

MINUTES
CITY OF WHITE DEER
December 2nd, 2024

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Nick Ball, Summer Kelly, Crystal Fouquet

COUNCIL ABSENT: Randy Barrett

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Catarina Stokes

GUESTS PRESENT: Derryl Wyatt, Daniel Mooney, Troy Fulton, Ray Pipes, John Ingle, Carolyn Wheeler, Dean Wheeler, Josh Cook, Ed Hillman, Diahana Hillman, Justin Burdine, Lori Littleman, Jesse Parks, Jacob Marrow, Jazmine Marrow, John Thomas, Kimberly Thomas, Nathan Smith, Patti Parks, Alan Wilson, James Kane, Justin Freeman, Brandy Hefner, Robert Germany, Grady Milton

1. Call the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. With a quorum present Mayor Pro Tem Nick Ball called the meeting to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America Flag.
3. The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Nick Ball.
4. Approve the agenda for the meeting. Summer Kelly made the motion to approve the agenda for the meeting, seconded by Crystal Fouquet, all for, motion carried 3-0.
5. Approve the minutes for the previous meeting. Summer Kelly made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Crystal Fouquet, all for, motion carried 3-0.
6. Comments from concerned citizens. No comments from concerned citizens.
7. Consideration and action for the Municipal Judge. Daniel Mooney requested to be considered for Municipal Judge. Mooney notes that the City will need one before a Marshall could be hired. Mayor Pro Tem Nick Ball and council agree there is no need for a Municipal Judge at this immediate time. Mayor Pro Tem Nick Ball made motion to cancel Municipal Judge position, seconded by Crystal Fouquet, all for, motion carried 3-0.
8. EMS Presentation and budget proposal. Mayor Pro Tem Nick Ball emphasizes that this is not a cancellation meeting for EMS services, rather an informative meeting. Mayor Pro Tem notes we need to find cost savings measures to support the EMS increased budget and explains EMS

was given a \$121,500 budget however EMS presented a budget of over \$281,000. Ray Pipes spoke in behalf of EMS. Ray Pipes share the time commitment and sacrifice for training and the difficulty finding volunteers. EMS is beginning the process for Emergency Services District for funding: however, it will take time for that to get approved and begin. EMS requests interim funding from the City until the ESD is established.

9. Hemphill County presentation for White Deer EMS. Rich Hinkel, Chief Administrative Officer for Hemphill County Hospital District, began by re-emphasizing finding volunteers to go through EMS school is difficult. People want to help, but not for free anymore. Hemphill County is a hospital district. They tax their local citizens, and are not allowed to use their tax dollars in other communities. Mr. Henkel also talked how traditional and advantage Medicare works in terms of co-pays and potential costs patients may encounter. Jacob Clifton, EMS Director for Hemphill County Hospital District mentions at this time they cover 2500 square miles. They staff 6 trucks every day and one supervisor 24/7. Also have 2 additional units they can staff at a moment's notice, one in Pampa and the other in Canadian. And 2 additional reserve units. Currently employ 41 employees. Also do own in-house billing, do not hire a third party to do so. Estimate costs and options for White Deer (final numbers subject to change depending on board final approval): 1st option—24/7 Paramedic and First Responder vehicle in White Deer. 2nd option – 24/7 BLS ambulance in White Deer. 3rd option –24/7 paramedic and BLS ambulance in White Deer. 3rd option – 12-hour ambulance and Paramedic in White Deer. 4th option – There are currently 6 HC employees that live in White Deer and could cover calls and an ambulance from Pampa to help.

10. Comments from concerned citizens. Kimberly Thomas asked about an exit strategy for Hemphill County. Jacob Clifton stated that it is understandable that wear and tear will happen, and they practice preventative measures to keep vehicles in good condition. Justin Freeman asked if the White Deer ambulance would be part of the rotation for Hemphill County and would the City be required to provide a truck. Jacob Clifton said yes ambulance would be part of the rotation. And a cardiac monitor and stretch would be needed from White Deer EMS, the ambulances could be provided as part of the rotation if needed. Robert Germany asked if Hemphill County would utilize the White Deer EMS building. Rich Henkel said yes their people

would need living quarters for 24 hours. Mayor Pro Tem Nick Ball mentions there are some repairs and updating needed for EMS building. Brandy Hefner mentioned they have found a new ambulance for \$189,000 and are applying for a grant to cover the cost. Jacob Clifton stated an option could be selling Hemphill County White Deer's ambulances and use that income toward repairs for the EMS building. Grady Milton noted that White Deer EMS is currently working on MICU capability and that will help increase income.

11. Mayoral comments. Mayor Pro Tem Nick Ball asked who sets the rates for what is charged to patients and insurance. Josh Cook stated in 2019 they were set. Mayor stated as a council we are still doing our research and gathering information before making a decision.

12. Council member comments. Summer Kelly asked if Hemphill County would cover insurance costs. Jacob Clifton said yes Hemphill County would cover fuel and insurance as part of the contract. Crystal Fouquet emphasized that money requested for EMS budget will have to come from another city department, leaving that service short financially.

13. Set meeting date. Mayor Pro Tem Nick Ball made motion to set next Council Meeting date for December 16, 2024, at 6 p.m. at the Community Center, and seconded by Crystal Fouquet, all for, motion carried 3-0.

17. Adjourn meeting at 7:52 p.m. There being no further business on the agenda, Summer Kelly made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Crystal Fouquet, all for, motion carried 3-0, meeting adjourned.

Mayor Pro Tem Nick Ball

City Secretary Catarina Stokes