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Oviedo council approves new clinic

By Abraham Aboraya
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Approved: Ray Tomlinson with Crowne Consulting Group speaks at a council meeting. Council approved a health clinic.

OVIEDO - The city of Oviedo will have its own health clinic up and running as soon as January after the Oviedo City Council gave approval for the project, which could save the city as much as \$1 million in five years.

the cost of leasing an X-ray

machine for the first year. Deputy Mayor Dominic Persampiere asked CareHere, the group that will run the clinic, if they would be willing to cut the city a deal on

Ray Tomlinson, who works with Crowne Consulting Group, said they could talk about that.

"Let me be more blunt: Would you be willing to put that equipment in for the first year if we were to go with this contract?" Persampiere asked.

Tomlinson seemed to dodge the question a bit - he said they would be willing to help them lease it.

"I'm always willing to have a discussion with the folks in the back," Tomlinson said.

The city will pay about \$200,000 to get the clinic up and running for the first year. About half of that - \$99,170 - will go toward paying doctors, and CareHere will get about \$52,000 to run the clinic.

The city will pay a one-time initial set-up cost of \$20,000 to get supplies and inventory, and another \$20,000 for the drug formulary. It will cost \$12,000 for the lab and the supplies, as well \$3,500 for the utilities.

The cost for the X-ray machine - about \$85,000 for the machine installed, plus another \$6,000 to make the room safe with lead walls - would be financed out. Of course, the total costs for that could change if CareHere decides to make a contribution at Persampiere's request.

Overall, the city is expected to save between \$500,000 and \$1 million by year five of opening the clinic.

"What you're doing is a classic example of why government needs to stay out of the medical business, and I hope it doesn't pass," Councilman Steve Henken, referring to Obama's health care

overhaul. "We've just shown we can do it with private groups, and do it cheaper."

The initial business plan presented by staff had the clinic offering just the basic services for year one. By year two, Bob Bentkofsky, the assistant city manager, said they would look into the X-ray machine and equipment to do physicals for police and fire fighters.

"I'd like to see the demand for the service," Bentkofsky said. "That's what I want to see before we jump off and make those two investments. If we get the participation we're expecting to get, then I would see us moving on those two services."

In other news, the Oviedo City Council:

*Gave the final approval to the budget and tax rate, about \$4.86 for every \$1,000 your home is worth (the same rate as last year).

*Approved extending a contract with The Advocacy Group to lobby at the state level on behalf of the city. The contract is for \$43,000 per year, plus expenses.

*Agreed to have Land Design Innovations to provide professional economic development services, as well to create a Community Redevelopment Plan. The cost for both is about \$153,000.

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