

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Tim Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Tim Wilson; Councilmembers: Ken Caylor, Dan Dever, Genna Dorow, Charles Garcia, Kenneth Johnson, Mark Snyder, and Marc Spohr.
Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Finance Officer Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steven Dunnagan, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, and Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness.

KEVIN MCDONALD – WHY SOCCER IS IMPORTANT FOR THE NEXT CITY PARK

Many soccer kids, adults and parents attended the council meeting. Mr. Kevin McDonald advised that soccer is a major sport in Othello. He explained how they use temporary space and are secondary to other sports. He said that soccer is played 10 months of the year and sometimes year-round; they need more space to play soccer. He explained that we don't have a facility to host soccer tournaments. He advised that a soccer park could centralize all soccer play to one facility and bring tournaments to our community. He explained that all they need for a soccer field is flat grass and goals. Mr. McDonald advised that there are grants to help with soccer fields and they would be willing to look into grants.

Mr. Armando Vasquez spoke in regards to adult soccer. He advised they do not have sufficient soccer fields to play. He would also like to have adult soccer tournaments but they do not have enough fields. Mr. McDonald stated they would like at least 3 adult sized fields and 3 fields for the youth. Councilmember Garcia stated that the soccer community is going to need to support this need, noting that there are the same numbers of people playing softball and there is a need for park sport facilities. Mayor Wilson asked that anyone that knows of available land to let the City know. Mr. McDonald stated that there is a citizen representative meeting with Governor Gregoire to discuss the need for soccer fields and funding in our community in September. Councilmember Dever stated that volunteer civic clubs helped to develop Lions and Kiwanis Parks and stated that the community needs to step up and help. Joanne Keele asked if the group could apply for grants and explained how important it is to invest in the children and our community. Mr. McDonald and Mr. Vasquez volunteered to be on a park committee. Mayor Wilson thanked everyone for their concern and recognized that they are willing to get involved in the process of development of a new park.

FIRST QUARTER REPORT FROM ADAMS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 5

Fire Chief Gary Lebacken reported that the first quarter was relatively quiet with only 22 calls. They performed 86 business inspections, 8 school drills and 5 trainings. Their average response time is 4 minutes 33 seconds for the first unit to be on scene. The recruit class started in February and 13 new volunteers completed the training.

CONSIDERATION OF USE OF VOLUNTEERS/EQUIPMENT IN CITY PARKS

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon provided information from the City Attorney and the insurance carrier, WCIA, about use of city equipment and volunteers in city parks. He asked what type of policy the Council would want relative to volunteers in the parks. Councilmember Garcia stated that we should use volunteers that are willing and capable to help. We could utilize a hold harmless agreement and he noted that there are people that will volunteer. Councilmember Spohr stated that volunteers have rakes and watered the fields for years. However, he's not in favor of volunteers using city vehicles. Councilmember Garcia stated that Public Works does prep the fields; it's just that there is so many people using the fields and it gets used extensively. There are 11 teams in the adult league and people are driving from other communities to play in Othello and more want to play here. Mayor Wilson noted the liability factor when others use city equipment. Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness reported that there are two Public Works summer time employees that will be working in the parks by mid May. Councilmember Garcia stated that he didn't know that we have summer weekend help and it seems that will work. Municipal Service Coordinator Jay Van Ness advised that the summer help will work 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Councilmember Spohr stated that we need to put more resources in the parks. There was further

discussion about the maintenance of the ballfields. Councilmember Dever noted that we used to have a park and recreation director that scheduled the community tournaments.

RV & TENT CAMPING IN PARKS

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon explained that the committee met to discuss whether tent camping should be allowed in Lions Park. They provided the following suggestions:

- Designated area only to be identified by Public Works, south of the north parking lot.
- 6" stakes only, as larger ones could damage irrigation equipment.
- No open fires or campfires. Cook stoves would be O.K.
- The School District offered Hiawatha School for overflow camping.
- Establishment of a fee. Suggestion was \$20 per team.
- They would have use of the City restrooms.
- The leagues would control the tent camping.
- RV camping would be allowed in the north lot – we have no hookups.
- We would need to waive the park hours.
- Noise and light controls would be needed.
- Whether we allow for other events, such as the Sandhill Crane Festival, etc.

Councilmember Snyder advised that the fee was suggested at \$20 per team for use of the facilities. There was further discussion about whether to allow camping in Lions Park. Mayor Wilson asked if the Council wanted to continue working on this concept. Chief Dunnagan advised there are city ordinances to address disturbing peace and quiet. He noted that if RV's fill up the north parking lot, people using the north park shelter would not have sufficient parking. It was Council's consensus to keep working on the issue and policies.

DISCUSSION OF ACDC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon reported on Adams County Development Council (ACDC) activities. He explained that ACDC is fully staff and have a 21 member board. He advised that private industry has leveraged \$867,000 in Adams County programs; 19 jobs have been created in Adams County since last year and 7 small business start ups in the last 11 months. He reported that ACDC has met the business visit requirements, as established by the Associate Development Organization (ADO). They have completed the annual contract goals, set by ADO by 50%-79%. They have monthly meetings either in Othello or Ritzville. Mr. Sheldon explained that the County Commissioners started ACDC three years ago as a county-wide organization. The County commissioned the study and ACDC was established. The County Commissioners have one vote and are not in control of the group. They are concerned that ACDC remain strong and have offered Roger Krug to coordinate with the state to get the reports in timely. ACDC is a standalone agency and Othello contributes approximately \$3,000 annually. Councilmember Johnson advised they are trying to fill the vacancy and deciding whether it should be a part time or full time position. He noted it was a generous offer from Adams County. Mr. Sheldon advised they have a brochure and a web site. The biggest advantage of ACDC is getting feedback from the State for new businesses.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHARE INFORMATION

Councilmember Caylor reported that the Teamsters union negotiations have begun and they had their preliminary meeting. Councilmember Spohr reported on the new basketball court nets, ball field foul nets and asked that inspections be performed on the parks. Mr. Sheldon advised that we have an insurance review of the parks.

Mayor Wilson asked if anyone wanted to be appointed to a park committee Councilmembers Mark Snyder, Charles Garcia and Genna Dorow volunteered. It was suggested that Ken Dockins also be asked.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Dunnagan advised that the Adams County Community Network meets tomorrow night. Mr. Sheldon reported that the bowls were repaired for Well 6. McCain Foods has repaired their well and they are not using city water. It is still undetermined what occurred at Well #5. A representative from WCIA will be here to review the issues at Well #6.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Spohr asked what the top commercial water users are.

Mayor Wilson made the following announcements:

- The scholarship committee recommendation needs to be submitted to the City Clerk.
- We have created a staff/business visitation program to create a partnership between the city and business.
- The next Mayor's luncheon is next Wednesday, May 12th at the Othello Senior Center.
- The next Teamsters union meeting is May 20th at 8:30 a.m. here at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the workshop at 8:43 p.m.

By: _____
TIM WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk