

**MINUTES OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Date: Tuesday, September 8, 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
Chris Micheli, Councilman
Richard Peltier, Councilman
CR Beth Savedra, Councilwoman

Absent: Jonathan Goolsby, Vice-Mayor

Quorum: Yes

Staff Present: Samantha Nance, City Clerk
Jason Pengelly, City Manager
Glen Shamblin, Public Works Director
Jessica Solis-Morgan, Utility Clerk
Patti Zander, Deputy Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pollock led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Peltier made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated August 25, 2026. Savedra provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Bella Cummins brought a box with three years of files from working girls who got fingerprinted and received their work card the same day who never had their card pulled. This process works seamlessly and wanted to ask the council to show statistics that don't warrant ordinance 247 to be put in place. Nothing is broken. Cummins said she has never had a work card pulled in 39 ½ years. Why put the city in a position that would be

Minutes of Wells City Council
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a detriment to any business, it isn't logical, and the city needs every business they can get. Prove to her there is a problem because she sees none.

Attorney John Stephenson represents Bella's brothel. Stephenson wanted to explain why this proposed ordinance is not a good idea. Stephenson stated it is his understanding the city council wants to promote the health, safety and wellbeing of the people in this community but this ordinance is not going to accomplish that. This will do the exact opposite. This will put the brothels out of business and when the brothels go out of business, any sort of sex industry or sex trade is going to go back to being underground. It is going to be dark and become criminal because the brothels will not be able to operate under these new regulations. Making them wait seven to ten days out of a two-week tour is making them sit on their hands for 75% of when they should be working. The brothels are already losing business and losing potential independent contractors because no one is willing to do that.

Stephenson continued that when the brothels go out of business, the sheriff's office is going to have to divert resources to try to police prostitution that was formerly legal. The weekly checks will all go away and it will go underground. There will be people doing solicitations at the gas station and truck stops and Stephenson doesn't think anybody wants that. Business and tax revenue will be lost by the city. Wells will be the only city in Nevada that has this type of regulation because no other city or county could sustain this type of regulation and have brothels. Stephenson is not aware of any other city or county that would have this kind of new setup when the previous system worked just fine for forty years.

What the city is going to do is create a problem of something that is not a problem. Stephenson urges the council not to do this. This will also bring a big litigation risk because this is going to become a regulatory taking. The city is putting these businesses out, it is not sustainable and they are going to be gone. These businesses have been here for a long time and have a lot of money put into their license, invested a lot of time and energy in creating these businesses and what makes the city and state interesting and unique. Putting them out of business in this way is not advantageous for the City of Wells or anybody in this room. The sheriff's office can make better use of their time going after violent crime and other things that really bother the people of this community. Stephenson suggests the council not approve this ordinance and not amend the brothel code.

Geoff Arnold owned Donna's for 29 years. Before that, Arnold did taxes for 19 years, for a total of 47 years. Arnold has been intimately familiar with every transaction and would like to say this is not needed and is a problem. Arnold would like to encourage the council that we need to work together. If you look at a Nevada brothel model, which is a wonderful model, it requires different entities to work together; the city council, the brothel owner, the working girls, the sheriff's department and the medical community. Those players help create a good thing for the community and the world where people are allowed to do what they want to do, express their own freedom and participate in activity as consenting adults that doesn't hurt anybody. When Arnold first bought Donna's,

Jolene Supp started her career, and Arnold never had any problems with Supp and thinks that is the way it needs to be. Arnold doesn't think during that time, looking back at how many times the sheriff's department came into Donna's and pulled a work card out of the medical box, doesn't think it ever happened. One time Supp called Arnold and said we are having a problem with one of the girls walking around town, we don't think that fits your image and maybe you should get rid of her. Arnold had her pack and leave. That type of working together is what we need to do. This is a big deal because if you enact this ordinance, it will really create a problem for Arnold. Arnold is trying to open Donna's; there is one working girl there and only been one for three weeks. There were three girls that did not come in because of the delay.

Arnold wants to complain about the sheriff's department requiring appointments to go in and get fingerprints. That is a problem. We could come into the city office, get the work card issued and be done in that 45-minute time. Arnold has a license in Battle Mountain and the clearances there take one hour. Arnold has been a good citizen of Wells for a long time and thinks the town knows that. Arnold still has a lot of people who are influential friends in town, important people, both that he knows and people he still does tax returns for. It is foolish if the city council wants to create a big problem both monetarily and with a lot of people that don't want Arnold to lose everything. Arnold has about two million dollars invested in Donna's, it is a substantial part of his net worth, his retirement and if he loses that because they are closed due to some back door method of not wanting them around, then that is going to be unfortunate.

Pollock stated the intent of the city council is not to remove brothels. That is not the intent of the meeting or this ordinance. Arnold said you will do it if this passes. Pollock asked Arnold what the point is of having a background check if an employee is working for 75% of their time without passing said background check. The purpose for the city work card, once the work card is issued and the fingerprints are sent in, if it comes back that there is some problem, then the sheriff can just come over and pull the card and the girl is gone. This has never been a problem for 47 years that Arnold has been around, it works, so why create a problem. Pollock added that 47 years ago, the legal landscape was a lot different. Pollock asked if there is a problem, whatever said problem may be, whose liability is that. Is that the city's liability for issuing a temporary work card to somebody that shouldn't have had a work card to begin with? Where does that legal liability fall, that is where this all comes down to. Arnold said, "do you really want me to answer that"?

Arnold stated in March of 2000 there was a Nevada Supreme Court case where David Burgess had problems with Storey County. Storey County was angry with him because he showed up in his colors at their county courthouse and they pulled his brothel license. He sued them. David Burgess was the Reno chapter president for the Hell's Angels. That court went to the supreme court of Nevada and Nevada issued the ruling and Burgess won and the supreme court said that a brothel license is a property right and a municipality cannot move against a property right without due process. It is a taking and if you take that and you do something that causes Arnold to lose his two million dollars, how do you value taking? That was 27 years ago, what is it worth now. Arnold had a

brothel license valuation in 2000; Donna's was worth about one quarter of a million. What is it worth now 20 years later. The city doesn't want to create a problem resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars of attorney fees and then lose. Pollock reminded Arnold that a brothel license is a privilege license. Arnold said it is a privilege license but it is a property right. Pollock stated the city is not trying to pull anybody's license. Pollock's whole point with this is if we must do a background check, that employee should not work until that background check has cleared. If that changes how you schedule, how you do business, so be it but where does that liability lay.

Stephenson said he could answer that question. Stephenson said it lies with the brothel owner. Stephenson said he has a privilege license; it is called a legal license issued by the State of Nevada. When he practices, if he were to commit malpractice or take client funds, the State of Nevada is not responsible for that, he is responsible for that, his law firm is responsible for that. If Bella's hires a working girl, she gets a temporary permit, the working girl does something illegal, wrong or immoral, it is not on the State of Nevada or the City of Wells, or Elko County Sheriffs office. It is on Bella, she hired her, she did the due diligence as an independent contractor. Anybody who is affected might sue the working girl, might also sue Bella's under some sort of theory but has no recourse as far as he is concerned to the City of Wells.

Arnold continued that this just isn't necessary, it has worked fine. It is done the same way all throughout the rest of the state. Pollock asked what this was and Arnold said the delay. Pollock stated that Elko doesn't process it the same day. Arnold stated that they do and had checked with the owner of Mona's today to make sure that was true. What the Chief of Police said in the article that came out in the Elko Daily Free Press that they waited is not true. Arnold is not positive about that but they clear it within one day. Arnold must compete with Lyon County. Pollock added that Lyon County doesn't issue immediately and looked that up. Arnold stated he is at a competitive disadvantage and doesn't want to be at a competitive disadvantage. Arnold wants to be a good citizen and has been a good citizen for a long time. Arnold feels the city is trying to ruin his life and he doesn't deserve it. Pollock said that is not the intent.

Brian Gale, Elko County Commissioner stated it sounds like we have pretty big issues today. Gale stated it is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the declaration of independence. Gale read it again this year, wasn't the first time and won't be the last. Gale continued that it lists all the grievances that the colonies had against the king. Almost all grievances had to do with law. You have a new city code that is being considered right now. The effect of that city code might reach far beyond your intention. If your intention was to make it difficult to do business in the City of Wells for brothels, that is your choice and up to you to decide. If that is your intention, go through the front door, just do it. Pollock stated if that was the intent, it would be sudden and abrupt, it wouldn't be a slow death and that is not the intent. Gale continued that religion and law are on the same level and is important and can't have a back door that implements a different law that has an effect of something that is outside the law. It looks like this has an effect beyond our original intention.

Missy Atkins, Operation Manager for Bella's personally has interviewed ladies that have refused to come to their facility due to the fingerprint wait and have gone to the Bunny Ranch telling her they didn't have to wait. The manager sets up their fingerprint appointment for them where their ladies have to set up the appointment individually. Their process is very streamlined compared to ours. Atkins knows the intention is not to put the brothels out of business, but from her short tenure as Bella's Operation Manager, Atkins has already seen ladies walk away. Speaking from experience, that is what is happening. Atkins understands what these ladies do, doesn't want to see these brothels close and sees the impact they have on their clients.

At least 30% of the clients come in seeking an emotional connection as they don't feel they can go see a counselor or therapist. They use the brothels as an unintentional way to circumvent that system to come in and get the therapy they need. Closing the brothels will not only shut down businesses, which is not beneficial to the city, but it will also increase mental health issues. Atkins has done some research on different countries and other states that experimented with brothels or legal sex work. New York City opened adult entertainment establishments and saw a 13% drop in sex crimes. Rhode Island opened an indoor prostitution and saw a 30% reduction in rape and larger drops in STD cases. Dutch cities saw 30% to 40% decrease in sexual abuse and rape in the first one to two years that they followed those studies. Atkins would hate to see those types of crimes and STD diseases increase. This is a very small community; those types of increases would be detrimental on many levels. Atkins heard the intentions, these are possible consequences, please take that into consideration.

Alicia from Bella's stated that everyone has talked about the consequences, but no one has talked about the ladies. Alicia is a single mom of two, has a bachelor's degree and is three years into her master's degree. There is a lady at the house that was able to leave an abusive partner only because she was able to come here. There are three single mothers in the house. It costs a lot to be here. Alicia pays \$1,000 a week for her children to have a babysitter, not counting the five-hour drive here and the five-hour drive back. If she must come here on day one to get fingerprints and then go home, that is another trip or stay ten days, that is \$1,000 she pays just for a babysitter. If we are going to do this no matter what is said, at least allowing everyone to get fingerprints in their home state is a solution to the problem and will not affect the brothels as much. When Alicia got her nursing license, fingerprints were done in her home state.

Julia stated she comes here to work from Montana and has a small farm. Without Bella's, she wouldn't be able to survive much longer. If she had to wait seven days to get a work card, she wouldn't be able to do it. She pays someone to watch and feed her livestock. She spent a lot of money just to come here and there needs to be another way to work around the fingerprint issue. The girls that come here are willing to get tested so we know they are clean. We are not going to spend all this money to come here and be cracked out on drugs. We just want to make a living and be able to support our lifestyles, and it is getting harder. There are a lot of different lifestyles and backgrounds that come to Bella's. Pollock said once again that is not the intent. Lt. Fisher will have some information on the fingerprinting.

Bella stated while we are addressing fingerprinting, initially the fingerprinting appointment became an issue because it was two weeks out before a lady could get in. Bella solved that, she never called the sheriffs department. Bella sent the time tap app so the girls could get on for prints then look for a plane ticket because this was more difficult than them getting a plane ticket. They solved that and as she told the office manager, she wants to work around a situation. She doesn't know what it is like to run a sheriff's department but right now, the very first fingerprint appointment is the 28th of September. That is a long time. There must be a way for them to get fingerprints elsewhere because Elko Co. Sheriffs Department is swamped.

Elko County Sheriff's Office can't even do what is being asked so how is it going to be solved when that is their internal workings. It is an issue but no one complained and is still not complaining, just giving the facts. Probably by tomorrow, you will be in October before you can get prints so it isn't like we can just do what the city is asking. If you want them to get their prints at a print place in another state because they come from everywhere, then do so. They will come in with it and hand it to the city, but we have got to work together. Bella said remember, she is the one liable, the city isn't liable, so she is willing to take that responsibility. For 39 ½ years, a work card has not been pulled from Bella's, she will take that responsibility because it is hers. Leave the code the way it is. It is logical, it works and Bella is happy to take responsibility because it is hers already. Bella doesn't want the city to be responsible for something that was never intended to be the city's and still isn't.

DISCUSSION TO RECEIVE CDBG GRANT APPLICATION IDEAS FOR UPCOMING GRANT CYCLE TO BE SUBMITTED TO CDBG FOR ELIGIBILITY APPROVAL

Pengelly stated this was put on the agenda for feedback from the public or board on potential ideas for the grant cycle. The water loop project with fire hydrants south of the interstate by the Maverik and empty lot by the RV Park is a possible project. This would increase the fire flow and quality of water in that area. The other idea discussed before was purchasing the Burger Bar and cleaning up that parcel as well as possibly the Old West. Pengelly has reached out to the owner of the Burger Bar, and he has emailed him back with a potential number. It will probably cost forty to fifty thousand dollars to tear down the building and haul it to Elko. The Burger Bar owner would do it for the right price. Pollock added that if we must go through a state funded grant, it will have to be appraised, and someone must pay for that appraisal. Pollock stated it has become a hazard, and we should continue pursuing that. Pengelly stated curb, gutter, sidewalk is a big one, but it costs a lot of money. Pengelly stated the last estimate he received for the water loop was \$860,000. Peltier thinks that is important and should focus on to help the homeowners. The Burger Bar could be the second option. Pengelly has been trying to set up a meeting with CDBG to see if the water project would qualify. It didn't last time because it was attached to a potential developer with all the laterals and meter pits. Right now, we are trying to get fire safety in place.

Savedra asked if the deal with the Old West had fallen through. Pengelly doesn't know if the owner knows what direction he wants to go with the costs. Savedra asked if he had gotten that grant. Pengelly stated he will if he moves forward but he doesn't have a design engineer or a structural engineer. Once all those numbers are put together, it may be cheaper to tear it down. It will cost a lot to retrofit that building with a sprinkler system and update all the electrical. It could be fixed up but will take a lot of time and money. Pengelly thinks once a structural engineer gives a full report, a decision will be made. Savedra asked is anything could be done about main street in front of the Ranch House and the way the road is sloped. Pengelly stated that is NDOT and it will never be changed. It is designed that way for drainage. Peltier made a motion to rank potential ideas for the upcoming grant cycle for CDBG eligibility approval to update the water infrastructure loop by the Maverik/golf course area for the first choice; the second grant applied for to purchase and remove the old Burger Bar on Sixth and Humboldt and a third option be to purchase the Old West and removing the hazardous structure. Micheli provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING A RULE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE PROHIBITING THE APPROVAL, ISSUANCE, RENEWAL, EXTENSION, REINSTATEMENT, OR RECOGNITION OF TEMPORARY, PROVISIONAL, CONDITIONAL, INTERIM OR OTHERWISE LIMITED-DURATION WORK CARDS OR WORK PERMITS UNDER CHAPTER 3-6 OF THE WELLS CITY CODE

Pollock began that Resolution 26-06 intent from the city's perspective is public safety. This has nothing to do with wanting to shut anybody down, or a moral issue and is a safer way to transact with the oldest profession and has nothing against it. There have never been temporary cards issued. Pollock stated that cards are being issued without having the background check back. Bella stated the sequence has always been the fingerprints would get done, the medical, Nevada State business license, picture id and social security card and then would be issued a card. The card stays in the medical box until the sheriff's department can ascertain everything is good. If in the event something ever did show up, the deputy would come and pull the card. It has never happened, ECSO has never pulled a card. The card was never meant to be temporary unless all this investigation was completed. It was just a card that could be pulled at any time. Bella has a box full and could bring in more years but there has never been something that was temporary and Attorney John Stephenson has stated that Bella is responsible.

Lt. Doug Fisher from the sheriff's office stated he could clear up a couple of things. As far as the issuance of cards is concerned, Bella is correct. If someone came in with their business license, fingerprints, medical and it has all been submitted and the fees are paid, they were given a card and allowed to work at the brothels. Fisher stated temporary cards have never been used in the past. Fisher will dispute that cards have never been pulled. In the twenty years Fisher has been employed with the sheriff's office, cards do get pulled for various reasons. Cards are pulled for health certificates that came back as not clear. Cards were pulled for the wrong people being on the floor; or for vacation time, being away from the establishment for more than 48 hours. Cards have been pulled for

more minor violations and ECSO does continue to regularly pull cards. Fisher continued that there have been occasions over the years that cards have been pulled due to the backgrounds, meaning there is something in the background that would prevent them by statute or city code from possessing a card. That is rare but it has happened. There have been health checks that have had false positives, so cards have been pulled over the years.

Regarding appointment for fingerprints, the sex offender registry needs to be complied with the state, so ex-felons that need to comply coming in and out of the county are required to be fingerprinted. People who apply for CCW's need fingerprints. There are also business applications that have fingerprints associated with it, bar cards, the ones discussed tonight, background checks for other employees. All employees that come to the sheriff's office; deputies, front office workers, even some of the volunteers have to be fingerprinted. The number of fingerprints that the front office workers are doing is huge. The reason the appointment schedule is used is because people know when they could get their fingerprints done. In years past, there was no appointment schedule, and people would be sitting in the front office all day long because they couldn't keep up. They didn't know what time they were going to get in or out of the front office. The appointment schedule gets people in, and they are seven to ten days out. Fisher looked at the schedule tonight and there is one opening on the 22nd and three on the 24th. The 29th and 30th are pretty open and after that is the same.

Fisher continued that the background check is not an extensive background on the front side. An application is filled out, what they admit to on the application and what they tell us is what we know at that time. We are taking that for granted that they are being honest. At times, they are not honest which happened recently. These background checks are vastly different than business licenses. Business licenses, like liquor licenses, have a very thick packet and that packet has a lot about the person who is applying for it, getting their fingerprints, a financial plan, letters of reference, completely different for those background checks as far as the cards being discussed tonight. The timeframe for the fingerprints is seven to ten days and has changed immensely over the years. When Fisher first got into law enforcement, fingerprints would take anywhere from four to ten weeks. When they come in, the typical response is 48 to 72 hours on fingerprint response and then by the time it is reviewed, the memo that needs to go out gets sent to the city.

The question came up tonight can it be done through other means. Yes, there are other means for fingerprints. Workers can submit fingerprints on the old card stock through other states. That is not as reliable and the timeframe is increased. The state website says that if they send them a card stock fingerprint, it is going to take 30 days for processing. You also must add in shipping time to ECSO, ESCO to send it to the state for them to review and give their response. Card stock is not as reliable as livescan. When the new livescan was implemented last year, it has been good. If you want to talk about livescan through other states, that might be a possibility. Those procedures will have to be ironed out. It has been used for employment with the sheriff's office, and it is not as reliable. Fingerprints have been sent to the wrong code, the wrong place or not sent at all from other agencies. The reliability is not there. From their agency, the reliability is good. When they come in and do their application, it is once a year that they

get their cards, it is not every time they come in. Once they get a card, it is good for a year as long as they keep up on their medical and the business license stays current. Bella asked when fingerprints were done, if the sheriff wanted to or thought it was necessary, does it go to the FBI. Fisher stated when fingerprints are done, it goes to the state repository and is reviewed. How they proceed on their side, Fisher cannot answer. A livescan fingerprint is transmitted through livescan to the state who takes care of the repository and gives us the response back. The state has the governing portion over it. There is a comparison to the FBI but is not sure how that all ties together.

Peltier doesn't want to put any business out or put any hardship on anyone. Peltier feels how everything needs to be is black and white. You can't just go down and purchase a gun and walk out the door and if your background check fails later, you must return the gun. To make everything black and white and cover everyone's bases, including the city, approval should be set forth before anyone is given any type of license to go do whatever function, job or business they are going to do. They are going to have their I's dotted and t's crossed is how he feels. Savedra thinks the distinction of a brothel license and a brothel work card are completely different things than a bar card. Savedra told Gale that we don't live in colonial times and are not fighting a king. You have different laws as things progress and is just the way it is. Savedra is in favor of this resolution and thinks it should be passed especially after hearing Lt. Fisher say there have been work cards pulled, no matter the reason.

Noah Swett stated the constitution and Bill of Rights were put in place to stop this kind of attack on people. This is exactly why we have the bill of rights and thought Savedra's argument was disgusting.

Misty Adkins wanted to say something that was productive. One thing they have had is bad fingerprints. She understands the livescan is better but unfortunately, they did have bad fingerprints come back for a bartender. That made her wait not seven to ten days but 14 to 20 days. If that would have been for a working girl, that would have been over her two-week tour and that would have cost her all the money it cost her to get here, including all the licensing. She understands Peltier's dotting of the I's and crossing the t's, but this is not a situation where the ladies are coming in with weapons. They are very governed; all their bags are searched. Atkins does the interviews and does a secondary interview with Bella. All the hard questions are asked, even about prescription medications. Every intimate question that you can think of that could be asked, surpasses that background check. Things that are never touched on that background check are asked by us when the interviews are done. Savedra doesn't think that anything surpasses a background check. Atkins said she is not saying it surpasses a background check, she is saying it goes beyond a simple background check because a background check is not going to go into prescription medications. If they are bi-polar or schizophrenic, those are things that they monitor that are beyond a background check. Savedra stated this resolution isn't put there to pull someone's card because they are on prescription medication. Atkins said it can be pulled for something in the medical check and medical checks are done every week. When a card is pulled for a medical exam, that is done because of a weekly check, not a background check that is done once a year.

The way the resolution is written, even if a lady has a card and they do a renewal, they can't work in that window that they are waiting for that background check even though they currently have a valid background check with their current card that hasn't expired yet. Even though they have a current card, the way this is written, if they do another background check to renew that card in that two-week window because of the two week wait to get an appointment, then they have a seven to ten day or 14 to 20 day wait if the livescan prints fails which has happened. Then their tour is gone, they have to leave, they have to spend thousands of dollars to get back home. Then they turn around and spend thousands of dollars, if they have it because they weren't able to work to get back here again. Atkins doesn't want to seem argumentative and is just passionate about remembering all the details to advocate for the ladies in the situations everyone is completely unaware of. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes until she started this job, was completely unaware of. The details are immense. For a fingerprint scan to fail and have to wait the 14 to 20 days completely eliminates their tour altogether.

Peltier asked if they have explored doing the live scan in their home state? Atkins said they did not. Peltier thought if they only had a week's wait in their home state would be quicker than having to do it here. Peltier stated for his CCW, he understands the part where it expires and you are trying to do it before. Peltier stated he would start the process six months ahead of time so there is no lapse. Peltier stated the process can be started earlier, before their card expired. Atkins said the way it looks like it is written in item 8, it would not be possible. Peltier stated four weeks before their card expires, they could get their background check for their new card so it is back before it expires and then get their new card and continue on. Atkins would love to know if the livescan could be done in their hometown and have it sent over. If the livescan can be done while they are home and they aren't traveling, they don't have the expense. Atkins said the way it is written, it must be done in Elko County so that would need to be amended. Peltier stated it must be submitted to Elko County. Atkins stated it doesn't explicitly say that it can be sent in from a different county.

Fisher stated the reason the fingerprints must come through Elko County is because it is our local statutes, so it has to come to us and go to the repository. Fisher continued that workers don't have to physically go to us because we have the card stock and potentially a livescan. The livescan that we've had and been using has been for employment. Employment is what it has been used for, not all these other options because of reliability. There are so many little check boxes you must check when you go in to make sure it goes to the right place. We can explore it. The manager could have a checklist stating the steps that need to be taken to make sure it goes to the right location. Peltier is just trying to think of a way to get the fingerprints done early so when they come in to get the card, everything is done then it is not even an issue.

Fisher will work with the Office Manager, Rachel Mcanany, who can answer the questions in regards to the livescan outside of the state. As far as the renewal, the way it is written now, they have a valid card, they come in before, they get everything lined up, the fingerprints come back and they are just going from one valid card to the next valid card for the year so there is no temporary status. They do that with a lot of their other

cards in that same renewal pattern and would be good doing that if they come in before it expires. Peltier is just trying to, instead of a lot of talk about litigation and suing and putting people out of business, try to figure out a way to fix this problem so you don't have to physically go to Elko for fingerprints and the background check and getting all of it done before you even show up to work. Pollock likes that idea a lot and everyone wants the same thing in the end, a safe productive community as a whole.

Geoff Arnold stated he had a suggestion but didn't know the answer. Some time ago he did some checking on the livestream fingerprints you can do on computers. The cheap ones are about \$150, and one step up is \$3,000. The one he had his done on at the ECSO was about \$10,000. Arnold asked if the City of Wells bought a \$3,000 fingerprint livestream machine, would that be acceptable. Peltier said the problem with that is we would still have to wait seven to ten days. Arnold said Wendover has a machine. Fisher stated the reason there is not a fingerprint machine in Wells is for the simple fact it is not a \$3,000 machine, it is a \$30,000 machine. Just for licensing each year is almost \$4,000 along with that. To have access to that system, you have to have yearly training and you have to have certain criteria because it has criminal history in it. You must meet that criteria along with those costs. The reason Wendover has it is that they have a police department. Inside their police department, they have all those people that have had background checks, fully vetted to get that criminal history. They do their NCIC training every year, they do their seagus training every year so they meet those criteria. There is a lot of stuff that comes behind that. You also must have the proper storage of the machine and access to the machine. There is a lot that goes along with that.

Peltier asked if ECSO accepts the livestream from Wendover if it is submitted to them and Fisher said he believed so. Peltier said it is about the same distance from here to Elko and here to Wendover. Fisher thinks they can work with West Wendover PD because they work with them on other things. Fisher will verify that with Mcanany and that might be an option that they can explore and will know the answer after talking with Mcanany. Stephenson asked Fisher about the brothel procedures in Elko and how this new proposal compares to the brothels in Elko. Fisher stated he does not work with the city police department as far as their laws and how they apply it to the brothels so can't speak on it. Stephenson stated maybe we should see how our neighbors are handling the brothels. Fisher added he doesn't follow the police department; they handle the brothels in the city. Fisher has never had to do an inspection or handle any of those because it is in the city and only takes care of the county. Fisher stated the county applies what is in the NRS Statutes.

Pollock stated because there are so many unanswered questions, at this time, there will be no action taken on agenda item #7 or #8 and will give us time to get this all sorted out and come up with a better coordinated and educated response.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 3-6-16 OF THE WELLS CITY CODE, "WORK PERMIT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS," TO PROHIBIT THE APPROVAL, ISSUANCE, RENEWAL, EXTENSION, REINSTATEMENT OR

Minutes of Wells City Council
Meeting of September 8, 2026

RECOGNITION OF TEMPORARY, PROVISIONAL, CONDITIONAL, INTERIM, OR OTHERWISE LIMITED-DURATION WORK CARDS OR WORK PERMITS UNDER CHAPTER 3-6

No Action will be taken at this time.

CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT: ACTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Peltier made a motion to approve the check register dated August 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026 in the amount of \$39,103.13. Micheli provided the second and the motion passed unanimously. Peltier made a motion to approve the Warrant Register dated August 27, 2026 through September 8, 2026 in the amount of \$305,858.78. Micheli provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

COUNCILMEN'S REPORTS

Savedra attended an NNRDA meeting but had nothing to report.

Peltier stated he will be attending an Elko County Recreation meeting next week for the third quarter. Currently the Jr. wrestling doesn't have a home for practice. If anyone knows of some place to lease or rent to practice, please let them know. There are thirty kids on the team and right now there might not be a season because they can't go to Elko every day to practice.

STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Geoff Arnold stated what Lt. Fisher said when they pulled cards, sometimes there are medical problems. Many times, they don't pull the cards, if the girl doesn't pass her medical, the health department calls, the city calls, ECSO calls saying who can't work. She can't even come out of her room, and she has to go get a shot, is cleared up in a week. When she passes the medical, can go back on the floor. Another thing Arnold noticed Councilwoman Savedra said to differentiate for the working girls but if you differentiate between a working girl, a bartender, a casino card and a taxi driver, you are opening a giant constitutional issue. Savedra stated it has always been done that way; the bartenders have a separate card than the girls. Arnold stated they have separate cards, but you must treat people equally, you can't differentiate, you can't treat the working girls differently than a casino worker. Savedra stated she never said that. Arnold said if you just pull the working girls' card and don't treat the casino cards the same, there is a giant constitutional issue. Savedra told Arnold not to put words in her mouth, she never said anything about the casino workers. She said there was a difference between a brothel and

a bartender's license. Arnold stated it is equal protection under the law and discrimination.

Brian Gale stated we had a big issue tonight and it looks like we will allow ourselves a little more time to iron things out and that is a great idea.

Lt. Fisher stated as far as treating people differently, for bar cards in bars, they have their specific statutes that we must follow and that is what we need to follow under NRS. NRS is well seeded in the brothel license, and they are treated differently because they have slightly different requirements. We should follow the NRS and those rules that are set forth under those and yes that does, unfortunately, set a little bit of two different rules between two different cards. We need to follow those rules and what they best represent. Inherently, there is a little bit of difference between the two and that is where we should go.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

GARY POLLOCK, Mayor

ATTEST:

SAMANTHA NANCE, City Clerk