

**MINUTES OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Date: Tuesday, March 14, 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
Patti Zander, Deputy Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pollock led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Goolsby made a motion to approve meeting minutes dated February 28, 2023. Savedra provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were none.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

Pengelly began that five companies were contacted for quotes on health insurance. Those companies were Sierra Health & Life, Prominence, Anthem, Hometown Health and United Health Care. Sierra Health & Life is the current provider. The increase from Sierra Health to renew the current premium would be 11%. Prominence would be a 25.9% increase and Anthem was 37.8%. Hometown Health and United declined to provide a quote. The annual cost for health insurance would go up \$10,233 with vision and dental staying the same. There was also an example showing options that would include a Hsa. Nance stated that option one and two are EPO plans which is not a good option in our rural area because employees will only have coverage for in network facilities. There would be no coverage for out of network. Option three and four have the Hsa plans. The city would give each employee \$1,500 to put into a Hsa every year to cover half of the deductible. An employee that had one of the Hsa plans would not receive any benefits until the entire deductible was met. Each employee would have to come up with \$1,500 before reaping any benefits. Nance does not think, financially, the city could budget to give each employee the \$3,000 a year to meet the entire deductible.

Goolsby stated that a Hsa allows you to pay for prescriptions or appointments with the Hsa card. A few years ago, the Hsa was presented to the employees and they chose not to go with a Hsa plan. Nance stated that there has been some turnover with recent hires and if the city chose a Hsa plan, the new employee would receive that money and if they were terminated, that would be their money. Pollock thinks it is a benefit to attract employees and retain current employees. Pollock wanted to know if there was a timeline in renewing the current policy. Nance stated that the prices are not locked in and could change in thirty days.

Since the insurance is renewed annually, Pollock recommends renewing the current policy and look at the Hsa for next year. Pollock suggested taking a poll from the employees as to if they are interested in changing to a plan with a Hsa. Pengelly added maybe a Zoom meeting could be held with someone from the insurance company who can explain the Hsa better. Savedra made a motion to approve Sierra Health and Life Health Insurance renewal for fiscal year 2023-2024. Goolsby provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET

Nance began that this is the first review of the budget and changes can still be made. Nance put a 3% cost of living increase in the whole budget and the 11% increase for health insurance. PERS retirement contribution is increasing from 29.7% to 33.5%. Nance went through other major changes in the budget. Nance did point out that she has budgeted for a part-time code enforcement officer. The budget will be reviewed at the next meeting and then the state format of the tentative budget will need to be approved at the first meeting in April then will move on to the final budget.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 240, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, KEEPING OF BACK YARD CHICKENS, CREATING A NEW CHAPTER, CHAPTER 5 OF TITLE 7, SECTION 40 OF THE WELLS CITY CODE PROVIDING RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING BACK YARD CHICKENS ON RESIDENTIAL LOTS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF WELLS, NEVADA

Pengelly began that what he and Nance prepared was sent to legal counsel and what was provided from legal counsel had a few minor changes. It was decided to not issue a permit or charge a fee due to the administrative work that would be required. Denny Stanhope had a question on the code as presented on 5 C stating one run per lot and thought that might be confusing as his house is on three lots. It was stated that most lots are combined into one lot per property. The second reading will be on the next agenda for approval.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SUBMIT OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT AND COMMIT MATCHING FUNDS FOR SPLASH PAD PROJECT

Pengelly began that the total project would cost \$109,788 with the city match of \$54,894.25, it is a 50/50 match. The grant was written so the splash pad will not have to be attached to the pool with a fence around it nor will there be a charge to use it. The splash pad can be set further away from the pool but on the same property to be used seven days a week. The splash pad will be set up on a timer and set to shut off at a certain time each night. DelRio made a motion to submit the Outdoor Recreation Grant and commit matching funds for the splash pad project. Goolsby provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT: ACTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Goolsby made a motion to approve check register dated February 1, 2023 through February 28, 2023 in the amount of \$23,896.22. Savedra provided the second and motion passed unanimously. Goolsby made a motion to approve Warrant Register dated March 2, 2023 through March 14, 2023 in the amount of \$220,316.06. Savedra provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORTS

Savedra reported that she attended the Elko County Recreation Board meeting in person. Most of the meeting was spent approving fund requests. Mayor Keener stated during the meeting that Wells is doing very well with room tax. The next meeting will be May 25, 2023. DelRio thought she may be able to attend that meeting. Savedra will be attending an NNRDA meeting in the next couple of weeks that she plans on attending in person as well. Savedra thanked the whole city staff for what they do.

