

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
February 8, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Tim Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Tim Wilson; Councilmembers: Ken Caylor, Dan Dever, Genna Dorow, Kenneth Johnson, John Reneau, Mark Snyder, and Marc Spohr.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Finance Officer Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steven Dunnagan, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, City Planner Darryl Piercy, Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness; and City Attorney James Whitaker.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda as presented. M/S Caylor/Dever.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of January 25, 2010
- B. Approval of City Council Workshop Minutes of February 1, 2010
- C. Approval of Payroll and Related Expenses for February 2010
- D. Approval of Accounts Payable Checks
- E. Waiver of Delinquency Penalty as Set In OMC 4.04.060

Accounts Payable was audited and certified by the Auditing Officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080; and those expense reimbursement claims certified and as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing that has been reviewed by the Council audit committee and is available to the Council.

Expense Claim Check No. 37856 to No. 37920 in the amount of \$188,200.66.
Payroll Check No. 26359 to No. 26409 in the amount of \$ 255,009.55.

Council carried a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. M/S Dever/Reneau.

SADDLE MOUNTAIN WIND FARM – ELON HASSON

Elon Hasson, Project Manager of Horizon Wind Energy gave details about the Saddle Mountain Wind Farm project. He reviewed their operating projects; the benefits to local economies and the United States; outlined the project boundary and project construction process. He noted they are planning for 32 turbines. He also explained the wind plant basic electrical configuration and collection system; the SEPA process and the Sandhill Crane Conservation Plan. It should take approximately 6 months to build the wind farm and they'll have about 120 employees during construction. When it's in full production, it may be staffed with 6-8 employees and they will have a maintenance building. Adams County has approved their permit and they will be applying for a County road permit. They expect construction in 2011.

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT REPORT – DAVE GOWAN

Dave Gowan from the Adams County Juvenile Department thanked the Council for the work performed in the community parks, noting that it deters juvenile crime. He provided a review of their office functions and their mission statement. He explained that their main focus is in prevention, intervention, and suppression. Juvenile court options include diversion, probation, and/or parole. Their restorative justice program includes community service, restitution, and victim mediation. He reviewed their various programs and encouraged our citizens to report any crimes to the authorities.

MAIN STREET OPTIONS

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness explained that they are going to present three options for the Main Street project discussion. This includes: the total project from the west city limits, east to 14th Avenue; the total project, minus turn signals, and the Main Street project phase three, 7th Avenue to 14th Avenue. Finance Officer Mike Bailey reviewed financing options and debt service schedules for each of the options. Scenario #1 includes the complete project at a cost of

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
February 8, 2010

\$6,456,000 using councilmanic bonds and city funding. Scenario #2 is for the total project, without the traffic lights, at a cost of **\$5,232,000**, using councilmanic bonds and city funding. Scenario #3 is improvements from 7th to 14th Avenue for a cost of **\$2,597,000** using city funding and the utility tax funds. Scenario #4 is the total Main Street project, minus the street lights (the street lights will be listed as a bid option) using councilmanic bonds and city funding for a cost of **\$5,232,000**. Mr. Bailey explained that option #4 lowers the City's portion of funding and raises the councilmanic bond amount, this would allow more City funding for maintenance of a new park. He advised that improvements to Olympia Street is a separate project, estimated at **\$220,000** and currently in the budget to be paid for with a transfer from the utility tax fund. Council could choose to delete the Olympia Street project and add that **\$220,000** to the Main Street funding, reducing the councilmanic bond amount. If the Main Street project bids come in under the engineer's estimate, we could reduce the City's portion of the funding or lower the bonding amount. There was further discussion regarding the funding options.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the whole Main Street project as presented in financial scenario #1, with the traffic lights as an option with owner, which was seconded by Councilmember Reneau. Voting opposed were Councilmembers Dorow, Spohr, Dever, and Snyder. Therefore, the motion died.

Engineer Larry Julius advised we could make the traffic signals a separate schedule as an option with the owner. Taylor Denny, of Gray & Osborne, explained the issues with the current traffic lights are that they don't cover all travel and turning lanes (14th Avenue traffic light meets the new standards). If the City decides to include the traffic lights, Gray & Osborne has an engineer that will work closely on the issue. Councilmember Caylor explained that a section of the Broadway intersection has already been updated and recommended not tearing up that section of the street that was recently improved. Mr. Van Ness noted that during the Broadway project the utilities were updated and the only improvement would be for storm sewer infrastructure.

Mr. Julius advised there is stimulus funding through QUADCO that they will watch closely when it becomes available. The Main Street project may meet the requirements for the grant funding. The SR 24 Industrial area project probably won't qualify for this particular grant funding. Mr. Julius noted that Main Street construction could start the first part of June. Mr. Bailey reported that the bond funding can close within 30 days. Mr. Julius stated that we could write the grant application specific for the signal lights.

Council carried a motion to approve the Main Street Improvements Scenario #4 with the traffic signals improvement listed as owner optional. M/S Dorow/Snyder. Voting opposed was Councilmember Spohr. The motion passed.

Mr. Bailey explained that the City's capacity for Councilmanic bonds is approximately \$5.5 million. He explained the difference between a councilmanic bond and a voted special levy: a voted bond issue raises the property tax rates and is approved by the voters. Councilmanic bonds will be paid out of the City's general operating expenses and approved by the elected officials. Councilmember Caylor explained that if we don't do the entire Main Street project now all of the construction costs will increase.

