

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Shannon McKay called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Shannon McKay; Councilmembers: Kenneth Caylor, Dan Dever, Kenneth Johnson, Mark Snyder, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon and Department Heads: Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steve Dunnagan, Debbie Kudrna, and Jay Van Ness.

Absent Was: Councilmember Eleanor Brodahl.

SR 26 – 1ST AVENUE – BROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Paul Mahre, Local Program Engineer from the Department of Transportation (DOT), explained that the intersection at SR 26 and 1st Avenue is one of the highest accident rated intersections in Washington. There is funding for intersections where city or county intersect with a State Highway system. The SR 26 and 1st Avenue intersection project received approval for funding of \$550,000 in 2006. Mr. Mahre was then able to get additional funding from DOT, which will be available in 2011. Based upon the funding criteria, the project has been split into two phases. The first phase will include lowering the grade of South Broadway under the SR 26 bridge by 2 feet 9 inches (33”) and improvements at Wahluke and Columbia Street intersections for truck traffic. The second phase will include improvements at the 1st Avenue and SR 26 radii intersection. They will erect signs for traffic flow and will deal with water drainage in the area. The total estimate of the project is \$1 million. The DOT will host meetings to discuss the traffic project with the local businesses, and have offered to administer the project for Othello. The goal is to reduce the accidents at the intersection. Quarterly reports will be required as part of the grant process. Mr. Maher suggested that we enter into a Local Agency agreement. He reported that the construction time frame includes obtaining all rights-of-way and call for bids in late August/September with completion by end of fall this year. Councilmember Caylor stated that fall is very busy with truck traffic in the area and Mr. Mahre stated that construction could be delayed to early next year. Bob Romine from DOT mentioned that construction will be scheduled to decrease water table problems in the area.

Larry Julius from Gray & Osborne advised that since we will also have public meetings for the SR 24 Industrial area, we could combine the project meetings together to discuss both projects.

OPD – GANG POLICIES UPDATE

Police Chief Steve Dunnagan showed a video clip of various gang graffiti in the Los Angeles area. He advised graffiti is a problem in Othello, although it is very small compared to areas such as Los Angeles. Research on gangs and their behavior applies to a 90-10 rule for gangs: 10% of the gang members are responsible for 90% of gang related problems. The most successful gang prevention includes intervention by parents, school officials, courts, probation, police, and citizens. Chief Dunnagan advised that our police officers have been trained to define gang related problems and utilize a problem solving approach. He reported that gangs in Othello are not a large sophisticated group and have a lack of formal leadership. Our immediate trouble is gang graffiti. In 2006, the Othello Police Department (OPD) wrote a gang policy for identifying gang members and to insure legal record documentation. They have assigned an intelligence officer to collect and disseminate information on gang members and activities to patrol. They have established monthly meetings between law enforcement agencies, prosecutor's office, juvenile probation, and the Dept. of Corrections. The OPD has continued the School Resource Officer program and the current SRO officer completed the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT), which will be taught in the Jr. High School. They have monitored my space accounts; worked cases of juveniles (non-gang related) with guns; continued the RUAD program in the community; and use the City's surveillance and monitoring equipment. They have conducted problem solving projects, including cleaning an alley that was getting gang tagged; conducted door to door outreach by officers; held community meetings; and provide extra patrols in the alley. He advised that the OPD uses the Spillman Records Management System to categorize information, and showed statistics of gang and non-gang related data from 2005-2008. He noted they are not flagging a lot of gang related crimes. If a person is identified as a gang member, the officers fill out a gang confirmation

form which is forwarded to Chief Dunnagan. Upon review of that information, the Chief sends a letter to the person informing them that they have been classified as a gang member. The Lexipol program has assisted the OPD with new in-house policies, including a section on criminal street gangs. Chief Dunnagan reviewed the problem solving worksheet that the OPD uses to help them develop a solution to a gang related problem.

FIRST QUARTER REPORT FROM ADAMS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 5

Fire Chief Gary Lebacken provided the first quarter report from the Adams County Fire Department #5. He stated the City ladder truck is scheduled for testing on May 7th. A written report will be presented of any findings. He invited everyone to the live burn training on May 30th behind the fire station. Monthly inspections are conducted on all pumpers, and annual pump tests are conducted. They have a mechanic on staff and are in the process of implementing a new inspection form.

CDSI BIENNIAL RATE ADJUSTMENT AND REPORT ON SOLID WASTE FUND

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna reported that the City entered into a contract for garbage collection with Consolidated Disposal Services, Inc. (CDSI) in 1994. The contract provides that CDSI's rates shall be subject to a CPI adjustment every two years and we have received notice that CDSI will impose a 2.15% increase effective July 16, 2009. She explained that the garbage rates charged to our citizens are based upon rates set in Ordinance 1185, adopted in October, 2004. The ordinance set a three-year incremental rate increase; the latest was imposed December, 2006. The Finance officer reported that we have an expected reserve ending balance in 2009 of approximately \$299,090 in the solid waste disposal fund 406. The Clerk recommended that Council approve the 7th contract amendment with CDSI at their next regular meeting and absorb CDSI's increase in our current garbage rates and not raise the garbage rates. Mr. Sheldon advised that the solid waste funds can be used for garbage related improvements such as alley approaches.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Officer Mike Bailey advised that the city budget is looking good and revenue is steady. He provided financial reports and reviewed current fund balances. He reported that the stream line sales tax has provided state mitigation revenues from the State. He noted that the fixed term incomes have not been affected by the current economy.

WWTP- FACILITY PLAN

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness stated that we were notified by Department of Ecology (DOE) that the waste water discharge permit condition #SB4 would require the City to submit a plan and schedule for continuing to maintain the design and capacity load of the sewer lagoons. We exceeded the design load for three consecutive months in May, June, and July, 2008. Gray & Osborne has been asked to create an estimate and timeline to complete the required plan and submit it to DOE. Gray & Osborn will review the infiltration and inflow and will re-evaluate the design capacity. It was noted that the sewer capacity is currently at 50%. Mr. Van Ness advised that they may need a budget amendment for the cost of the engineering review. Mr. Bailey stated there is money available in the sewer reserve fund for that. Mr. Van Ness noted that the design load only exceeded the design capacity for total suspended solids for three months and then went back to normal. He also advised that there is a Community Development Block Grant available for this project. Mr. Sheldon advised that we will meet with DOE to discuss the best available sciences relevant to our lagoon system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHARE INFORMATION

Councilmember Johnson advised that Mr. Sheldon is the new President of the Adams County Economic Development. Their next meeting is next Thursday in Ritzville. Mr. Sheldon advised they are having a membership drive; a kickoff; will become a lending agency for small businesses; and are planning a golf tournament. Councilmember Caylor advised there is a centennial meeting this Thursday at 4:30 p.m. He attended the GWMA meeting and they have received funding from the State to continue their programs. The Coulee Corridor committee is finalizing their gateway signs. There was a discussion regarding the Visitor Guide front cover and

it was reported that the decision to print "Grant County" was made because of the amount of funding from Grant County Tourism. Councilmember Spohr reported work is progressing on the tennis court and basketball court project. Mr. Van Ness advised that the park toys will be erected after the park shelter projects are completed. Mayor McKay stated that the Coyote Ridge superintendent reported that the elimination of the DOC crew was due to budget constraints and that Othello may be added back into the program when funding changes. Councilmember Spohr noted that the Public Works crew is busy with many projects and hopes there can be negotiations with Coyote Ridge to get some extra labor force.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor McKay advised that we have not received a request for a Mother's Day event, however, we have received a request from a local church group to use the large shelter at Kiwanis Park on Sunday and they will have music.

Councilmember Spohr asked if the city could grind the entrance into the restaurant at 7th and Main Street. Mr. Sheldon advised he will research the probability of the City correcting the entrance at the Chinese Restaurant driveway off of Main Street and also the Sears entrance and at CBHA.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the workshop at 8:40 p.m.

By: _____
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk