

City of Othello  
Regular Council Meeting  
May 8, 2000

Mayor E R Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Leonard Lyon, Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Don Derifield, Jeannie Ochoa and Kenneth Johnson. Absent with cause was Everett Cole. Also present were: Debra Travis, Curt Andrews, Duane Van Beek, and Debbie Kudrna, City Department Heads; William Shaw, City Administrator; Michael Wyman, Legal Counsel; Edie Borgman, Adams County; and several representatives from the Othello Chamber of Commerce.

Council member Kenneth Johnson led the opening invocation and Mayor Kelley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Kelley asked that a new Agenda Item 8 be added: Resolution to Authorize a Building Permit to McCain Foods USA, Inc. and the remainder agenda items are to be number correctly.

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda, with the addition as presented by the Mayor. M/S Clemons/Johnson.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of Council Minutes of April 24, 2000
- b. Approval of Payroll and Related Expenses for April, 2000
- c. Approval of Warrants for April, 2000

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

Expense Claim Check No. 21614 to No. 21727 in the amount of \$148,389.35.  
Payroll Check No. 13231 to No. 13314 in the amount of \$152,947.41.

A motion was made by Council member Lyon to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council member Ochoa.

There was some discussion about the minutes reflecting that Council member Eleanor Brodahl had an unexcused absence. Council member Brodahl stated that she was very ill and did not call in prior to the meeting. Council member Ochoa withdrew her second. Council member Derifield seconded the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried. Council member Brodahl and Ochoa cast opposing votes.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – FIRE CHIEF DUANE VAN BEEK**

Mayor Kelley announced the retirement of Fire Chief Duane Van Beek and stated some of the achievements and accomplishments of the Chief and expressed his gratitude for the Chief's commitment to his position. He then presented a plaque to Chief Van Beek, who had held the position for the City of Othello for 18 years. Fire Chief Van Beek gave his appreciation to the Council, staff, volunteer fire fighters and his family for their support.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST**

The City Clerk explained that the Chamber of Commerce has requested appropriating \$3,000 of the already approved amount from tourism funds to be used towards salary compensation for the Chamber Director. They had reported it may be used on a short-term basis, maybe through 2001. She did report that RCW 67.28.1815 allows the money to

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be used towards tourism promotion, acquisition of tourism-related facilities or operation of a tourism-related facility. Staff recommended that the request be forwarded to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and felt that it did meet the criteria of operation of a tourism-related facility. Chamber President, Robert Simmons explained that the Chamber managers' position includes promotion of the area's activities, such as the festivals and sporting opportunities. The position is also responsible for retention of chamber membership. He stated the current manager is resigning and the board has realized that the demands of the director have increased to a full-time position and the request to use tourism funding would help with the salary. Tamara Millage, current Chamber Director explained that the position requires tourism promotion and enhancing the business growth and development of the community. She reiterated that the activities of the director require it to be a full time position. She stated that the money requested would come from the amount appropriated to the visitor guide; advertising could still be done in the guide, only at a less expensive avenue. Their current membership includes 225-250 businesses and they are looking at expanding into the agricultural business community.

Council carried a motion to refer this request to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee. M/S Clemons/Derifield. Council member Lyon requested that the committee make a recommendation on how the Chamber could justify that a portion of the director's duties is clearly promotion of tourism. He stated a concern of his was that requests for this funding become annual and on-going and asked the committee to discuss this issue too. Council member Ochoa requested staff to check with AWC to find out if other cities pay Chamber salaries out of tourism funding. The current director reported that the Chamber can prepare a capital outlay plan, including documentation of hours, for the committee to review, and an agreement can be entered into limiting the funding on a short-term basis.

**HEY KIDS – POOL PARTY REQUEST**

The City Clerk explained that the non-profit organization, Hey Kids has requested the fees be waived for a pool party for the kids in their summer program, as part of the city's contribution to the program. Edie Borgman, the Chemical Prevention Coordinator for Adams County explained the program more fully. Many organizations and entities contribute to the summer program, which travels to nine locations to provide activities to children who may not be able to take advantage of other summer activities. For the last activity, they would like to schedule a pool party, at no cost to the organization or children.

Council had concerns of waiving the total fee. Council member Lyon offered to be on a committee to develop a policy regarding setting criteria for requests of this nature. Council member Johnson also volunteered to work on this with Mr. Lyon.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING O.M.C. 14.10 ENTITLED “SIGN CODES”**

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 14.10 ENTITLED “SIGN CODES”. M/S Johnson/Brodahl. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1058.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING O.M.C. CHAPTER 2.44 ENTITLED “COMPENSATION AND SALARIES”**

Finance Officer, Debra Travis explained the new language in the ordinance allows use of the city's credit card for pre-authorized purchase of goods or in emergencies. She provided new language for Section G, suggested by the city attorney regarding a set limit on expenditures.

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Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OTHELLO MUNIICPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.44 ENTITLED "COMPENSATION AND SALARIES", to include the language suggested by legal counsel for Section G. M/S Ochoa/Clemons. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1059.

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A BUILDING PERMIT TO MCCAIN FOODS, USA, INC.**

Council was presented a resolution which would allow the Building Official to issue a building permit to McCain Foods for construction of a dock. Mr. Shaw explained that the McCains' property is currently unplattem, and a city ordinance provides that when building permits are requested, the property must be platted. The Council can authorize the building permit, based upon the fact that the platting process for their property be completed within a year. Mr. Shaw reported that McCains has been working on the platting procedure with the city since November, and only a few issues have to be resolved to complete it. There was concerns about the provision in the resolution that provided "failure to plat the McCain Foods, Inc. property described herein will result in discontinuance of city utility services to the property". The Council decided to change the words "will result" to "may result".

Council carried a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BUILDING CODE OFFICIAL TO ISSUE A BUILDING PERMIT TO MCCAIN FOODS USA, INC. This would include the change in Resolved - Section 3, as discussed. M/S Ochoa/Clemons.

**REAPPOINT TIMOTHY FLINT TO CIVIL SERVICE**

Mayor Kelley reappointed Timothy Flint to an additional six year term on the combined Fire and Police Civil Service Commission.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Shaw reported that the annual Water Consumer Confidence report is due July 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be mailed out to all city water users. He asked if the Council would want a newsletter developed to go out with the water report. Council directed staff to use their best judgement on whether enough concise information could be generated for a newsletter or to wait to produce a newsletter at a later date.

There were concerns of the automatic sewer rate going into effect on July 16<sup>th</sup>, due to the interpretations of the provisions in I-695. Mr. Shaw reported that the city's legal attorney has advised that the automatic sewer rate increase can go into effect on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2000. Staff recommended that the sewer rate increase go into effect in order to meet the required debt coverage amount and to prepare for future infrastructure upgrades. Mr. Shaw reported on the sewer revenue and expenditures.

Council member Clemons stated that the exit signs at Interstate 395 and Hwy 26 will be changed to include "Othello".

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council member Johnson reported on the meeting held last week with County officials regarding the library funding and levy issues. He explained that even if a levy is passed by County voters to create a library district in November 2000, there would not be funding received for the operations of a library until 2001. He was concerned that citizens may be under the impression that the City will fund the city and county portions of the library in 2001. Mr. Shaw stated he was optimistic that if that was the direction that the Council chose, that it may not put the city in a serious bind by funding the whole amount. He did

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caution that it is very early in the budget year to be able to make a financial prediction whether and how it could be financed. Council member Brodahl stated that the Council hasn't taken a vote on the library issue yet, and was concerned about citizens thinking the city could pay, when she believes that the city cannot fund the total amount. There was continued discussion on what the actually funding amount would be to cover the library contract and what options the city would have with the funding; how to deal with usage by County patrons; and how the County could pay their fair share for library use. Council member Lyon stated that the Council will also need to understand the need and demand of the citizens versus the available funding, including other city projects besides the library. The Council discussed other library funding options and issues. Mr. Shaw stated that whenever the Council wanted to vote on the issue, the staff will prepare the budget information for the Council to review.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the Council meeting at 8:52 p.m.

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E R KELLEY, Mayor

ATTEST:

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DEBBIE L KUDRNA, City Clerk