

**MINUTES OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017
Time: 5:00 P.M.
Place: Council Chambers, Wells City Hall
525 Sixth Street Wells, Nevada
Type of Meeting: Special Meeting of City of Wells Board of Councilmen
Presiding Officer: Layla M. Walz, Mayor

ROLL CALL

Present: Layla M. Walz, Mayor
Tamrah Jackson, Councilwoman
Yvonne Stuart, Councilwoman

Absent: Laura Moore-DelRio, Councilwoman
Cindy Fuller, Vice-Mayor

Quorum: Yes

Staff Present: Heather Iveson, Utility Clerk
Sherry Justus, Deputy Clerk
Jason Pengelly, Public Works Director
Jolene M. Supp, City Manager/Clerk
Patti Zander, Deputy Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Manager Supp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were none.

**PRESENTATION FROM DAVID WHITE, P.A. ON PLAN OF OPERATION FOR
WELLS MEDICAL CENTER. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL CONTRACT
FOR HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

City Manager Supp wanted to declare a conflict of interest due to the fact Supp knows both parties are working with her daughter for future employment. Walz stated that there was a comparison in the packet showing what Nevada Health Centers would provide as

well as David White. Jackson stated Nevada Health Centers is requesting \$40,000 and the building and asked if that also included utilities as White is requesting the building plus utilities. Walz did not think utilities had been discussed with Nevada Health Centers and thought the \$40,000 was a rough estimate and depended on the type of year they had and could go up or down.

Dave White came forward and stated that he lives in Spring Creek and has been there for about five years. White specializes in emergency medicine, is an ER provider and works in the hospital. White also has his own company, contracted with the hospital for three years for emergency room services and has a contract with Golden Health. White has been in contact with Supp for the last year and understands there is a big need in Wells for medical services. White stated that there are a couple of providers interested in working in Wells, one being Veronica Stevens who is a nurse practitioner and Supp's daughter. White is starting an urgent care in Spring Creek and has started the process of getting insurance companies lined up, getting accredited by the state and getting all the licensures in place and would be able to add Wells to this process and put both facilities through at the same time. Stevens would be available to start at the clinic in February or March of 2018. White would set up staffing and Wells would not pay for any of the providers or ancillary staff.

White continued that it is very difficult to have to travel fifty or sixty miles to go to a doctor especially during the winter. Walz asked if the Wells clinic would be more of an urgent care or primary care clinic; how the clinic would be run and how many days a week. White stated so far in the discussion, Stevens is the only committed and contracted person so far and would be available to staff the clinic five days a week, eight hours a day. Stevens's wants to do a blend of primary care with established patients as well as walk ins. White thinks this would work in the short term but thinks Steven's would get overwhelmed. White would like to have two providers and do twelve hour days and possibly six or seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Walz asked White if he thought there was a big enough demand for two providers and White thought there was. White thought the biggest problem would be getting the word out that the clinic was open and staffed again, having providers people trust, getting good care and making it consistent. White knows when the City had a contract with NNRH, the days were so random, there was no staff when there was supposed to be and too few hours.

White will be taking all insurances, including Medicaid, Medicare as well as un-insured. White continued that realistically, the clinic has to be profitable or it will go under. Walz asked what the rates might be and White thought it would be from \$125 to \$150 which is the national average. White would be carrying the liability insurance on the staff. There is a need to replace the current X-ray machine and White thought it would be best if the City were to purchase the machine as White would not take any equipment from the clinic and it should all stay with the City. The person White is working with to provide an X-ray machine at the other clinic has a base unit for \$60,000 and with all the service agreements would be another \$20,000. This would include all of the install, equipment

and cover everything for the first five years. This would be for digital X-rays which has less radiation and something required by 2018. If a provider is not using the newer digital machine, there would be a loss of 10% in reimbursement, 2019 would be 20% and 2020 would be 30%. The machine White is looking at putting in Spring Creek would have a monthly payment of \$1,100 to \$1,200 leased over five years.

Stuart asked how much staff White would have at the clinic. White thought one provider, one medical assistant or nurse and maybe a receptionist, depending on how busy the clinic is. White is working with a software company that would handle all the billing if there was someone that could enter all of the data. Jackson asked how long White would give the clinic to be profitable before making the decision to close it down and White thought a year would be ample time. White would use social media to let people know about the clinic being open and Walz suggested the Ruralite Magazine could also be another option.

White was asked what his plans were for dispensing medicine and White said there are companies that do pre-packaged prescriptions. White is hoping to do this in Spring Creek as well. The company would send prescriptions to the office all pre-bottled. All that is needed is to print a label and stick it on the bottle or package. White would carry the twenty most common least expensive prescriptions.

Telemedicine could be an option and be able to use the staff at the Spring Creek clinic but White would prefer to have a provider in Wells to be able to see the patient face to face. White asked what the City would like as far as a clinic; one focused more on primary care or urgent care. Walz thinks people in Wells are not seeking primary care doctors and wouldn't go to a doctor unless they are sick and would see more use for an urgent care. Walz asked what was more profitable; primary care visits or urgent care visits. White stated that in talking with people in different clinics, both visits are reimbursed the same anymore. The only difference is the co-pay is lower for a doctor visit over an urgent care visit. Most urgent cares see thirty to forty patients a day. White is hoping the Wells clinic would see at least ten to fifteen patients a day. Walz asked if the clinic would be performing DOT physicals, drug testing and testing for the brothels and White stated he would be interested in providing those services.

White stated if everything works well, it would be February or March before the clinic would be open. White is hoping to get the clinic in Spring Creek open in November or December and will take a couple of months to stabilize things in Spring Creek. White asked the Council where they thought people were going for medical services if they weren't going to Elko. The Council replied with Twin Falls, Salt Lake City or Reno. White inquired if the Council thought people would start using the clinic if it was open on a consistent basis and health care was good. Walz stated yes, because there are times when you can't get into a doctor in Elko. Stuart thought it would be good for the elderly and low income to not have to travel for medical services as well as trying to find

someone who takes Medicare. White stated the clinic will not be able to fix all the problems but urgent care could be the solution.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

LAYLA M. WALZ, Mayor

ATTEST:

JOLENE M. SUPP, City Manager/Clerk