

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders called the workshop to order at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jeannie Sanders, Councilmembers Larry Bray, Eleanor Brodahl, Everett Cole, Kenneth Johnson, Shannon McKay, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Police Chief Ron Axtman, Debbie Kudrna, Rhonda Miller; and Interim City Administrator Bob Noland.

URBAN GROWTH AREA

City Planner, Curt Andrews presented an updated Urban Growth Area (UGA) map and footnotes, which has been worked on for the past two years by the Planning Commission. He asked that the Council conceptually approve the proposed UGA map and explained that the Planning Commission will continue refining the text of the comprehensive plan. He explained that parcels within the UGA are obligated to and have the right to use city utility services; parcels outside the UGA will not be allowed to annex into the city and have no implied right to receive city utilities. Mr. Andrews noted that Council will consider requests for extension of city utilities on a case-by-case basis. He stated that the Othello Golf Course is outside the UGA, and if they were to request city services, the City would not require annexation of the property and a utility extension could be accomplished through a written contract, or the Council could change the UGA boundaries.

Mr. Andrews reviewed the recent changes of the UGA map, explaining that a portion of Hwy. 17 has been included in the UGA, due to potential growth generated from the new Wal*Mart store. He also explained that there is an area being preserved for an open space and planned development within the UGA, known as Owl Lake. The property owners of the Owl Lake area are working on a long-term reclamation clean up project. Mr. Andrews explained that State law allows the City to plan outside the City limits and within our service area, noting that the need for water is a key planning and development issue. If property within the UGA has their own water rights, the UGA boundaries can be moved to exclude them and they could then develop to County standards. Mr. Andrews explained that this proposed map has been forwarded to Adams County to assist them with planning and compatible zoning. Mr. Andrews provided a projected water needs plan up through 2059. It indicated that the City has sufficient water rights for residential, commercial and government water use, excluding the unknowns, such as new processing demand and the potential Owl Lake development. Mr. Andrews stated that the State requires a City to own at least 20-years of water rights, and this plan indicates that we have sufficient water for 50 plus years.

USE OF CITY LOGO – ORDINANCE

Interim City Administrator, Bob Noland reported that a concern was raised about the use of the City's logo. The City Attorney has advised that the City may specifically prohibit the use of the logo without prior permission of the Council, through adoption of the proposed ordinance. Councilmember Cole asked whether the creator of the logo has released his ownership of the logo; staff will research this.

REAPPOINT TERRY THOMPSON TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION; 6-YEAR TERM EXPIRES APRIL 1, 2010

Mayor Sanders reappointed Mr. Terry Thompson to the Othello Civil Service Commission for an additional 6-year term, which expires April 1, 2010.

DISCUSSION ON TRAFFIC SIGNAL LIGHTS

Councilmember Spohr provided a signal light survey and personal comments for the packet. Mayor Sanders explained that the lights at Broadway and 1st Avenue are timed for 51 seconds from green to green. She stated that the lights at 4th and 7th Avenue are timed for 65 seconds. The Mayor stated that we could shorten the length of the Broadway and 1st Avenue lights by 5 seconds to accommodate getting through the two lights, however she noted that the City needs to comply with the State standards. She noted that the City could look into a loop system for the lights at 4th and 11th Avenues. Councilmember Cole explained that there used to be a cycling

system at these lights. Councilmember Spohr stated that 4th and 7th are timed correctly both directions and noted that with only 21 seconds of green light is too short a time to cross our wide streets and said that the cross street should not have a longer green light. He noted that a vehicle shouldn't have to stop at two signal lights and they could be synchronized. There was further discussion about signal light options and the Mayor asked that a subcommittee research this issue further and she appointed Larry Bray, Dick Lee, and Councilmember Spohr as the subcommittee. Mayor Sanders reported that Mr. Lee is working on an engineered plan for the signal light at 14th Avenue. Councilmember Spohr stated that having 21 seconds on Main Street signals and 35 seconds on the side streets seems backwards to him, and asked to at least get them equal and synchronized. He asked that 1st and Broadway and 4th and 7th be timed (not pushing a loop system) and also recommended that between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. all signal lights on Main Street flash yellow. Adams County Fire Chief Fought stated that he supports the flashing lights during the early hours to help flow emergency traffic on Main Street, noting that the loop system use to work properly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Sanders reported that the Othello and Adams County Clean Up Days is scheduled and the committee is focusing on cleaning up the alleyways. She asked that volunteers call the Clerk's office for details.

Mr. Andrews announced that the second tourism workshop is scheduled for March 4th at 6:30 p.m., and will be held at the Nazarene Church Gathering Place.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders adjourned the workshop at 8:04 p.m.

By: _____
JEANNIE L. SANDERS, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk