

Mayor E R Kelley called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Everett Cole, Les Clemons, Leonard Lyon, Donald Derifield and Jeannie Ochoa. Absent with cause were Samuel Garza and Eleanor Brodahl. Also present were County Commissioners Bill Schlagel, Jeffrey Stevens and Bill Wills; Planning Commission members Alan Hanks, Steve Muzik, Lolo Garza and Cal Schaffer; Debbie Kudrna, Curt Andrews, and Debra Travis, department heads; Bill Shaw, City Administrator; and Dee Caputo, Adams County Planner.

ADAMS COUNTY AND CITY OF OTHELLO HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Les Clemons reported on a meeting held with the Department of Transportation regarding the availability of Federal and State funding, to be used for highway enhancement. The DOT is wanting to develop a cultural tourism corridor along Highway 17 from Othello to Omak. A joint City/County effort was discussed. Curt Andrews suggested the committee be named "Adams County/City of Othello First Impression Committee". A list of potential committee members was presented. It was a consensus to go forward with the grant application and project.

GALLUP ORGANIZATION

A meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 25, 12:30 p.m. at the Nazarene Church Gathering Place to discuss a community self esteem poll, conducted by the Gallup Organization. All interested City and County citizens are encouraged to attend the event to hear the concepts, polling and planning process.

RODEO LAKE DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Curt Andrews reported on the development of the Rodeo Lake planning process. He noted there are some areas that are still not answered, mostly dealing with financial commitment.

WATER RIGHTS

Curt Andrews reviewed several issues including: water production and consumption trends; well output; a summary of well water rights; and water system specifications. He discussed how much the city's water rights will allow for growth and how the type of growth would impact this.

The dedication of Well #6 for industrial use and the need to use this well for emergencies was discussed. Mr. Andrews explained that we will need to seal off one of the aquifers at Well #6 to alleviate mixing of the waters. It was noted the city will have to implement a water management/conservation plan, which is necessary for any new water permits.

The County Commissioners left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

WATER RATE STUDY

City Administrator, Bill Shaw presented a draft water rate study. It included: actual and projected revenue and expenditures; a 10 year record of water sold; effect of volume of sales on revenue; effect of inflation on cost of service, two scenarios for water rate adjustments; service connections; cost of demand; cost per service unit; distribution of costs; 1998 water use and demand; 1998 monthly water use; day water demand; and peak hour demand.

Discussion was held, and Council was asked to review the document and they will discuss it thoroughly in the upcoming months.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS ON 1999 BUDGET

Council was presented with the completed Administrator's comments on the budget. Mr. Shaw recommended an increase of 1 ½% on the utility tax in 1999 and an additional 1 ½% increase in 2000. He reported city staff are making recommendations for budget cuts, i.e. the ballfield maintenance position.

Mr. Shaw recommended an increase in water rates to comply with bond coverage. He will perform a similar sewer rate study.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Shaw reported that the City had received a request for a 15 month extension from Tee Pee Septic, to the contract which allows them to dump waste into the city's lagoon system. During this time, Tee Pee would be completing the process for development of their own sewer disposal facility.

Jeannie Ochoa, Council liaison to the Adams County Health reported the health district's concerns. If an extension is granted, they desire certain criteria be included in the terms, i.e. limiting industrial and commercial wastes; periodic testing load counts; and bonding requirements.

Mr Shaw asked if the Council would want to continue the discussion of the Boys and Girls Club at an upcoming meeting. It was decided to schedule it for the workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the workshop at 8:59 p.m.

Debbie L Kudrna, CMC
City Clerk