

City of Othello  
Regular Council Meeting  
March 10, 2009

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

Present: Mayor Shannon McKay, Councilmembers: Eleanor Brodahl, Ken Caylor, Dan Dever, Kenneth Johnson, Mark Snyder, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steven Dunnagan, and Debbie Kudrna, Terry Clements, and Attorney Katherine Kenison.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Mr. Michael Crosier, 625 N 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue stated that he originally requested 45 minutes to discuss a universal presentation with the Council. He has not been allowed the 45 minutes and will not discuss the issue further until he gets the 45 minutes.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda, including moving agenda #5, Barracuda Swim Team, to item #3. M/S Wilson/Caylor.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of February 23, 2009
- B. Approval of City Council Workshop Minutes of March 2, 2009
- C. Approval of Payroll and Related Expenses for February 2009
- D. Approval of Accounts Payable Checks
- E. Reappoint Aurora Zavala to the Othello Housing Authority
- F. Annual Loan Display Agreement for the T-33A Aircraft in Pioneer Park

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.

Expense Claim Check No. 36225 to No. 36284 in the amount of \$ 170,903.15.  
Payroll Check No. 25048 to No. 25152 in the amount of \$ 250,883.02.

Council carried a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. M/S Wilson/Johnson.

**BARRACUDA SWIM TEAM AGREEMENT**

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon advised that the Council received a letter from the Othello Barracuda swim team requesting several items. The Council pool committee has discussed the requests and made a recommendation to their request to use the pool from June 1-12, one week prior to the scheduled opening date. The Pool Committee recommends that if others, such as school districts, would register to use the pool during that early season, they would consider the request. Nicole Amaruso and Kristi Rattray, speakers for the Barracuda swim team reported they have other concerns. Mrs. Rattray stated they have a potential increase of 15% in participation this year, up to 45-50 kids in swim team. Their current concerns are: usage of the pool; the cost of the pool; and the cost and maintenance of a new sound system. She advised the current sound system meets State regulations but feels it does not work efficiently for the size and shape of the pool. They presented a swim team brochure that promotes pool usage. Mrs. Amaruso stated that with more teams participating in our swim meets, more people tend to stay overnight in the community and enjoy other amenities including restaurants, motels, and stores. Mrs. Amaruso asked that the concession stand be open during swim meets, noting that the swimmer's and family members all need to eat and the concession stand would be profitable. Mrs. Rattray asked that the City be proactive recruiting lifeguards and hire swim team members; provide incentives for recruiting lifeguards; and support/encourage the swim team members. Mrs. Amaruso stated they have asked approval to host four swim meets; two Saturdays and two mid-week. Councilmember Johnson recommended that the pool committee meet with the swim team

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representatives to discuss their concerns. Mayor McKay agreed that communication is essential and it was beneficial when Becky Mohs and the other pool supporters kept active during the promotion of the new pool. He encouraged the pool committee to meet with swim team representatives to discuss the issues. The swim team reported that other communities host weekend meets and the revenues outweigh the expenses. Councilmember Johnson stated that we operate the pool with a loss and we have appropriated funding to improve the concession stand. He would like to talk with the swim team representatives to see if there are other possible revenue streams. A meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**PET RESCUE ANNUAL REPORT**

Jessica Fuhrman reported on the 2008 Pet Rescue pound operations. She advised they may have brought 250+ dogs from the dog rescue in Lind. She reported that the money they raised last year was used for the expenses incurred when they rescued the dogs from the Lind raid. Jessica noted there is room for expansion at the Pet Rescue facility on Curtis Drive and they currently have 8 dog runs. Mayor McKay thanked Pet Rescue for their hard work. Jessica advised they are spaying cat colonies to help control the cat population.

**GWMA PRESENTATION - PAUL STOKER**

Paul Stoker, representative for the Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) reviewed and explained soil schematic cross section maps of local areas and the various layers of the terrain. He advised we are not getting any recharge from the Columbia River into our aquifers from the surface. The only recharge we will get is from rainfall, which is also not realistic. From their research, they have discovered there is no new water in the lower Grande Ronde and the water is at least 10,000 years old. The water we pump is primarily from that source. There are interflow zones approximately every 100 feet. People are discovering that it's not an advantage to have wells open to multiple zones because they could lose static level pressure. He noted that the farther you go down, the less likely it is you will find new water. From this research, they have concluded that if you have a well that pumps old water, it is unlikely that the water will be recharged. He stated there is a feasibility study of the Crab Creek drainage area, the pumping of water out of Lake Roosevelt in the winter time, and filling lake creek drainages. They will find out whether the water will flow back into interflow zones. Conservation will not have an effect on the water loss and the static water level will continue to decrease. They have applied to Washington State for \$2.5 million to complete a hydrologic model and to figure out more about where the water is coming in; how fast water is coming in; how much time we have left; who has new and old water, etc. He explained that static levels in wells go down during irrigation season and wells do not recharge from irrigation because surface water does not go through basalt layers. If a domestic well is being recharged it is because the pump is set above the basalt layer. He did note that there are wells that are being recharged by snow packs west of Ritzville. In our area, the deeper Grande Ronde water sources are dropping and the Wanapum (the shallower areas) are not dropping as fast as it was before. He asked the City to write a letter to Washington State for supporting their funding application to complete their hydrologic models.

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING ANNUAL OTHELLO CLEAN UP DAYS**

Mayor McKay read the proclamation into the record.

**PARK TREES**

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon explained that Council had reviewed types of trees and the necessity of trees and shelter in our parks. Staff was directed to get quotes and staff is now requesting Council appropriate \$5,000 from the General Fund. Councilmember Wilson asked staff to research purchasing trees with 3"- 4" trunks, in an attempt to get shade quicker in the parks. Council requested that quotes be obtained for bigger trees and to inquire into warranties on the trees.

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**ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2009 BUDGET**

Finance Officer Mike Bailey reported that the Council had approved a request from Public Works to increase the 2009 overlay budget \$211,000 from the Utility Tax Fund. The ordinance amends the 2009 budget for that funding.

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2009 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF OTHELLO AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 1282. M/S Caylor/Snyder. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1290.

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH PETTY CASH/CHANGE FUNDS**

Finance Officer Mike Bailey reported that the Police Department requested a \$50 change fund for a cash drawer to take payments for dog licenses and impoundment fees in the evenings and on the weekends. Councilmember Wilson questioned whether the established change fund amounts for the concession at the pool are sufficient. Mr. Bailey stated that he could discuss this with pool personnel and bring it back to Council if they deem it necessary.

Council carried a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION TO RE-ESTABLISH PETTY CASH/CHANGE FUNDS. M/S Dever/Brodahl. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2009-03.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor McKay explained that with the basketball courts, tennis courts, and expansion of the pool area that the park area of Lions Park may become cluttered, therefore, eventually the handball court would have to come out. Councilmember Brodahl stated that Lions Park is known for the open green spaces. Councilmember Caylor stated that by moving the benches between the basketball courts, there will be approximately 10' between the handball court and the new basketball court. He suggested that a multi-purpose park shelter be built to be used in the pool area and when the pool is closed, panels are moved so the park shelter can be used by park users.

Mayor McKay introduced Terry Clements, Public Works Supervisor.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the Council meeting at 8:36 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

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