

APPROVED MINUTES
WATKINS CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

Mayor Rowan called the special meeting to order at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Chris Rowan, Brenda Carlson, Tootz Tschumperlin, Marc Wirz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Unterberger

Others: Dr. Lawrence Strate, CentraCare representatives Steve Stang, Brad Hanson and Jason Foos. Mayo Ambulance representatives Elie Deeb and Mike Horner. Deputy Clerk Sarah Jacobsen-Krone, Clerk Deb Kramer

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss ambulance operations.

Dr. Strate is the medical director for the Watkins ambulance service. Dr. Strate has submitted a letter of resignation as medical director and presented some concerns for the future of the service and some options on how to proceed in his absence. By statute, ambulance services need to have a medical director in place in order to operate. Discussion followed on ambulance leadership, reporting, training and education. CentraCare and Mayo are not interested in taking over. They would like to work together. Mayo Ambulance does intercepts with the Watkins service. A Mayo medic jumps into the back of the Watkins Ambulance on an intercept. Mayo noted they offer education to all services at no charge. Dr. Strate's resignation is effective April 10, 2023. The options to continue service would be to find another medical director, work with services that border Watkins' primary service area, or not operate. Council noted there has been a change in leadership in the service since early March. Council noted the service has been in contact with Dr. Jeffrey Ho about coming on as medical director to replace Dr. Strate. Dr. Ho is the medical director for Meeker County Sheriff's Office. Both CentraCare and Mayo noted Dr. Ho would do a good job for Watkins.

Council called for a special meeting on Thursday, March 30th at 7 p.m. at City Hall to meet with the ambulance service officers to discuss operations. Council noted there has to be competent oversight and leadership on the service.

Council advised Kramer to contact the vendor for the new ambulance that was approved to put a pause on the order. Council advised Kramer to contact CentraCare and Mayo for written proposals on options they could offer. Council advised Kramer to contact Dr. Ho to let him know of the concerns. Council noted they are committed to making changes in operation of the service.

MOTION BY TSCHUMPERLIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY WIRZ. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by

Deb Kramer, Clerk

ATTEST:

Chris Rowan, Mayor