

**MINUTES  
WELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
September 18, 2023**

The Weld County Council met in regular session in full conformity with the Weld County Home Rule Charter at 6:30 p.m., Monday, September 18, 2023, at the Weld County Administration Building, 1150 O Street, Greeley, CO.

**ROLL CALL:**

The meeting was called to order by President James Welch. Councilmembers Nancy Teksten and Trent Leisy were present, constituting a quorum of members. Elijah Hatch and Cindy Beemer had excused absences. Also present was Council Secretary Linda Kane.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA :**

Councilmember Teksten made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilmember Leisy and carried.

**APPROVAL OF DOCUMENTATION:**

**Approval of August 21 Minutes**

Councilmember Leisy made a motion to approve the August minutes, seconded by Councilmember Teksten, and the motion carried.

**REVIEW PROGRAM:**

**Michael Burson, County Coroner**

Mr. Burson explained how for the last 40 years, the county has been conducting business out of hospital morgues. In 2021, the county opened its own coroner's office which has made the department much more efficient. Mr. Burson said his department now operates as a regional medical examiner's office.

His department handles autopsies from about 23 different counties in Colorado and Wyoming. The department earns some revenue from those services.

The department has been able to streamline practices and move to an electronic medical records system since the new facility opened. Staff was increased from 10 employees to 13. Mr. Burson said there's a high rate of satisfaction within his staff.

With the increased population growth, the coroner's office has experienced a 31 percent increase in its caseload with autopsies increasing about 21 percent.

Mr. Burson said this year has been relatively violent within the county, requiring more autopsies. In recent years, the number of autopsies had decreased.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Coordinator Reports/Councilman Reports**

There were none.

**Bills**


Councilmember Leisy made a motion to approve bills, it was seconded by Councilmember Teksten and carried. The bills were paid as follows:

- o Weld County Phone Bill for August \$25.00

**ADJOURNMENT:**

By acclamation, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

10/16/23  
October 16, 2023

  
Council President James Welch

10-16-23

  
Council Secretary Linda Kane

Coroner's Office Update September 18, 2023

- I. Introduction
- II. Goals for the office:
  - a. To continue to improve the efficiencies within the office

YEAR	Reported	Hospice	Total	Autopsied	% Autopsied	September			
2015	567	782	1347	169	30	126			
2016	582	844	1426	191	33	141			
2017	676	746	1422	227	34	163			
2018	678	694	1372	253	37	189			
2019	723	658	1381	265	37	198			
2020	895	763	1259	241	29	192			
2021	1006	896	1902	277	19	193			
2022	907	864	1771	256	21	195			
2023	549	606	1155	180	33	180			

- III. Improvements since 2020:
  - a. New facility opened in Spring 2021
    - i. Decreased time to autopsy and thus improved community experience
    - ii. Provide morgue services for 20 + outside CO and WY counties
      - 1. ~\$40,000 revenue generated annually
  - b. Subscribed to Electronic Medical Records system—CORHIO
    - i. Allows investigators to look up medical histories as soon as possible after death occurs instead of waiting on medical facilities to send/fax pertinent records.
    - ii. Increases efficiency of triaging cases---e.g., autopsy vs. no autopsy
  - c. Increased our staffing to better serve the community
    - i. 2020: 10 total including a part-time admin person (Carl Blesch)
    - ii. 2023: 13 total including two new morgue positions (1 FT; 1 PT)
- IV. BOCC recently approved acquisition of a records management system specific to the coroner's office.
  - a. Will allow us to perform real time statistics on our caseload
  - b. Will allow for easier records production for appropriate requests
    - i. District Attorney
    - ii. Law enforcement
    - iii. Family
    - iv. CORA
- V. Participating in various grant projects:
  - a. Suicide prevention (CDPHE)
  - b. Death summaries for the Weld County health department