

City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
January 6, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Shawn Logan called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Mayor Shawn Logan; Councilmembers: Eugene Bain, Dan Dever, Genna Dorow, Corey Everett, Kenneth Johnson, John Lallas, and Mark Snyder.

**Also Present:** City Administrator Wade Farris; Department Heads: Public Works Director Terry Clements, Parks and Recreation Coordinator Molly Klippert, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna and Finance Officer Spencer Williams.

The Mayor and Councilmembers introduced themselves. Mayor Logan explained his philosophy encouraging more public involvement in the meetings.

**DEVELOPMENT OF A PARKS AND RECREATION PRICING PLAN**

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Molly Klippert advised that she met with the Parks and Recreation Council Committee and it was the committee's consensus that the park and recreation activities and use fees should remain the same in 2014, as those adopted for 2013. They recommended that in 2014, staff is to develop a Parks and Recreation pricing plan that will establish a policy to recover a set percentage of the City's direct or indirect costs. She presented a report on what a Parks and Recreation Pricing Plan entails; how staff will work to develop it and the many benefits the City will see.

Ms. Klippert introduced Dave Erickson, City of Wenatchee Parks and Recreation Director. He explained how they tracked all of the parks and recreation expenses to be used for their parks and recreation pricing plan. They used this information and other direct and indirect costs to provide their program fee structure. Mr. Erickson provided information on becoming a "Tree City USA", which have several grant opportunities for those cities with this designation.

Ms. Klippert reported on some new park programs that she is exploring, including a craft night. She has also been in contact with other community park programs to generate more use of our facilities. The Council committee is working closely with Ms. Klippert on the parks and recreation pricing plan. Ms. Klippert explained that they are considering having representation from the various organized groups who may be affected by new fees. Mayor Logan asked that they include citizen representation on the development of the fees.

**AMENDMENT TO THE JANITORIAL CONTRACT**

City Administrator Wade Farris explained that in efforts to reduce the city budget expenditures, one of the decisions was to reduce the janitorial services for City Hall and the Police Department from five days a week service to three days a week. This could save approximately \$9,072 per year. They have discussed this with the janitorial contractor and she is aware of the upcoming reduction in the contract.

Council carried a motion to approve the fourth amendment to the janitorial contract for 2014. M/S Dorow/Dever.

**2014 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Logan and the Councilmembers reviewed the 2014 Council Committee list. Mayor Logan made appointments to the committees that needed new members.

**MAYOR LOGAN – STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE CITY OF OTHELLO**

Mayor Logan noted that he has thought about what kind of city do we want to be in the future (a strategic vision) and what steps can we take to make it happen. He asked that the newly elected officials have time to assimilate into their new positions and have a mini retreat in March to identify a strategic vision. Councilmember Johnson, President of the Adams County Development Council advised on some of their projects, including becoming a trade free zone. This will help attract businesses to the area and will be a good tax benefit for importing/exporting business.

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They have hosted several meetings and webinars relevant to building communities. They are also seeing progress in their endeavors.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Dorow noted that the union negotiation meetings are continuing. Councilmember Snyder noted that there was an Audit entrance meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Johnson invited everyone to the Adams County Development Council annual stakeholders meeting this Wednesday at the Nazarene Church at lunchtime.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

Mayor Logan announced that Council will now adjourn at 8:15 p.m. to go into an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1) (b) to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase. The executive session is expected to last 15 minutes. No action will be taken during or following the executive session. At 8:33 p.m. Mayor Logan announced that they will need an additional 10 minutes.

Mayor Logan called the meeting back to order at 8:42.

Mayor Logan allowed Sean Bates, 1156 E Juniper Street, to speak. Mr. Bates addressed a grievance regarding Ordinance 1361, adopted in 2012 relative to Council's ability to vote on items at workshop meetings. He believes that workshop meetings were designed for elected officials to learn more about important issues; prepare themselves to anticipate future actions, and foster open debate. They have essentially created another regular meeting. He believes that Council has overstepped their authority granted by the first amendment, and weakened the democratic process by taking the citizens opportunity to speak and redress grievances. He sees three options (his opinions) for the Council: rescind the decision to allow Council to vote on issues at workshops and restore the scheduled workshop meetings as were originally designed; allow for public citizen comment at the beginning of all meetings and eliminate "workshop" meetings; or prepare for potential litigation and be prepared to discuss what gives the Council the right to deny community's due process under the protection of the law and trampling the first amendment rights and sees it as a civil rights issue. Mayor Logan stated that we will need to review the ordinance later this month.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Logan adjourned the Council meeting at 8:47 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHAWN LOGAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk