

**Ambulance Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, March 28, 2022**

The Ambulance Committee met Monday, March 28, 2022 at 7:15 PM in Council Chambers. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Ambulance billing for 2022.

In attendance were Ambulance Committeepersons:

Committee Chairman: Mr. Dean Holland

Committee Members: Mrs. Cheryl Ramos, Mr. Jim Seldenright

Excused Absence: None

Guests were

Mayor: Joel Day

Law Director: Marvin Fete

Service Director: Ron McAbier

Safety Director: Greg Popham

President of Council: Don Kemp

Clerk of Council: Julie Courtright

Councilperson: Mr. Mitch Pace

Councilperson: Aimee May

Councilperson: Cheryl Ramos

Denise Phillips, Ambulance Billing

Mr. Holland opened the Meeting and Introduced Fire Chief Parrish who introduced Denise Philips. Fire Chief Parrish said this is a required annual meeting to discuss ambulance rates.

Ms. Phillips:

I was hired by the City in the Fall of 2019 to get the ambulance billing on it's own and up and running. We brought the ambulance billing program in-house in 2020.

2021 Call Volume and Revenue: 3,502 calls. Of those calls 2098 were billable to commercial insurances, Medicare, Medicaid, the VA and railroad. Our call volume in 2021 increased by about 13% over 2020. Our revenue collected in 2021 was \$520,093, a 13% increase over the 2020 revenues.

We should not raise rates in 2022. The large majority of our residents are on Medicare of Medicaid.

Mrs. Ramos asked if revenue covered the cost of provision for services. Ms. Phillips stated that the revenues are more related to training and equipment and supplies. She said not entirely, we bill per transport and collect what the insurance will allow us to collect, about 40% from insurance. If a patient has Medicaid they will not pay a dime. Chief Parrish answered that the ambulance billing

does not cover the cost of ambulance billing. You cannot charge enough and charge enough from insurance. It covers about \$500,000 of the \$308 million budget.

Mr. Ricklic asked what portion of the revenue have we been able to maintain since making it in-house. Chief Parrish said it was \$25 per run to Smith Ambulance, so over \$50,000 has stayed in-house.

Ms. Phillips stated that the collection rate this year is in the neighborhood of 98%.

WITH NO OTHER ITEMS TO DISCUSS MR. RICKLIC MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 7:30 PM.