

White City Council Minutes September 21, 2015

The special meeting of the White City Council was called to order on Monday September 21st, 2015 in the McKnight Community Center at 6:30pm by Mayor Terry Wright. Roll Call was taken: present – Tammy Byers, Chris Wilts, Chris Willmott, and Deborah Hopfinger.; Absent – Wayne Kelm.

Motion was made by Hopfinger, seconded by Wilts to approve the agenda; roll call vote taken with all present voting aye; motion carried.

The Council first welcomed consultant, Sally Damm to the meeting. She gave a brief update on her research thus far and what to expect October 5th when she presents to the community. Updates included:

- Damm's researched area included all towns within a 50 mile radius of White
- She found that this area housed 26 nursing homes and 57 assisted living facilities
- Of those facilities, there is currently an 80% occupancy rate for nursing homes and 70% occupancy rate for assisted living
- She also found 26 home health agencies in the area and 1 adult daycare facility
- Some of her research has focused on the towns of Bowdle and Estelline since their nursing homes are also city owned
- Pertaining to job openings, she found 34 licensed nurses job vacancies and 85 CNA vacancies in the area
- Damm projected that to break even, our facility would need between 35 and 40 residents
- She also projected that the facility would need to hire between 33 and 27 full time employees
- According to her preliminary budget, which included high wages, she projected at least a \$300,000 loss over the first year
- She hasn't had any luck getting into contact with a representative with the VA
- A study she found that was done back in 2007 by the state of South Dakota stated that by the year 2023, the number of nursing homes will be significantly lower than they currently are due to lack of state support
- Damm also was notified by the Department of Health and Social Services that prior to Tealwood closing the facility, they were researching some special needs options for the facility which may be an option the City could consider as well
- Sally also listed other options for the facility including assisted living, daycare, hotel, office space, apartments, and other retail options

The Council proceeded to enter into Executive Session at approximately 7:13pm to review 11 applications for the Healthcare Administrator position. The Council exited session at 8:00pm.

Motion was made by Hopfinger, seconded by Kelm to contact all 11 applicants to see if there interest for the position would remain if the City decided to operate the facility as an

Assisted Living Center instead of a Skilled Nursing Facility; roll call vote taken with all present voting aye; motion carried.. Haber will contact applicants and will update the Council at the next regular meeting.

With no further business to come before the Council, motion made by Willmott, seconded by Wilts to adjourn; roll call vote taken with all present voting aye; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Terry Wright, Mayor

Melanie Haber, Finance Officer