

**MINUTES OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING OF MAY 23, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Date: Tuesday, May 23, 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
Chris Micheli, Councilman
CR Beth Savedra, Councilwoman

Absent: Laura Moore-DelRio, Councilwoman

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

Savedra made a motion to approve meeting minutes dated May 9, 2023. Goolsby provided the second and motion passed unanimously. Savedra made a motion to approve special meeting minutes dated May 15, 2023. Micheli provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were none.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE 4TH ANNUAL CO-ED
SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT TO RUN IN THE CITY PARK FOR A 24-HOUR
PERIOD INDEFINITELY**

Minutes of Wells City Council
Meeting of May 23, 2023

Eric Gonzalez, founder of the Wells Co-ed classic, stated this is the fourth year running the tournament and have had great turnouts the last four years. There have been approximately 100 participants which makes eight to ten teams. In the past, people that come from out of town don't stay for the Sunday events so Gonzalez wants to try something different this year. The City of Carlin ran a 24-hour softball tournament which started Friday night and ran through Saturday until they were done. Activities would start Friday like usual with the tournament starting Saturday morning at 8 a.m. and run until completed.

This year instead of donating proceeds to a sports organization, the proceeds will be donated to two individuals in the community that are dealing with cancer. Gonzalez hopes this will bring in more participants. The noise ordinance will be followed by cutting off announcing and playing music at 9 p.m. Nance contacted the city manager in Carlin who has been doing the tournament for 24 hours for years and has never had any issues. Gonzalez added that if there are more than ten teams, he will have to stick to the two-day format because it makes it easier to run. It would be great if tents could be set up on the soccer field so everyone could camp out and be able to rest if there was a gap between games. This might be needed next year.

Savedra asked if any complaints had been received in prior years. Gonzalez stated no, it has been very successful and has had a lot of positive feedback. Gonzalez continued that they don't know if this format will be successful but would like to try it. Pengelly added that some players may be under the age of eighteen. After talking with law enforcement, there is a two-hour window that minors can be out past curfew. The tournament is scheduled for June 16th – 18th. Friday will be a cornhole tournament and an alumni game. Gonzalez hopes due to the cause, there will be more spectators and maybe other activities to help raise more money. Pollock thought this event was great for the community and the city needs more things like this. Micheli made a motion to approve the 4th Annual Co-Ed Softball tournament to run in the city park for a 24-hour period indefinitely. Savedra provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

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

Tim Lovell, Operations Director for the outpatient telehealth services for Intermountain Health stated they were excited to be here and appreciated the interest. There have been conversations with Pengelly and others about the need for a health clinic in Wells. Maurine Cobabe, Associate Medical Director for ambulatory telehealth, is the physician medical director side of the same operation and was also at the meeting. Lovell continued that when looking at clinic opportunities, they usually look at a certain size of population serviced within the traditional clinics. This community is not the size of what a normal clinic would be so this opportunity went around Intermountain Health to the telehealth group to see if this is something that would make sense to them. Something that is important to Intermountain is community, getting involved and serving communities around the area where they serve and Wells, Nevada is related to Salt Lake

in that area and thought this was something they wanted to look at and see if there was something they could make work.

Intermountain went thru a merger this last year with SCL Health in Colorado and now service seven states, headquartered in Salt Lake City but have more hospitals in Colorado and Montana in addition to having physician groups in Utah and Las Vegas. There is not much in this area but do have their colleagues with Classic Air and Med X. One thing about working with IHC is the challenge that was given to the organization when it was created in 1978 which was to be a model health system and to operate in a way that is ideal for everyone involved. What is focused on is how to keep people healthier while delivering the best and most caring experience. IHC works toward the value-based care model which is that if people are kept healthy, focus will be on preventative care. IHC is not focused on the emergency room and like to prevent people from ending up there. If the best practice is to see a patient in person, that patient will be seen in person to not sacrifice safety. There are a lot of telehealth services provided but also partner that with in person care and determine when is the appropriate time to send a patient to get care. IHC is not for profit but have to financially survive and have more leeway with a goal to break even. Lovell stated they would like to see what they can do to have a financially viable clinic to provide care so people don't have to travel.

Wells is served by Med X, an Elko based ambulance service based in Wells with no other medical services available. The proposal is to avoid travel, provide options in town for care including lab work, simple procedures and create a sustainable financial plan to keep the clinic operating. The proposal is to establish a clinic here that would be operated by their telehealth department. The clinic would be staffed like a community paramedicine model with someone in the clinic welcoming patients, helping them with the care they are receiving. Providers would spend some time at the clinic in person but not sure how much time that would be yet. Other times, that provider would be at a distant sight and the tele-presenter would be the one coordinating that work with the patient, taking vitals, blood draws, get them connected with the provider for their visit and do any follow up work that is needed. Dr. Cobabe would oversee the services with a team of providers that would be available as part of that program. There would be in-person care and when care in the clinic is not necessary, there are other services besides primary care that can be provided over telehealth.

Dr. Cobabe stated what they would be able to offer in terms of the services in this clinic would be primary care for adults. Potentially in the future, pediatric care, specialty chronic care management, routine follow-up of chronic health conditions, immunizations, lab draws, some urgent treatment of acute concerns and then basic procedures at the time providers come into the clinic. There would be links to specialty care and e-consults where the primary care provider collects information and relays the information to the specialist and the specialist will provide recommendations to the primary care provider. There is also an associated 24/7 online virtual urgent care for established patients from home or could be provided in the clinic if needed when the clinic is open. E-visits will also be offered via a chatbot messaging system as well as virtual primary care which will be your family doctor and will be the same provider on a regular basis for scheduled

visits. They would manage preventive care, chronic health conditions and acute medical conditions that come up. The EMT that does the tele-presenting would be able to draw blood and obtain urine samples that would be prepped, stabilized and transported to Intermountain Central Lab by UPS with results possible within 24 hours after being received at the lab and definitely within 48-72 hours.

Lovell stated there is a home delivery pharmacy for chronic care management type of medicine. There will be some stock on sight for basic medication for urgent things. There will probably not be a full-scale pharmacy which would be a two-week supply of antibiotics. This could be supplied through the mail order pharmacy or any other pharmacy. There is a lot of work to do to contract with peers within the county. For urgent care services, cost is \$69 for the virtual visits and \$35 for the E-visits for cash pay.

To make this work, IHC would like the city to provide and furnish the clinic facility to Intermountain and work with them on the specifications. IHC would pay for the cabling aspects to meet the standards for the datacom, make sure for telehealth it is high band width. With the clinic being remodeled, this would be easy to do before the sheetrock is put up. There is a lot of equipment available within the clinic that the city will provide and IHC will provide staff and operate the clinic. The City of Wells would cover the utilities and the clinic would be operated at least two days a week with virtual services on the third day. If the demand needs more than two days a week, the hours would be expanded. For primary care services that don't require in-person, there are time slots, twelve hours a day Monday through Friday as well as Saturday mornings. Signage would be installed at the clinic consistent with the corporate requirements.

There is a little flux on how payers are reimbursing based on their payment policy. For payers that are not reimbursing at the in-person rate for in-person services, there would be a \$24 charge. Nevada Medicaid covers that charge but don't know if other payers would cover that charge. That would be an out-of-pocket expense if the insurance doesn't cover that and would be additional to the insurance charge. If this is something that is ok with the city and the city is comfortable with that proposal, the next step would be working on coordinating with the insurance with the build team on completing the clinic, contracting with the payers in the area and starting the program buildout.

Savedra asked who would be in the clinic for the two days. Lovell stated it would be a nurse doing the nursing responsibilities and would connect with the doctor. There would be a nurse practitioner or doctor in the clinic at least once a month, more frequently if needed. Savedra asked if IHC takes all types of insurance. IHC has relationships with Anthem Gold through their Nevada organization and established relationships with most of the payers in the area. IHC would need to get enrolled with Medicare and Nevada Medicaid. Savedra asked if IHC was contracted with the Nevada PERS State Retirement to cover retirees in the area. IHC would have to contract with them.

For the 24/7 urgent care, there would be an app on your phone to connect to which would take about five minutes to enroll and log into then you have a video chat with a provider. One out of five of those calls have to be referred to in-person care and have a set criteria

on the things that can be seen. There will be no charge if no treatment is provided. Pollock asked with the limited amount of antibiotics, would it be possible to provide at least enough for three days which should allow enough time for the patient to wait for the mail order delivery of antibiotics or fill the prescription elsewhere. IHC said that would most likely be the case. Savedra asked if special days could be set up for vaccinations. There would be vaccine clinic days. Pollock asked how many days of coverage there would be, three or four. Four days would probably be the maximum and the two days would be spread out.

Quinn asked if someone needed stitches if that could be handled in the clinic. Dr. Cobabe stated that emergencies like that would probably still have to go to Elko unless the provider was in the clinic that day. The question was asked if the clinic would be staffed by one or two people. Phones would be routed to their system in Utah that does the scheduling so the one person would not have to worry about answering phones. Monitors would be set up in the exam room and the in-person staff would make the call to the provider and assist with the exam. Savedra added that Med X and IHC are the same company and thinks because of Med X serving our community and residents being familiar with them, would be happy knowing that.

Lovell stated telehealth is very popular and their urgent care practice has 60,000 visits a year, is very busy and popular. There is also a school program that is similar at some of the schools in Utah. The nurse or office assistant acts in the same capacity if there is a sick child and gets them connected with a provider. The parents sign a consent form the first of the year if they want to participate in that program.

Pengelly asked if Med X would be involved in this as far as the EMT's being at the clinic. Paul Ward, executive director for Med X stated this is a pioneering effort. It has been exciting to see the improvements that have come to Wells since Med X started five years ago. Ward stated this would be a collaboration between the two different business units within IHC. Med X would be the out of hospital service line. This is a large organization and there are a lot of different service lines that have to align to make this work. The EMT will be the person that greets the patient and gets them situated in the room, takes the vitals and sets up the virtual connection. There will be a lot of support coming from Salt Lake. Ward feels because Med X is already established in the community, this has a good chance of being successful. Nance asked if the provider that will be seen will be the same each time. Dr. Cobabe stated that doctor will be your primary care doctor and ideally will be the same face and the person that knows you. Pengelly asked if a referral was needed, would the patient go to the IHC clinic or hospital in Utah. IHC is a network of 33 hospitals including a virtual hospital and 390 clinics. If a specialist is needed, all those specialists are available. There is also a shared medical record system with those specialties so there is that communication between the urgent care, primary care and specialist.

Savedra asked what they thought of the clinic. Lovell stated it was an awesome facility and will work very well. Dr. Cobabe added there was more space than they could ask for. Pengelly hopes they will grow into all the space. IHC wants the clinic to meet the

needs of the community and feel like the health of the community is stronger because of the partnership of the preventive care services. Ward feels like everything is lining up to make this work. Pollock thinks the relationship between Med X and the community has been outstanding and will help to establish a level of trust due to the affiliation with Med X. Pengelly asked what the next step would be. Lovell stated there would be a memorandum of understanding. IHC will start the work on the contract process if the board wanted to move forward and start contract negotiations with payers and work on coordinating with the remodel. Pengelly stated this will be put on the agenda for possible action. Quinn asked about the length of the contract and Lovell stated it would probably be a two-year contract but would have to talk with their people.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

Nance began that the only change since the last time was the Pool n Pact insurance increase of \$13,000 as well as the capital outlay in the golf course was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Nance also wanted to point out that there is money in the budget for the clinic. If this budget is approved tonight, it will go to the state to be submitted as the final budget. Pengelly stated the tentative budget was submitted to the Department of Taxation and was reviewed and there were no mistakes. Goolsby made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. Micheli provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AWARD BID FOR WELL #7 BOOSTER STATION PROJECT

Pengelly began that Shaw Engineering designed the booster pump station. It was put out for bid and bids were due today at 11 a.m. A facetime call was held in Pengelly's office with Cody and Owen from Shaw Engineering and bids were opened. Three bids were received. Great Basin Engineering Contractors bid \$419,231.19; Schell Creek Construction bid \$384,067.10 and NAVCO Construction bid \$269,376.00. Pollock noted that a lot of the subcontractors were the same and it was impressive that NAVCO came in \$104,000 lower than the next highest bid. All bids were scanned over to Shaw Engineering in Reno who wrote the recommendation letter and NAVCO Construction was the recommendation at the lower cost. The engineer's estimate was \$4,000 more than NAVCO Construction's bid. Pollock stated they do good work. Savedra made a motion to award the bid for Well #7 Booster Station Project to NAVCO. Micheli provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT: ACTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Goolsby made a motion to approve the Warrant Register dated May 11, 2023 to May 23, 2023 in the amount of \$134,321.44. Micheli provided the second and motion passed unanimously.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORTS

Savedra will be attending the NNRDA meeting and will attend in person.

Micheli has been out at the golf course helping Huff reupholster golf cart seats the last two days. They look 100% better and are more presentable. The golf course looks great. Micheli wished everyone a good Memorial Day weekend.

Goolsby mentioned the WFRC golf scramble on June 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Pollock has been busy with T ball and mentioned the pre-school graduation Thursday.

STAFF REPORTS

Pengelly stated that Wood Rodgers is here this week and has been working with Stanhope up in the Wood Hills on 4-wheelers to try to come up with a design for the trails. Stanhope stated that the two people from Wood Rodgers, one from Reno and the other from Arizona were amazed by the beautiful conditions in the Wood Hills. There were some problems trying to get access in some of the areas. A lot of the property has been bought and there are no trespassing signs. It appears points east to the Moor Estates will not be an option and south towards Rainbow Estates is all private. There might be a way to push through in between to get down into the southern area. There is also a 25 sq. mile section in the northwest section that could be available for trails. Pengelly stated there have been complaints from property owners on the southern end and have received phone calls from property owners that aren't local. Pengelly would like to reach out to all the landowners to see if they want this or not. There is a big parcel of BLM land in the middle that could potentially have a trail.

Nance and Pengelly sent a letter to Graymont for a donation request and received \$1,000 donation to go towards the new senior center.

There is a Nevada League of Cities retreat in Ely, Nevada on June 8-10 for anyone interested. This will be geared towards tourism with lots of activities. Savedra is attending and has reservations. Pollock is also possibly interested in attending.

Nance came across an NRS that the whole agenda packet should be put on the website so the entire agenda packet was put on the website and will continue to be going forward. Pengelly added that this is something that should have been done years ago.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

GARY POLLOCK, Mayor

ATTEST:

SAMANTHA NANCE, City Clerk