

**MINUTES OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Council Chambers, Wells City Hall
525 Sixth Street Wells, Nevada
Type of Meeting: Regular Meeting of City of Wells Board of Councilmen
Presiding Officer: Gary Pollock, Mayor

ROLL CALL

Present: Gary Pollock, Mayor
Jonathan Goolsby, Vice-Mayor
Laura Moore-DelRio, Councilwoman
Chris Micheli, Councilman
C.R. Beth Savedra, Councilwoman

Absent: None

Quorum: Yes

Staff Present: Samantha Nance, City Clerk
Jason Pengelly, City Manager
Tony Prado, Public Works
Dan Thornton, Public Works
Glenn Shamblin, Public Works Supervisor
Patti Zander, Deputy Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pollock led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Savedra made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated February 14, 2023.
Micheli provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were none.

PRESENTATION FROM NV HEALTH CENTERS ON POSSIBLE HEALTHCARE OPTIONS FOR THE CITY OF WELLS

Jassmin Martell Perez, Vice President of Operations for Nevada Health Centers was at the meeting to make a presentation on what medical services Nevada Health Centers could offer the City of Wells. Perez went over the three different scenarios which included startup costs, number of days in the clinic and the costs involved in staffing the clinic. Three scenarios were presented. Scenario #1 would be telehealth with a registered nurse 1 day per week, a medical assistant, front office person and site management oversight. Startup costs would be \$84,725. The loss for the first six months would be \$70,086 and the first year would be \$19,634. The city would have to pay these costs.

Scenario #2 would be in person medical care that would be fully staffed. Startup costs would be \$83,933 with the loss for the first six months at \$92,128 and first year loss of \$87,929. All scenarios would be three days per week, eight hours per day.

Scenario #3 would be a hybrid model that would include telehealth & in-person medical care. This would include an Advance Practice Provider one day a week, a medical assistant, front office person with site management oversight. Startup costs would be \$83,933 with the first six-month loss being \$57,235 and first-year loss of \$11,577.

Perez stated that Nevada Health Center is not looking for a profit but only to break even, be self-sufficient and no longer need the support of the City of Wells to finance medical services. All costs are based on seeing thirteen patients a day. A time was opened up for questions anyone had. Start-up costs can be reduced depending on what medical equipment is in the clinic and available for Nevada Health Centers to use. An x-ray machine is available but Nevada Health Center only has an x-ray tech in Wendover. There is a lot of training that is required for an X-ray technician due to recent Nevada law changes.

Preferred insurance is Medicaid and Medicare. Nevada Health Center receives a higher reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid. Other insurances are accepted and those with no insurance are done on a sliding scale. Lab services will be available on site one day a week to provide blood draws and vaccines. There are three providers based out of Utah that would provide telehealth services. A Nevada Health Center pharmacy just opened in Elko to fill prescriptions or mail order would be available. Operation of the clinic would be assessed every quarter.

Stacey Giomi, director of facilities for Nevada Health Center stated if all the equipment needed to be purchased for startup, the cost would be \$50,000. Whatever can be supplied by the City of Wells will reduce that cost. All figures are assumptions only based on information received. There is a mobile dental program available that travels around rural Nevada as well as the mammovan. If someone calls during the days the clinic is closed, the phones are routed to the Elko office for all scheduling of appointments. Stephanie White was also at the meeting and is the Senior Practice Manager in Elko.

Giomi added that the prescription part would have to be worked on. Nevada Health Center has access to a 340B program which gives significant discounts on medication. The pharmacy board is very strict on dispensing medication and there must be a provider on site. Nance does not think covering the loss in general can be done without a cap as it would be impossible to budget for. There could be an agreement with a cap as to what the City of Wells would have to pay out for the first year.

Perez stated she sent Pengelly some videos on how the telehealth works. Giomi stated they could come back with a cart in the spring and set up with a provider as to how the telehealth works. DelRio knows some members of the community didn't come tonight due to the weather and would like them to come back and demonstrate how the telehealth side works, especially for the senior citizens. A list of the equipment that the city has for the clinic will be provided, and pictures, if possible. Pengelly stated bids are being sought to get the clinic back together after the flood damage.

PRESENTATION AND UPDATE FROM LOCAL FOREST SERVICE OFFICE

Wendy Markham is the Acting Deputy District Ranger for the U.S. Forest Service Humboldt/Toiyabe national forest for the Mountain City, Ruby Mountain/Jarbidge Ranger District in the Wells office. Markham has been in the Wells office since last fall. The office is back open for full service, five days a week. Dexie Hill is the Office Manager and Josh Hurdle is the Recreation Program Manager. There are also four seasonal winter rangers on snow mobile patrol, patrolling Lamoille, the Independence Mountain range, Jacks Creek and Jarbidge. There will not be a concessionaire running the campgrounds anymore and will be run by forest service staff. The fishing derby will be July 8, 2023.

Markham gave an update on the condition of the dam at Angel Lake and the options available to repair the dam. The district is starting to undertake an environmental analysis to repair and upgrade the dam. The district is proposing to add accessible floating docks on either end of the dam with an accessible path connecting them to the parking lot.

