

Mayor Jeannie L. Ochoa called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Everett Cole, Eleanor Brodahl, Larry Bray, Donald Derifield, and Tim Wilson. Absent were Leonard Lyon and Kenneth Johnson. Also present were Debbie Kudrna, Rhonda Miller, Curt Andrews and Reuel Klempke, Department Heads; and Interim City Administrator, Ehman Sheldon.

COULEE CORRIDOR TOURISM CENTER

Mayor Ochoa introduced George H. Sharp, of Washington State Business & Tourism Development. Mr. Sharp gave a presentation of how tourism dollars are spent and conducted a scenario that showed how tourism provides for prosperity within a community. He stated that the Othello area is unique and there are opportunities awaiting if the City Council wants to support a tourism industry. He stated that there are \$17 million annually spent in tourism in Adams County.

Les Clemons of the Coulee Corridor presented the first artistic concept of a tourism/rest stop facility, proposed for East Main Street. He noted that the Coulee Corridor committee is finalizing their management plan. He spoke briefly of several of the points of interests included in the Coulee Corridor tour. Mr. Clemons explained that in order to receive certain grant funding for the tourism/rest stop facility, Highway 17 (included in the Coulee Corridor) must go through it or abut to the property. He noted that recent Legislative action has made changes to the annexation process, and a process will need to be developed. He noted that the Lewis & Clark bicentennial celebration could bring up to 400,000 visitors into the Columbia Basin and Othello and the businesses within the city could greatly benefit from this tourism.

Mr. Clemons asked for Council to formally support the continued planning for the facility, noting the 80/20 grant funding available from the U S Department of Transportation. He also asked for the City to develop a tourism department to take on this and other tourism projects. He also asked the City to appropriate \$5,000.00 from tourism funding to help pay for the Coulee brochures that are being developed.

Mr. Sharp stated that the Chamber of Commerce could take the lead and market and advertise tourism. He noted that other scenic by-way programs have proven to be successful.

CONTRACT EXTENSION REQUEST FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

The City Clerk reviewed the proposal from Consolidated Disposal Services, Inc. (CDSI) to replace the existing 90-gallon carts used by our citizens with new 95 gallon carts, if the City would approve a five-year extension to the existing contract. She noted the current contract terms with CDSI is from July 16, 1999 to July 15, 2004, and if the five-year extension were agreed upon, the new expiration would be July 15, 2009. She explained that the current contract provides for a biannual adjustment of the contractor's prices, based upon the CPI index for each of the preceding two years and stated that the contractor could not factor in the costs for the new containers. The Clerk gave a brief report regarding the new containers, noting that they will have a guaranteed life of 10 years. Noting that staff estimates there is 1401 90-gallon toters per month dumped, the landfill costs are approximately \$0.75 per container per month for an additional 5-gallons of containerization. Staff recommended not increasing the garbage costs to the citizens. The Clerk stated that the five-year extension would help Othello continue with the solid waste collection that has been established. Council consensus was to consider the request.

NEW BUSINESS

Interim City Administrator, Ehman Sheldon reported that staff has scheduled two public hearings for the City's Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan. These are set for April 22 and May 13.

Council requested an extension to complete the County Planning Workbook

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Ochoa adjourned the workshop at 8:02 p.m.

Jeannie L. Ochoa, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debbie L. Kudrna, City Clerk