

City of Othello  
Regular Council Meeting  
May 10, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Tim Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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 City Attorney James Whitaker.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Brianna Azola, 775 Rd O SE, Moses Lake, reporter for the Othello Outlook advised she understands that some members with the Council have been dissatisfied with some of her recent articles. She asked that they call her directly when they have concerns with her articles. She encouraged open communication.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda. M/S Snyder/Caylor.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of April 26, 2010
- B. Approval of City Council Workshop Minutes of May 3, 2010
- C. Approval of Payroll and Related Expenses for April 2010
- D. Approval of Accounts Payable Checks
- E. Resolution to Set Public Hearing for June 14, 2010 on Request to Vacate Alley

Accounts Payable was audited and certified by the Auditing Officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080; and those expense reimbursement claims certified and as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing that has been reviewed by the Council audit committee and is available to the Council.

Expense Claim Check No. 38215 to No. 38276 in the amount of \$344,505.57.  
Payroll Check No. 26497 to No. 26538 in the amount of \$ 273,839.65.

Council carried a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. M/S Dever/Johnson.

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon thanked Councilmember Spohr for his diligent review of the accounts payable process.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION – PIONEER PARK**

Mrs. Marty Yeager explained that her family came to Othello in 1937 and Pioneer Park was being developed at that time. Two citizens were very active to the development of the park: Mr. Sam Knepper and Mr. Hoak. She would like to dedicate a plaque to be erected in Pioneer Park to recognize their hard work. She would pay the associated costs.

Council carried a motion to approve the recognition to be erected in Pioneer Park. M/S Caylor/Snyder.

**FINAL REVIEW OF MAIN STREET PROJECT**

City Engineer Larry Julius advised they are diligently working on the 2010 Street and Infrastructure Improvements project. This project includes reconstruction of Main Street; the walk path and sidewalk on the north side of Lions Park; the parking lot extension on the south side of Lions Park; alley entrance's pads at various locations; traffic signals on Main Street; infrastructure conduits on Main Street; and the construction of the north half of Olympia Street from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He reported we are on schedule: bid opening on June 8<sup>th</sup> with bid award consideration on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Construction will begin in late June. He noted that this is a large project and they expect to receive a lot of contractor bids. It should take approximately 5 months

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to construct, which includes all portions of the project. If the traffic signals portion is awarded, it could take up to 7 months to get them completed. They anticipate having several meetings with the Main Street business owners to keep them advised of the Main Street project. There will be signs indicating that businesses are open during the street project. The grindings will be reused by the City. It was questioned whether the street project can be delayed until after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mr. Julius noted we can write into the specification that no construction will start until after July 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Julius explained that there will not be a problem getting asphalt late in the year. Taylor Denny from Gray & Osborne reviewed the Main Street project engineer estimates: total cost, including traffic signals at \$6.5 million and without traffic signals at \$5.2 million. Mr. Julius explained they will work closely with the finance officer and bond counsel relevant to the project costs.

Councilmember Spohr thanked Gray & Osborne for their scholarship award.

**CONTRACT WITH BARRACUDA SWIM TEAM**

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon explained that staff worked out the particulars of the contract with the swim team representatives. The pool committee also reviewed the contract. The contract includes a fee of \$40 per training day. The swim team provided the dates for the swim tournaments to be held in Othello.

Council carried a motion to approve the Barracudas swim team contract. M/S Garcia/Dever.

Mr. Sheldon advised the pool opens Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR TO SIGN TRT AGREEMENT**

Police Chief Steve Dunnagan presented a request to continue participation in the Columbia Basin Tactical Response Team contract. The team has members from various police agencies in Grant and Adams County to handle specialized situations. He advised that the police department has a long history with the team but we currently do not have a member assigned to the team.

Council carried a motion to authorize Mayor Wilson to sign the Tactical Response Team Interlocal Agreement and allow the Othello Police Department to continue participation in the TRT. M/S Dorow/Johnson.

**POR DISTRICT REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT – SR 26/REYNOLDS WATER CROSSING**

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to authorize the payment to the Port District in the amount of \$11,235 as the project benefits the city. It was seconded by Councilmember Dever. Councilmember Spohr explained that the old water valve was set up for future development to the east and he does not understand how the delivery of water to the south benefits the city. He explained that the citizens pay the Port District through distribution of property taxes and believes that the reimbursement is double dipping. Councilmember Garcia explained that we all want to develop the community and he believes that the Port District project will benefit the City of Othello and it's a good faith gesture. Councilmember Johnson believes that it will benefit the south Broadway project. Councilmember Caylor believes the valves were obsolete and it will benefit the city. Councilmember Dever stated that the project will provide a long term benefit. City Attorney Whitaker explained that there would have to be an additional tap charge to recover the costs when future connections are made.

Councilmember Caylor called for the question.

Councilmembers Spohr and Snyder cast an opposing vote.

Councilmember Spohr stated that if someone calls for the question, it has to be voted on before you vote on the original motion. City Attorney Whitaker explained under our rules as applied, if no one is opposed to the motion to call for the question, it proceeds to the vote on the matter being debated. There was a discussion relevant to Robert's Rules of Order. Attorney Whitaker stated

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that Robert's Rules are meant to be used for a large, community hall meeting, and not for a small, legislative body. For the Council, any person wishing to continue the debate is entitled to have the vote of the Council to determine whether to close debate or not and vote.

**RESOLUTION TO ALLOW THE PATRIOTS DAY ACTIVITIES ON JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>**

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna explained that a meeting was held with department heads and Chamber President Janelle Anderson to review the events and programs that are scheduled for Patriots Day Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are several new changes to this year's events, which include calling it Patriots Day and scheduling all of the activities on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. She reviewed the tentative events noting there would be Public Works employees working that day.

Mrs. Anderson thanked the Council for appropriating funding to the fireworks. They have lots of new activities planned for this year, including a military fly over for the event.

Council carried a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the request for a military aerial support application during Patriots Day. M/S Snyder/Dever.

Mrs. Anderson explained they wanted to do a patriotic theme this year and would like to honor our veterans. She asked if the City would honor Tommy Tindell and the Chamber would provide a sign for his truck for the parade. Council's consensus was to consider a resolution of appreciation or for the Mayor to make a proclamation. Mrs. Anderson explained that they changed the name of the activities from Sun Faire to Patriots Day because they were looking for a patriotic word for 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Council carried a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF CITY PROPERTY AND PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY FOR THE PATRIOTS DAY ACTIVITIES, TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 3, 2010. M/S Dever/Caylor. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2010-12.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF CITY PROPERTY FOR THE COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2010**

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna advised that the Othello Ministerial Association has requested use of Lions Park for the community worship service, scheduled for Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. They would use the stage that will already be in the park from the Patriot's Day activities.

Council carried a motion to approve THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF CITY PROPERTY FOR THE COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2010. M/S Snyder/Garcia. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2010-13.

**REVIEW OF 2010 BUDGET**

Finance Officer Mike Bailey reviewed the 2010 City budget document. He reviewed the budget document. He reported that the revenues are coming in: sales tax is down; property taxes are coming in; and utility tax revenues are strong. He would like to establish a construction fund for the Main Street project to track the revenues and expenditures

**BIAS ON LINE CONTRACT REVIEW**

Finance Officer Mike Bailey explained that in October 2009, the Council approved a contract to allow online utility payments and Council asked for a six month report. He reviewed the payments for the first four months of 2010, which is approximately \$22,000 of payments per month, which is about 13% of the utility bills. The average cost per transaction is \$0.89. He reported that our staff really likes the payment process. Mr. Bailey reviewed the charges from Xpress Bill Pay and found an error on their monthly charges. This is being looked into by BIAS.

**RENEWAL OF GAS & DIESEL CONTRACT WITH LAWRENCE OIL**

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon reported that in June 2007 the City entered into an agreement with Lawrence Oil to provide gas and diesel, which expires July 2010. The contract with Lawrence Oil allows the option to continue the agreement for one year beginning July 1, 2010. All city

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departments are satisfied with the service provided and would like to exercise the option to continue the service for one additional year.

Council carried a motion to approve the amendment to the agreement with Lawrence Oil. M/S Caylor/Johnson.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Spohr thanked the Council and staff for the tennis court upgrades. Mr. Sheldon advised that we need to address a problem with soccer balls damaging the tennis court nets. Mayor Wilson advised that he and staff met with three businesses in Main Street and he is impressed how closely the City works with the businesses. Councilmember Spohr advised there was an accident at the over-pass area and was wondering if it was a line of site issue.

Mayor Wilson made the following announcements:

- The Centennial events will be May 20<sup>th</sup> through May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Mayor luncheon is Wednesday at noon at the Senior Center. He mentioned that they are inviting business representatives to attend.
- The union negotiations are set for May 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the Council meeting at 8:22 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIM WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

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