

**MINUTES OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024
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
CR 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

Savedra made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated February 13, 2024.
Micheli provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were none.

**PRESENTATION FROM THE WELLS HIGH SCHOOL FUTURE FARMER'S
OF AMERICA**

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The Wells FFA Chapter was at the meeting to give a presentation on a local agriculture issue. The controversial issue that was going to be discussed was the proposed land swap at the Winecup/Gamble Ranch. After the presentation, the group was commended for all the hard work that was put in to this presentation. This was a very educational presentation regarding a hot topic in Elko County. Pollock thought he was well informed but learned a lot more about this topic.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-01, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOLD SWEEP ACCOUNT WITH NEVADA STATE BANK

Mayor Pollock recused himself and left the meeting since the bank manager that proposed this sweep account is Pollock's wife. Vice-Mayor Goolsby took over the meeting. Goolsby read the resolution. Pengelly stated that the interest rate has changed from when this was first presented to the council. Jami Pollock stated that when this was first presented back in October, the initial proposal was 2.25% for a three-to-six-month term and that was with the intention of bringing the additional funds over from the state pool. Mrs. Pollock stated the rate at the state pool has gone up and it would be in the best interest to leave those funds there. Even with the 1%, it will still be a substantial amount of interest income on the account that is currently not earning any interest.

Pengelly stated this is the current operating account for the City of Wells and it will remain the same other than the money will go in the sweep account and collect 1% interest and be swept out as needed to cover checks and other charges. If this is approved, Caselle will need to be contacted to set up a program to manage this account. This could take some time. This item will have to be back on the agenda to determine where the money from the interest will go. Savedra thought since the numbers have changed, maybe it should be investigated more.

This sweep account could bring in \$4,000 to \$5,000 a month on money that is currently not earning any interest. Mrs. Pollock added the money is fully collateralized through Nevada State Bank and Zion's. The interest earned will be based on the balance in the account and the 1% will not fluctuate and can be terminated or changed at any time. Nance has spoken with the auditors who don't see a problem setting up this account. Lovelock has just added this sweep account. Pengelly suggested this money could be put back into water, sewer and garbage but this will be discussed at another meeting. Money could also go into the capital improvement fund. Once the city is ready, the bank will prepare everything that is needed to set up the money market account. Goolsby made a motion to approve Resolution 24-01, A resolution authorizing the establishment of a gold sweep account with Nevada State Bank. Micheli provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pollock rejoined the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

PRESENTATION AND UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL FOREST SERVICE OFFICE

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Wendy Markham, Deputy District Ranger for the Humboldt Toiyabe from the Wells office was at the meeting to give an update from the last time she reported to the council. Markham reported that no action will be taken on the Angel Lake Dam due to last year's winter. There are no issues and no problems with the dam. Opportunities for funding will be investigated to improve the dam, improve the safety rating and recreational opportunities such as adding fishing piers, beveling the dam and adding a place for boats to launch in and out. The current trail could be extended so it goes all the way around the lake. A two-factor water flow gauge will be installed that will monitor the lake level and the outlet flow levels remotely with the help of USGS. The host position for Angel Lake and Angel Creek has already been filled for the summer.

An environmental assessment is being prepared of the entire Ruby Mountains and East Humboldt Range for fuel reduction and landscape resilience project. Public scoping is open until February 29th and the city should have received a scoping document. The purpose of this project is to reintroduce fire into fire dependent ecosystems and mitigate risk to communities and resources. The goal is to reduce hazardous fuels to provide defensible areas near wildland urban interface, private land, critical infrastructure and improve wildlife habitat. The project covers 245,000 acres, those acres are outside the wilderness.

The office in Wells is fully staffed and open five days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Two longtime residents of Wells are currently employed in the office. Three current employees have bought homes in Wells in the past year and three employees rent in town. The forest service house currently has four snow rangers living there who patrol Lamoille Canyon, parts of the Ruby Mountains and the Independence Range on snowmobiles. Last year there were seven interns, and four Wells High School students were recruited for the youth conservation program. It is hoped that can be done again this year. Savedra asked if the fishing derby was planned for this year and was told yes probably towards the later part of July. The Wells Office was slated to be closed due to covid, but they were fortunate enough to be able to keep it open.

CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT: ACTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Goalsby made a motion to approve the Warrant Register dated February 15, 2024 through February 27, 2024 in the amount of \$123,334.65. Savedra provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORTS

Savedra wanted to encourage everyone to attend the County Commissioners meeting on March 6th at 3:30 p.m. in the Nannini Building in Elko. The school tax will be discussed during this meeting.

DelRio stated spring sports are well underway.

Goolsby stated high school wrestling is over and jr. high wrestling has begun. There are a lot of new wrestlers.

Pollock attended the Boys & Girls Club Valentines dinner. It was a great event that raised a lot of money. Baseball signups will be on Friday, March 1st with hopes to have the opening ceremony and start practice on April 13th. Pollock and Pengelly will be traveling to Odgen, Utah Wednesday afternoon to do a presentation at the Intermountain Health Symposium on February 29th. The ribbon cutting and open house for the clinic will be March 7th. The ribbon cutting will be at 4 p.m. and the open house from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Pollock encouraged everyone to attend the open house to let Intermountain know how excited the community is to have them at the clinic.

STAFF REPORTS

Pengelly added that from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. will be a VIP, city council tour of the clinic with Med X and Intermountain. The clinic will be open to the public from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for the open house and staff will be available to answer questions as well as doing car seat inspections.

March 4th through March 15th are the dates for those interested in filing as a candidate for city council. There will be three seats open. A link will be posted on the City of Wells website with everything being done online. City Hall will be open on those two Fridays for those people who file and will need to come to city hall to pay the fee and finalize the registration process.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

GARY POLLOCK, Mayor

ATTEST:

SAMANTHA NANCE, City Clerk

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