

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Pro-Tem Shannon McKay called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Kenneth Johnson led the invocation and Mayor Pro-Tem McKay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Councilmembers Larry Bray, Eleanor Brodahl, Everett Cole, Kenneth Johnson, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Police Chief Ron Axtman, Debbie Kudrna, Dick Lee, Rhonda Miller; and City Administrator, Ehman Sheldon.

Absent Was: Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders

AMENDMENT TO O.M.C. 4.28.050 CABARET LICENSE FEES

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna reviewed the public dance, cabaret, and adult cabaret license fees and recommended the annual cabaret license fee be increased to \$450, to become equivalent to the public dance annual fee. She advised that if the Council was inclined to consider this fee increase, an ordinance had been prepared for their consideration during the regular Council meeting.

MID COLUMBIA LIBRARY DISTRICT – CITIZEN INPUT

Danielle Krol, Director of the Mid Columbia Library District (MCL), gave a report on their efforts to hire a librarian for the Othello branch and noted they have advertised nationally for the position. She advised that MCL has never considered reducing staff hours; they have continued to provide 45 hours of service to the community. Ms. Krol explained that they have changed the requirements for the librarian position, including the candidates must possess a Bachelor's degree and be bi-lingual. She noted that they are now holding interviews for this position this week. She would like the librarian to teach computer classes in English and Spanish in the schools and provide bi-lingual story hours. Councilmember Spohr stated that the Council had been advised that children's story hours were reduced or eliminated, which was perceived by the community as a reduction in services. Ms. Krol stated that was a staffing issue. Spohr suggested that the salary not being paid for a librarian could be used for temporary staff. Krol stated that the past librarian had retired in September and MCL began advertising in December for a replacement. Mayor Pro-Tem McKay stated the Council's concern is maintaining the level of service for the library patrons. Krol reviewed the staff hours, noting that two of the part-time employees were increased to 40 hours per week in the fall of 2004 until the librarian position is filled permanently.

Becky Mace, Chairman of the Adams County Library District Board stated the Board's concerns of being excluded from of all decisions made by MCL. Ms. Mace advised that the library's staff hours remained at 19 hours week until they found the need to increase them in order to be open on Saturdays. She stated that the Board feels they don't need new staff or a librarian; they have a bi-lingual staff member and the current staff is capable of running the library. Ms. Mace stated they have a library page to provide computer service to the patrons. She was concerned that MCL representatives have not attended the District monthly meetings; the Library Board has not been consulted on recent issues, and wants the City to be aware of their concerns. Mayor Pro-Tem McKay explained that the City's contract with MCL does not allow the City to interfere with staff or administrative issues. Ms. Krol explained that she had received a phone call reporting a concern of favoritism and nepotism because the library page is Becky Mace's son and Becky is the current Chair of the Library District. Ms. Mace stated that her son was hired before she was appointed Chair of the Library District. McKay suggested that they need to meet to discuss their issues and was concerned of staff moral at the library.

Ms. Krol commended Josie (employee at MCL) for providing the computer classes at the library and stated she felt this position needed to be someone with a college degree.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Pro-Tem Shannon McKay adjourned the workshop at 7:30 p.m.

By: _____
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk