

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Shawn Logan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led a silent invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Shawn Logan; Councilmembers: Eugene Bain, Genna Dorow, Corey Everett, Angel Garza, Larry McCourtie, John Lallas, and Mark Snyder.

Also Present: City Administrator Wade Farris; Department Heads: Asst. Police Chief David Rehaume, Community Development Director Travis Goddard, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, Finance Officer Spencer Williams and City Attorney Kelly Konkright.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of February 13, 2017
- B. Approval of Accounts Payable Checks

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. 47759 to No. 47816 in the amount of \$166,961.76.

Accounts Payable Check No. 5373 to No. 5376 in the amount of \$1,185.00.

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – TOURISM FUNDING FOR BRANDING PROJECT

Finance Officer Spencer Williams reported that in late 2015 the Council discussed allocating tourism funds to the Chamber of Commerce to fund the City branding project. He presented a tourism contract allocating \$15,000 to the Chamber for the branding project. Chamber Manager Bianca Mendoza reviewed the branding process, which included several round table discussions with community members. All of the groups gave input on their ideas for the brand. She presented a PowerPoint presentation about the branding process, which included the branding statement. She advised there are shirts, hats and totes for sale and a branding tool kit for businesses, who are members of the Chamber of Commerce, to create their logos and advertisement. She advised the Chamber is working on a tourism guide to promote our community and reviewed their concept for the tourism guide, which includes the new brand.

City Administrator Mr. Farris advised that the community received a good deal for the cost of the branding project. Ms. Mendoza stated the cost is approximately \$18,000. Mr. Williams reviewed the tourism fund balance, noting allocating \$15,000 to the Chamber would reduce the fund to approximately \$23,875 and will not reduce any of the allocations already approved by the Council. Mr. Williams advised the Council approved a payment of \$9,035.92 to the Chamber for the project in tonight's accounts payable (a portion of \$15,000).

Council carried a motion to approve the tourism contract with the Othello Chamber of Commerce for \$15,000. M/S Dorow/Garza.

NOEL COMMUNICATION VARIANCE REQUEST

City Attorney Konkright explained that a variance does require a notification of a public hearing. He stated that information of the variance request can be presented to the Council; however, they should not make a decision tonight until proper public hearing notification is given.

Community Development Director Travis Goddard stated that variances from the underground installation requirements must be approved by the City Council per OMC Chapter 14. Noel Communications will provide service to the CBHA clinic on 14th Avenue. They have proposed using existing above ground infrastructure on 7th Avenue and also within the DOT right-of-way adjacent to Highway 26 east to 14th Avenue. Then, their infrastructure would be underground at 14th Avenue north to CBHA. Mr. Goddard noted that CBHA is seeking a redundant network of service to ensure continuity of service, should the service from the north be severed. Noel was advised of the future undergrounding of utilities between 7th and 14th when Columbia Street is developed; however, they may be concerned of timeliness of this project. Noel Communications has requested variances in the past and the City had informed them that the policy would be to not support future variance requests.

Mr. Goddard has reviewed the request and understands the concern that CBHA has for redundant service, however, staff recommends that the variance request be denied. Columbia Street is expected to be completed between 7th and 14th Avenue in the near future and underground utilities like fiber-optic lines can be installed within the Columbia Street alignment. This will actually mean that the lines will follow the shortest direct route to CBHA. There was a discussion about the installation within Columbia Street and Mr. Goddard noted Noel Communication might have discovered that it would be cost effective to go with the Columbia Street route.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember McCourtie advised that he received a phone call about the "Welcome to Othello" sign on Main Street and one on S. 1st Avenue and the caller asked if Council would consider putting the new brand on the welcome signs. Mayor Logan suggested that we get quotes for the signs. Mr. Farris stated that we'll also get a quote for the new brand to be painted on a water tower in Lions Park. He noted that there are other locations that we could implement the new brand. It was suggested that the signs could be backlit with a plexi-glass facing.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Logan adjourned the Council meeting at 7:06 p.m.

By: _____
SHAWN LOGAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE KUDRNA, City Clerk