

City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
April 6, 2009

**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: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon and Department Heads: Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steve Dunnagan, Debbie Kudrna, and Jay Van Ness

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: SERGEANT DAVID REHAUME 20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Mayor McKay presented a plaque to Sergeant David Rehaume recognizing his 20 years of service.

**BARRACUDA SWIM TEAM USE OF CITY POOL FACILITY DISCUSSION**

Councilmember Spohr advised that the pool committee is proposing a fee of \$40 for each time the swim team rents the pool and \$250 for swim meets. He noted that the cost is simply a reimbursement for the lifeguards. He commented that a 2-hour pool party cost is \$175.

Councilmember Spohr stated that the \$40/hour per session is fair to the citizens and the swim team. Shutting down the pool on Saturday's for a swim meet can be a big deal to the citizens and he supports the Saturday swim meets up to 1:00 p.m. Kristi Rattray, representing the Barracuda Swim Team stated that there is only one lifeguard during the time that the swim team uses the pool, and she feels the \$40 is too high. She advised Connell does not charge the swim team for use of their pool and Moses Lake does not charge for their 3-day swim meet. She compared the swim team fees to the soccer and ballfield fees. She asked for a compromise on the fees. She explained that they want to use the pool in the mornings and Saturday mornings, when the pool is not open to the public. She suggested that the swim meet costs and daily costs be set at \$30.

It was clarified that they would like to host 2 week night swim meets; one all day swim meet on a Saturday; and one half-day Saturday swim meet, after July 10<sup>th</sup> and into the first of August.

Councilmember Brodahl asked if there was any legal conflict to our season pass holders if the pool is closed temporarily for swim meets. Mr. Sheldon said those season pass holders have expectations, however, there are times the pool will be closed due to weather, etc. Councilmember Brodahl spoke in favor of the swim meets and supports the \$40 per use fee. Councilmember Caylor suggested that the full day fee be reduced to \$150; half day fee at \$50, and the other fee be set at \$30 or \$40. It was noted that the City will run the concession stand during the swim meets.

Mr. Sheldon advised that the City will work together this year to assure that the swim programs start on time. There was further discussion regarding the proposed swim team fees. Mayor McKay suggested the following: \$30 per day; \$50 for half-day and week day night swim meets, and \$100 for full day swim meets. He advised this will be an order of business at the next meeting. Mrs. Rattray said that many of the lifeguards will have to re-certify and they hoped that the pool would be open a week or two early to train for their first swim meet. Mr. Sheldon noted that the City would have to supply city lifeguards during that early open time.

**PRESENTATION BY DUANE WAKAN, 2010 CENSUS BUREAU PARTNERSHIP SPECIALIST**

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna reported that the U.S. Census Bureau will conduct a full blown census count in 2010, and it's important that every person is counted, since some federal funding programs are based upon population counts. The Census Bureau is asking that communities participate in planning and implementing local outreach efforts to publicize the importance of the 2010 census. He will ask the Council to appoint a Complete Count Committee and appropriate money in the budget for the committee. In house, staff could do the following with no extra funding: have the 2010 census logo on the City's website and a link to the U.S. Census Bureau website; display census information/materials on a table in the City Hall lobby; census messages on the utility bills and correspondence; and have our staff provide the 1-800 phone number of the Census Bureau.

Duane Wakan, Department Specialist from the U.S. Census Bureau, advised that the census is a mandated federal law. They employ people across the country to conduct the census program.

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The 2000 census was very successful and they fully realize that they cannot produce the numbers alone, and they rely heavily upon the communities. He reported that the 2010 census is easy, important, and safe. He advised there is funding available for unique promotional programs. He explained that they have employees out in the field already and training for the enumerators will begin soon. Mr. Wakan noted that the media will be a crucial support link. Mayor McKay advised staff has made suggestions for low-cost outreach efforts and will appoint a committee.

**PUBLIC WORKS TRUST FUND PRECONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION**

Larry Julius of Gray & Osborne, advised that a Public Works Trust Fund loan will be applied for the pre-construction activities for the SR 24 industrial area improvements. Last fall, the Public Works Board drafted revised requirements relevant to matching funds. At the time, we felt that Othello would meet the requirements for a 0% match. There have been clarifications for those requirements, based upon census data, and Othello falls 17 households short of being considered a distressed community to meet the requirements for the 0% match. Due to this fact, we will need to use the standard preconstruction formula and he recommended a 5% match; 2% interest rate with a \$30,000 match. The loan application has been submitted and he asked that Council consider which match they would like to apply for. Mr. Julius reported they have applied for all of the stimulus packages available, the Community Development Block Grant, and Economic Development Administration. This will be considered at the next meeting.

**REVISED PHASING PLAN – ASHWOOD NOTCH**

City Planner Darryl Piercy reviewed a revised Ashwood Notch phasing plan, as requested by Mr. Greer. He explained there is an original development agreement that was associated with the plat and approved by the Council, as allowed under the State RCW's. The Council is allowed to make changes to the development agreement and phasing plan. The original phasing plan included housing and improvements to a section of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The revised phase plan has moved the first phase of housing to the west side of the plat and does not include improvements to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue within the first phase. This plan reduces the infrastructure improvements for phase 1 and the improvements for 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue would occur within the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase. The reason for the request is due to the current housing market conditions that did not exist when the original plat was approved.

Mr. Ed Greer advised that a year ago, when the Council approved the Ashwood Notch Plat the housing market was much stronger and he has found that it is necessary to reduce the housing phases. By moving the first phase to the west, it is closer to connect onto the existing water and sewer infrastructures. The first phase would include 12 housing lots; 23 lots in phase 2; 22 lots in phase 3; and 32 lots in phase 4. Councilmember Johnson recommended that as soon as phase 2 is developed and Scooteny Street meets 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, then 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue should be improved. He also asked if Scooteny Street in Ashwood Notch will be connected to existing development. Mr. Piercy explained that they have reviewed the issue of improvements to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and they could require improvements on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, adjacent to phase 2. This would leave sections of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue unimproved and there is some merit to improving 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue with phase 3 because the entire section of the road would be improved. Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness advised that Scooteny Street will be improved and connected from Sagestone developments to Ashwood Notch. Councilmember Caylor advised that he supports the proposal and suggested that phase 2 include an extension of Scooteny Street to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mr. Greer explained that the revised phase 2 and 3 include the same housing development that was in the original phase 1. The water lines will become connected and looped with the existing infrastructure.

**PARK SUMMER EMPLOYEE DISCUSSION**

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness explained that they evaluated the impact of losing the Coyote Ridge work crew and they suggest hiring three students that would be responsible to keep the parks and park bathrooms clean. The part time employees would work 32 hours per week: Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday (8 hour days). This would cost approximately \$23,520. There is \$24,000 budgeted for the Coyote Ridge crew, however we have paid out \$2705 already in 2009 for the Coyote Ridge crews. Councilmember Brodahl advised that we may be able

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to enter into a contract with the Department of Corrections for obtaining restitution work crews. Mr. Sheldon advised there will be one full time Public Works employee working the weekends this summer and they will rotate weekend summer shifts. It was noted that there may be other citizens besides students who may apply for these summer positions. Mayor McKay asked that staff look into the Department of Corrections work program.

**MICROFLEX - TAX & LICENSE AUDITING COMPANY**

Finance Officer Mike Bailey stated that Microflex Company has approached the City to assist in realizing tax and license revenues that are due and may not be currently paid. He explained there are no upfront costs to the City. Microflex will take 22% of the actual amounts recovered and 22% of all back taxes and new taxes accrued for a period of one year from the time the account is identified. Microflex investigates into registered companies to see if they are coding their sales tax remittance correctly and they check who are registered with the State but might not be registered with a City business license.

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

Councilmember Wilson advised there are two park toys purchased to be located in Lions Park and one in Kiwanis Park. Councilmember Caylor reported that he attended the Inland Northwest Partners meetings and he has signed up as a member of the organization to represent Othello. They are involved in economic development. He reported that the Centennial Committee met last Thursday and has received the non-profit status. The committee is currently working on: banners, flags, a calendar, and resurrecting the old community float. Councilmember Spohr reported that he attended the Adams County Library District (ACLD) meeting and they are discussing whether to charge a fee to users outside of the Library District. ACLD is negotiating an annual fee with Mid Columbia Library District (MCL). The City's contract with MCL expires December 31, 2009. Councilmember Johnson reported that the Adams County Economic Development meeting is this Thursday in the Othello City Chambers at 6:00 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Caylor reported that the new Coulee Corridor magazine clearly states "Grant County" and he asked that letters be sent from Othello asking for proper representation. Police Chief Dunnagan advised that two officers attended a 2-day training class regarding gangs and attended the gang awareness community meeting. He explained that they have current policies tracking and keeping records on confirmed gang members.

Mayor McKay made the following comments:

- Moses Lake Mayor Ron Covey has invited us to the reinstatement program for their airport next Thursday night. Councilmember Brodahl will attend.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the workshop at 9:06 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

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