

City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
March 04, 2013

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Tim Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Mayor Tim Wilson; Councilmembers: Eugene Bain, Ken Caylor, Dan Dever, Genna Dorow, Charles Garcia, Kenneth Johnson, and Mark Snyder.

**Also Present:** City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Public Works Director Terry Clements, Police Chief Steven Dunnagan, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, and Finance Officer Spencer Williams.

**Absent Was:** Councilmember Dan Dever.

Council carried a motion to approve the absence of Councilmember Dan Dever. M/S Dorow/Garcia.

Councilmember Dan Dever arrived at this time.

**NPDES PERMIT DISCUSSION WITH COUNCIL**

Nancy Morter, P.E. from Gray & Osborne gave an overview of Othello's wastewater treatment facility and the NPDES permit process. She advised that we are applying for the permit renewal in June 2013 through the Department of Ecology (DOE). Ms. Morter reported that we generally comply with the current permit, except for the following: influent Total Suspended Solids (TSS) over capacity; coliform violations; pH violations and algae overgrowth. She explained the potential changes to the permit process, including DOE possibly raising the TSS and increased testing. She reviewed what other cities are facing and our application process from here. She explained that if the NPDES permit came back after the State review and if we could not meet any new criteria, there may be a need to build a new treatment plant. Ms. Morter explained that during a conversation with DOE, they said that they have new personnel and were going to increase their level of service and they would have comments within thirty days on any submittal. Public Works Director Terry Clements advised that they performed additional testing for TSS throughout the community and could not find a direct source.

**POOL REPAIR DISCUSSION**

Public Works Director Terry Clements explained that they discovered that the pool was losing water last summer. When the pool was shut down, they did additional testing to figure out what the cause of the water loss was from. Public Works performed some repairs and will perform additional tests when the pool is filled. He reviewed the cosmetic and operational repairs of the pool and advised that he received a quote of \$20,000 to fix the pool. He explained that the repair costs will be paid from the water fund, noting this was not included in the 2013 budget.

**TOURISM TAX UPDATE**

Finance Officer Spencer Williams advised that State law has allowed the expanded use of funding from Hotel Motel taxes, to be used for marketing and advertising and the operations of tourism related activities. There is a sunset clause on the expanded use of the funds, which will expire June 30, 2013. There is legislation proposed that would allow the expanded use of the funds to continue; however, the outcome is uncertain. If the sunset clause expires, the law would limit the use of the funds to marketing and advertising activities that promote tourism. Mr. Williams stated that they have already informed the tourism organizations that receive funding of the possible changes. There was discussion about the pending House Bill language. Mr. Williams explained that he had asked the State Auditors about use of Hotel Motel taxes for the coloring book created by a local artist, depicting Othello. The State Auditor's office replied that it would be hard to justify spending Hotel Motel taxes, if they are mainly sold within the community.

**SPEED LIMIT ON 7<sup>TH</sup> FROM OLYMPIA STREET NORTH TO LEE STREET**

Police Chief Dunnagan explained the different speed limits on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Olympia and Lee Streets. By State law, the maximum speed limit on city streets is 25 mph, unless a different speed limit is approved by local government, after a traffic investigation is performed. He explained that the south bound traffic on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue goes by a school zone and the speed limit is

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reduced to 20 mph. Council's consensus was to reduce the speed limit on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Olympia and Lee Streets to 25 mph, in both directions.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Taylor and Johnson reported on the events at the AWC legislative convention and reviewed several pending House Bills that are being considered in the Legislature.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Wilson made the following announcements:

- Filing period for elected officials is in May.
- Day light savings time is this weekend.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the workshop at 8:27 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIM WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

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