

City of Othello
Council Workshop
February 4, 2002

Mayor Jeannie L. Ochoa called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Everett Cole, Larry Bray, Leonard Lyon, Donald Derifield, Tim Wilson and Kenneth Johnson. Absent was Eleanor Brodahl. Also present were Debbie Kudrna, Rhonda Miller, Curt Andrews and Reuel Klempel, Department Heads; Consultant Steve Muzik; and Interim City Administrator, Ehman Sheldon.

Mayor Ochoa introduced Mr. Ehman Sheldon, whom she has hired as the Interim City Administrator.

WATER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Future Prediction Forecast

Planner, Curt Andrews reviewed the city's water and sewer conclusions from the 2000 Council retreat. He reviewed this list, which included that the city must develop conservation, rationing, and must limit industry increase in water use; the city must seal the bottom aquifer in Well #6; and a commitment to complete the Water Comprehensive Plan and drill a new well every five years. Mr. Andrews then presented and reviewed a memo, dated May 2003, which recapped the city's water situation, after the water comprehensive plan is adopted. This includes assumptions of the city's position with water projects and water plans. The discussion included the city's water rights and how the city can purchase additional water rights.

In conclusion, he presented the following:

- We are in a very envious water position.
- Must develop conservation and allocation plan.
- Must limit industry's increase in water use.
- Water table may have hit bottom.
- Need to invest in different source of irrigation water.
- Now is the time to make reuse water plans.

There was a discussion regarding the industrial plants water usage. Mr. Andrews noted that it's hard for the plants to conserve water. Both plants have imposed minimal conservation practices, but it is necessary that they dilute their effluent water. He reviewed the possibility of one of the industrial plants closing down or reducing their potable water from the city; and noted that the recent minimum payment set by the Council will help the city with budget concerns if the plants drastically change their water usage. There was a discussion regarding the need for the city to be pro-active with the industrial plants and the need for a positive flow of dialogue with them and documentation regarding the city's process with the industries.

The Council supported the proposal for developing a water rate study after the water comprehensive plan is complete, which should include an analysis of water conservation measures for the industrial plants.

Water Shortage Response Plan

Public Works Superintendent, Reuel Klempel presented a draft Water Shortage Response Plan. He reviewed the procedure that he followed last year when there was an electrical power outage that caused the city to lose electrical power to Well #6. This happened during peak usage in the summer time, when Well #6 was in demand. A discussion continued regarding setting the criteria

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when communication would become necessary with the industries to request that they cut back on water use, and then setting the critical point that the city would demand the industries to stop using city water. There was a discussion about when and how to communicate to our citizens and the plants and the procedure for notification of water shortage, or water conservation measures. It was Council's consensus that when the critical point of water shortage is hit, communication with the industries should be done by the highest-ranking city official. It was decided that this city official ranking list should be established soon and a procedure set and followed.

There was a discussion on how to implement a water conservation plan within the city and whether the Council is willing to consider implementing conservation efforts. There was some concern of enforcement issues.

FIRE FLOW DESIGN PRESSURE POLICY

Mr. Andrews reviewed the possible circumstances if the city was without electricity and noted that our capacity would be enough to provide water to our citizens for a week, taking into account that the plants would have to discontinue water use. He provided a proposed fire flow design pressure policy, which included the necessity of declaring it an emergency before dropping below 20 psi at the lowest pressure area within the city. He noted that the city may make changes in order for the different wells to be provided electricity by different providers, and that the city has an opportunity to have Well #8 dual powered, which will help with emergency power outages.

Mr. Klempel explained that the city standpipe had been hit and knocked it over. He asked for suggestions from the Council on whether to repair it or how to replace it. Council's consensus was for Public Works to look at different options to repair the standpipe.

EXTRA TERRITORIAL AGREEMENTS

City Clerk, Debbie Kudrna presented a draft policy on the extra territorial agreements for water service outside city limits. This policy is included in Resolution No. 96-06. She noted that there are approximately four properties that are currently adjacent to city limits that receive city water services. She stated that there are circumstances with each of these properties and the Council should further discuss whether to enforce annexation.

SATELLITE SYSTEM POLICY

Steve Muzik provided a draft policy on water satellite systems. It included a policy for providing or not providing city water services in areas between the UGA and the USA and in the area between the USA and the city limits.

WATER CONSERVATION POLICY

Steve Muzik provided a draft water conservation policy. It included data collection and reporting; demand forecasting; and water conservation. Mr. Muzik then provided a draft water conservation procedure plan. This included reports that should be generated for the City Council and conservation promotions from the city and other sources.

Mayor Ochoa noted that there are plans in Olympia for expenditure of \$1 billion dollars for water plans next year in Washington State.

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Mr. Andrews presented a draft Executive Summary for the Water Comprehensive Plan. He reviewed the assumptions listed in the summary and asked for Council discussion and consensus. This included allocation of M & I water; establishing a limit of water use by the industries; projecting that the city can obtain additional water rights; sealing off the Wanapum from irrigators in the Lind/Odessa area; reuse of effluent water; and presumed that permits are obtained for Well #11 and #12; a water rate study will be completed; and use of ag water. There was further discussion regarding claiming the city's discharge water and options that have been researched regarding Rodeo Lake.

Mr. Andrews reviewed water allocation information. This included allocation of water provided to industry, residential and commercials. There was a discussion regarding industrial water rates; including past practice and a proposed block rate. There was further discussion regarding industrial water usage and the economical impact to the city.

Financial Challenges if Industries Cut Back

Finance Officer, Rhonda Miller presented a report on different scenarios that the city could be faced with regarding industrial water use and challenges if the industrial plants were to close or drill their own wells and change their water use. It was noted that McCain Foods have indicated that they might drill another well and what impact that would have upon the city's revenues and staffing.

Mayor Ochoa recapped some of the information that was presented and discussed at the AWC Legislative Conference.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Ochoa adjourned the workshop at 9:30 p.m.

Debbie Kudrna, CMC
City Clerk

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