Micheli is ready for the rain and snow to stop and commented on the damage to the streets from this winter.

DelRio reported that the 7th and 8th grade PAL basketball team took the championship in Elko. DelRio's daughter took MVP for the tournament and Ariana Rodriguez from Wells took MVP for the league.

Goolsby commented that the streets don't look great but knows the employees have been working hard to remove the snow. There is not a lot that can be done until everything thaws. Goolsby appreciates all the time and effort from the city employees to get the snow removed. Goolsby stated that NHP made a request of the city to clear the snow from the range for their annual training. The crew did a great job clearing the range and it is really appreciated.

Pollock reported he had talked with Bumble's owner, Donna Beadle and they discussed the choices on the Facebook survey as well as the survey taken during the rabies clinic. Based upon those results and after talking with Beadle, she has agreed to buy the multi-purpose fountain for Bumble nation. Pollock also added that the city has been lucky with the flood mitigation due to staff being prepared and having the honor camp help fill sandbags. Luckily it hasn't been that bad and the city was prepared by cleaning the ditches and drains for the water to be able to flow. Pollock wanted to give huge kudos to Nance as she was able to secure another \$325,000 grant to go towards the construction of the new senior center. Pollock stated the winter has been horrible on the streets and knows the amount of work that will be required once things dry out. Pengelly added there is only so much money to go around and there will probably be no streets paved this year. All the money will have to go towards repairing all the damage done by the winter weather. Pengelly added that the best will be done with what is available. Pollock gave big kudos to the entire staff and is more and more impressed with everyone.

STAFF REPORTS

Pengelly reported that a meeting was held with Intermountain Health that was mainly to gather information to be able to put a proposal together. Hopefully there will be some options provided by IHC in the next couple of weeks. Pengelly also contacted Starla Ricks who was a provider at the clinic previously through the hospital. Ricks may be interested in making a proposal. Ricks currently works for Medallus and will talk to their CEO to see if something can be put together.

A NDOW grant is being explored that would help put in some archery shooting lanes at the trap range. The in-kind would be around \$3,600 with the total grant being \$30,000.

All the required signatures from the state officials have been gathered on the CCHP grant for the El Rancho electrical in the amount of \$75,000. A letter to proceed was received so Quantum started yesterday on phase one of the electrical. Quantum will also wire the neon sign putting a light switch in so it can be turned on when wanted.

The Woodhills Trail CDBG design grant is moving forward. A pre-project meeting was held to get everyone on the same page as to what was wanted. Wood Rodgers will come out with their 4-wheelers and would like Stanhope and any other locals that can go, go out in the hills to show them what is wanted. It was also discussed designing a trail from Wells to Elko. A trail from Wells to Wendover was also mentioned which would be longer with more hills. This would be a long-term project, part of phase two. Pengelly has two employees at the water conference in Reno getting their needed credits. They will be called if needed and can be here in five to six hours. Pengelly has two other employees here as well as himself. Pollock has offered to help as well as others if something happens. Pengelly also added that the decision needs to be made on the new senior center if it should be electric or gas, knowing that someday natural gas could be here and knowing how much propane costs. DelRio mentioned that WREC gives kickbacks on several things for all electric facilities. Pengelly will check into that.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Cathey Quinn asked if the city ever considered using solar panels in the buildings. Pengelly stated it can be looked in to and maybe there are grants available. DelRio mentioned that Tesla was offering huge grants for that. Savedra asked if that would work for the swimming pool? Pengelly added that solar panels are more for generating electricity. Pengelly added it would not be feasible to heat water with solar panels in 32-degree weather. Pengelly has been told solar could not heat the pool. Quinn also referred to the Ohio train wreck and what would happen if the train tracks were blocked. Quinn has been doing some research and found out that in the beginning, the trains didn't have to notify anyone of what chemicals were being hauled. After the Ohio train wreck, now when chemicals are being hauled, the governor of that state will be notified. Quinn also found out that there is a code book that the propane company has access to. The codes are on the train car that you can check in that book. Goolsby added that there is an app you can get on your phone and there is also an ERG book that labels the chemicals by rail and truck. Quinn asked if the city had an emergency response team. Pengelly stated other than the fire department and the team for Elko County is unaware of any team. Quinn thought one should be formed. Pengelly will investigate that. Pollock added it doesn't hurt to be prepared. Pengelly has also been on the phone about the trains blocking the crossings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

GARY POLLOCK, Mayor

ATTEST:

SAMANTHA NANCE, City Clerk

Minutes of Wells City Council

Meeting of March 14, 2023

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