of town. As development continues in that area, accurate floodplain data will help ensure projects are designed appropriately to reduce flood risk and protect the Thompson Street corridor. Commissioner Meyer recognized Lola for all the work she's done on floodplain for the city.

MOTION: Mayor Farmer made a motion to approve the Pratt County Flood Risk Review Meeting Notes and City of Pratt, KS Floodplain Map Addition, as presented. Second by Commissioner Siemens and carried unanimously.

Declaration of Support for City Manager, Regina Goff

Mayor Farmer read a letter of support signed by 24 department heads, supervisors and staff. Commissioner Hostetler read a letter he prepared in support of Ms. Goff and also recognized Joe Ohler as a fine man. Commissioner Meyer felt all the change in personnel was unnecessary, also recognized Joe Ohler as a fine man and appreciated the citizens attending the meeting. Commissioner Siemens stated that many accomplishments are happening with great leadership coming out of this office. She advised that listening to each other and talking things out can accomplish many things. Commissioner Blankenship worked at the city with Ms. Goff for 5 years and stated there has only been issues with one department. Many decisions are not on a whim and take time with many discussions. Mayor Farmer read a letter he prepared in support of Ms. Goff, highlighting her many accomplishments with the city. He also stated that recent decisions in personnel matters were done through consultation with Forrest Rhodes and after thoughtful consideration.

MOTION: Mayor Farmer made a motion to declare support for Regina Goff, as presented. Second by Commissioner Blankenship and carried unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public statements expressing support for the former Police Chief, emergency personnel, and/or disagreement with current leadership or leadership decisions were made by the following individuals: Megan Hennessee, Jessica Ohler, Casi Sloan, Cheri Chinn Haskett, Vernon Chinn and Audrey Doyle.

Tammy Coleman shared good news regarding the Hot and Cold Water Towers Garden; they were named to the Kansas Living "Must-See Quirky Attractions" list. A group of motorists will stop by the first weekend in May. The Kansas Native Plant Society will also be in the area soon. Ed Gimpel (21-year Army Veteran and former Pratt PD) shared a story of obtaining a Stars and Stripes newspaper while in Germany that featured the Pratt Hot & Cold Water Towers. He also shared news of a former Chief of Police, Gary Myers.

James Black shared support of Ms. Goff's leadership.

REPORTS:**City Manager:**

Regina Goff had nothing to report.

Public Works:

Jeff Shanline updated the Governing Body on Well #6 needing serviced. Most departments are prepping for spring and summer activities. A new lift station will be installed at Lemon Park. Compost services began today.

Building Inspector:

Robert Walker updated the Governing Body on completing the following inspections: three electric, two plumbing, an egress window and two concrete.

Police Department:

Interim Chief Walker updated the Governing Body on the PD completing 260 calls, 7 misdemeanors, 4 felonies, 4 arrests, 5 traffic accidents, 6 EMS/fire assist calls and provided security at a PCC event. The Pratt PD also assisted in search warrants in partnership with KBI,

Pratt County Sheriff, Barber County Sheriff, and Edwards County Sheriff offices. 89 students recently graduated from the first Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program (DARE) in partnership with USD 382. Mayor Farmer commended Sergeant Gimpel for his assistance with the DARE program.

Electric Department:

Jamie Huber provided an update to the Governing Body regarding several power outages that occurred over the weekend, including one incident caused by a turkey coming into contact with power lines, which resulted in blown fuses. No harm to the animal was reported. An outdated transformer at Dillons has been replaced. Units 6 and 7 are fully functional. The city will purchase one megawatt of additional capacity to meet summer demand. Mr. Huber will attend conferences for three days this week.

Recreation Department:

Justin Crouch provided an update to the Governing Body regarding the first baseball tournament of the season. The event brought approximately 40 teams to the community, making it the largest tournament in several years. Games were held at the Green Sports Complex, Pratt Community College, and Lemon Park. Concessions experienced high demand and were managed effectively. Additionally, softball, baseball, and track seasons are currently underway. Pratt High School will host a track meet on Friday. The spring rec soccer season began last week and will continue with Saturday matches throughout April.

Tiffany Riley reported that April is a busy month for tourism, with numerous events scheduled, including the gravel race and festival, several large concerts, and the children's fair.

Fire Department:

Chief Hoffman updated the Governing Body on the passing of George Stevens, who served with the department for 55 years. They would like to honor him and will share details at a later date. Ladder 4 is needing repairs.

City Attorney:

Interim City Attorney, Shawn Lautz, was introduced.

Finance:

Tara Laughlin updated the Governing Body on completing March financials.

Aleta Eastes had nothing to report.

City Clerk:

Brianna Garten updated the Governing Body on welcoming a new receptionist to the utility team last week. She also advised on giving the meter reader truck to the maintenance team and acquiring the old K-9 Explorer from the PD. The Explorer only has two seats which limits its use for most departments; this short-term solution eliminated a newer vehicle purchase.

Mayor and Commissioners:

Mayor Farmer shared that Governor Kelley has signed the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) bill. Mayor Farmer highlighted the efforts from all involved including Pratt County. He asked to schedule a Joint/City County meeting in the next month or so.

Commissioner Siemens noted that the tennis courts have been well utilized, and it is encouraging to see the new sidewalks being actively used.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION: Mayor Farmer made a motion to enter into executive session with the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk and Interim Chief of Police, to discuss matters related to an employee, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to discuss nonelected personnel, to return at 6:47 pm. Second by Commissioner Hostetler and carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mayor Farmer made a motion to return from executive session at 6:47 pm, with nothing to report. Second by Commissioner Siemens and carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

Upon proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.

/s/ Kyle Farmer
KYLE FARMER, Mayor

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

/s/ Brianna Garten
BRIANNA GARTEN, City Clerk