

**MINUTES OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING OF APRIL 26, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022
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: Layla M. Walz, Mayor

ROLL CALL

Present: Layla M. Walz, Mayor
Robert Woolsey, Vice-Mayor
Laura Moore-DelRio, Councilwoman
Jonathan Goolsby, Councilman
Chris Micheli, Councilman

Absent: None

Quorum: Yes

Staff Present: Jordan Tilley, City Manager
Patti Zander, Deputy Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Walz led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Woolsey made a motion to approve meeting minutes dated April 12, 2022. Micheli provided the second and motion passed with DelRio abstaining.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were none.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 22-04, A RESOLUTION AND ORDER VACATING BOAZ STREET, ALL OF WHICH IS LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF WELLS, NEVADA, TO THE ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNER, PAUL D. AND LORI A. BOTTARI AND WILLIAM B. SHINE ET AL

Minutes of Wells City Council
Meeting of April 26, 2022

Goolsby stated that this was discussed at the last meeting but was explained to DelRio who was absent. Goolsby made a motion to approve Resolution 22-04, a resolution and order vacating Boaz Street, all of which is located within the city of Wells, Nevada, to the abutting property owner, Paul D. and Lori A. Bottari and William B. Shine et al. Micheli provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 22-02, RESOLUTION SETTING WATER USER RATES AND FEES

Tilley stated this was just a clarification referring to any inactive or turned off meter. Micheli made a motion to approve Resolution 22-02, resolution setting water user rates and fees. Woolsey provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DENY OR APPROVE WATER LEAK CREDIT FOR JOHN DANERI

Walz asked if Daneri had a leak credit in the past and was told no. Lori Bottari added that she had some workers at the duplex when the leak was discovered. Micheli and DelRio felt this qualified for the maximum amount of \$250. Goolsby made a motion to approve the water leak credit for John Daneri for the maximum credit of \$250.00. Woolsey provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ABOUT OPTIONS TO IMPROVE ANIMAL CONTROL

Walz wondered if any animals had been reported or picked up after the last meeting letting residents know to call the non-emergency number to report loose dogs. The answer to the question was unknown. Woolsey stated that he had talked to several people and the more people he talked to, the harder the issue became. Fines were discussed but most loose dogs are not licensed. Finding out who owns the dog to be able to fine the owner would be difficult. Woolsey stated with only one animal control officer for the whole county, Wells is at the mercy of what the sheriff's department can do. To hire someone for that position, obtain the proper equipment and vehicle needed and a place to keep the animals after picked up becomes an issue and expense.

Walz thinks it is part of a larger problem with code enforcement in general. Woolsey thinks contact needs to be made with the Sheriff's Department and see what options are available, what the Sheriff's Department is willing and able to do. Walz doesn't feel what the city pays towards law enforcement should cover the deputy patrolling from Currie to Jackpot to Montello and Ryndon and feels that is what is being paid for because they cover a huge area. The city's basic needs of code enforcement are not being met. DelRio thinks a discussion needs to take place with the Sheriff's Department about what the needs are and ask if these needs are being met. Walz would like better data reported from the Sheriff as to how many calls were in Wells and not the county. Woolsey stated again, we need to find out what they are willing to do, what can they do and what they can offer. The sheriff's department is understaffed as well.

Walz added that the City of Wells tax dollars need to support City of Wells residents. If the city is paying over \$400,000 for three officers, is the city getting the benefit for our money. Are these three officers Wells pays for, spending forty hours a week in Wells, probably not. If so, they should have plenty of time to do code enforcement. Walz thinks their service territory is too big for them to spend time in Wells. Walz thinks the expectation is unrealistic on the four officers to do everything they are doing and meet our expectations. Life and safety is the priority over someone's dog being out. This has been a debate for at least eleven years. Micheli disagreed and knows there is a lot of paperwork required when a stop is made, especially if it goes to court. The officer needs to be thorough on everything they do. Micheli continued that animal control is very tough and is a minor thing compared to a child being hit in a crosswalk. It is still something that needs to be investigated.

DelRio asked if there was data available as to how frequently any type of animal control is being done. Walz would like to get some idea as to what the officers do in the city limits versus what is maintained out of the Wells field office. Goolsby thought Lt. Fisher could be contacted because each officer has their own tracking sheet of what calls were responded to in the city limits. Goolsby thinks the capability is there but is very labor intensive but might be possible with an open dialogue with the sheriff's office.

The meeting recessed at 7:25 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:29 p.m.