PET RESCUE ANNUAL REPORT

City Planner Darryl Piercy advised that Pet Rescue is to provide an annual report. Ken Simmons from Pet Rescue reported the following: they had 222 dogs last year. Of those dogs, they adopted 65 out; 15 went to Grant County; 10 were to other shelters; 5 are missing; and 115 dogs were claimed by their owners. There seems to be some misunderstanding regarding their maintenance and cleanup projects. Mr. Simmons explained that they put wood chips down in the kennels to keep them cleaner and reduce the mud. They also erected temporary, portable pens to house the animals when they are cleaning up. They are working on rebuilding their shelter that burned down last year. They currently don't have kennels at their property to move the animals to. He advised they did not lay wood chips on top of gravel, only on mud. Mr. Simmons asked that the Council

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
February 8, 2010

approved the unauthorized improvements at the City kennel, in particular the temporary shelters. He stated that they generally adopt a dog out within 90-120 days. They are raising funds to rebuild their facility and hope that it will be complete this summer. Their request is to keep the temporary kennels on the City property. Mr. Sheldon advised that we have a contract and appreciate Pet Rescue's efforts. He noted that these are contract issues relevant to the number of dogs, which is outlined in the contract as 20 dogs. The other issue is the improvements to the City's facility, which were unauthorized by the City. He reported that the portable pens could be moved to the Pet Rescue facility on Curtis Drive. Mr. Simmons reported that they have never exceeded the approved number of dogs.

Council carried a motion to approve the request from Pet Rescue to modify the existing contract to authorize the Pet Rescue's temporary kennels at the City's facility for 8 months. M/S Taylor/Dever.

Mayor Wilson announced a break at 9:04 p.m. Mayor Wilson reconvened the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

CONSIDERATION TO CHANGE LIEUTENANT TO ASST. CHIEF – I.E. CIVIL SERVICE

Police Chief Steve Dunnagan reported that for 20 plus years, the Police Department has had a Lieutenant position. The Lieutenant acted as a second in command and was viewed as an exempt management position. The Lieutenant position is currently covered under the civil service rules. In order to move the position out of civil service and make it an appointed management position, the title, according to RCW's, must change. He suggested that this title be changed to Assistant Chief. The position of Lieutenant is currently budgeted for in 2010, so this is not an additional position or budget issue. The appointment would be made by the Chief, with approval from the Mayor, and the new position would be an exempt employee.

Council carried a motion to change the title of Lieutenant to Assistant Chief. M/S Snyder/Dorow.

MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TRAFFIC SAFETY

Police Chief Steve Dunnagan reported that the Othello Police Department has participated in traffic safety initiatives, as part of a concerted multiagency effort. In agreeing to participate, the State reimburses the City an officer's overtime while they are working on the emphasis patrol. He presented two memorandums of understanding to continue our traffic safety participation. One memorandum of understanding is for a special seat belt patrol that will take place between May 24th and June 6th. The second memorandum of understanding is for a special child restraint patrol to occur during the month of July. These are positive programs designed to educate the public and enforce the use of seatbelts and child restraints.

Council carried a motion to approve the two memorandums of understanding with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission and authorize the Mayor to sign both. M/S Dever/Johnson.

Mr. Jay Van Ness introduced Terry Clements, who was hired as the Public Works Supervisor.

RENEWAL OF WEED SPRAYING CONTRACT

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness reported that in 2009, they contracted with Outback Spraying. This contractor is very capable and responsible. We had no issues or complaints about the contractor last year. The hourly rate of \$85 has not changed and the chemical prices will remain the same as in 2009. He recommended that the Council renew the contract with Outback Spraying. The budget is \$22,000. The contractor sprays the curbs, gutters, alleys, city right-of-ways, well sites and the waste water treatment plant. Councilmember Spohr stated that the whole business model is wrong and it would be less expensive to have our Public Works staff perform the spraying.

Council carried a motion to accept the 2010 spraying contract with Outback Spraying. M/S Dorow/Reneau. Councilmember Spohr, Reneau and Dever cast opposing votes.

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
February 8, 2010

CONSULTANT SELECTION – CDBG GRANT REQUIREMENT

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness explained that the City received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$312,000 for the Well #6 rehabilitation and one grant for \$16,000 for the plan for maintaining adequate capacity for the sewer system. This plan is part of our NPDES process. One of the grant requirements is to select a consultant. We advertised for a "Request for Statement of Qualifications" and received one submittal from Gray & Osborne, Inc. He stated that Gray & Osborne are very capable to complete these projects.

Council carried a motion to approve the selection of Gray & Osborne, Inc. as the City's consultant to meet the federal requirement of the consultant selection process for Well #6 rehabilitation and the plan for maintaining adequate capacity. M/S Dever/Caylor.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2010 BUDGET – WATER COMP PLAN

Finance Officer Mike Bailey explained that during the 2010 budget, we overlooked including the costs for the 2010 Water System Plan Update in the Water Fund 401 budget for \$50,000. The State of Washington requires this plan update every six years, which make it a necessity in 2010.

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2010 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF OTHELLO AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 1312. M/S Dorow/Reneau. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1316.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Reneau stated that he is stepping down from the Council due to personal reasons and resigned. Mayor Wilson suggested that we advertise for a Council replacement and will interview in a couple of weeks. Councilmember Spohr asked that we enforce restricting truck traffic on Main Street. He asked staff to put together an ordinance to only allow local delivery trucks only on Main Street. Councilmember Spohr noted he's still receiving comments about too loud of speakers in vehicles and junk cars parked in back yards.

Mike Beardsley reported that on Friday, February 26th the Chamber is having their annual awards banquet. He asked for the Council's support.

Mayor Wilson presented awards for 12 years of clean state audits and maintaining a high level of service to: Finance Officer Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steve Dunnagan, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness, Public Works Supervisor Terry Clements, and City Planner Darryl Piercy.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the Council meeting at 9:37 p.m.

By: _____
TIM WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk