

**MINUTES OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING OF MAY 9, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Date: Tuesday, May 9, 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
CR “Beth” Savedra, Councilwoman

Absent: Chris Micheli, Councilman

Quorum: Yes

Staff Present: Samantha Nance, City Clerk
Jason Pengelly, City Manager
Glen 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 meeting minutes dated April 25, 2023. DelRio provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were none.

**PRESENTATION BY BRANDY HOLBROOK WITH THE DIVISION OF CHILD
AND FAMILY SERVICES**

Minutes of Wells City Council
Meeting of May 9, 2023

Brandy Holbrook, Social Service Manager, with the Division of Child and Family Services was at the meeting. Holbrook is out of rural region one which encompasses Elko County, White Pine County, Lander County and Eureka County, based out of Elko. Holbrook has been doing child welfare in Elko County and the State of Nevada for twenty years and has done a lot of work in Wells. April is child abuse and neglect awareness month and May is foster parent appreciation month.

Holbrook is here to talk about foster care and foster homes. Currently, when a child needs to be removed from their home in Wells because of child abuse or neglect with no relatives or someone they know that is close to the family, where do they go? There are no homes in Wells. There is currently one child in foster care that was displaced from their community because there is nowhere to go. There are few homes statewide. The ones in Elko and Spring Creek are full. Currently, rural children that must be displaced from their home are going to motel rooms. For the last ten weeks, DCFS staff have been volunteering to stay with the child. Due to the pandemic, volunteerism has declined. Holbrook has been going to community leaders in all four counties to talk about this problem. All counties need to come together to try to find a solution. There needs to be emergency shelter care, a central location, where children can go. Another thing needed is transitional living for 16- to 18-year-olds. Holbrook left some flyers on foster care and how to fill out an application online. Holbrook welcomed any phone calls from anyone with questions.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FINAL BUDGET

Nance began that the general fund ending balance is budgeted to be \$3,126,000 at the end of June 2024 which covers 127% of our expenses. The state requires to cover at least 4%. In the recreation fund, the fund ending balance is projected to be \$246,000 which is 34% of our total expenses. Page 7 shows the general fund, rec fund, cemetery fund, capital improvement, redevelopment agency, administrative assessment, court facility, senior center and fire department fund, all are a positive fund ending balance. The state requires all these funds to have a positive fund-ending balance. The proprietary funds, water, sewer and sanitation, are projected to have a net income of \$14,000. The Pool insurance has gone up for this upcoming year and is not included in this budget but will be in the final budget that will need to be approved at the next meeting.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 241, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "CODE ENFORCEMENT," CREATING A NEW CHAPTER, CHAPTER 11 OF TITLE 1 OF THE WELLS CITY CODE

Pengelly began that at the last meeting, it was discussed adding building inspector and sheriff's department to the list of people who can write citations. Legal Counsel advised that the code states police chief which is the sheriff's department. The building inspector will be covered by the Fire Chief appointing the city manager or building official, so nothing has changed since the last meeting. Savedra made a motion to approve the ordinance entitled "Code Enforcement" creating a new chapter, chapter 11 of title 1 of the Wells City code. DelRio provided the second and motion passed with Goolsby

abstaining. DelRio stated the code needs to be revisited because some of the wording needs to be changed. Pengelly added that warnings will be issued before citations to enforce code.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A LETTER OPPOSING SENATE BILL (SB) NO. 226, “AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC WORKS; PROVIDING A DECLARATION OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT REGARDING THE PAYMENT OF PREVAILING WAGES ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS; DEEMING CERTAIN PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART FROM PUBLIC MONEY FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING WHETHER A PROJECT IS A PUBLIC WORK; EXCLUDING CERTAIN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS FROM CERTAIN PROCEDURES FOR AWARDING CONTRACTS; REVISING CERTAIN DEFINITIONS RELATING TO PUBLIC WORKS; REQUIRING THE PAYMENT OF PREVAILING WAGES TO WORKERS WHO PERFORM CUSTOM FABRICATION ON A PUBLIC WORK OR FOR CERTAIN PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OR STATE AGENCIES; AND PROVIDING OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO,” AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO

Pengelly began that SB 226 needs to be opposed. The County Commissioners have sent a letter in opposition as has the City of Elko. This bill could force non-profit organizations to have to pay prevailing wage on any projects if tied to a public entity. In the bigger cities, this bill is being promoted as economic and job building. This will kill rural Nevada. Pollock added this bill portrays supporting union jobs and union work. Pollock has been a member of a union since the age of 18 and is very much in favor of unionization and union work. Pollock has read SB 226. Intertwined in that bill are caveats that would kill small towns and is opposed to this bill. Pollock does not feel this bill is truly about fair wages, does not feel that is the intent and is in favor of sending this letter in opposition of the bill. Savedra also read the bill and believes in unions but knows this bill will not work in the rural areas. The opinion statistics for this bill show that 75% of the people in Nevada are in opposition of this bill passing. Savedra made a motion to approve the letter opposing Bill SB 226. Goolsby provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT: ACTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Goolsby made a motion to approve the check register dated April 1, 2023 through April 30, 2023 in the amount of \$31,955.48. Savedra provided the second and motion passed unanimously. Goolsby made a motion to approve Warrant Register dated April 27, 2023 through May 9, 2023 in the amount of \$314,176.92. Savedra provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

COUNCILMEN’S REPORTS

Savedra was asked to be on the capital improvement committee for the Elko County School District. The committee is not all together yet. Savedra attended the budget forum meeting. Savedra visited C.J. Anderson during the meeting to see when the committee will be complete. Anderson wanted a representative from each city, the county commissioners and the school system and is still waiting on three people to come forward. Savedra added this is a committee that is going to relate to the oversight of capital expenditures for the acquisition, construction, repair and revitalization of our schools and facilities. Savedra would like to meet with local school authorities to find out exactly what the Wells schools need. Savedra stated the federal government is only responsible for approximately 7.9% of funding for the education of K-12. This is not right. DeRio stated an investigation needs to be done in the way the State of Nevada puts their funding into it as well. In Las Vegas right now, our education dollars are building these gorgeous football stadiums for these schools instead of buying curriculum for the schools. Savedra added that Wells is always on the bottom. These big, beautiful schools are built all over Elko County and Wells can't even get earthquake damage repaired.

Goolsby mentioned that baseball is in full swing and encouraged everyone to go out and support the kids.

Pollock went and had breakfast at the Senior Center last Friday morning. You pay \$6 and have a nice breakfast and meet some of the seniors in our community. Pollock is going to try to go more often as it was very refreshing.

STAFF REPORTS

Pengelly stated that notice was received on May 4th that the Alamo casino is being sold. The new owners requested a temporary gaming and liquor license be issued by May 15th or the Alamo would have to shut their doors. City of Wells code does not allow the city to issue a gaming license without state approval after a background check is done. The State Gaming Board will be having a special meeting on May 11th to try to get approval for the gaming license. Elko County Commissioners will have a special meeting on Friday the 12th to approve that gaming license if the state approves it. Monday, May 15th, the Wells City Council will have a special meeting to approve the gaming license so it can be issued by the state and city, to avoid a shut down. The County Commissioners are the only ones that can approve a duration permit. This is something that needs to be done for the citizens. The new owner does have gaming licenses at other casinos in the state so has gone through this process in other cities. Pengelly asked what council members could attend the meeting on Monday. DeRio, Savedra and Pollock all said they would be able to attend. Goolsby will be out of town but can call in. Nance, as the City Clerk, can issue a 30-day liquor license with the City Manager's approval. This is also happening in Clark, Washoe and Pershing Counties where the other three Alamo Casinos are located.

Intermountain Health Care will be at the next meeting to go over what can be offered to the City of Wells for health care. Nevada Health Centers will be scheduled for a future meeting to review their offer.

The city has put in a request to the Next Dollar Foundation grant through Wells Rural Electric to purchase tables and chairs for the new senior center.

A fiber optic company is interested in a five-acre parcel in the Heavy Industrial Park. An offer has already been received and will be on the next agenda to discuss. Pengelly mentioned that fiber optic is being put in from Wells Propane to the high school on Lake. This company wants to run it to the airport and the industrial park as well as branch out into the community. Pengelly has not seen any plans so does not know what the goal is.

Pengelly announced that the high school rodeo is this weekend.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

GARY POLLOCK, Mayor

ATTEST:

SAMANTHA NANCE, City Clerk