

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
February 23, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Present: Mayor Shannon McKay, Councilmembers: Ken Caylor, Dan Dever, Kenneth Johnson, Mark Snyder, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steven Dunnagan, Debbie Kudrna, and Jay Van Ness; and City Attorney James Whitaker.

Absent Was: Councilmember Eleanor Brodahl.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda. M/S Dever/Snyder.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of February 9, 2009
- B. Approval of Accounts Payable Checks
- C. Call for Bids for Official Newspaper

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. 36173 to No. 36224 in the amount of \$ 244,597.14.

Councilmember Johnson asked that consent agenda item #C be discussed separately.

Council carried a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with item #C being moved to agenda item 6A. M/S Caylor/Dever.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER CONTRACT

Police Chief Steve Dunnagan presented a contract with the Othello School District regarding the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. The new contract is for the 2008/2009 school year and is the same arrangement as the previous contract. The School District will pay 50% of the Officer's wage and benefits. Chief Dunnagan explained that this contract will satisfy the COPS Federal grant requirements. He advised this expenditure is included in the 2009 budget.

Council carried a motion to approve the School Resource Officer contract with the Othello School District. M/S Wilson/Snyder.

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS:

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness introduced Larry Julius and Taylor Denny from Gray & Osborne (G & O). Mr. Van Ness advised that Council approved funds for a new basketball court in the 2009 budget. He offered two options for placement of the new court in Lions Park; one option requires removal of the handball court and the other would require some grade adjustment. Councilmember Caylor advised there is room for the new basketball court to be adjacent and parallel to the existing court, allowing room for the benches. Mr. Van Ness advised the proposal provides 10 feet between the two courts. There is also a tree in the area that may need to be removed. Councilmember Wilson reported that he talked to people using the tennis courts and the main comment was that the handball court is used very little and there seems to be a problem with drug use within the court. Councilmember Johnson noted he is concerned of removing the handball court because we don't know how much it is being used and would like to consider all options before a decision is made. Mayor McKay advised that it seems that we don't want to remove the handball court, although he is concerned that it may be used for illegal activity. Mr. Van Ness stated he was bringing it forward as an option because of a proposal to include the basketball court overlay in the street overlay project. Chief Dunnagan reported that he isn't aware

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of calls regarding illegal activities in the handball court, although it has limited visibility. Councilmember Johnson stated that having lights on the new court may deter unwanted use of the handball court. It was noted that the murals on the handball court walls were painted by citizens and students. Mr. Van Ness advised that if it were removed, it would provide better visibility to the concession stand. Mayor McKay asked that we monitor how much the handball court is used and discuss this issue later.

Mr. Van Ness advised that the City Engineers have reviewed the street overlay project, estimated at \$411,000, which includes engineering costs. This is \$211,000 over the budget amount. There is an additional \$216,000 funded for the tennis courts reconstruction and one new basketball court. Gray & Osborne (G & O) advised that if the court projects were included in the street overlay budget, there would be a savings of \$78,000. He asked that Council increase the street overlay budget the additional \$211,000. Mayor McKay advised that it was discussed during the budget process that we may need to increase the project costs to get caught up with the street overlays. Councilmember Johnson asked if staff has looked into the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) loans. Mr. Sheldon advised that the deadline for PWTF application is this April and Council could apply for funding for the 2010 cycle to complete the overlay projects within the city or add to this year's projects. Councilmember Caylor asked if they were going to use the street grindings for sub grading on the basketball and tennis court projects. Taylor Dunning, G & O explained that by grouping the street, tennis court, and basketball projects, the asphalt costs and mobilization costs can be reduced. The contract could be written to use the grindings as a sub grade on the courts. Mr. Dunning advised that the estimate for the tennis court includes taking out the existing facility and constructing with new courts, nets, posts, and fencing. Councilmember Caylor suggested not funding the additional \$211,000 and see what occurs with the stimulus program. Mr. Van Ness advised there would be an additional \$8,000 for engineering costs for the court projects and if the street and court projects are combined, the total engineering would be approximately \$28,000. Finance Officer Mike Bailey recommended using the utility tax fund, noting that the fund would be replenished annually. He projects an ending balance of \$850,000 reserve in the utility tax fund. Larry Julius, G & O advised that PWTF loans are ideal for replacing water infrastructure along with street projects and those combined projects are looked at more favorable for grant funding. G & O recommended calling for bids for the street projects as soon as possible to get good asphalt costs. Mr. Julius also recommended that if Council does not want to approve the seven (7) street overlay projects, to at least include an option by owner clause in the bid, in case the bid is low. Then, it would be easier to add additional streets. Mr. Van Ness advised that the proposed streets are strictly overlays and do not include replacement of infrastructure. Councilmember Spohr suggested that they budget for the full project this year and start skipping every other year for overlay projects.

Council carried a motion to appropriate \$211,000 from the utility tax fund for the street overlay project and bid the street overlay, basketball court and tennis court projects together. M/S Wilson/Snyder.

RECORDING FEE POLICY

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna explained that the Adams County Auditor's office is charging filing and recording fees for all documents sent to their office. She was asked to research whether we could charge the fees to the utility accounts when liens are filed for amounts owed sewer and/or garbage. The City Attorney has advised that we are not able to charge our customers for the costs for recording when the action is for the benefit for the City. However, when a document is filed at the request and benefit of a 3rd party, such as utility extra territorial agreement, the 3rd party is responsible to pay the recording fees. She presented a policy relevant to the Auditor filing fees.

Council carried a motion to approve the Auditor's Filing Fee Policy. M/S Dever/Spoehr.

CALL FOR BIDS FOR OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Councilmember Johnson asked if we could impose a circulation number of a paper to the bid document. Mr. Whitaker advised that we could ask what the newspaper estimated circulation is,

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but we could not eliminate a bid based upon that circulation number. As long as the paper is of general circulation within the city, the Council must accept the lowest bid.

Council carried a motion to include asking what the newspaper circulation number is within the bid document and call for bids for the official newspaper. M/S Dever/Johnson

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Taylor asked why we're not pumping from Well #5. Mr. Van Ness advised that the construction within Sagestone #5 included installation of a sewer main and the road that accesses Well #5 was not available. Current water consumption is down during the winter and it isn't necessary to pump it.

Mayor McKay advised that the Young Life Banquet conflicts with the March 9th City Council meeting and asked if the Council wanted to reschedule or cancel their meeting.

Council carried a motion to reschedule the March 9th Council meeting to Tuesday, March 10th. M/S Dever/Caylor.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the Council meeting at 8:02 p.m.

By: _____
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk