

City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
May 4, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Pro Tem Kenneth Johnson called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. and led an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Councilmembers: Eugene Bain, Corey Everett, Genna Dorow, Angel Garza, Kenneth Johnson, 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, Community Development Director Travis Goddard, and City Clerk Debbie Kudrna.

Absent was: Mayor Shawn Logan.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

There was none.

**ANIMAL ORDINANCES DISCUSSION**

Code Enforcement Officer Heather Miller provided information on several issues, including a revision to the dog ordinances regarding classification of potentially dangerous dogs and conditions for the release for dangerous dogs. She noted our ordinance can be updated to coincide with the current RCW's.

Police Chief Schenck recommended changing dog license requirements to a 3 year renewal verses a one year renewal. Ms. Miller also noted that a senior citizen rate could be developed. The Council agreed to review an ordinance.

Ms. Miller asked if Council would consider an ordinance allowing residents in the City to have 3 laying hens or rabbits, provided they are kept in approved and sanitary housing and have a set back from neighbors. Police Chief Schenck noted this is just for discussion and asked for feedback. Council's consensus was to review an ordinance.

Ms. Miller asked if Council would consider creating a cat ordinance to help resolve the feral cat problem in the community. There are current issues of people feeding feral cats in the community and some neighbors are having disputes of damages to properties from feral cats. She reviewed some options that communities have relevant to feral cat programs and options available to reduce the cat population. Police Chief Schenck recommended that we draft an ordinance based upon the Council's direction. He noted that they are not recommended that we implement a program that will cost the City money. Chief Schenck noted we could adopt a code to not allow feeding stations and then those will taper off. Ms. Miller advised there are non-profit groups that assist with capturing stray cats, neutering or spaying them and releasing them. Ms. Miller noted that the new contract with Pet Rescue allows us to transfer animals, other than dogs, to them. Council's consensus was to review an ordinance.

Ms. Miller stated that she's done some research on keeping exotic animals. Police Chief Schenck asked if Council would want to review an ordinance regarding exotic animals. They agreed to review an ordinance.

**CONSIDERATION OF EAST MAIN STREET 6" FORCED MAIN**

Public Works Director Terry Clements advised that in March, 2015 Council awarded the bid for the Main Street Sewer Force Main Project to the lowest bidder – P.O.W. Contracting. We had a signed contract with POW and sent them a Notice to Proceed. P.O.W. determined that they no longer want to do this project and they want to breach their contract with the City. They have cited the fact they have already de-mobilized from their Concrete Drive project and they don't have the work-force available to complete the job.

Staff met with the Water/Sewer Committee and it was determined to recommend award the contract to the next lowest bidder, Pegram Construction. Pegram has agreed to do the project at

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the price they originally bid the project - \$144,431.09. Increased cost to the City to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest bidder is \$30,618.04. Mr. Clements reviewed the original bids:

P.O.W. Contracting –	\$113,813.05
Pegram Construction -	\$144,431.09

Mayor Pro Tem advised that Council can take action at a workshop. Mr. Farris advised that once you accept bids, you are not able to renegotiate their bid proposals.

Council carried a motion to award the East Main Street Sewer Line Project to Pegram Construction. M/S Dorow/Everett. Councilmember Snyder abstained from the vote.

**VERBAL DE-ESCALATING TRAINING**

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna reported that staff researched training opportunities dealing with communicating with difficult people. WCIA has a training session titled "Verbal De-Escalation" that fits our needs. We are conducting two 4-hour training sessions on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> in the Police Department training room. She advised that if any of the elected officials want to attend, to advise her.

**ADAMS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT REPORT**

Adams County Fire Chief Gary Lebacken gave a report on the Washington Surveying & Rating Bureau (WSRB), noting it is a non-profit property rating bureau operating in the State of Washington.

The latest evaluation of fire protection for the City of Othello was completed in March of 2012. As a result, the City's protection class remained a 5 classification. Classifications range from 1-10, 10 being no fire protection, resulting in higher insurance costs. The City's evaluation consisted of 5 categories: City boundaries, fire department operations, water supply and infrastructure, fire prevention and education and communications/dispatch centers. The rating bureau has recently changed their matrix and he wants to be pro-active and start building for the future and establish programs to maintain and improve our classification.

If the City's insurance rating was to increase, a commercial policy could see a 23% - 25% increase in annual cost and residential policy could increase 15%.

Chief Lebacken also updated projects within the Fire Department that can be accomplished with the current staff; projects that would need an increase to the budget; projects that would need additional staff and increased budget; and City projects and City/County projects. Chief Lebacken noted that the following be considered by the City Council: upgrading hydrant testing and inspection program; purchase a generator for the City fire station; build a training facility, and construct a firefighter housing facility. He advised that as the community grows, it increases our exposures and alarms and draws more needs for firefighters. Chief Lebacken reviewed the City's apparatus fleet. The City has established a 30 year rotation of their fire fleet. He advised that the City's oldest ladder truck was purchased in 1984 and is still in active service. He recommended that Council set aside funding to purchase new equipment. Finance Officer Williams noted we have approximately \$190,000 in the fire reserve and he also has notes for the 2016 budget to discuss funding for a generator.

**2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Finance Officer Spencer Williams advised he reviews our finances every month with the City Administrator and they look for trends that may need further discussion with the Finance Committee and the Council. Changes to the budget will arise, such as revenues may come in higher or lower than expected or we may have unexpected expenses arise.

Mr. Williams reviewed the following issues: general fund revenues; financial trends in water and sewer; Utility Tax fund and revenues; the REET fund and the City's Debt funds. He noted that the finance committee looked at how/why the utility tax fund was created and whether we should

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continue use of this fund. The finance committee discussed whether to keep the utility tax fund as it is; dissolve the utility tax fund and log them in the general fund and dispense when needed, or make changes to the utility tax ordinance relevant to the allocation of the utility tax funding. He noted that we received an amount from the State (\$53,901.75) that was unexpected into the REET fund. These funds can be used for almost all public works projects.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There was none.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Farris advised that the 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue plans are in draft review.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Kenneth Logan adjourned the workshop at 8:43 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
KENNETH JOHNSON, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk