

**MINUTES OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025  
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  
Chris Micheli, Councilman  
Richard Peltier, Councilman  
  
Absent: Jonathan Goolsby, Vice-Mayor  
CR Beth Savedra, Councilwoman  
  
Quorum: Yes  
  
Staff Present: Samantha Nance, City Clerk  
Jason Pengelly, City Manager  
Glen Shamblin, Public Works  
Patti Zander, Deputy Clerk

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pollock led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Councilman Peltier made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated February 11, 2025. Councilman Micheli provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

There were none.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT FOR  
AMBULANCE SERVICES WITH INTERMOUNTAIN HEALTH, CLASSIC AIR  
MEDICAL, PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS MED X**

Minutes of Wells City Council  
Meeting of February 25, 2025

Nancy Abrams wanted to give an update on the clinic before discussing the ambulance agreement. A new full-time local Medical Assistant has been hired at the clinic, Rhonda Smith. Smith has over twenty years' experience and has worked at the clinic previously under other providers. The clinic is now set up to offer DOT physicals. In-person visits for DOT physicals will be done on the first Monday of the month. Last year, Abrams had applied to participate in the vaccines for children program to provide vaccines for uninsured and Medicaid eligible children in the community. The application was approved, the inspection has been passed, and the clinic is now set up to administer those vaccines. LabCorp has also been added as a second option for processing lab work so patients will have some flexibility. There are still flu vaccines available at the clinic. Pollock commented that he has been a patient at the clinic a few times and has never felt more comfortable in a clinic/hospital setting. Pollock states the whole process is great, it is nice to have them here and to have this quality of medical service available.

Abrams continued that in 2024, the ambulance responded to 464 emergency calls. Fifty-three calls required back up units. Out of the fifty-three calls, twenty-six were cancelled. Eighty percent of the time, the ambulance is in route in less than three minutes. Ninety percent of the time, the ambulance is in route in less than five minutes. Fifty percent of the time, a unit will be at your door within seven minutes of the call being placed. Eighty percent of the time was within eighteen minutes. The rest is due to the geographical area so it will take time to get to the call. Classic/Med X has participated in numerous events in the community during the time they have provided service in Wells.

Abrams wanted to address the recent incident in Clover Valley. The concerns being addressed include insuring residents have a physical address and being able to identify the physical address of the incident; how resources are dispatched insuring emergency responders know where to respond; collaboration and communication between emergency response agencies. These concerns have been addressed through a shared approach that includes the county departments as well as outside agencies of Intermountain Health and Classic Medical. The dedicated personnel work very hard to provide the best service possible throughout Elko County. Classic Medical is a private EMS provider that covers the Wells area and an important partner ensuring that medical calls in the City of Wells and surrounding rural areas are answered as timely and efficiently as possible.

There will always be cases where responses are delayed, especially due to distance. Whether IHC or Elko County ambulance responded to this specific call, the likelihood is that the responding unit would have come from the Spring Creek/Elko area due to the call volume that occurred that morning. Since this incident, Elko County Ambulance and IHC have met several times and are taking actions to build on the existing partnership and improve the process. This is likely to include updated or new mutual aid and automatic aid agreements, shared training and shared standard operating guidelines regarding secondary or back-up units to calls throughout the service area. We foresee this ongoing teamwork as being of high value and at low cost that will be implemented, evaluated and updated over time.

Community members and emergency response partners reiterated that the GPS navigation app such as google is unreliable, especially in rural areas. The public widely uses GPS navigation apps, and some emergency response applications use google or apple maps. Andrew Meek of Elko County GIS has gained access to google maps content partners editing program. Google Maps shares several road and address issues in the county and the partners program allows for expedited fixes. Meek has been able to fix the street name and address points that show in google maps for the Clover Valley Road area and continues to update them as time allows. One thing people need to do is report issues if they don't get to the right destination when using google maps. It needs to be reported so it can be fixed. Meek is trying to get all emergency responders that are using these maps to report incorrect incidents. Send the problem to Abrams and she can get it to Lee Cabiness, Elko County Emergency Manager, who will then get it to Meek so he can update it. It does take about four days once corrections are submitted. Abrams is actively working with the county and other agencies to have a memorandum of understanding in these agreements. The county is a large county with minimal resources, and everyone needs to work together as one.

Abrams wanted to introduce the new director of ground and EMS operations for Intermountain Medical Transport, Kyle McLaughlin who will go over the ambulance service agreement. McLaughlin also worked on the project for the clinic before it opened. McLaughlin stated that the city is lucky to be able to work with Abrams who is good at what she does. McLaughlin stated that everyone had a copy of the new agreement, and IHC is happy to continue to provide 911 services to the City of Wells. McLaughlin feels a good job has been done up to this point but there are always areas to improve. This agreement will be for five years and will continue to renew every five years in perpetuity. Pollock stated he has no issues with the agreement.

Peltier stated being part of the Wells Fire Department, the ambulance service has been a godsend. Prior to Med X, the fire department wasn't sure if an ambulance would respond to a lot of the calls, especially in the rural areas. A flight was usually requested because it could take hours to get to the scene. Peltier continued that the medical professionals are excellent to work with and would like to see them continue to provide service in Wells. Pollock added that any community event has been attended by Med X. The community outreach really impresses Pollock. Micheli stated that unfortunately his family had to use Classic twice on the same night as his father passed away. Classic was quick responding, professional, great to deal with and stayed and talked with them. Pengelly stated everyone has had an experience with Med X and are always positive experiences.

