

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
March 13, 2017

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Shawn Logan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led a silent invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Shawn Logan; Councilmembers: Eugene Bain, Genna Dorow, Corey Everett, Angel Garza, Larry McCourtie, John Lallas, and Mark Snyder.

Also Present: City Administrator Wade Farris; Department Heads: Police Chief Phil Schenck, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, Community Development Director Travis Goddard and Finance Officer Spencer Williams.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda. M/S Dorow/Bain.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of February 27, 2017
- B. Approval of City Council Workshop Minutes of March 6, 2017
- C. Approval of Payroll and Related Checks
- D. Approval of Accounts Payable Checks
- E. Annual Loan Display Agreement for the T-33 Aircraft in Pioneer Park
- F. Resolution to Accept Donations for the Police Departments Explorer Program

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.

Accounts Payable Check No. 47891 to No. 47817 in the amount of \$367,141.39.

Payroll and Related Expenses Check No. 30329 to No. 30359 in the amount of \$371,067.32.

Council carried a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. M/S McCourtie/Garza.

BOND REFINANCE – JIM NELSON

Finance Officer, Spencer Williams introduced Jim Nelson, Senior Vice President from DA Davidson. Mr. Nelson explained that the City has an opportunity to refinance the 2010 Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds and be able to save considerable interest costs. He explained the difference of a public bond sale and a private bond placement with a bank. He also reviewed the outstanding 2010 bond payments and explained that the City is an A+ bond investment grade.

Mr. Williams advised that, regardless who the bank is, we will have a contract, an established interest rate and we'll know what our annual payments will be. He advised they project that the City will save approximately \$411,856 if we refinance and reduce our payments by 4 years. Mr. Williams advised that our annual payments will increase and that we have the ability to cover the increased annual payments with utility tax revenue.

Mr. Nelson reviewed a schedule for refinancing the bonds and recommended private placement with a RFP process with banks. He explained that if the Council moves forward with the private placement option, it will be dependent on receiving a favorable bid from a bank, subject to market conditions. If the bids come in and we cannot achieve the Council's savings goal, then we stop the process, at no charge to the City.

Council's consensus was to pursue the private placement with a bank and refinance, reducing our payments by 4 years and save approximately \$400,000. Mr. Nelson explained that now that we the Council's parameters for refinancing, we can move forward.

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Mr. Williams advised that if the interest rates change drastically at the end of March, we could stop the process and wait until the treasury market trends down. A bond ordinance will be prepared by the Bond Counsel for consideration at the March 27th meeting.

**ADJUSTMENT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH UNION OPERATING
ENGINEERS**

City Administrator, Wade Farris, explained that the City Council had approved the contract with the Public Works, International Union of Operating Engineers in December. Unfortunately, the contract did not include a clause pertaining to CDL qualifications, which was within the previous union contract. This provision includes that the City will pay for costs for employees to maintain a CDL.

Council carried a motion to approve amending the Operating Engineers contract pertaining to CDL qualifications. M/S Everett/Dorow.

20TH ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP DAYS PROCLAMATION

Mayor Logan read the Proclamation announcing the 20th Annual Othello Spring Clean Up Days for April 3rd through April 8th.

Mayor Logan reported that the Police Explorers and local groups picked up garbage throughout our community this weekend. Councilmember Garza asked if the streets could be swept.

GARBAGE RATE ORDINANCE

Finance Officer, Spencer Williams, explained that the City was approached by Columbia Basin Health Association (CBHA) to discuss garbage service at their new facility. CBHA would like an option for a 20 or 25 yard compactor. Currently the City only provides rates for 30, 35, & 40 yard compactors.

Mr. Williams advised that the Finance Committee met to discuss the 20 & 25 yard compactor rate options. They reviewed several scenarios and the committee decided to go with a standard rate because the cost to the city will be the same regardless of the compactor size. This option keeps the 20 & 25 yard per pick up rates the same as the current 30 yard per pick up rate; the only change is the charge for actual tonnage. Mr. Williams advised the administration fees covers several fees incurred by the City. The Committee would also like to standardize the graduated rates for the 35 & 40 yard options as a part of the garbage rate discussions later this year. Our current 3 year rate ordinance expires this year. Councilmember Dorow stated that we will review all garbage rates later in the year.

Council carried a motion to approve THE SOLID WASTE RATE UPDATE ORDINANCE, BASED UPON SCHEDULE A. M/S Lallas/Everett. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1489.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilmember Snyder asked the status of a city engineer? Mr. Farris explained that he has built the qualifications and will work on the advertising. Councilmember Snyder stated the new building across the street does not have a swale. Community Development Director Goddard advised their construction stopped because of the winter weather and they are going to complete their on-site swale and construct their accesses from both streets soon. Mr. Goddard has advised the property owner that they should not be using the bank parking lot for access. Councilmember Bain stated that they have had three trucks parked behind the building for more than six months. Mr. Goddard explained that the storm water will drain to the landscaped area on the corner of Windsor and Desdemona and their roof water will drain to the side into a landscaped buffer. Councilmember Garza asked what we can do about onsite water containment on established business property. Mr. Goddard stated that he does not technically have a way to enforce them to re-do their storm water collection system. It would have to be a civil matter and handled in court. However, if they develop their property or change the use of the property, they may need to make site improvements.

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Councilmember Lallas advised that he has received complaints of the noise level from a night club. He is concerned that our OMC may not address the noise level from a business. Mr. Farris advised that Chief Schenck will look into the complaint and will review our municipal codes. He also stated that citizens should call the Police Department with this type of concern.

Councilmember Lallas stated that there are state level actions that affect all citizens in our state and asked whether the City can accept those actions being done nationally, rather than having the State make the decision for us. This is in regards to the immigration travel bans issued by the Federal Government and our State is opposing them. Chief Schenck advised that the Governor has the ability to affect State Institutions. The State does not have the right to set policies for the local government. Those are set by local policies, including how to enforce the law. We will continue to cooperate with the Federal Government and the decisions made at the State level are not affecting us. Councilmember Lallas stated that the Attorney General, on behalf of our Governor, is filing an injunction on the immigration ban. He asked if the City can decide that we don't accept that action. Chief Schenck noted the Attorney General is suing in Federal Court, about whether the immigration ban is a constitutional issue. The City does not have any avenue in regards to that. If the ban is found to be unconstitutional, we will have to abide. Our law enforcement does not enforce most federal or immigration laws. Mayor Logan stated he's had a conversation with another Mayor and his response was that small cities will not carry any weight by a local resolution. However, we can ask AWC to discuss this at the legislative level and to wait to see what the results are of the litigation.

Councilmember McCourtie asked how we are enforcing trucks driving on Main Street or other non-truck routes. Chief Schenck advised that we are enforcing the trucks driving in a non-truck route; however, there are cases that they can drive on them. Councilmember McCourtie stated that he's concerned that if we're writing tickets, that they are not being enforced in court. Chief Schenck advised of upcoming changes in our courts.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Logan adjourned the Council meeting at 7:37 p.m.

By: _____
SHAWN LOGAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L KUDRNA, City Clerk