

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF FOSSTON, POLK COUNTY MINNESOTA
March 20, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special meeting of the Council of the City of Fosston, Polk County Minnesota was held in council chambers on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Offerdahl with the following members present: Anderson, Dufault, LePier and Mulry. Absent: None. Others in attendance were: Cassie Heide and Sarah Manecke.

Mayor Offerdahl stated the purpose of the meeting was to consider action on a resolution of intent to dispute the discontinuation of OB services at Essentia in the City of Fosston.

Mayor Offerdahl briefed council as to what was brought to light at the most recent Essentia/City of Fosston Task Force meeting. The Task Force was created to assist Essentia in unified and consistent messaging regarding the current suspension of OB Labor & Delivery Services at Essentia Health Fosston, while working collaboratively and creatively to find a solution to successfully reset OB services in Essentia. Mayor Offerdahl reported that Bob Overmoe and Roy Dufault, who both serve on the Essentia Director's Council, noted that senior leadership is receptive to the continuation of OB services in Fosston, but mid-level management appears to be putting up an unexpected roadblock in way of hiring a key position necessary for a restart of the service. In October of 2009 the City of Fosston entered into an Affiliation Agreement with Essentia Community Hospitals and Clinics. As part of the agreement, the City has a right to terminate the agreement and transfer ECHC's membership interest in First Care back to the City, if ECHC discontinues any core service, which includes OB. The City of Fosston expects OB Labor & Delivery Services to continue in Fosston. If necessary, the city intends to dispute the discontinuation if OB Services.

Member Dufault introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO DISPUTE THE DISCONTINUATION OF OB
SERVICES AT ESSENTIA IN THE CITY OF FOSSTON
RESOLUTION 23-11**

WHEREAS, on or about October 26, 2009, the City of Fosston (the "City") entered into that certain Affiliation Agreement with Essentia Community Hospitals and Clinics, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation ("ECHC") and First Care Medical Services, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation ("First Care") (the "Affiliation Agreement").

WHEREAS, subject to certain dispute resolution processes, Section 7 of the Affiliation Agreement grants the City the right to elect to terminate the Affiliation Agreement and require the transfer of ECHC's membership interest in First Care to the City, if ECHC discontinues any one of the Core Services, including OB services.

WHEREAS, in or around May of 2022, ECHC suspended OB services but did not provide, and has not yet provided, a notice to discontinue OB services as required under Section 7 of the Affiliation Agreement.

WHEREAS, upon ECHC's suspension of OB services, the City coordinated with ECHC's local administration and established a task force (the "Task Force") to assist and ensure that OB services will continue in the City.

WHEREAS, the Task Force adopted a goal statement as follows: Work to assist Essentia in unified and consistent messaging regarding the current suspension of OB Labor and Delivery Services at Essentia Health Fosston, while working collaboratively and creatively to find a solution to successfully reset OB services in Essentia this Winter.

WHEREAS, stakeholders in the community joined the Task Force which has met several times since July of 2022 and have spread the unified and consistent message of a pause of OB services in Fosston and the eventual return of the services in order to assist in community confidence in ECHC.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, and let it be known, the City intends to dispute the discontinuation of OB services in the City of Fosston and, if necessary, plans to avail itself of its rights under the Affiliation Agreement, including, but not limited to, termination of the Affiliation Agreement and requiring ECHC to transfer its membership interest in First Care to the City.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by member Anderson and upon vote being taken thereon the following voted in favor thereof: Dufault, Anderson, LePier, Mulry and Offerdahl.

And the following voted against same: none.

Whereupon said resolution was declared passed and adopted this 20th day of March, 2023

James Offerdahl, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cassie Heide, City Administrator

There being no further business to come before the council, motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Mulry to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Cassandra Heide, City Administrator