

City of Othello
City Council Workshop
January 5, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Shannon McKay called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Shannon McKay; Councilmembers: Eleanor Brodahl, Kenneth Caylor, Dan Dever, Kenneth Johnson, Mark Snyder, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon and Department Heads: Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steve Dunnagan, Debbie Kudrna, and Jay Van Ness

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE – USE OF CITY LOGO – KEN CAYLOR

Councilmember Ken Caylor explained that the next Centennial Committee meeting is this Thursday, January 8th at 4:30 p.m. Committees have been selected and events will begin January 1, 2010. They would like to use the City's logo, with some changes, to acknowledge the City's Centennial dates of 1910 – 2010. The Centennial Committee will utilize the revised logo for a flag, banners, coins, pins, and other memorable items. Mayor McKay acknowledged that the ordinance allows use of the City's logo with Council's consensus. Councilmember Caylor advised he will get a draft of the logo and will present it to the Council.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS—MAYOR MCKAY

Mayor McKay reviewed the 2009 Committee list. Councilmembers Spohr and Wilson were appointed to the Gray & Osborn Scholarship Committee. Mayor McKay advised that Larry McCourtie's term on the Planning Commission will be expiring this year and he would like to reappoint him at the next meeting. Councilmember Mark Snyder will replace Eleanor Brodahl on the Judicial Committee.

DISCUSSION OF SNOW PLOW POLICY

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon noted that the city's insurance carrier recommends we adopt a snow plow policy. Council was provided a snow plow policy draft, which explains the City's resources and plan of action.

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness reviewed the proposed policy and explained the different phases of response, procedures, resource allocation and coordination. They are logging the number of miles the crew drives when snow plowing, which is currently 220 miles per vehicle and they have 8 vehicles plowing snow. He also reviewed the priority list and roadway schedules; how snow will be plowed; weather conditions; road closures/detours, and equipment checks. He advised that they will plow streets from the center out, explaining that if snow is plowed to the center of the road it will have to be hauled out to alleviate melting and freezing on the roadway. Mr. Van Ness advised that the crew is working well together and they have encountered very few dangerous conditions. Currently, if the crew works through the night, they will work through their regular shift or go home if appropriate. Mayor McKay advised he has sent a letter to the Public Works Department complimenting them for their fine efforts plowing the snow.

Councilmember Brodahl stated concerns of snow plowing not being done on Lee Road from 14th Avenue east to Hwy 17. Mr. Van Ness advised this portion of Lee Road is maintained by Adams County. He advised Public Works has approximately 15 tons of salt left and they may need to order an additional 20-25 tons. Mr. Sheldon stated the City's snow plow plan is in conjunction with the School District bus routes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHARE INFORMATION

Councilmember Johnson advised the Adams County Development Council Stakeholders meeting was today and was very informative. They have a meeting this Thursday at 5:00 in Ritzville. Mayor McKay advised the president of Big Bend Community College spoke at the luncheon and reported on the various employee training programs they have.

Councilmember Spohr advised the City took no action relevant to the current contract with Mid Columbia Library District (MCLD). Recently, MCLD sent a letter advising that they are terminating the contact with the City effective December 31, 2009. Their proposed rate is the same levy rate

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that they charge the other library branches \$0.42 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which would raise the annual library contract rate to \$354,000. The Adams County Library District (ACLD) may incur costs up to \$400,000 to run the library. If ACLD contracts with MCLD, the City would not be involved with the contractual arrangements. In anticipation of the contract increases, ACLD did apply for the maximum amount tax levy. This impacted the County's general fund by approximately \$140,000, which has been reassigned to the Library District. The next library committee meeting is scheduled for January 16th where they will discuss whether ACLD will negotiate a contract with MCLD and review other options.

Councilmember Caylor advised that the Coulee Corridor submitted their application as a designation of an All American Road.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor McKay made the following announcements:

- The Adams County Fire Volunteers' annual banquet is Saturday, January 31st and Councilmember Wilson will represent the City.
- The Centennial Committee meeting is Thursday, January 8th at 4:30 p.m. in the PD training room.
- The Chamber annual banquet is January 29th at the high school corridor.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the workshop at 7:38 p.m.

By: _____
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk