

**RECORD OF SPECIAL MEETING
ELLSWORTH CITY COUNCIL**

DATE: NOVEMBER 02, 2018

TIME: 8:00 AM

PLACE: ELLSWORTH CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**CITY COUNCIL PRESENT: BEATHAM, BLANCHETTE, HAMILTON,
HUDSON, AND MOORE.**

CITY COUNCIL ABSENT: CROSTHWAITE AND FORTIER.

**KEY SPEAKERS PRESENT: CITY MANAGER DAVID COLE, TAMMY MOTE,
STEVE FULLER, MICHELE GAGNON, JENN MERCHANT, DARYL CLARK,
GARY SAUNDERS, BOBBY DORR, RICHARD TUPPER, AND HEIDI
GRINDLE.**

Call to Order.

Chairman Blanchette called the special meeting of the Ellsworth City Council to order at 8:00 AM.

Council Order #111800, Request to approve an agreement between the City of Ellsworth and Northern Light Medical Transport (formerly known as Capital Ambulance) to provide short-term quarters at the Ellsworth Fire Department to facilitate the startup of an ambulance service in Ellsworth and authorize the City Manager to sign all necessary documents.

David Cole, City Manager explained at the September Council (**October 15, 2018) meeting the Council approved in principal an arrangement between the City of Ellsworth and Northern Light Medical Transport (NLMT) to enter into a temporary short-term agreement. This would provide housing quarters to the ambulance service within the Fire Department. The Council also directed the City Manager to proceed with legal review and other due diligence, including consulting with Maine Municipal Association, the City's insurer. See attachment #1 for the proposed Facility Use Memorandum of Agreement. This has been prepared with the assistance of the City's Attorney Ed Bearor in conjunction with Joe Kellner from NLMT. Kellner worked with Richard Tupper, Fire Chief on the necessary improvements in the Fire Department. The estimated list of renovations is also attached as part of attachment #1 and will cost approximately \$8,721. Under this agreement the ambulance service agrees to cover these costs. The modifications include providing space for the ambulances, bedroom/storage space, and shared common areas that will be provided to NLMT within the overall footprint of the Ellsworth Fire Department located in the basement of City Hall (a layout is included in attachment #1). Tupper is satisfied with the layout of space and will oversee the necessary improvements. Maine Municipal Association's recommendations were shared with Bearor and then incorporated into the agreement. The coverage levels are adequate from Maine Municipal's standpoint. They did mention the City should be referencing NLMT rather than Eastern Maine Health Care and that language has since been changed. The proposed monthly compensation for the space will be \$833, which translates to \$10,000 a year on an annualized basis. This negotiated amount is inclusive of NLMT's estimated share

Call to Order.

Approved - Council Order #111800, Request to approve a Facility Use Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Ellsworth and Northern Light Medical Transport to provide short-term quarters in the Ellsworth Fire Department to facilitate the startup of an ambulance service in Ellsworth and authorize the City Manager to execute said agreement.

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of direct utility costs within City Hall and the Fire Department, but also takes into account other indirect costs, for example benefits such as parking. This is a fair cost to the ambulance service and more than covers the cost to the City for this service locating in the Fire Department. The language as written by Bearor is consistent with the language as presented at the October 15 Council meeting. The purpose of this agreement is to help facilitate the startup of the ambulance service in Ellsworth. NLMT has been in service for a while and is very experienced in the business; however, as with any new service there are uncertainties. This period of nine months extending to the end of July will give them a chance to figure out the details and realize what is in the marketplace. It is in Ellsworth's interest to see this service succeed and this is one way Ellsworth can provide support. For the purpose of discussion, Beathem moved the motion as it has been presented by Cole. Beathem went on to explain he has heard the public comment the City should not do this but rather they should have a private company take over this service. Beathem noted he has not seen any private companies approaching the City to offer this type of service. He noted other places have been taking over the ambulance services and locating them within their fire departments. Beathem noted for the City of Ellsworth this is likely the best of both worlds. This would locate the ambulance service in the Fire Department, get the ambulances covered, and allow the service to get settled and negotiate the details of what needs to happen within the next year, or nine months from this date. Beathem will be supporting this item. Hudson seconded the motion.

On a motion by Beathem, seconded by Hudson, it was

RESOLVED to approve Council Order #111800, Request to approve a Facility Use Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Ellsworth and Northern Light Medical Transport to provide short-term quarters in the Ellsworth Fire Department to facilitate the startup of an ambulance service in Ellsworth and authorize the City Manager to execute said agreement.

Before a vote was taken on the above motion, Councilor Hamilton stated he agreed with the statements made by Beathem. He agreed this was the best approach now in terms of making sure that the citizens' of Ellsworth have access to EMS. Hamilton encouraged the citizens to get involved with the workshops that will be held to look at all options moving forward. This is a topic that should be vetted through all possible scenarios to arrive at the best plan going forward. Hamilton's vote of

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support for this agenda item was based on making sure the City has this service with the understanding that public workshops are held with a variety of options being explored. Chairman Blanchette stated the first public workshop will be held on Monday, November 26, 2018 at 6:00 PM. Councilor Hudson stated she would like to echo statements made by both Hamilton and Beathem. She felt this provides the City with a great opportunity, allowing them to not have to make a decision they are not prepared to make at this time. All the necessary information to make the decision has not been gathered yet. Hudson noted it does give the ambulance service a place to be located within the City so that they can get started and also provides the City with the time to hold the public workshops and related discussions in an attempt not to enter into any arrangements blindly. While at the same time not hindering these services from being available to the citizens. Hudson feels this is a very good intermediate step giving the City a chance to see how this relationship would work in conjunction with the ambulance service and to get a sense of what other things may or may not work. This is a great way to meet objectives while not committing long term. Chairman Blanchette agreed it gives NLMT a chance to get their feet under them at the same time allowing the City a chance to see how this agreement will work. Blanchette questioned the wording that NLMT will be responsible for paying the reasonable share of any modifications needed to accommodate the ambulance service. He wondered how it would be handled if when the City begins the alterations they find other costs that are needed for NLMT. Cole stated it would be the responsibility of NLMT to pay for those. Blanchette wanted to confirm that was the expectation; Cole noted it is within the agreement that it would be their responsibility. Cole did state the word reasonable is contained within the agreement. The modifications have been looked at carefully by everyone involved and of course a situation could be encountered that was completely unexpected; however, the agreement has been designed to have the cost covered by NLMT. Everyone is working in good faith on this project and given the term is nine months there does not have to be long range accommodations. This plan just needs to be safe and useable. There is value to the City beyond just facilitating the startup of this service. This will provide real life experience which is equally as valuable. Councilor Moore felt this was the best of all worlds. He agreed with prior statements and felt it covered everything that should be stated.

A vote was taken on the above motion with all members voting unanimously in favor.

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GRINDLE.**

Adjournment.

On a motion by Beatham, seconded by Hudson, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve adjournment at 8:11 AM.

A TRUE COPY

**ATTEST: _____
HEIDI-NOËL GRINDLE**

**Administrative correction as reflected in the minutes of the October 15, 2018
Council meeting minutes.

**Approved -
Adjournment at 8:11
AM.**