



Minutes

City Council Work Session Meeting
20 Second Avenue SW, Oelwein
May 08, 2023 - 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussions

1. Wellness Center Review.

Mulfinger presented the Wellness Center information he had provided to City Council. Mulfinger was joined by Wellness and Recreation Coordinator, Jessica Burkhart; Mercy Director of Rehab Services, Bob Johnson; and Oelwein Community School District Superintendent, Joshua Ehn.

Mulfinger reported on the ownership of the city with the Wellness Center and discussed the 28E. Mayor DeVore asked several questions pertaining to the current 28E. Mulfinger talked about the financial impact to the city, school district, and Mercy. Mulfinger also discussed how much the city has funded the wellness center each year.

Matt Weber stressed council members who wanted this study should be asking a lot of questions and guiding staff on the next step.

Seeders thanked staff for their research and the chance to look through the 28E agreement.

Payne added the center should be self-sufficient and it should not be subsidized. Payne said budget cuts were coming, and concessions should be made to some departments.

Weber stated many departments lose money, and the city provides these amenities as a service to the community, not to make money.

Johnson stated the center does well for the community and the only way for it to not lose money is to charge much higher fees. Johnson states he has worked with many councils to make it affordable to the community.

Ehn advised the district looks forward to working through another 28E agreement. While the school would love to use it more, they know it is a shared space that must come with compromise.

Mulfinger asked council if they wanted to make major changes now or just work toward an updated 28E before the current expired. Council generally agreed to update the 28E and keep the loss each year below \$30,000.

2. Dispatch Discussion.

Mulfinger walked Council through the extensive history of the dispatch and 911 discussions with the county. Mulfinger talked in detail on how the county failed to answer the city's questions concerning the dispatch center. Mulfinger presented two options to Council with Public Safety Chief Jeremy Logan answering questions. Mulfinger stated he was disappointed that an agreement has not been reached, but he did not want Oelwein to pay for a service that did not meet the community's needs. Mulfinger did not want to have two dispatch centers, but felt it was the only option for Oelwein to have a reliable service. After a lengthy discussion Council directed Mulfinger to provide a resolution on the next agenda.

Adjournment