
JANUARY 8, 2024 MINUTES

The Special Meeting of the Bristow City Council Meeting was called to order in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 6:00 P.M. A roll call was had with the following members present. Mayor Kris Wyatt, Councilman: Joe Church, Jeryn Fletcher, Frank Groom, Judd Johns, Brian Peters, and Randy Witty. Council members absent: Tanya Langley and Jeff Roberts.

Mayor Kris Wyatt opened with a “Thank You” to everyone that came to the meeting.

City Attorney Beth Anne wanted to give a brief history of what has been going on with the hospital and where we are, and why we are asking for the language to be changed. She stated as you all are aware, Endeavor was the operator of the Bristow Hospital for several years and acquired the City Hospital Number. Endeavor came to the City asking for compensation and to approve another sales tax for the hospital operations since the 2012 sales take will be ending in 2022. The Council agreed to ask the voters to approve another 1 cent sales tax that would supply the Hospital with ½ cent and the Park & Recreation the other ½ cent tax. Then, Endeavor provided a letter to the City stating they were closing the doors. At that time, the City issued a lawsuit against them closing due to their contract. The City asked Endeavor to give the number back or allow us to use the Number so the hospital could stay open and would have a smooth transaction for the new Management Company, but they would not allow this. The City then sent out RFP to several Hospital entities and appointed a hospital advisory Board to look over all the RFP’s and find the best candidate for the Bristow Hospital. The board was unanimous in suggesting Carrus Health for this position. The board then presented their suggestion to the City Council at which time the Council approved Carrus Health to be the Management Company. Carrus Health agreed to operate the existing hospital. At that time, Carrus Health began having conversation with the State Department of Health, they recommended Dewberry Architects, Cassandera (Cassy) due to her being familiar with the Bristow Hospital project. (Dewberry has been the Company that the City had spent over 2 million on plans that were for the New Hospital Design that Endeavor was going to build). Beth Anne stated this is a lot, but feels it needed to be done so everyone understands the reason why we are here asking for a language change. She continued by stating that there has been around 3.5 million on the completion of Phase I. The State Health Department had required Bristow Hospital to be brought up to code before they allow it to open. There has been several conversations with the City Council about the Hospital Sales Tax and all agreed to ask the voters to change the language of the ½ cent.

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sales tax for the hospital by using it for Capital, Operations, and Infrastructure. She stated we are just asking the voters to approve the changing of the language. Another thing that has been asked to her by several people is about the Clinton Hospital. Currently, all she knows is there have been several discussions on this. The Legal Team and the Stated Department of Health will be getting together and hopefully we will have some answers. One more thing, she wanted to give a huge shout out to Kyle Hilbert in helping support the city getting a \$5 million ARPA Hospital Grant to be spent on Capital Improvement. This will go toward Phase II of the Hospital project.

President Jon Rains with Carrus Health talked about the project. He stated that back in 2021 when they turned in the RFP and were awarded the Management Contract to the Bristow Hospital, their assumption was to come in and take over the management of the hospital and have a smooth transaction. They then found out the hospital number did not go with the hospital, that it had been sold to Endeavor previously and that Endeavor would not allow Bristow or Carrus Health to use it. At that time Carrus Health opened an Urgent Care facility and kept the Therapy Center open. Carrus Health main goal at that time was to give medical needs to the City of Bristow. Carrus Health had several discussions with the State Health Department about getting the hospital open. As you all are aware the building has been a nightmare. It had to be rewired, HVAC, ER, Lab, the 4 inpatient beds had to be remodeled and several other items have all had to been brought up to code. The hospital is an old building, but completely rebuilt, so I say it as a new one. In phase II, there will be a completion of 20 beds, which will also have an ICU unit. Jon wanted to reassure everyone that his goal is still to get the Critical Access Status. We are an Acute Care Statues as of now. We are working on the accreditation for Medicare and Medicaid and the hospital has been very busy. We have on average 20 to 25 patients a day in the ER and the ambulance is running and we have had life light land.

Mayor Kris Wyatt asked Jon if he could explain the Critical Access Status.

Jon Rains stated it is about the amount of reimbursement. There is new legislation regarding the rules on the allowance of the location of a Critical Access Hospital. This is about Mileage of another Hospital, CMS, Rural Emergency Hospital, Payments, and Swing Bed. When Endeavor changed the status of the number, that made us start over on getting Critical Access for the Bristow Hospital.

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Council Member Jeff Roberts stated that he just wanted to make sure he had this right and understood it. We are waiting to get the accreditation and once that is done, then everyone will work with the legal team and try to get the Critical Access Status.

Jon Raines stated “yes”. We have been working on it and will continue until it is done.

Mayor Kris Wyatt stated she had shared a list of questions with the City Attorney Beth Anne and would like her to go over them.

