

City of Othello  
Regular Council Meeting  
April 11, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Shawn Logan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Mayor Shawn Logan; Councilmembers: Eugene Bain, Genna Dorow, Corey Everett, Larry McCourtie, and John Lallas.

**Also Present:** City Administrator Wade Farris; Department Heads: Public Works Director Terry Clements, Community Development Director Travis Goddard, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, Finance Officer Spencer Williams and City Attorney Kelly Konkright.

**Absent Was:** Councilmembers Angel Garza and Mark Snyder.

Council carried a motion to approve the absence of Councilmembers Angel Garza and Mark Snyder. M/S Bain/Dorow.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Ken Johnson, 1020 Cobblestone Ave., talked about the Council's decision to increase the speed limit on S. Broadway Avenue from 25 mph to 35 mph. He believes this increased speed affects his business and customers and everyone's safety in the area. He stated that he believes the city did not follow the proper procedures to change the speed limit. He reviewed some state statutes regarding setting speed limits on arterial streets. He advised that he submitted a public records request and noted that the Council only received the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed studies and traffic flows and an engineer's study was not presented to the Council. He reviewed information from MRSC about neighborhood safe streets and what should be included in an engineer's study. He briefly reviewed a copy of an engineer's review letter relevant to the speed study on Broadway Avenue, which was written after the Council changed the speed limit on Broadway. Mr. Johnson suggested that the Council was not properly informed and an engineer's safety traffic study should be done correctly, noting the studies were also not performed correctly on Main Street. He said that the City could be liable if an accident should happen resulting to the speed.

Community Development Director Travis Goddard reviewed the RCW's when they studied the Main Street speed limit, noting three speed studies were done on Main Street. Based upon the three speed studies on Main Street, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile results led us to support a speed increase. Mr. Goddard explained that whether we need a traffic study or a safety study is one of the options to support any decision to change speed limits; noting staff was not asked to produce one of these studies. Mr. Goddard stated that he also performed two additional speed studies on Broadway and reviewed those conclusions with the Council. He and Police Chief Schenck agreed they did not have an engineering firm review the speed study results prior to adoption. The speed results were then reviewed by Morrison Maierle and they wrote a letter that they concurred with the speed study results. Based upon the fact that Council had approved the speed increase on Broadway, Public Works posted new speed limit signs. Mr. White from Morrison Maierle advised that they would need to perform the traffic study in order for them to produce a stamped engineers report. Mr. Goddard explained that the Council has the authority to change speed limits and they have an option to produce engineer reports and additional safety studies, if they so desire.

City Attorney Konkright advised that he's reviewing what constitutes an engineer and traffic study; however, it appears that Council should get an engineer study to certify any speed limit increases. Council's direction was to allow the attorney to research the issue further and have staff obtain quotes for an engineer study. City Administrator Wade Farris asked for time to resolve the issue to find out if an engineer's study cost is reasonable.

Mr. Johnson noted that he is concerned of the increased speed of truck traffic on the street and at the access streets onto Broadway. Councilmember Lallas noted that we may need to plan for development in that area that could affect what the speed limit should be. Mr. Goddard noted there is proposed development in the area that would not require trip generation numbers or traffic analysis.

Dave Sperl, 962 S Crescent Road, noted it's nice to have the elevation and population signs at the city's entrances. He advised that the WSDOT population signs need to be updated and asked for assistance to get those updated.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda. M/S Dorow/Bain.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of March 28, 2016
- B. Approval of City Council Workshop Minutes of April 4, 2016
- C. Approval of Payroll and Related Expenses
- D. Approval of Accounts Payable Checks

Accounts Payable was audited and certified by the Auditing Officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080; and those expense reimbursement claims certified and as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing that has been reviewed by the Council audit committee and is available to the Council.

Accounts Payable Check No. 46528 to No. 46577 in the amount of \$336,840.95.  
Payroll and Related Expenses Check No. 29804 to No. 29844 in the amount of \$330,107.61.

Council carried a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. M/S Bain/Dorow.

#### **REVIEW BIDS FOR 14<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE PROJECT**

City Engineer Kurt Holland advised that the 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvement project bids were opened April 8, 2016 as follows:

Bidder	Bid Total
Culbert Construction, Inc.	\$1,740,125.68
Pipkin Construction, Inc.	\$1,783,952.59
C&E Trenching, Inc.	\$1,838,270.91
Hurst Trenching, Inc.	\$1,892,229.95
J&K Earthworks	\$1,943,171.96
Belsaas & Smith	\$2,087,878.71
Advantage Dirt Contractors	\$2,267,581.39
<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	\$2,098,197.90

Mr. Holland advised that the low bid was submitted by Culbert Construction, Inc. They have reviewed their performance record and financial status and they recommend awarding the construction contract to Culbert Construction, Inc., contingent upon TIB and legal reviews. He stated there may be some minor changes relevant to setting elevation on the storm and sanitary sewer at the intersection of Columbia Street, noting it shouldn't be a cost change.

Council carried a motion to award the project to Culbert Construction, Inc. of Pasco, contingent upon review by TIB and the City's legal counsel. M/S Dorow/Lallas.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF BOND REFUNDING OPTIONS**

Finance Officer Spencer Williams briefly reviewed the existing outstanding debts and then reviewed three options for refinancing the Main Street Bonds. He also reviewed the steps to refinance the bonds and Council discussed the three refinance options.

Council carried a motion to approve Option B (2034 final option) for refinancing the Main Street bonds. M/S Dorow/Bain. Councilmembers Lallas and McCourtie cast opposing votes.

Mr. Andrew Face from Martin Nelson & Company explained the process for setting parameters and targets for refinancing.

Council carried a motion to authorize Martin Nelson & Company to move forward with the bond refinance, as long as they meet the target of saving no less than \$260,000. M/S McCourtie/Everett.

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**WEBSITE RE-DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT**

City Administrator Wade Farris advised that staff performed research for a company to re-develop the City's website and found EvoGov, who specialize in developing and maintaining city websites. This contract will cost \$8,850 initially to develop our site and \$1,500 a year for maintenance. They should have the new website on-line within a month or two. Mr. Williams advised that the funding would be paid by the general fund. Mr. Farris will double check their response for correcting and completing any weaknesses at the network services. The contract allows posting more public records on the city's website.

Council carried a motion to approve the contract with EvoGov and to include the maintenance contract. M/S Dorow/Everett.

**RESOLUTION TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER**

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna advised that we only received one bid for the official newspaper as follows:

Newspaper	Bid per single column inch
The Othello Outlook	\$8.15 per single column inch

Council carried a motion to approve the Resolution designating the Othello Outlook as the City's official newspaper. M/S Lallas/McCourtie. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2016-03.

**ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Council carried a motion to adopt the 2015 City of Othello Comprehensive Plan ordinance. M/S Dorow/Lallas. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1469.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Councilmember McCourtie noted that in Moses Lake, there are flashing lights at their crosswalks. Mr. Farris said that Mr. Clements is researching grant funding for the crosswalk safety lights and if there is not any available funding then Council could consider funding those during the budget process.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Bain asked if staff could check on two code enforcement issues on N. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Logan adjourned the Council meeting at 7:33 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHAWN LOGAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

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