

OTTUMWA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL WORK SESSION NO. 9
Room 8B – Depot Conference Room

March 11, 2025
5:30 O'Clock P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

Present were Council Member Caviness, Reid, Galloway, Hoffman, McAntire and Mayor Johnson.
Wapello County Brd. of Supervisors (BOS) present: Batterson, Ziegler.

City Staff: City Admin. Rath, Finance Dir. O'Donnell, Fire Chief Canto, Interim Dep. Fire Chief Cronin, Police Chief Farrington, HR Dir. Codjoe, PIO Lawrence.

Staff from ORHC, ORMICS, IHCC, City Fire Dept.; Wapello County EMA Richmond.

Hoffman moved, seconded by Reid to approve agenda as presented. All ayes.

Mayor began conversation by providing brief history between the City and ORHC regarding ambulance services. At one point, ORHC mentioned the possibility of transition of ambulance services due to financial constraints. New CEO at ORHC since original conversation; ORHC presented four options that involve various responsibilities of the city and county by providing subsidies. BOS together with EMA working to develop an EMS Advisory Council sometime in late April (after third reading of res. by BOS). This would also allow Wapello County to put Essential Service Tax Ley to a public vote.

Rath added, according to IA Code, neither City nor County are obligated to provide EMS Services; but think all would agree our community expects and deserves this service that has been provided for years.

Council thoughts:

- Important to keep everyone in the conversation - we all want the best care for our citizens.
- Be open to partnerships.
- If ORHC plans to keep ambulance service status quo, need to develop back-up plan in case things change and the city and/or county need to provide services.
- Everyone is already short staffed, don't add additional pressure.

Canto provided fifth option; pilot program for EMS Service Delivery Model as a two-pronged approach (Fire Dept. working tandem with ORMICS) that could provide continuity of services while collecting data to see if option is sustainable.

Ziegler voiced concerns, could the pilot be designed as a back-up to services, should ORHC decide to end provisions?

Richmond provided insight; you have to have standards and data to hold entities accountable; you can't cut out the core of a business and expect it to still function properly; the pilot project is not a bad concept; however, it will decimate a system that isn't currently broken; not all services are equal and the healthcare system is a delicate system; how do we utilize the people that we have; the EMS Adv. Council will work through process and design a concrete plan; we don't want to rush through it. Make sure we are asking the right questions; deliverables and metrics are important.

Rath asked what issue are we trying to resolve? Financial? Service Delivery?

April 29, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at Bridge View Center, BOS hosting public mtg. to discuss details of EMS

Essential Service.

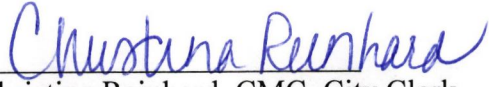
There being no further business, Caviness moved seconded by McAntire that the mtg. adjourn. All ayes.

Adjournment was at 7:09 P.M.

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA


Richard W. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Christina Reinhard, CMC, City Clerk

Published in the Ottumwa Courier on 3/22/2025.

