

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
April 23, 2012

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Tim Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Tim Wilson; Councilmembers: Eugene Bain, Ken Caylor, Dan Dever, Genna Dorow, Charles Garcia, Kenneth Johnson, and Mark Snyder.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Finance Officer Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steven Dunnagan, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna; and City Attorney Katherine Kenison.

CITIZEN INPUT

Maxine Taylor, 901 S Taylor Rd. read into the record a letter relevant to a letter sent to the owner's of the Othello Outlook by the City's legal counsel regarding some recent published letters to the editor.

Sean Bates, 1156 E. Juniper Street read into the record a letter dated April 16, 2012 addressed to Mr. Michael Crosier from the City Clerk relevant to a recent public disclosure filed by Mr. Crosier. He asked that this be entered into the record.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda. M/S Garcia/Caylor.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of April 9, 2012.
- B. 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. 41026 to No. 41073 in the amount of \$155,618.78.

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing at 7:12 p.m. The City Clerk reported on the ordinances that created the half-cent sales tax and the utility tax. Finance Officer Mike Bailey reported on the street fund actuals; the street fund expenditures and revenues and on the street fund annual reserves. He noted that there are several funding options for the street fund, however, there are two that are favorable to us: the \$20 license fee and a .2% sales tax increase. He noted that if either of these funding options are received, those funds will be allocated into a special Transportation Benefit District (TBD) fund and all of the TBD expenditures will be spent out of that fund. The State Auditor will audit that fund to assure that revenue and expenditures were used appropriately. City Administrator Ehman Sheldon explained that he had observed other communities implement TBD's and had shared that information with the Mayor. That information was provided to the Council and they asked staff to further research; provide them with more information, and to hold a public hearing. Mr. Sheldon gave a presentation of a TBD; what it is and how it is created. A member of the State Transportation Board has advised that the City will not receive any more funding from the State unless we have imposed all available revenue sources. The State will make this as a qualifier for State grants and loans. Mike Meskimen from Gray & Osborne, Inc. reported on the conditions of the City's streets. We have approximately 40 miles of streets and about 33 miles of those are paved. He said that roads start to deteriorate within 20 years; although there are preventative maintenance programs that can be done to extend life of the streets. Public Works Superintendent Terry Clements reviewed a map that indicated the paved road conditions within the city limits. Mayor Wilson asked for public comments.

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
April 23, 2012

Comments were received from Dave Sperl, 862 S. Crestline Rd., spoke in support of the .2% sales tax increase; Shawn Logan, 1005 E. Hamlet St., spoke on behalf of the Othello Chamber of Commerce. He requested that Council prioritize paving south 1st Avenue and they would prefer the .2% sales tax increase. Bob Fuller, 1307 E. Juniper St. stated that he opposes the \$20 license tab fee and supports the .2% sales tax increase; Maxine Taylor, 901 S. Taylor Rd.; Jerry Limon, 907 E. Larch St. spoke in favor of the .2% sales tax increase. Mayor Wilson asked for staff comments. Finance Officer Mike Bailey explained what the public works allocation program is. He also explained that 50% of the utility tax is to be allocated into the general fund and 50% is for capital and debt service. It does not specify that the capital expenditures are for the street fund; it is simply for capital expenditures over \$25,000. Mr. Bailey explained why the retail sales tax allocation into the street fund 101 was static for five years. City Administrator Ehman Sheldon explained that our sewer and water funds are enterprise funds and can only be used for water and sewer projects. He explained that once Council establishes a TBD rate, to increase that rate it has to be considered by the voters. He also noted we will respond in writing to the other questions brought up by citizens. Mayor Wilson asked for Council comments. There was none. Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing at 8:08 p.m.

PETITION TO ANNEX

City Planner Darryl Piercy reported that Naomi Hampton submitted a petition to annex property into the boundaries of the City. The property is currently owned by R. A. Hampton, LLC., and it is located south of Cemetery Road and east of the new elementary school and consists of approximately 39 acres.

Council carried a motion to accept the petition for annexation submitted by the R. A. Hampton, LLC and set a public hearing for May 14, 2012 to provide for public testimony and consideration of the annexation. M/S Caylor/Snyder.

EXTRA TERRITORIAL UTILITY AGREEMENT FOR SEWER SERVICE – KENNETH PIERCE

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna reported that several sewer utility agreements were entered into in 1983-1987 with a term of 25 years. She presented an extra territorial utility agreement for continuance of City sewer services for Kenneth J. Pierce, for property located within the Meadow Lane Water Association, known as 2227 W. Cunningham Road. She advised that this is not a new impact to the City's sewer system and that Public Works approves of the continuation of the agreement.

Council carried a motion to approve the Extra Territorial Agreement with Kenneth J. Pierce for sewer services. M/S Dorow/Dever.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING NATIONAL PRAYER DAY

Mayor Wilson read the Proclamation into the record.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE 2.04 TITLED “COUNCIL MEETINGS”

Mayor Wilson explained that changes were adopted to amend the Council Rules and Procedures, and due to this change in policy, the Othello Municipal Code needs to be amended.

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 2.04.030 TITLED “WORKSHOP MEETINGS”. M/S Garcia/Johnson. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1361.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Wilson made the following announcements:

- The Beautification Committee will provide two previews of their concept design of Main Street on Monday, May 7th at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. during the Council meeting.
- He asked Council to leave their laptops for updates.

Councilmember Caylor thanked everyone for attending the Coulee Corridor ribbon cutting ceremony.

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
April 23, 2012

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the Council meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Correspondence was received from:

Sean Bates
Maxine Taylor

By: _____
TIM WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk