

City of Othello
Council Workshop
May 6, 2002

Mayor Jeannie L. Ochoa called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Everett Cole, Eleanor Brodahl, Larry Bray, Donald Derifield, Leonard Lyon and Kenneth Johnson and Tim Wilson. Also present were Debbie Kudrna, Rhonda Miller, and Curt Andrews, Department Heads; James Hash and Doug Jordan from Public Works; Consultant Steve Muzik, and City Administrator, Ehman Sheldon.

WIRELESS INTERNET – RHONDA MILLER

Duane Sessions and Rick Leatheart from CBNM explained that they would like to enter into an agreement with the City that would allow them to mount two repeating antennas on two city water towers, and in exchange would provide free wireless Internet to the City buildings (City Hall, Police and Public Works). They explained that the City would incur the costs for the in-house connections at approximately \$600.00 per building. It would give the city the ability to network with the Public Works building; and could provide the Police Department with wireless access in the city patrol cars.

Mayor Ochoa stated that this would be an asset to the city for better Internet service and would save the city annual costs for Internet service.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT – RHONDA MILLER

Finance Officer Rhonda Miller presented the first quarter financial report. It included current fund balances; revenues and expenditures; and year 2001 and year 2002 1st quarter comparison.

OTHELLO CLEAN UP DAYS REPORT – MAYOR OCHOA

Mayor Ochoa reported on the Othello Clean Up Days which included two free dump days for lawn debris; junk vehicle removal provided by Oscar's Towing; and free removal of appliances. Mayor Ochoa thanked all of the citizens and groups that made the clean up project a success.

WATER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Cross Connection Control; Well Head Protection; and Terrorism Defense:

Public Works Clerk, James Hash stated that the department has inspected all of the city's well sites and towers and reported that they protect the city's potable water supply. Mr. Hash explained to the Council what a cross connection control is. He then presented the water system policy, which included cross connection control, terrorism defense and wellhead protection. Mr. Hash reported that Public Works would erect signs regarding wellhead protection and that informational flyers will be mailed out with the city's annual CCR report.

Reuse, Rodeo Lake:

City Planner, Curt Andrews held a discussion regarding long-term water needs. He suggested saving a portion of the connection fees and water sales revenue to save two million dollars in ten-years for "new water resources". This funding can be used to buy additional Wanapum water rights or build the infrastructure needed to reuse the city's effluent for irrigation. He noted that other cities have purchased property in order to obtain water rights. He then reviewed several options of sources of irrigation water and suggested completion of a conceptual plan for a community wide irrigation system that will use ag-water until unavailable by court order; then M & I water until contracts are cancelled; then seepage water until it is contaminated; then Rodeo Lake water if it is available; then the city's effluent discharge when technology makes it feasible.

Latecomers Agreement:

City Clerk, Debbie Kudrna presented the policy for latecomer's agreements for water utilities. She

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noted the Council has passed two ordinances that set latecomers fees for water utilities that have been installed with public funds either through or adjacent to platted or unplatted areas. She proposed a statement regarding the Council's right to waive the latecomers fees for businesses who provide employment opportunities for the citizens; and Council asked that an additional statement be included that these businesses must broaden the economic base of the community by providing additional employment opportunities.

Overview of Plan Policies:

Consultant, Steve Muzik reviewed the several policies that have been provided by city staff to the Council that will be included in the Comprehensive Water Plan.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Ochoa reported on the recent Civil Service entry level police officer testing, and noted that the top four candidate's names have been forwarded to Police Chief Axtman.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Ochoa announced that she has accepted the resignation of the Public Works Director, Reuel Klempel. A draft job description and advertisement for the position was passed out and Mayor Ochoa announced a five-minute recess to allow the Council time to review them.

Mayor Ochoa reconvened the workshop at 8:04 p.m. She announced that there would be a wage increase for Doug Jordan during the interim time without a Public Works Director. There was a discussion regarding the proposed job description, and it was noted that it included a salary increase for an employee with an engineering degree. Finance Officer, Rhonda Miller presented a financial review of the increased proposed wage. Mayor Ochoa appointed the following on the committee to review applications and conduct interviews, it included: Council members Larry Bray and Everett Cole; City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Planner Curt Andrews, and herself.

Finance Officer, Rhonda Miller announced that the city inventory project was to begin the following day.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Ochoa adjourned the May 6, 2002 workshop pat 8:17 p.m.

By: _____
Jeannie L. Ochoa, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
Debbie L. Kudrna, City Clerk