Tilley added that the interlocal contract with the sheriff's department is dated from 2001 and may want to look at revising the contract for the long term. There is nothing clear in the contract regarding animal control. Tilley has already started a conversation with Lt. Fisher who told Tilley that Justin Ames or the Sheriff are the ones that deal with the contracts. Tilley reviewed code regarding animal issues. Woolsey thinks the sheriff's department needs to be contacted to see what can be done immediately. Maybe when the contract is renewed, see what can be done for code enforcement. Walz also suggested that if there was appetite at the county level to add a code enforcement officer and if Wells helped pay for the code enforcement officer, would there be a guaranteed number of hours for that officer working in Wells.

Beth Savedra asked if the dog pound on Ninth Street was still available to house dogs instead of taking them immediately to Elko. Walz did not think the dog pound even existed anymore. Savedra thought it could be a place to keep dogs temporarily until they can be taken to the pound. Goolsby thinks it would be best to take the animal to Elko every time because of everything that would be required to house a dog, even for a short time. Resident Cathy Quinn stated the problem is not just dogs. Quinn added that it won't do any good to have a code enforcement officer unless there are consequences and people have to pay. Mike Morrison's cows get out all the time and have destroyed every low growing bush on Ninth Street and Morrison has never had to pay. When the cows have no water and get thirsty, they bust through the fence. Quinn has had no help from the sheriff's department when she has called about the cows being loose.

Minutes of Wells City Council
Meeting of April 26, 2022

3

Walz thinks maybe a committee needs to be set up to work with legal counsel and the sheriff's department to revise the contract or have the council do it during a meeting. Goolsby thought staff should start on it and maybe have one council member help. Walz doesn't know how common the problem is and if there is something to work from. Tilley suggested Nevada League of Cities might have something to look at. Walz mentioned with it being an election year, if the current sheriff does not remain in office, there may be a timeline to get it done this year or after the first of the year if there is a new sheriff. Woolsey thinks it may take some time and should get started. Walz stated this would be continued at the next meeting.

CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT: ACTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Goolsby made a motion to approve the Warrant Register dated April 14, 2022 through April 26, 2022 in the amount of \$161,124.19. Micheli provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORTS

Woolsey questioned if something could be set up like what was done a few years ago to collect pesticides, old paint and chemicals. Woolsey knows of some people who have a need for this service. This was done through the environmental program with the Indian colony.

DelRio reported that the local FBLA program had a large group that went to state and did very well. Softball divisionals will be hosted in Wells in three weeks. DelRio would like the board to come up with some type of posting to deal with dog walking and cleaning up feces in the park. DelRio does not think it is fair for the city employees to be cleaning this up in the park. DelRio suggested the bags and cleanup equipment be provided for the park as it has been a big issue in the last few weeks. DelRio would like to have a new lock put on the cookshack with new keys as a few things have gone missing. The seniors will be doing project graduation and there will be flyers asking for donations. DelRio mentioned May 7th will be the Booster Club surf n turf and tickets are available.

Goolsby added that all proceeds from the surf n turf will go towards sporting events as well as towards scholarships to help student athletes go to camp. The first minor league game was held. Goolsby also mentioned that on the other cookshack, there is a combination lock and the combination is changed after every season and thought that could help with the problem at the other cookshack.

Walz wanted to give Supp kudos for Main Street organizing a trash-a-thon last week and had all the sports teams picking up garbage around town.

STAFF REPORTS

Minutes of Wells City Council
Meeting of April 26, 2022

Tilley began that in two weeks, a NDEP grant will be on the agenda to be used to get rid of the dirt from the old Fearless Farris gas station. There will be an estimated \$16,000 for the city's share which will all be in-kind for labor. Permission was received to haul all of this to the old landfill.

Last week the city staff was trained on how to update the city website so it can be updated quicker. Forms have been changed to fillable forms and staff will continue to make the website easier for people to use. Woolsey stated that a suggestion was made to do a code of the week on the website and thought one code could be put on there every week. Tilley stated that Jessica Morgan had been working on that before she had the baby and it is still on the list to get done.

Walz and Tilley wanted to announce that on April 13th was the CDBG presentation and all three grants the city applied for were awarded to the city. There was \$260,000 for the sewer headworks project; Main Street received \$150,000 for the retail center and \$80,000 for the Wood Hills trail design work. Walz added that at the end of the presentation, the committee talked about the top three grants and Wells was number two and three.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Denny Stanhope wanted to thank the Council for bringing up the animal control problem tonight as it is important and serious business. Stanhope did report that all the officers that have responded to the cases when he has been attacked or bitten by a dog were very responsive and kind. Stanhope mentioned that he has a scanner and hears every single day about dog problems in Elko, Spring Creek, Ryndon and Osino and dispatch calls the officers who respond. Stanhope thinks that is not done in Wells and is a contradiction. Stanhope thinks this is a problem in every state.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

LAYLA M. WALZ, Mayor

ATTEST:

SAMANTHA NANCE, City Clerk