

City of Othello
City Council Workshop
April 7, 2008

CALL TO ORDER:

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

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

Also Present: Department Heads: Mike Bailey, Debbie Kudrna; Jay Van Ness, and City Administrator Ehman Sheldon.

Absent Was: Councilmember Eleanor Brodahl.

BANK OF AMERICA SEMI ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

David Lee, Vice President and Senior Manager for Bank of America, reviewed the banks recommended Tactical Asset Allocation. Most of it does not apply to the City of Othello, as State law prohibits investment in equities and non-investment grade fixed income. He presented the City's current portfolio allocation which is 82.9% fixed income, or \$3,379,294.45; and 17.1% cash or \$699,374.04; for a total portfolio of \$4,078,668.49. He reviewed the Fixed Income Maturity Schedule through 2011; the City's Summary Investment Performance for 2007 with a total investment return of \$232,351; and the 2008 Summary Investment Performance through February 29th with a total investment return of \$62,235. Bank of America took over the City's investment portfolio in November 2005, and David presented an Annual Period Performance chart comparing the bank's performance to the Lehman Treasury Index and the Lipper Money Market Index. Mr. Lee described the City's portfolio as very safe against current economic conditions and mentioned Bank of America's stability, including the fact that if there were an economic crisis affecting the bank that our investments would not be involved because they are held by U.S. Trust, a non-bank affiliate. Mr. Lee reviewed an economic outlook prepared by Lynn Reaser, PhD, Chief Economist, comparing GDP for 2007 vs. 2008; growth around the world; oil prices through 2008; commodity prices; and interest rates.

ADAMS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND ADAMS COUNTY INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE SERVICES – JAY WEISE AND KATE BRUESKE – WARMING SHELTER REPORT

Jay Weise and Kate Brueske explained the concept that the two agencies are jointly working on: opening emergency warming shelters for individuals in extreme weather conditions. They found from the recent homeless count statistics report that there is a great need for these shelters and temporary housing in Adams County. Adams County Emergency Manager Jay Weise explained they are researching options to establish warming facilities in the county. They have also met with faith based groups and the homeless committee discussing options for establishing housing in the County. Mrs. Brueske explained that one of her roles is to develop a 10-year plan to end homelessness in the County. They have run a homeless shelter program for two years and have three apartments and they currently have an occupancy rate of 60%. Some of the issues they are studying are: establishing a board to review the issue; what are the concerns that may arrive when warming shelters are established; and how will the program be funded and managed. Mrs. Brueske explained there are County funds in the homeless program that can be used towards the project. They are looking at establishing facilities within the city and wanted the Council aware of the proposed program. This also becomes a piece of the County's overall emergency plan. Mrs. Brueske explained their success with the homeless shelter program, working with the various agencies.

SISTER CITY VISIT TO WULENSI SLIDE SHOW

Timm Taff, Tim Fought, and Danny and Debby Deboer traveled to Wulensi last month. They showed about 60 pictures from their trip to Wulensi, Africa. Mr. Fought presented several framed pictures of their trip to the Mayor. They explained the traditions, living situations, festivities, schooling, recreation, infrastructure, etc. of the area that they visited. Mr. Fought reviewed the results from the soil and water samples. The District Chief set aside approximately 600 acres to the group to be used for test farm sites. Mr. Deboer advised that they took soil and water samples of the area. Mrs. Deboer met with many women in the village and talked about the issues that they face. The group has been busy reviewing options for power, water, and types of products that could be raised at the test farm site. They've also been discussing options to advance the farming

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techniques in the village. During their visit, they explained to the people in the villages that our goal is to show them skills and techniques to assist them to be more independent and prosperous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHARE INFORMATION

Mr. Sheldon advised that the cracked concrete areas at the pool have been repoured. The pool committee will meet soon to review the manager, assistant manager, lifeguards, and concession applications. The Barracuda swim team will present a request for use of the pool next week.

Councilmember Caylor advised that GWMA has rescheduled another tour of the water areas in the near future and they have developed new water geology maps of the area. He is tying the Coulee Corridor and GWMA water projects together to get a better understanding of the water development issues. The Columbia Basin Area books have been released and will be sold through the Coulee Corridor project. Councilmember Caylor is also a member of the SWAC and reported on the recent tipping fee increase at the Adams County Transfer Station. The group is also researching recycling projects in the county. Councilmember Caylor recently met with Senator Maria Cantwell and discussed educational needs of our youth.

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay VanNess advised that the concrete will be taken out and repoured at the new park shelter location in Lions Park.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilmember Marc Spohr advised there have been several accidents at Highway 26 and 1st Avenue recently. He expects there will be discussions again about improvements to the intersection.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Spohr stated his concerns of dust control at the vacant lots in front of Wal*Mart. Mr. Sheldon advised that staff has discussed the issue with the carnival that is using the property this week and they have checked out the fire hydrant back flow device to keep it watered down to reduce the blowing dust. Councilmember Dever voiced his concern of how the shrubbery planted at the entrances into the Wal*Mart property reduces the visibility of traffic.

Mayor McKay made the following announcements:

- Council scholarship meeting Tuesday April 8th at 2:00 p.m. at Othello High School. The committee needs to check in at the High School office. Councilmember Wilson has asked if someone could be appointed to replace him on the committee, due to his current work load. Councilmember Dever volunteered to be on the committee.
- The Fire Department annual meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. tomorrow night at the fire station.
- The next Adams County Development Council meeting is Thursday, April 10th at 6:00 p.m. here in the Council Chambers.
- The community dialysis meeting is scheduled for April 24th at 1:30 here at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the workshop at 8:55 p.m.

By: _____
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk