

City of Othello
Council Workshop
May 1, 2000

Mayor E R Kelley called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Leonard Lyon, Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Everett Cole, Donald Derifield, Jeannie Ochoa and Kenneth Johnson. Also present were Debra Travis, Curt Andrews and Debbie Kudrna, Department Heads; and Bill Shaw, City Administrator.

RESIDENTIAL ZONING UPGRADE

Planner, Curt Andrews presented two tables: minimum size for residential zones and open space required for residential lots. He explained that the minimum size for residential zones tightens up requirements for residential units; whereas the open space requirements loosens up requirements that don't directly deal with the public interest. The open space requirements allows more options for backyard and front yard uses and requires larger lots. These proposals cover most of the issues brought to light in the last few years. Planning Commission and concerned citizens have been involved in the development of these proposals, and are satisfied with them.

Mr. Andrews stated that the Planning Commission is still reviewing all residential zones criteria, which is a lengthy process. They will hold public hearings on these when they are closer to finalization. Some discussion was held regarding carports for trailers and RVs and other issues.

SEWER RATE ORDINANCE

City Administrator, Bill Shaw explained that Ordinance No. 1039 provides for a sewer rate increase in July 16, 2000. Due to the continued review of Initiative 695, he recommended that the automatic increase be repealed. He explained that the intent was to accumulate money in the sewer fund to cover the costs of lining the lagoons. The City had been under the impression that DOH was requiring this soon, but discussions with them recently reveal that this may not be necessary for several years.

Council's consensus was to discuss this issue with the City Attorney to get further direction about repealing this rate increase or the possibility of delaying the increase.

CREDIT CARD USE CHANGES

Finance Officer, Debra Travis presented changes to the current use of credit card usage. By city ordinance, the city's credit cards can be used solely to cover travel expenses. There are instances when use of a credit card would greatly improve the handling of certain expenses. These include, purchases from the Internet or purchases when a credit account has not been established with a vendor. Some suggestions were made to the ordinance and it will be brought back to the council for consideration.

City of Othello
Council Workshop
May 1, 2000

ADMINISTRATIVE CAR USE POLICY

A draft administrative vehicle use policy was reviewed with the Council. The new car will be used by department heads, elected city official and administrative staff for traveling when conducting city business. Some suggestions were made to the draft.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Shaw reported that a generator for the City Hall/Police Department has been ordered through a state bid at approximately \$18,600. This unit will be entirely self-contained and is powerful enough to provide future needs.

Council member Ochoa announced a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 6 p.m. at City Hall at which time County representatives will discuss issues dealing with the formation of a library district.

Council member Brodahl stated she was approached about the entrance sign on East Main street. The sign is in disrepair.

Mr. Shaw announced that the city has not officially been told what the new business may be on East Main Street. This announcement may come after the appeal process ends. He stated that the SEPA review ends Friday and development issues are progressing.

NEW BUSINESS

Council member Clemons reported on his progress of getting the sign at Interstate 395 and Hwy 26 changed to include "Othello". He has made contact with DOT and will continue to discuss the need to include our city's name on the sign located on Interstate 395. He is also continuing discussions with the State about beautification of the right-of-way on Hwy 26 between Hwy 17 and 1st Avenue.

Mr. Shaw stated that Hey Kids has preliminarily asked if the Council would reduce or waive the fee for a pool party for their participants. This will be brought back at a regular meeting.

Curt Andrews reviewed some minor changes to the existing sign code. These changes clarify some issues more clearly, making it easier to enforce. The changes will be presented in ordinance form at a regular meeting.

Council member Lyon stated that it was mentioned to him by a citizen that now is the time to mow vacant lots as a way to control the weed growth. Mr. Shaw stated that the Public Works Department and Code Enforcement Officer have been discussing spraying weeds soon. It was suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mrs. Sperl for her involvement of picking up garbage in vacant lots.

City of Othello
Council Workshop
May 1, 2000

Mr. Shaw mentioned that a meeting is scheduled with the current owners of the Rama Inn property. They will be discussing improvement options of the property.

Curt Andrews reported that the caboose project is momentarily on hold. The Old Hotel is now applying for additional grants for the rehabilitation of the both cabooses.

Council member Derifield stated that the Rural & Urban Water Committee of GWMA will have a report completed in 3-6 months. They have also researched the nitrate and other water issues. There have been additional grant funding obtained that may allow continuance of the program for 5-7 years or more.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the workshop at 8:15 p.m.

Debbie Kudrna, CMC
City Clerk