On January 19, 2023, the Department of Agriculture announced expanded efforts to reduce wildfire risk across the western United States directly affecting forest in the State of Nevada. The Sierra Front and Elko Front were identified and selected for increased funding. There is about 340,000 acres of national forest land on the Elko front. A total of \$42,000,000 has been received for fiscal year 2023 to implement fuel reduction projects to reduce wildfire risk. For the first year, the forest service is contracting with Great Basin Institute to bring on ten botanists and ten archeologists to conduct surveys over 20,000 acres of land in the Ruby's. These funds will come from the Infrastructure Reduction Act. Roads will also be worked on as well as roadside mowing. Five new fuel technicians will be added to the fire shop. The type three engine is back and fully staffed. There has also been reseeding done on the wildcat burn.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE DONATING THE CURRENT SENIOR CENTER FACILITY TO THE WELLS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER UPON COMPLETION OF THE NEW SENIOR CENTER FACILITY

Nance stated a couple of months ago, the city applied for the Nevada Gold grant to help get more funding for the new senior center facility. After that, the city was approached by the WFRC and asked what was going to be done with the old facility once the new facility was completed as they might be interested. The old facility is right next to the Wells Family Resource Center. When the city met with Nevada Gold to talk to them about why more funding was needed, Nevada Gold asked what was being done with the old building. One request was donating the building to the WFRC upon board approval. This was a selling point because Nevada Gold would be able to help two programs with one donation and encouraged the board to approve that decision. DelRio asked if it would be an as is donation and the answer was yes.

The other thing discussed was the food bank. It was never the intention to move the food bank to the new facility. The food bank is not a senior program and does not need to take up space in the new facility being that it isn't a senior program. One of the things discussed with Valerie Boyer from the WFRC was to take over the food bank or have another group in town take over the food bank and the senior center not facilitate the program anymore. Boyer stated the WFRC Board would need to approve this.

Goolsby is on the WFRC Board so can only make a few comments. One possibility is that the WFRC may be able to get assistance with grant money for the family advocate position to assist with the food bank. The food bank could be an issue as it has nothing to do with youth programs or childcare and the clients will be coming where there are children. The food bank is done on Friday's and there is no pre-school on Friday's and is only two days a month. Nance did add that the food bank is all done outside and is a drive thru process. Nance continued that the city is in the same situation as this is not a senior related program. It is a great program for the community but not in the right hands. Goolsby thinks it would have a positive outlook to try and further the grant money or get more for the travel advocate for this service. There has been discussion about moving the food bank to the west side, the Wells Avenue side of the building and work out of the one door closest to the street.

This is a couple of years down the road. If this building is not gifted, it would probably be appraised and sold for appraised value. The caravan building that is in between the two buildings will eventually be moved up to public works. Mayor Pollock wanted to explain that currently the pre-school is in a mobile building at the elementary school. The school wants those buildings removed in the next five years. Then there will be no place to hold pre-school which would make gifting this building an ideal situation. A classroom could be provided inside the school which would cause the WFRC to lose a lot of their grant funding. There will be extra expenses added if the WFRC takes the old senior center. Being next door to the WFRC would no longer require the need for the pre-school kids to have to walk from the elementary school to the resource center.

Nance added that if our board agrees to this, it doesn't mean the resource center has to accept the deal. Goolsby added this is a good faith effort. There is a lot of interest in this proposal but a lot of discussion still needs to take place. This would also allow more children to be able to go to the pre-school with more space. The senior center does have a commercial kitchen. Pollock stated there will be a presentation on April 13th with Nevada Gold Mine. Savedra made a motion to approve donating the current senior center facility to the Wells Family Resource Center upon completion of the new senior center facility. Micheli provided the second and motion passed with Goolsby abstaining.

CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT: ACTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Goolsby made a motion to approve Warrant Register dated February 16, 2023 through February 28, 2023 in the amount of \$89,711.70. Savedra provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORTS

Savedra announced the PTO will be putting on a read night on Thursday, March 2nd at 5 p.m. with a free spaghetti dinner and asked for everyone's support.

Pollock mentioned the rabies vaccine clinic was held the previous weekend. Pollock was there to do a survey for the Bumble donation situation. It was hard with people having to hold on to animals and being asked to fill out a piece of paper.

Goolsby wanted to thank the employees for removing all the snow.

DelRio thanked Savedra for attending the Elko Co. REC meeting on the 2nd for her. DelRio is glad Pengelly is back in the office and his family is on the mend. DelRio is also thankful for all the work done plowing the snow.

STAFF REPORTS

Pengelly announced that scholarships were received from the State of Nevada Rural Water for the annual conference. Rooms and training will be paid for so fuel and food will be the only expenses for the city. Glenn and Tony will be attending the conference, Pengelly is undecided.

The Woodhills drainage ditch construction has been submitted to NDOT for review. Hopefully construction can start in early spring.

Pengelly thanked all the employees for handling everything during the two-week period he was out of the office.

Nance is also glad Pengelly is back in the office and is working on the budget.

Prado mentioned how much faster it is to read meters with the new electronic meters. It can be done in half a day.

Thornton thanked the board and public for their patience in getting snow plowed.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Diane Moore also wanted to thank the crew for all their work plowing snow.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

GARY POLLOCK, Mayor

ATTEST:

SAMANTHA NANCE, City Clerk