

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
February 24, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Present: Mayor Shawn Logan; Councilmembers: 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, Police Chief Steven Dunnagan; City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, Finance Officer Spencer Williams, City Attorney Katherine Kenison.

Absent Was: Councilmember Eugene Bain.

Council carried a motion to excuse the absence of Councilmember Eugene Bain. M/S Dorow/Snyder.

CITIZEN INPUT

Sean Bates, 1156 E Juniper Street, read into the record a letter dated February 21, 2014 from Wade Farris. Mayor Logan asked what documents that were requested. Mr. Bates referred to the ADA point list. City Administrator Wade Farris advised they were not able to find a request for specific documents in their letter. Mayor Logan asked if the Council is aware of any ADA point complaint issued upon the City from Mike Crosier. The Councilmembers answered all no. Mr. Bates then read a provision of the City's policy and procedure, subject disclosure of public records and information, effective date November 1, 2011. He noted they have been asking for documents and information.

Mark Spohr, 420 S 9th Avenue stated that Council has changed their policy and may now take action take action during a council workshop. He disagrees with this and suggested that the Council revise taking action at a workshop or call it a regular meeting. City Attorney Kenison stated that a workshop is a lawful meeting and it is a policy decision whether they want to restrict their activities to discussion only. Mr. Spohr also noticed that under "new business" at a meeting that he was reading, the Council voted on the issue under "new business" and disagrees with that practice. Councilmember Johnson explained that MRSC has opined that the open meetings act process is for all meetings under a governing body, whether they are regular or special meetings. He noted that some issues have to be considered before the 2nd meeting of the month; however, the Council will try to not take action at a workshop unless it's an immediate issue. Mr. Spohr totally disagreed with Council taking action at a workshop, noting that it doesn't give the citizens' time to digest the issues. Councilmember Dorow noted that we won't take action unless needed and suggested changing the name from a workshop to a regular meeting.

Mike Crosier, 625 N 11th Avenue, advised that he wrote the disclosure of documents and information in the 1980's. In 2000, he requested a public records request for a copy of the 1986 disclosure policy and he was provided a copy of it. The Council adopted updates to the policy since then. He then asked for another copy and did not receive one. Mr. Crosier suggested that the original be reconstructed. Mayor Logan surmised that he's asking the Council to go back to the 1980 policy. Councilmember Johnson noted many documents are available on the City's website. Mr. Crosier explained the difference of a document and information. Mayor Logan noted that Mr. Crosier has submitted a 32 page document with 88 points of contention and asked if it was his expectation that the City would answer the 88 points of contention in 5 days? Mr. Crosier said no.

City Attorney noted that the current disclosure policy is in compliance with the State law and there have been numerous changes by the State since 1986. Councilmember Lallas noted that we should move forward. Mr. Crosier said some of the things are illegal and said that a Councilmember had stated that she saw a document from a State authority that said if we don't institute a TBD that we wouldn't be eligible for future funds. Councilmember Dorow stated that she did not say "she saw a document" and what she said was that in discussions with grant administrators, it has been stated that they will take into account whether we have used every tool

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given to us, or our priority on those grant applications would decrease. Mr. Crosier said that he would be happy to discuss this further when he is prepared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda. M/S Johnson/Lallas.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of February 10, 2014
- 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.

Accounts Payable Check No. 43665 to No. 43711 in the amount of \$149,950.73.

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

BEAUTIFICATION REPORT

Lynette Caruthers, President, Othello Beautification Committee reported on the Main Street Lighting and Beautification project. The first phase will include lighting, planters and flora on Main Street between 14th and 13th Avenue. The City received a Community Economic Revitalization grant in the amount of \$19,500. The one-block portion of the project is estimated at \$33,045. The committee is able to keep costs down by donating time and funding and bids from local contractors. Adams County Development Council has agreed to be the fiscal routing sponsor.

Ms. Caruthers asked the Council for \$25,000 in funding assistance to help complete the one-block project. Finance Officer Spencer Williams explained the funding was not been included in the 2014 budget. Those options to consider are using funds from the general fund, street fund, real estate excise and utility tax fund. He advised that the Finance Committee recommends using the street fund for this request. Councilmember Snyder stated that the Adams County grant funding may be requested up to \$50,000. Councilmember Johnson noted that the Adams County funding comes from money to be used for economic development programs.

Council carried a motion to approve the Othello Beautification Committee's request for \$25,000 in funding assistance from the street fund for the Main Street Lighting and Beautification Project. M/S Dorow/Lallas.

Mayor Logan advised that the policy is not to make accusations against a single Councilmember and asked that those comments be voiced as a whole, and not be towards any individual.

CONSIDERATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Molly Klippert, Parks and Recreation Coordinator presented a proposed Social Media Policy to create a singular Facebook page for the City for the use of social media for City business.

Council carried a motion to adopt the City of Othello Social Media Policy. M/S Dorow/Johnson.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCOUNTED RATE FOR POOL PASS PRESALES AND POOL EMPLOYEE WAGES

Molly Klippert, Parks and Recreation Coordinator advised that the Council Pool Committee recommended moving forward with the pay scale structure for pool employees during the budget preparation. The new minimum pay scale is necessary to be in compliance with State law. They

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also discussed a 3-year pay incentive program for returning employees who have been trained and create a community atmosphere at the pool.

Ms. Klippert also reported that staff met with the Council Pool Committee to discuss preliminary plans for the 2014 pool season. The committee approved staff to move forward with the proposed preseason pool passes at a discounted rate. She recommended that individual passes be discounted to \$60 and family passes will be discounted to \$155. The discounted passes will be available through May 5, 2014.

Council carried a motion to approve the changes to the 2014 Othello Community Pool employee pay scale. M/S Johnson/Dorow.

Council carried a motion to approve the pre-sale of 2014 discounted pool passes at a discount of ten dollars off individual passes and fifteen dollars off family passes. M/S Snyder/Lallas.

APPOINT NEW CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONER

Mayor Logan appointed citizen Tim Wilson to the Othello Civil Service Commission for one 6-year term, which shall expire March, 2020.

MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Logan will not be at the March 10th Council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Logan announced that Council will now adjourn at 8:07 p.m. to go into an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) "To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency." The executive session is expected to last 30 minutes. No action will be taken during the executive session. At 8:34 p.m. Mayor Logan announced that they needed an additional 15 minutes. At 8:45 p.m., City Attorney Kenison announced that they needed an additional 15 minutes. Mayor Logan reconvened the City Council meeting at 9:03 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Logan adjourned the Council meeting at 9:03 p.m.

By: _____
SHAWN LOGAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE KUDRNA, City Clerk