City Attorney Beth Anne said one of the questions was asked about the funds. She stated there is a copy and a list of all the expenditures that went toward the City Hospital Facility. The City Council has been in support of every invoice. Another question was about the Clinton Hospital. “Why did we had to remodel up to code and not Clinton”. She stated, “That is a very good question, and we are not sure what that answer is”. She said we do know that when the State Department of Health was doing the Inspection on the Bristow Hospital, the Clinton Hospital was getting approval and getting their licenses and we were denied on the same day. Some how Clinton must have found a rule and got with the state to approve their license. Clinton did not have to spend a lot of money like Bristow did. She wanted the Council to know that we still do have Karen Reiger from Crowe & Dunlevy that is fighting for Bristow Hospital. She has applied for the Critical Access Status and hopeful we will get it soon. She stated there is one thing that she knows for sure, and that is there was an agenda item on every hospital meeting agenda and that that Peter Juul who is with Carrus Health has come to almost every Council Meeting and gave an update on Phase I Construction of the Hospital. She said there were times that we were all thinking that he may just throw his hands up and leave but he didn’t. That shows you how dedicated Carrus Health is to Bristow.

Jon Rains said he wanted to let everyone know that Carrus Health has applied for other grants to help with the Construction project on the hospital. These along with the Hospital ARPA Grant will help get Phase II complete. The \$5 million ARPA Grant was awarded to five (5) Rural Hospitals and Bristow was one. We are very thankful for all the help with getting this done.

Carol Ellison, Citizens of Bristow stated she still is a little confused about the Bond Issue. She and others were led to believe the tax was to build a new hospital, then Endeavor left and took the Hospital Number, which we are very lucky that Carrus

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Health came in to help. So, her question is, are we still talking about building a new hospital or not? So, question #1 is about the 2021 sales tax; question #2 is the Vote just to redirect the use; and question #3 is are we getting a new hospital or just renovating the existing one.

Mayor Kris Wyatt stated the quote “a new Hospital” could be heard differently. The ½ cent sales tax that is generated is not going to equal enough of a 18–21-million-dollar hospital (that what is was back then). We have a new hospital, just in the old brick building. She would like to believe that not everyone could believe that a hospital could be constructed with what the sales tax generates, which should be around \$3.5.

Jon Rains stated they are working on a 5–10-year plan. The Hospital is like a new facility, just in the existing brick building. There are a lot of ideas on the table and there are a lot of different fundings. We are just trying to get the accreditation as of now. He stated just remember, the cost is the same for the same care, but we just wanting to break even. We know there are a lot of things to do. We do know it is in our best interest to be here. We would like to walk, before we run. We want to take a constitutive look. We are just wanting to get Phase II completed, then go from there.

Steven Lyon, Citizen of Bristow. He just wanted to make sure that what we are voting on is to change the wording, that is all. He feels that when you hear a new hospital that it’s a new building, not to rehab the existing hospital.

Council member Johns stated that he wants everyone to know, this is not to raise the sales tax or extend it at all, this is just to just change the language.

Steve Lyons stated he understands more and feels we should work on completing the hospital.

Mayor Kris Wyatt said she wanted to make sure everyone knows that the school bond does not in any way have anything to do with the hospital vote.

Councilmember Johns again stated this is just changing the language.

Council member Joe Church stated that in essence, we do have a New Hospital. He said there are several things we have been through to make this happen.

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City Attorney Beth Anne asked Jon Rains if he could talk about the financial loss that Carrus Health has gone through up to date.

Jon Rains said the run down is, Carrus is in the hole \$1,055,539.35 for this last year and that is not good. Jon stated that when we first started talking with the City, I stated that Carrus Health would be very Transparent and we have. He said he had sent over a Finance Sheet for the year. We are blessed to be here, and now that the Hospital is open, we are hoping for the better. We treated several people. We are looking forward to getting Phase II started and complete so we can open.

Savanna Vasquez, Citizen of Bristow asked, "if the mayor has control of the Taxes".

Mayor Kris Wyatt explained, "No", the mayor only can break it. The Council is the one that approves an item and approves taking it to the voters.

Savanna Vasquez explained what she sees, is that people in town want a lot of stuff, but don't really want to help put into the town.

Council Member Jeff Roberts wanted to "Thank" Carrus Health and Jon for having stuck around and not leave. Jeff stated he knows it has been a tough fight, but we are almost there.

Mayor Kris Wyatt wanted to "Thank" Carrus Health and Jon for being transparent and stated that they have nothing to hide. She stated, "We all have the same strategy and that is to move forward". She would like the Council, Carrus Health and the City to all be honest and work proudly together.

Motion was made by Johns with a second by Roberts to adjourn. A roll call was had with the following members present voting as follows: Church, Aye; Fletcher, Aye; Groom, Aye; Johns, Aye; Peters, Aye; Roberts, Aye and Witty, Aye. Motion passed.


SABRINA MOUNCE, CITY CLERK


KRIS WYATT, MAYOR