Pengelly added that there is discussion with Elko County Fire District to come in and work with the volunteer fire department to be a team. Pengelly stated there will be no change for the ambulance service which will remain at the fire department. Pengelly stated he gets lots of questions from the community and wanted clarification. When the ambulance is called, Classic will bill the patient's insurance. Patients will still need to pay their deductible, but the balance will be written off for both air and ground service as Classic is non-profit. When an ambulance is needed, cost should be the last thing on your mind. Pengelly added that this information needs to get out to the public more.

McLaughlin added that Intermountain is a large organization and if a patient is ever in a situation where someone cannot afford the ambulance, a call to Intermountain can be made to talk with the billing department to figure out how to work with them. Abrams added that there is also financial assistance available and there are forms for that financial assistance available at the clinic. Micheli made a motion to approve the contract for ambulance service with Intermountain Health/Classic Air Medical, previously known as Med X. Peltier provided the second and the motion passed unanimously. Pollock thanked the Med X people for being at the meeting and for all they do for the community.

## **DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET**

Nance began that the tentative budget is due April 15<sup>th</sup> so this will be on the agenda a couple more times before the final is approved in May. The 11% increase in medical insurance that was approved at an earlier meeting has been included in the budget. There has also been a 3% COLA raise for all employees. PERS increased from 33.5% to 36.75% for the new fiscal year. A building is needed to enclose the sewer headworks equipment and \$30,000 has been budgeted in hopes that the public works can do most of the work. The golf course needs a new roughs mower so \$90,000 was budgeted for that mower. There has been \$90,000 budgeted for the splash pad match. The fire department usually has \$70,000 transferred from the general fund to help cover all the costs. If the council votes to approve the interlocal agreement with the county, there will be a need to transfer \$130,000 to cover the \$100,000 to pay the county as well as utilities and repairs at the fire department. If the interlocal agreement is not approved, the amount will be changed back to \$70,000.

Pengelly and Nance met with Matt Peterson with the county. The city pays around \$8,200 a year in dispatch fees. Peterson stated this will be covered by them so will not have to be paid separately and will be included in the \$100,000. Nance has preliminary numbers on consolidated tax. This year, it was budgeted to be 1.7 million. It is estimated to be closer to 1.6 million with final numbers available in March. The airport FAA grant match has been budgeted at \$62,000 as well as a card reader upgrade for \$20,000. The El Rancho has had \$20,000 budgeted in community support for water and sewer that will be done a little at a time, as time permits. Pengelly stated there will be no big purchases this year other than the mower. A mower for the park may be needed next year.

There has been a payment of \$65,000 for the water bond paid every year and this coming year will be the final year on that bond, which was originally a \$700,000 loan. The excavator and trailer were paid off last September. The VAC trailer is the only thing that is owed on and will be paid off in a couple of years. Peltier asked about improvements in the park and thought there were still some lights that needed to be replaced. Pengelly thinks the lights are already purchased but need to get the pole set which will include labor between Western Line Builders and Wells Rural Electric. Pengelly added that the basketball and pickle ball courts still need to be finished.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 25-03, RESOLUTION APPOINTING OR NOT APPOINTING THE FOLLOWING APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICERS: A PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO**

Pollock asked Glen Shamblin to come up to answer some questions. Pollock asked Shamblin how long he had been working for the city. Shamblin stated he is just shy of thirty-seven years. Pollock stated that Shamblin should know the city inside and out. Pollock thinks Shamblin's experience and demeanor make him the right candidate for this position as long as Shamblin is ready to step up. Pollock added that this has been a long time coming. Pollock asked Shamblin to give regular updates on the projects going on in town. Peltier added that Shamblin is dedicated to the city and community and a great person for the job. Micheli also thinks he is the right guy for the job. Micheli made a motion to approve Resolution 25-03, a resolution appointing Glen S. Shamblin as public works director. Peltier provided the second and the motion passed unanimously. Pollock congratulated Shamblin.

## **CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT: ACTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Micheli made a motion to approve the Warrant Register dated February 13, 2025 through February 25, 2025 in the amount of \$106,570.02. Peltier provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

## **COUNCILMEN'S REPORTS**

Peltier reported that NGM will hold their community update meeting tomorrow. Peltier will be attending his first Elko REC board meeting in two weeks as well as the county meeting with Pengelly regarding the county fire district working in Wells.

Pollock announced that the Little League in person sign up will be on Thursday. Everyone is working through the digital online system and will be there on Thursday to help people work through the process. There will also be an equipment exchange. Tim Lovell from IHC contacted Pollock for a letter of support asking for grant possibilities for a rural pharmacy and maternity services. Pollock provided the letter of support.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Pengelly stated that two AED's were purchased for the senior center and the pool. Two more will be purchased soon for city hall and the golf course.

Pengelly has been trying to contact Commissioner Delmo Andreozzi who is supposed to be going to Washington, D.C. next week to discuss BLM transferring land to cities inside and outside city limits. Pengelly wants to make sure the City of Wells is included in those talks. Matt Peterson is in Washington, D.C. now and Pengelly spoke to him about

this and asked Peterson if it comes up, to make sure to mention it. Peterson stated that he would make sure it comes up.

The Elko County Fire District contract is being reviewed by the city attorney and the county attorney.

Pengelly received a quote of \$40,000 from YESCO on tearing down the Ranch House sign. There is no repairing the sign. The money won't be available this year but hopefully it will be able to be taken down in the next year or two. It is a safety hazard.

Pollock added that he and Pengelly met last week with the new commissioner, Brian Gale, for our part of the county.

Pengelly added that we are actively trying to hire someone for public works and are down two employees; one with knee surgery and the other one with a back issue. There are currently only three public works employees. The important calls will take priority, and other things may stack up. Pengelly will get out of the office to help when he can.

#### **CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

There were none.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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**GARY POLLOCK**, Mayor

ATTEST:

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**SAMANTHA NANCE**, City Clerk