

City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
March 3, 2008

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Shannon McKay called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Also Present: Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steve Dunnagan, Debbie Kudrna; Jay Van Ness, and City Administrator Ehman Sheldon.

**POST OFFICE TRAFFIC PATTERN**

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness reviewed the traffic flow at 6<sup>th</sup> and Main Street. There is a proposal to change the traffic flow and parking slots to eliminate the traffic congestion at the intersection. He asked for Council's direction of whether to proceed with discussing the new traffic flow with the affected property owners. Mr. Sheldon advised that a traffic engineer from Moses Lake has assisted the staff with the issue. There was a discussion regarding signage to help guide drivers into the parking lot correctly. The proposal would also eliminate the confusion of the one way traffic flow in the alley. Council's consensus was to proceed with the project.

**INDUSTRIAL/RESIDENTIAL ZONE**

Building Official/Planner Curt Andrews explained that business owners have asked the City to create a new zone to allow trucks parking, a shop and a house. This would be a mix of residential and industrial. The Planning Commission has discussed the pros and cons of the zoning issue. They forwarded the issue to the Council to discuss whether a mixed use of trucks and residential is needed inside the city limits. The business owners would like to have it in the city because we provide fire flow and code enforcement. Mr. Andrews advised that our current code allows caretaker homes within the industrial zoning. The new request is for larger homes with a truck shop. The existing I-1 zone can be changed to allow housing units or a new zone created to allow both uses. Mayor McKay advised that the City has been enforcing truck parking and getting the truck out of the areas that they are not allowed. He is concerned of how to control the truck parking (code enforcement), accumulation of junk, and impact on the land and neighbors and feels these types of developments should remain in the county.

Isirio Martinez advised that they are asking for a unique zone with nice, practical homes and truck shops. They are having problems with property out in the County and found that the covenants do not allow more than one truck per parcel. They would like to have 2 acre lots with limitations so that accumulation does not become a problem. They are open to discuss restrictions to create a good concept to assist the truckers in the area and maintain a presentable area. Councilmember Johnson advised that he sees a need for this accommodation but also can see problems in the future when developments grow around the area. Mr. Martinez stated that there may be 40-50 truckers in the area that have one or two trucks running and they are having problems finding appropriate areas for parking and working on their trucks. The Mayor acknowledged that many communities are facing the same issue. Councilmember Caylor suggested that the truckers collectively buy a piece of property and secure it properly for parking their trucks. Mr. Martinez said they have discussed that but there would be enforcement issues, unless someone would open a truck stop, similar to the one in Pasco.

Mr. Andrews stated that the County has zoning areas that would accommodate this type of development. Mr. Bob Carlson advised that Adams County recently revised their comprehensive zone and there are some restrictions to the number of trucks. They are currently reviewing the issue. Councilmember Spohr recalled when the Council approved a caretaker in the industrial area for a truck parking business. The lot has turned into an area for junk, weeds, and hazardous waste, and not what the Council intended. Mayor McKay advised that if the City and County discuss this maybe something can be worked out to accommodate the truck owners.

**COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING AND PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING**

Police Chief Steve Dunnagan presented a PowerPoint regarding the evolution of community policing. He had reviewed the Cops community and oriented policing report in 2005 and has

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reviewed the items that the police department has implemented that were reported in the publication. The presentation provided an overview of the policing theory from 1930's to present. The reality of policing is 20% enforcing the law and 80% resolving disputes. In 1979 problem oriented policing was introduced. Problem oriented policing is more fluid and proactive and they are more apt to work on underlying problems. Community policing was introduced in the 1990's. This is a collaborative effort between the department and the community to identify problems of crime and disorder and involves all elements of the community in a search for solutions. It is not the end of law enforcement efforts to protect the community; rather it allows the community to provide input to advise the department of how they can perform their duties better. He advised that the COPS report has been followed and many of the policies have been implemented and he feels that the report is a benefit for the department and community.

**OTHELLO CLEAN UP DAYS PROCLAMATION**

Mayor McKay read into the record the proclamation regarding April 7<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> as Othello Clean up Days.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS – COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHARE INFORMATION**

Mr. Van Ness advised that the park shelter committee met in Lions Park and selected a spot for the new large shelter, similar to the one in Kiwanis Park. It will be hexagon shape, with a counter island in the middle with electrical outlets and barbecue pits. Public Works expect to have it completed within a month.

Councilmember Caylor advised that the Coulee Corridor Big Event was held Saturday and their theme was water and agriculture. They recognized Ivan Whitney and Floyd Coffman for their support and efforts. Their next meeting will be on March 14<sup>th</sup> at noon at Time Out Restaurant. He also advised that GWMA will have another field trip the later part of March. Coulee Corridor and GWMA have formed a partnership to tie water development issues together. He advised that he attended a conference call with the representative from GIS and he feels that the Well #6 rehabilitation project is on track.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Spohr announced that the girl's basketball team is heading to State.

Mayor McKay made the following announcements:

- Next week's Council meeting is rescheduled to Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Pool committee meeting Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.
- Retirement reception for Lt. Hampton is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff is working on a Council retreat.
- Adams County Fire District annual meeting is scheduled for meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- He received a box of chocolates from our sister city, Wulensi Africa and is looking forward to hearing about their travels.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the workshop at 8:25 p.m.

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

**ATTEST:**

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