

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
March 12, 2001

Mayor E R Kelley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present were: Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Everett Cole, Jeannie Ochoa and Kenneth Johnson. Council Member, Leonard Lyon arrived at 6:30 p.m. and Council Member, Don Derifield arrived at 6:58 p.m. Also present were: Debbie Kudrna, Rhonda Miller and Curt Andrews, City Department Heads; Maxine Taylor, Othello Port District; Chuck Larson, J.U.B. Engineers; members of the Adams County Planning Commission; Adams County Public Works; Adams County Planning Department and members of the Othello Planning Commission and several citizens.

Council Member, Les Clemons led the opening invocation and Mayor Kelley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN INPUT

Maggie Thomas, resident of 540 Othello Street voiced a complaint of a noise nuisance, which is generated from a band practice in a garage in her neighborhood. She was told that the band had a permit from the city to practice in their garage up to 10:00 p.m. and noted that they do not practice after that time. Mayor Kelley stated that the staff will review the permit and the Police Department will investigate the noise disturbance and will discuss this further with Mrs. Thomas.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda as presented. M/S Cole/Clemons.

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE THE FINAL REPORT FROM J.U.B. ENGINEERS ON THE OTHELLO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mayor Kelley opened the public hearing to receive the results of the transportation study, completed by J.U.B. Engineers and to receive public input about the study at 6:12 p.m. Mayor Kelley reported that state funding for a transportation study was obtained through QUADCO Regional Transportation Planning Organization. He introduced Mr. Chuck Larson of J.U.B. Engineers to make a presentation. Mr. Larson noted that it has been approximately a year since they received council and citizens concerns of the existing conditions analysis of the Adams County and Othello area transportation plan. From that discussion, those concerns were used to produce a 20-Year Transportation Plan. To help create this 20-Year Master Plan, J.U.B. used a synopsis of the major foreseeable transportation problems. All information was programmed into a computerized model that had the predicted land uses of the area, as well as the predicted traffic use. From the original foreseeable concerns, J.U.B. put together five different transportation scenarios. They used traffic counts that were generated in 1999 with capabilities to predict future traffic loads using the different scenarios. They kept in mind how a different transportation loop or intersection could relieve the current congestion created on SR 24 up to SR 26 and 14th Avenue off of SR 26 up to Ash Street and Ash Street between 14th Avenue and 7th Avenue. The transportation committee consisted of representation from the Othello Port District, City of Othello, Adams County and J.U.B. Engineers. After presentation of the initial five scenarios, Mr. Larson then presented the Transportation Master Plan 20-Year Program, which included a combination of concepts from the previously presented. The City Council and all members in the audience were provided a copy of the Transportation 20-Year Master Plan for review at this time. Mayor Kelley asked for public questions or comments to be heard from the citizens.

Cal Schaffer, Othello Planning Commission stated that the proposed plan seemed to move traffic, but had concerns of traffic merging onto 7th Avenue and Main Street, 14th Avenue

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and Main Street and questioned how the other arterials would handle the traffic flow. Mr. Larson noted that they looked at generated traffic on 7th Avenue north up to Main Street and on 14th Avenue north up to Main Street. They projected four thousand to five thousand vehicles per day on these arterials, and concluded that the projection is well within the capacity of the roadways and they did not see a need for improvements to 7th or 14th Avenue. Mr. Schaffer stated some concerns of the amount of traffic around schools and churches. Mr. Larson responded that they have suggested intersection improvements to help with traffic control on these arterials. He noted with the suggestion of an extension of Scootney Street east to a future road, the extension of Columbia Street from Broadway to 7th Avenue and a north/south future road connecting west Main Street south to SR 26, they foresee a redistribution of the traffic flow.

Mr. Larson further explained how the computer model program was used to develop the projected traffic counts. He explained that the computer model could be adapted and upgraded as changes are made. He stated that J.U.B.'s traffic concept provided the flow needed for projected traffic counts. Mr. Larson noted that it would be up to the two entities to further plan for the traffic right-of-ways and intersections. It was noted that future land use projections were provided by both planning departments.

Dee Caputo from the Adams County Planning Department asked for further explanation of the proposed intersection at SR 26 and Moon Road. Mr. Larson stated that it is a proposed intersection with auxiliary lanes and possibly a signal light and they think it could be accomplished, if all entities were in agreement with the proposed east/west Moon Street layout. Maxine Taylor, Othello Port District noted that the Department of Transportation has concerns of the current 1st Avenue and SR 26 intersection. She noted that D.O.T.'s aware of these proposals and explained that all of the proposed accesses and intersections off of SR 26 would have to comply with regulations. Mr. Larson noted the concern of the 1st Avenue and SR 26 intersection and recommended replacement of this intersection with a 7th Avenue and SR 26 site. The master plan showed a total of 6 intersections off of SR 26 and Mr. Larson encouraged the entities to research these proposals, noting that one is a replacement of the 1st Avenue and SR 26 intersection.

There was further discussion of citizens concerns of right-of-way preservations and Mr. Larson noted the Planning Departments should inform landowners of future right-of-way preservations, if agreed upon by the city and county officials.

Council Member, Ochoa questioned whether an intersection had ever been proposed at 3rd Street. Mr. Larson stated that in scenario number five, they projected an intersection at 5th Avenue but 7th Avenue seemed to accommodate traffic flow into the city, since it connected to Main Street better.

There was some discussion about the proposed extended Scootney Street and the impact of traffic on Cunningham Road due to the recent development of the Wal-Mart store. With no further comments, Mayor Kelley closed the public hearing on the transportation study at 6:55 p.m.

Mayor Kelley announced a 10-minute recess at 6:55 p.m. Council reconvened at 7:07 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2001.
- B. Approval of Payroll and Related Expenses for February, 2001.
- C. Approval of Warrants for February, 2001.

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Accounts Payable was audited and certified by the Auditing Officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080; and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing that is available to the Council.

Expense Claim Check No. 22899 to No. 23026 in the amount of \$219,011.25.
Payroll Check No. 14167 to No. 14252 in the amount of \$156,598.34.

Council carried a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. M/S Clemons/Cole.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – HOMERO MONTEMAYOR

Police Chief, Bill McDonell commended Police Officer, Homero Montemayor for his 10-years of dedicated service. Chief McDonell stated that Officer Montemayors' record shone as a D.A.R.E. Officer working with Othello youth; as a police investigator and as a member of the Tactical Response Defensive Team. He noted that Officer Montemayor is working towards his master's degree as an instructor for defensive tactics. Mayor Kelley presented a plaque for 10-years of dedicated service to Police Officer, Homero Montemayor.

REQUEST FOR SEWER SERVICE – MEADOW LANE WATER ASSOCIATION

Daniel Hilmas, representing the members of the Meadow Lane Water Association requested ten new connections to the city sewer services for properties within their water association. He stated they do intend to install an eight- inch water main off the city lateral, which runs on West Cunningham Road. This included lots 14 through 25 in Meadow Lane Estate. It was noted that lot 1, half of lot 2 and lots 7 through 11 currently receive city sewer services. They noted that the soil conditions and the elevations of the other lots that are not requesting connections have helped with the non-failure of their current septic systems.

Mr. Shaw, City Administrator reviewed their request and showed pictures of the development on West Cunningham Road noting that they are well developed and well kept properties. He listed some of the conditions that should be considered for this request:

- A right-of-way easement would have to be obtained from Adams County to grant the city an easement for the sewer line. This is assuming that the sewer line will be dedicated and maintained by the city after construction.
- The petitioners will construct a sewer main that complies with the city's public works standards for construction, and can commence only after plan approval and completion of all required permits, easements and agreements.
- Permission will be restricted to provide a domestic, separate sewer connection to each individual structure.
- The Adams County Health Officer would have to approve the abandonment of the existing sewer systems.
- If granted by the City Council, each petitioner would complete and record an extra territorial agreement.
- With respect to Brian Erwin, property owner of lot 13, his existing connection would be abandoned, with a new connection to this main sewer line.

Mr. Shaw noted that staff didn't know whether Council would consider this request with the current discussion regarding the adoption of the Comprehensive Zoning Plan by the Adams County Commissioners or whether it made a difference that this is a mature, existing community. Mr. Hilmas noted that the landowner of lot 24 is in the process of

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purchasing lot 25. Mr. Shaw noted that with respect to the city's systems' capacity to handle this load, there is no impact with connecting these few lots. Mr. Shaw clarified that the property owners would incur all costs of connection to the city's current main line and that there would be a sewer permit charge assessed to each connection. He noted that there is a possibility of creation of a latecomer's agreement for some of their costs.

Council carried a motion to instruct the city administration to work out the details with the water association for their sewer connection request; discuss with Adams County the right-of-way issue needed for this main line and bring this information back to the Council within 30 days. M/S Cole/Ochoa.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FINANCING AGREEMENT FOR 2 PATROL CARS

Finance Officer, Rhonda Miller explained that staff had originally planned to finance 2 new police patrol cars through Ford Motor Credit and recently researched other financial packages. She noted that Ford Motor Credit interest rate is 6.2% and the State contract funding interest rate is 4.35% - 4.5% interest. She explained that the cars will be available to the Police Department in April but the State contract funding is not available until June. The proposed resolution authorizes reimbursement from the State funding and provides for the city to finance the initial purchase. The resolution is part of the application process for the State of Washington local funding. There was some discussion regarding the past lease contracts and it was noted that the up front funding from the city could be appropriated out of the Police Department/General Government fund and reimbursed when the financing from the State is received.

Council carried a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FORM OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE LOCAL FINANCE AGREEMENT. M/S Johnson/Derifield. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2001-04.

FREE DUMP DAY FOR LAWN DEBRIS

The City Clerk reported that Adams County and Rabanco Regional Disposal Company have agreed upon waiving all tipping fees for lawn debris and vegetation only for the free dump day scheduled on Saturday, April 7th, 2001 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Consolidated Disposal will have additional employees for the day and noted that last year they reported a customer at the transfer station every 2.8 minutes.

Council carried a motion to allow advertising costs for the free dump day to be paid by the city. M/S Derifield/Cole.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Curt Andrews updated the Council on the Storm Water Ditch Project. He noted that this project would seal off the city's flow into Rodeo Lake and pipe it to a borrow pit. Mr. Andrews reported that the Storm Water Piping Project should be awarded within the next 3 to 4 months. All of the grant funding available for these projects will be used.

Mr. Andrews noted that the city's amended application to appropriate public waters was recently published in the Othello Outlook with a 30-day open comment period. Mr. Andrews provided an explanation of the application noting that the city has requested all the same water rights, requesting to draw from the three current well sites and requesting to withdraw public groundwater from three new locations. It also includes that Well #1 will be decommissioned and Well #6 will have the Grande Ronde Aquifer sealed in conjunction with drilling three new wells. Curt Andrews reviewed a groundwater study dated 1976,

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completed by Brown and Caldwell, which concluded that the city needed an overall study of the Odessa sub-area aquifer. He noted that the Groundwater Management Agency (GWMA) has committed \$300,000.00 to research our aquifer thoroughly. He also stated that D.O.E. has begun an evaluation of all wells within our area and taking action on problematic wells.

Curt updated Council on the Wal-Mart development, noting that paving should begin the third week in March. Negotiations are continuing with the adjacent property owner regarding installation of a sidewalk. He noted that there are current plans for a safe walking path across the canal.

Mr. Andrews reported that the Lee Road project has changed to a three-lane roadway from Broadway east to 7th Avenue. The Simplot wasteline will be installed in an easement on Lee Road and right-of-ways have been obtained for this project. Two right-turn pockets have been scheduled off of Highway 17 for Lee Road and Cunningham Road.

Mr. Andrews noted that the Planning Commission is holding a public hearing on March 19, 2001 to receive input and discuss long-term future needs, concerns, issues and solutions of the SR 24 intertie to SR 26, and associated issues, such as Bench Road, SR 24 left-turn lanes at 1st Avenue and SR 26 safety concerns. Mr. Andrews noted that the 20-Year Transportation Plan and the proposed Comprehensive Zoning Plan would all need to be further discussed with the County Commissioners. He noted that some of the proposed roads are in existing county territory and these will need to be discussed thoroughly.

Council Member, Lyon stated that the City of Prosser had taken out their clay linings in their sewer lagoons and had been approved to reclaim that water for re-use. Mr. Andrews reported that our current lagoon system does not produce the quality of water to put back into the aquifer system, noting that it is very expensive to do that. Mr. Shaw stated that the staff has looked at the possibilities of use of the water from the finishing ponds, such as for industrial, dilution purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the City Council Meeting of March 12, 2001 at 8:15 p.m.

E R KELLEY, Mayor

ATTEST:

DEBBIE L KUDRNA, City Clerk