

City of Othello
Council Workshop
May 7, 2001

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 Debbie Kudrna, Rhonda Miller, and Curt Andrews, Department Heads; and Bill Shaw, City Administrator. Also in attendance were Assistant Fire Chief Robin Swartz and County Commissioner Richard Johnson.

FIRE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Shaw requested that the Administrative Staff fully understand which direction the City Council wanted the Fire Department to go. This included the working relationships with the District Fire Department and the Volunteer Fire Department; the role of the City Fire Chief; and upgrade of the building.

He reviewed the following:

- The fire station structural report completed by Mike Lonergan. He noted the review of the structure found many corrective issues. It noted that the building was not built for the current purpose of emergency response headquarters and proposed repair of the north section of the building to be used for Public Works storage area.
- He recommended hiring a fire fighter staff member, at an approximate annual cost of \$40,000.00 to assist a fire chief.
- He requested review of the current job description for the fire chief.
- He noted funding is allocated for replacement of the 1968 pumper at an estimated cost of \$350,000.
- He reported that replacement of personal protection equipment is needed.
- There was an extensive review of the 1990 Washington Survey & Rating Bureau report. Mr. Shaw noted the city is currently holding a Class 5 rating, and reported a possible increase of 11% of personal property insurance premiums if we were to move to a Class 6 rating.
- He reviewed the recent L & I hazard assessment of the city fire department, which reported sixteen general hazards that must be corrected over the next 12 months.
- He noted a need for enforcement of the U.F.C., and continued fire inspections of buildings and premises.

County Commissioner Richard Johnson voiced his concerns that the city is wanting to implement more training for the volunteers. He noted that the city will need to hire a fire chief that can work with the volunteers. Mr. Shaw explained that the city would like to offer training sessions unique for city responses on the regular training night. This could be accomplished without requiring additional training hours for the volunteers, and would be beneficial to the citizens.

Mr. Swartz stated that the fire department has received a new book published by the Washington Survey & Rating Bureau, which may have information regarding their new

City of Othello
Council Workshop
May 7, 2001

regulations. He also offered to follow up with the proper I. D. tagging of firemen, to be used at the fire scenes, when they enter buildings.

Mayor Kelley stated that the city needs to review the Fire Chief position; training opportunities; facilities and equipment.

Council's consensus was to proceed with bids for the new fire truck; purchase new protective equipment; implement stages for the ICS command system; proceed with advertisement for replacement of the fire chief; proceed with addressing the structural deficiencies in the building; meet with the volunteers to discuss the working relationship between the volunteers and the city; and discuss enforcement of a mutual aid agreement with Adams County Fire District #5.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Shaw reported that Rodney Deleon is in the permit process for a lounge and restaurant. There is still an issue of road approaches and right hand turn pockets. He stated the City will continue discussions with Mr. Deleon about the designs for safe approaches.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Kelley announced the resignation of Police Chief Bill McDonell, as of June 1, 2001. He noted the Chief has offered to help out with the advertisement for this position, and there may be an opportunity to have the State Police Association involved in the hiring process.

A discussion was held regarding the recent tours of the city and Port District's well sites. Mr. Shaw reminded Council that the Port District's well is for emergency, and has low use, while the city's well demand will be 24 hours day/ 7 days a week.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the workshop at 9:32 p.m.

Debbie Kudrna, CMC
City Clerk

City of Othello
Council Workshop
May 7, 2001