

City of Othello
Council Workshop
February 2, 2004

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders called the workshop to order at 7:04 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jeannie Sanders, Councilmembers Eleanor Brodahl, Everett Cole, Larry Bray, Marc Spohr, Tim Wilson, and Kenneth Johnson.

Absent was: Councilmember Shannon McKay.

Also Present: Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Police Chief Ron Axtman, Debbie Kudrna, Rhonda Miller, Dick Lee and Interim City Administrator Bob Noland.

ORDINANCE REGARDING UTILITY SERVICE TERMINATIONS

City Clerk, Debbie Kudrna reviewed a proposed ordinance, which would provide the means to terminate water and sewer services to property, regardless of the status of the utility payment record, under certain circumstances. She reviewed the ordinance, and advised that Royal City, Warden, and Moses Lake have adopted similar ordinances.

AGREEMENT FOR LEASE FOR SERVICES FOR TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES – SADDLE MOUNTAIN WIRELESS, INC.

Interim City Administrator, Bob Noland explained that the City was advised that CBNN was going out of business and another Internet Service provider, Donobi, Inc, was assuming their accounts. The City called for request for proposals (RFQ's) for Internet services and received two proposals. Mr. Noland explained that the Internet services are an important conduit, which the City's internal e-mail system operates. The two proposals were reviewed and evaluated by an internal ISP committee and their recommendation is to enter into an agreement with Saddle Mountain Wireless, Inc. based upon price, service response time, and the use of wireless technology. Mr. Noland reported that Saddle Mountain Wireless' proposal included providing wireless services to the City Departments at no cost in exchange for use of the City's two water towers for wireless antennas. Mr. Noland stated that staff has reviewed the subscription fee for the wireless services and have concluded that the proposed services would be a fair exchange for use of the towers at this time. Mr. Noland presented a proposed lease agreement for review, noting that there may be minor changes, as Saddle Mountain is still reviewing it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Sanders thanked the Fire District and Fire Department for hosting the banquet held on Saturday night. She also thanked the Othello Outlook for reporting on dog licensing.

Councilmember Spohr stated that he is still working on a signal light proposal, which will include having the lights flash after 10:00 or 11:00 p.m.

Councilmember Spohr asked what the status was on the Michik property cleanup efforts. Police Chief Axtman explained that Mr. Michik requested a private hearing regarding the junk vehicles, but it has been forwarded to District Court. The Police Department has issued a citation for the nuisance and the Chief stated that the issue would probably come back to the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Spohr stated that he is concerned that there is conflicting language in the recreational parking ordinance and asked for an interpretation of the code. Councilmember Spohr also mentioned his concern of semi-tractors traveling within residential neighborhoods and asked for clarification of the ordinance. Public Works Director, Dick Lee stated that our residential streets are not built for trucks and trailers.

Mayor Sanders reported that she had met with the City's State Legislative representatives and reported on several issues discussed at the Association of Washington Cities conference, which included:

- Changes to the Primary election process
- A proposal to implement an Internet and catalog tax
- State assistance for LEOFF 1 costs

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- **Decreases in various State funding**
- **The proposed Initiative 860, which will cut 25% of property taxes, noting that could be approximately 7% of the City's budget (\$263,000 impact)**
- **Proposed tax exemptions for rural Washington cities**
- **Governor Locke reported that Washington State is #1 in the WASL Science and Math academics and exceeds the National average in Reading and Writing. The Governor is also trying to get additional 5,200 students into the higher education system.**

Councilmember Johnson stated that he would like to have a Retreat in April to start working with the Department Heads on next years' budget.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders adjourned the workshop at 7:45 p.m.

By: _____
JEANNIE L. SANDERS, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk