

**MINUTES OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING OF AUGUST 11, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2026
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: Richard Peltier, Councilman

Quorum: Yes

Staff Present: Samantha Nance, City Clerk
Glen Shamblin, Public Works Director
Patti Zander, Deputy Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pollock led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilman Micheli made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated July 28, 2026. Councilwoman Savedra provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Bella Cummins, owner of the Hacienda, wanted to talk about the historical procedure that protects public safety. Cummins stated she was informed the third week of July that there would be a change as to how work cards would be issued and that the ladies would have to wait seven to ten days for the background checks to clear before the card would be issued. Cummins said the seven to ten days just doesn't work. The real facts are that she didn't have any notice and had three ladies that immediately went to other houses, so

they didn't spend any money in Wells, and the city didn't get any work card money. The city also told Cummins that they were going to follow City of Elko's policy for work cards. Cummins reached out to pro-temp mayor Puccinelli. He contacted the Elko police department for Cummins. They said they get fingerprints, they get a work card, they turn in their medical documents, and they go to work. Something comes back; the card gets pulled.

The current brothel code was approved by the council 27 years ago. Code 3-6:16 does not expressly state fingerprint results must be received before a work card is issued. Both brothels, 27 years ago, were instructed to get fingerprints, provide the other documents that included medical clearances, pay for the card, take the card with them, it went in the medical box, they went to work. That worked seamlessly. From Cummin's 27 years history, there have been no cards pulled because of A or B felonies.

Cummins knows the city understands legal precedence and deals with it all the time. You can't just deviate from something when something has happened by the instruction of a city for a quarter of a century plus. It must be followed until something, even if it is something written in a code is changed. We all know that legal precedence will be held up in a court of law. Cummins was also informed after asking a couple of questions and there is a possibility that the cities legal counsel wasn't asked about legal precedence, wasn't asked about the idea of just changing the requirement of a report coming back before a card could be issued.

The reason Cummins is here is to let the council know that no matter what council in whatever city, you all must deal with legal precedence. This is the way it has been for longer than the 27 years this code has been in force. Cummins knows it as long as 39 ½ years that this is exactly the protocol, the exact steps that were followed. Cummins knows the council hasn't voted on anything; there is nothing in the minutes so she is asking would you please let it be the way it was until you can decide if something is broken. There are no statistics to back it up. When Cummins talked to the sheriff's department, they didn't pull any, even the office manager said they had been there three years, and nothing had been pulled. Cummins is asking that it just stays the same because it works. They never hire criminals, and on the sheriff's department paper, there is a whole section that they have to fill out before fingerprints that says what you have done. The people she sends over, it is blank and they want to work legally, want to come to Wells, Cummins wants them to come to Wells.

There are approximately 2,618 clients that come to Bella's yearly. They just don't spend money at Bella's, they get gas, they get hotel rooms, they buy food. Cummins remember what it was like during COVID, we were all going to dry up and blow away because we were shuttered. We do help and we aren't a problem, this has worked for 27 years. The previous council knew what they were doing, the ones before that when it was just Wells Police Department, they knew what they were doing, it worked and so she is asking for help, just help.

Mayor Pollock appreciates her concerns and appreciates her coming here and voicing her concerns. The way Pollock understands this issue is the temporary card that was issued in the past, the way it read in the code said it “may” be issued and might be where the discrepancy is. Speaking of legal precedence is way beyond Pollock’s knowledge of the situation and Pollock has a hard time speaking to that on record because of the legal ramifications that he is not completely aware of. Pollock continued that he could talk to the city staff to better understand and has been in contact with them to better understand this issue and find a resolution to this sooner than later. Cummins said she would be so thankful and willing to answer any questions and is not a legal expert.

Cummins stated she has turned in paperwork for the September 8th council meeting and doesn’t really want to go there. She doesn’t want to cost the city money or her money but it does specifically talk about that and would think that without getting too deep in money going to the city attorney, that they understand that when they write this it has to be expressly stated, that is their expertise. Cummins contacted her attorney so she would know what she wanted to present this way which is why she has put it out so far. She needed to see if she could find out what happened and why. She has a very good idea but wanted to be factual and never makes assumptions. What she is after is a solution that works for all.

She wants them to spend the money in town. It doesn’t have to be about how everyone feels about what she represents, it is just business. If one business goes out of business, look at Chris Otto, you know what a hole that is going to be in this economy. He does all our vehicles and now we must take them to Elko or Reno, just losing Chris is devastating. This little change of seven to ten days is devastating for two brothels and feels like it can be avoided. Bella thanked the council for their time, with great respect.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ORDER APPRAISALS ON TWO PARCELS IN THE HEAVY INDUSTRIAL PARK, APN #002-820-005 AND 002-820-004

Pollock stated there is a business that is interested in purchasing two lots in the Industrial Park. This property borders the BLM on the south, the road to the north and east and northern border butts up to the road between that property and the Amazon property. Nance added that the company will be at the next meeting to discuss what their business is. Pollock added that these people were surprised at how eager the city was to work with them on this. Savedra stated this is only to order staff to get appraisals on that property and not like it is approving some business we know nothing about. Savedra will be glad when the city is out of the real estate business and this would be another step forward with that. Pollock added the city will not be financing any more big buildings. Savedra made a motion to authorize staff to order appraisals on two parcels in the heavy industrial park, APN # 002-820-005 and APN #002-820-004. Micheli provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT: ACTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Micheli made a motion to approve the Warrant Register dated July 30, 2026 through August 11, 2026 in the amount of \$102,243.44. Savedra provided the second and the motion passed unanimously. Micheli made a motion to approve the check register dated July 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026 in the amount of \$53,240.86. Savedra provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORTS

Pollock reported that National Night Out was held on August 4, 2026. It was a great community event and a lot of fun for the kids with good food. Pengelly and Pollock went to Radar Hill and cleaned up the pit. Thanks to Glen and the guys for getting the equipment up there. It is nice to see it cleaned up and hopefully people will keep it that way. School starts on Monday so watch out for the kids.

STAFF REPORTS

Shamblin mentioned that the restrooms at the rodeo grounds are having sewer issues so they have been closed until a decision is made whether they can be fixed or to do away with them. There are also problems with well #2. A driller has been contacted to come out to check on it in the next couple of weeks.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:21. p.m.

GARY POLLOCK, Mayor

ATTEST:

SAMANTHA NANCE, City Clerk