

City of Othello
Council Workshop
May 5, 2003

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Present: Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders; Councilmembers Everett Cole, Eleanor Brodahl, Larry Bray, Kenneth Johnson, Leonard Lyon, Don Derifield, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon, Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Debbie Kudrna, Rhonda Miller, Dick Lee, and Police Chief Ron Axtman; and Adams County Fire District #5 Chief Clyde Fought, Jr.

MCCAIN FOODS WATER USAGE

Mayor Sanders reported that McCains is drilling their new well and plan to have it on-line in August. She stated that there have been meetings with McCains and they have said that they want to sever the city's water source, including fire flow and want to be relieved of any city water charges. She explained that if McCains discontinues use of any city water it will be negative on the city; Simplot's water rate will increase and the residential water rate will have to increase. She noted that Simplot has implemented water conservation measures, but their water usage has also increased.

Finance Officer, Rhonda Miller reviewed spreadsheets with information regarding the water revenue and expenditures, and carefully reviewed water revenue requirements, capital and debt expenses and water usage by customer type.

Mr. Sheldon stated that meetings with McCains indicate that they are willing to negotiate on the water issue. He reported that it would be an impact to other water customers if McCains were not included in the city's water usage; the city has predicated past improvements to the water infrastructure and incurred indebtedness based upon meeting the community and industry needs. Councilmember Derifield stated that years ago, the city missed an opportunity to protest McCains application for water rights, based upon the fact that they had indicated working cooperatively with the city. Mr. Sheldon reported that a water rate plan would be conducted this year, which will provide a very clear understanding of the city water rates. He asked for Council's direction regarding whether to maintain the current industrial minimum monthly rate of \$15,000.00. Mayor Sanders stated that the city needs to provide fire flow to the industries and the industries need to be included in the city's water indebtedness. Councilmember Lyon asked if the city's current fire rating includes the basis of industries water use, and whether the city is legally bound to provide fire flow to them? Mr. Sheldon reviewed the criteria to set fire rating and noted that insurance premiums for citizens and businesses are based upon the state fire rating. He stated he would have to look into the ramifications of the fire rating if McCains was withdrawn from the city's fire protection flow. He also stated that McCains' new manager would be in office next month.

Mayor Sanders left the meeting at 7:25 p.m. and Mayor Pro-Tem Donald Derifield facilitated the remaining of the meeting.

Councilmember Lyon stated that the City and McCains need to maintain a business relationship and hope they fully recognize their impact to the local community if they withdraw from the city's water system. He noted that if this happens, it may open up opportunities for other industries to locate to Othello.

Council's consensus was to maintain the minimum industrial monthly charge and continue discussions with McCains about this issue.

MINI GOLF COURSE

Mr. Sheldon outlined proposed considerations for allowing mini golf courses as a conditional use in R-2 zones. He explained that if Council allows mini golf courses as a conditional use, the conditional use request would go before the Hearing Examiner. The Council asked that language be included setting a density clause of 1 mile between mini golf courses in R-2 zones.

**City of Othello
Council Workshop
May 5, 2003**

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Pro-Tem Derifield adjourned the workshop at 7:32 p.m.

By: _____
JEANNIE L. SANDERS, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk