

City of Othello
City Council Workshop
May 1, 2017

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Pro-Tem Dorow called the workshop to order at 6:30 p.m. and led a silent invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Councilmembers: Eugene Bain, Angel Garza, Corey Everett, Larry McCourtie, John Lallas, and Mark Snyder.

Also Present: City Administrator Wade Farris; Department Heads: Public Works Director Terry Clements, Police Chief Phil Schenck, Finance Officer Spencer Williams and City Clerk Debbie Kudrna.

Absent Was: Mayor Shawn Logan.

CITIZEN INPUT

Jared Pruneda, 849 E. Main Street, explained that he lives in one of the homes owned by East Columbia Basin Irrigation District and they park their work vehicles near the alleyway at their home at night, Spring through Fall. They would like to park their work vehicles in front of the homes on Main Street during the summer time when they have a lot of equipment in their vehicles. Main Street has street lights and may discourage theft. He has talked to the Police Chief about parking on Main Street, and was told there is a current ordinance which eliminates parking on Main Street between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. There is a lot of traffic in the alleyway where they park their vehicles and equipment gets stolen. He asked the Council to remove the parking restriction on Main Street to allow their trucks to park in front of their homes as this might eliminate some of their equipment theft. Chief Schenck explained that the parking restrictions is to accommodate snow plowing. Councilmember Everett stated that the ordinance was changed and the parking restrictions on Main Street are enforced only November through February. Chief Schenck stated that if we change the parking rules, the signs need to be changed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CITY PARKING FEES

City Administrator Wade Farris stated that Council previously heard a request from a citizen to consider reducing the proposed parking fee for use of a City owned parking lot on North 1st Ave. Council directed staff to research this issue and offer them alternatives and Mr. Farris found that it is up to the City to determine the amount of the fee, if any. He met with the property owner, Catalina Portillo and was advised that the businesses that would use the city parking lot are low income, with a small customer base. While the original proposal was \$960.00 per year for the 4 unit building, the building owner proposed a rate of \$400 per year for the 4 unit building.

Mr. Farris stated that Council should decide if this is a fair amount and if encouraging business is more important than the amount of the parking fee. He suggested that Council consider a parking fee when the area develops or reduce the proposed fee. He advised that Ms. Portillo provided a copy of a section of OMC Chapter 17.61 and she feels that her building is grandfathered in and would not apply to her building. Councilmember Lallas explained that if her businesses can provide their customers with sufficient street parking, then we wouldn't need to discuss use of the city's parking lot. He advised that the City is not forcing the building owner to use the parking lot and pay for the use. Ms. Portillo explained that food businesses require more parking and she would agree that they pay the \$240 per year. City Administrator Farris offered that the only businesses that would pay for additional parking from the city would be food businesses. Councilmember Everett explained that Adams County parks some of their vehicles 24/7 in the city parking lot and suggested that we charge the same amount for each business who use the lot. Councilmember Lallas noted that if we start charging a fee, then we have to police it. It was questioned whether the City would be liable for the vehicles in our parking lot.

City of Othello
City Council Workshop
May 1, 2017

Chief Schenck stated that parking meters have been used to keep the store owners and employees to not park in front of their business and then allows parking for customers. He stated that a city can provide a free parking lot to be used for owners, employees and customers. Mr. Farris recommended that there not be a charge for use of the city parking lot. Council asked staff to check with our insurance carrier and find out if we are liable and it was suggested that we should install signs indicating that the city is not liable for theft and damage to vehicles. It was Council's consensus to not charge fees for parking.

ADDENDUM #2 TO ADAMS COUNTY PET RESCUE

Code Enforcement Officer Heather Miller advised that the annual license and vaccination clinic is scheduled for June 10th, which is hosted by the City, Adams County Pet Rescue and Sagehills Veterinary Clinic. She reported that the 2017 clinic will be open for 5 hours this year and the City's portion of the veterinary services will be \$425.00. The vaccination fees are offered at a reduced rate based upon income and the dog license fees are also reduced to the rate charged in January.

Council carried a motion to amend the contract with Adams County Pet Rescue for the 2017 fee for vaccination clinic. M/S Lallas/McCourtie.

FINANCE COMMITTEE FUNDING UPDATE

Finance Officer Spencer Williams reviewed the estimated costs for several projects recently approved by the Council and recently reviewed by the Finance Committee. Those projects include the tennis court rehabilitation (sharing the cost with the School District), the airplane rehabilitation (sharing the cost with the Rotary), and 1st Avenue improvement (Soda to Spruce Street). He stated that there are a couple other projects that will need to be decided upon later: street light LED conversion, clean water planning and the Columbia Street improvements (from 7th Avenue to 14th Avenue).

Council's consensus was to approve the Finance Committee's recommendations as presented.

NIXLE ALERT SYSTEM

Police Chief Schenck mentioned that he would like to amend the contract with Adams County Pet Rescue to cover the costs for the annual licensing/vaccination clinic and not have to come back annually for an amendment. He also stated that they are working toward partnering with other organizations to sell city dog licenses. Once the particulars are agreed upon, he will bring back a proposal.

Police Chief Schenck advised that Adams County has implemented an alert system that is adequate for emergency purposes; however, the police department desires to implement a more comprehensive system. They have identified NIXLE 360 as the best solution. This system allows them to send alerts to our community members for local emergencies and we can create local groups and customize a non-emergency message for those groups. He explained the different uses of the alert system and how the system will simultaneously send text messages, emails, Facebook posts in English and Spanish. The system will make phone calls to individuals with and without smart phones. Users can select the type of messages or alerts they want to receive. They will continue to use the Adams County Alertsense system for FEMA type alerts but would have NIXLE as a redundant service and for many other alerts to benefit our community.

Chief Schenck explained that the basic NIXLE program is free. However, an upgrade to the program would cost \$500 for the startup and \$4,500 per year. They will not ask for a budget increase this year because they have the funds available and will evaluate this service prior to the 2018 budget.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER PROCLAMATION

Mayor Pro Tem Dorow read the National Day of Prayer Proclamation.

MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK PROCLAMATION

Mayor Pro Tem Dorow read the Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There was none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Administrator Wade Farris reported that the red barn across the street does not have a certificate of occupancy and they have storage within the building. They have been put on notice and have until June 1st to become compliant and obtain a certificate of occupancy or remove all of their stuff out. If they don't comply, they will be assessed penalties.

City Administrator Wade Farris explained that Mr. Angel Garza cannot transfer his irrigation water rights to the City, unless we buy the property. However, the City can apply for M & I water. Therefore, Mr. Garza paid the annual water assessment for his property. Councilmember Lallas offered to help with the purchase process for applying for M & I water.

City Administrator Wade Farris handed out a questionnaire to the Councilmembers whether they want us to order business cards for them.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Dorow adjourned the workshop at 7:37 p.m.

By: _____
GENNA DOROW, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk