

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Shawn Logan called the Planning Session to order at 5:57 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor Shawn Logan; Councilmembers: Eugene Bain, Corey Everett, 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 Phil Schenck, Finance Officer Spencer Williams, Community Development Director Travis Goddard, and City Clerk Debbie Kudrna.

**Introduction and Vision Discussion**

Community Development Director Travis Goddard reviewed RCW 35.6.060 "Powers of Commissions" and OMC 2.21.040 – Planning Commission provisions. He reviewed comprehensive planning elements and functions. Mr. Farris advised that our last comprehensive plan was accomplished in 1995. Mr. Goddard reported on current developments. He noted the opportunity to obtain CDBG & PWTF funding for infrastructure improvements. Discussion included improvements to SR 26 adjacent to the city; where is the city going to grow; why it's the responsibility of the elected officials to plan ahead.

**Planning and what it means for the City going forward**

Mr. Goddard explained why it is so important for planning for potential growth of the community. He reviewed the process of updating the comprehensive plan.

He asked "what are the topics the Council would like to see community development work on in 2015". Suggestions included development of residential area north of Olympia Street; what the limits of the City's debt service; development of S. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue; where will the City grow?

**SWOT Exercise**

The Council came with the following:

**What are Othello's:**

- **Strength's:**
  - Irrigation and increased crop production
  - Available space
  - Our kids are coming back to Othello to live
  - The physical/centrally location of Othello
  - Inexpensive power for industry
  - Good people and a nice place
- **Weaknesses**
  - Inadequate natural gas supply
  - The City's declining water supply
  - No city engineer on staff
- **Opportunities**
  - Fiber optics in vicinity
  - Chain stores see something here
  - Potential improved rail service
  - Potential for distribution centers
  - Close to largest freezer in the world
  - Technical schools close to Othello
- **Threats**
  - Lack of affordable housing
  - Physical barriers for city limits expansion

Mr. Goddard advised that the Planning Commission will continue to work on the comprehensive plan. They may also provide community outreach events and provide Spanish interpreting for these events. Mr. Farris asked the Council to think about what their vision is for Othello.

**City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
March 2, 2015**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further items to discuss, Mayor Logan adjourned the Planning Session at 8:30 p.m.**

**By: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**SHAWN LOGAN, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

**By: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk**