

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
May 22, 2000

Mayor E R Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Leonard Lyon, Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Everett Cole, Don Derifield, Jeannie Ochoa and Kenneth Johnson. Also present were: Bill McDonell, Debra Travis, Curt Andrews and Debbie Kudrna, City Department Heads; William Shaw, City Administrator; James Whitaker, City Attorney; Shane Harrison and Rick Washburn, Police Officers; Tamara Millage and Robert Simmons from the Othello Chamber of Commerce and several citizens.

Council Member Jeannie Ochoa led the opening invocation and Mayor Kelley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda as presented. M/S Cole/Clemons.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes of May 8th 2000.
- b. Set Public Hearing on Six-Year Street Plan for June 26th, 2000.
- c. Set Public Hearing on the Residential Rezone for June 12th, 2000.
- d. Set Agenda Item for Preliminary Weible Commercial Plat for June 12th, 2000.

City Clerk, Debbie Kudrna explained the items on the consent agenda. Items b. and c. are setting Public Hearings for certain days during Regular Council Meetings, therefore no discussion is needed at this meeting. She explained that item d. was to set the discussion for the Preliminary Weible Commercial Plat during the Regular Council Meeting on June 12th, 2000. The Clerk announced that the City Council had received the Planning Commissions recommendation on the Preliminary Weible Commercial Plat in their Council Packets.

Council carried a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. M/S Derifield/Cole.

AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED MINUTES

Mayor Kelley discussed the issue of how Council absences are recorded in the Council minutes. Council Member Brodahl had brought this issue to light at the last meeting. He stated that staff has reviewed Ordinance No. 1013 and have made suggestions for clarification of the text of the ordinance.

Mayor Kelley stated that he is responsible for the City Administration and Staff, which includes overseeing the prepared minutes. He gave a verbal apology to Council Members Brodahl, Lyon and Clemons for any upset that may have taken place as a result of how the absences were recorded in the Council minutes. He noted that any error made by the staff or himself was not intentional or malicious in any way. He stated that the confusion is in how to report the absences in adherence to the language set in Ordinance No. 1013, and asked for consideration of changes to the text of the ordinance. He then commended the Council on their attendance.

City Administrator, Bill Shaw noted that a review of past minutes showed an inconsistency of how absences are reported. He felt that the language of Ordinance No. 1013 made it difficult for all to interpret the intent of reporting Council absences. He reviewed what the current language is and suggested the following clarifications:

- Council may vote and make the decisions if an absence is to be recorded as, "Unexcused."
- Absences reported to the Mayor or City Clerk prior to a Regular Council Meeting for illness, vacation, death in the family, conflict with business

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obligations or attendance to other City business may be deemed, "Excused Absences."

- Absences not reported to the Mayor or City Clerk prior to a Regular Council Meeting may be deemed as, "Absences Without Reported Reasons."

He noted that the absence of Les Clemons on January 24th, 2000, the absence of Leonard Lyon on February 28th, 2000 and the absence of Eleanor Brodahl on April 24th, 2000 could all be recorded as deemed, "Absences Without Reported Reasons;" if the Council agreed to the suggested changes of the ordinance.

Mr. Shaw offered his apology to Council Member Brodahl for the inconsistencies of how absences have been recorded in Council minutes.

City Attorney, James Whitaker clarified how an absence can be recorded as, "Unexcused." He explained that if a Council Member is absent at a meeting without prior notification, a motion at that meeting would have to be made by a Council Member, seconded, voted on and passed by a majority to deem it as, "Unexcused." He further noted that an, "Unexcused Absence" has to be declared at the meeting that a Council Member is absent. At a following meeting when those minutes are discussed, a Council Member whose absence was recorded as, "Unexcused" could request that it be changed, voted upon and passed to be recorded deemed, "Absent Without Reported Reason."

Council carried a motion to revise Ordinance No. 1013, with the language as presented by the City Administrator. M/S Cole/Derifield. An ordinance will be presented to the Council at the meeting of June 12th, 2000 with the noted changes.

Council carried a motion to amend the Council Minutes of January 24th, 2000 to state that Les Clemons was, "Absent Without Reported Reason"; to amend the Council Minutes of February 28th, 2000 to state that Leonard Lyon was, "Absent Without Reported Reason"; and to amend the Council Minutes of April 24th, 2000 to state that Eleanor Brodahl was, "Absent Without Reported Reason." M/S Johnson/Lyon.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION'S – POLICE OFFICER RICK WASHBURN AND POLICE OFFICER SHANE HARRISON

Police Chief, Bill McDonell explained that several years ago Sargent Pierre wanted to implement a, "Driving While Intoxicated" emphasis in Othello. Police Officers, Rick Washburn and Shane Harrison, were asked to participate in this program. He noted that both employees have volunteered for the night shift and commended the Police Officers in their involvement in the DWI control and commitment to their positions to the Othello Police Department. Police Chief, Bill McDonell presented plaques of special appreciation from, "Mothers Against Drunk Drivers"(MADD) to Police Officer, Rick Washburn and Police Officer, Shane Harrison.

LICENSE FOR LIMOUSINE SERVICE

Police Chief, Bill McDonell reported that Jeffrey and Josepha Albin have applied to operate a Limousine Service within the City of Othello. The Albin's have met all of the appropriate background checks conducted by the Police Department and the vehicle has been inspected and is mechanically sound. Staff recommended that a Taxi Cab Operator License be issued to Jeffrey and Josepha Albin operating business as, "White Dove Limousine Service." Police Chief, Bill McDonell also suggested that the current Taxi Cab Ordinance be amended to read: Where upon review of the completed application and upon the recommendation from the Police Department that all conditions have been met in O.M.C. Chapter 4.12, the city administration would be able to either approve or reject the

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application. This would remove the Council reviewing the staffs' recommendation and making that decision.

Council carried a motion to approve the Taxi Cab Operator's License for Jeffrey and Josepha Albin to operate, "White Dove Limousine Service." M/S Ochoa/Cole.

Council's consensus was to allow staff to prepare the changes to the Taxi Cab Ordinance as presented by the Police Chief.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR TOURISM FUND USE

Council Member Everett Cole noted that the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee had met to discuss the Chamber's request to use \$3,000.00 of the already approved amount from tourism funding to be used towards the salary compensation for a full time Chamber Director. He noted that the Assistant Director of the State Auditor's Office had given his verbal advice regarding this request. The Auditor's Office statement was that paying a portion or all of the Chamber Director's salary is a legitimate use of tourism funds and it has not been an issue with them. The Chamber had explained that the \$3,000.00 would be transferred out of the advertising portion of their budget for the tourism funds, due to the success of their advertising on the Internet. Mr. Cole explained that the Chamber had assured the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee that this would not become an annual request for salary reimbursement. The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee did recommend to the City Council allocation of \$3,000.00 from the already appropriated Tourism Funds for a one-year bases (budget 2000), to be used towards the Chamber Director's salary. The Committee agreed that the Director's salary supplement provided by the Chamber is evidence of the time spent on tourism promotion.

Council Member Ochoa voiced her concerns of the Chamber selling or donating the Christmas Festival Lights to another city or organization. She mentioned the possibility of recruiting free labor from the Juvenile Department or other non-profit organizations and possibility of storing the Christmas lights and decorations at another location.

Mr. Shaw mentioned that the discontinuation of the Christmas Festival Lights Program was an issue discussed at length by the Chamber Board. Their hopes are that another organization will continue the event and the displays will be handed over to them.

Council carried a motion to allow \$3,000.00 of the already appropriated amount from Tourism Funds, for one-year only, to be used towards the full time Chamber Directors salary. M/S Cole/Clemons. Council Member Derifield cast an opposing vote.

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW SUN FAIRE IN LIONS PARK

The Council was presented with a resolution to allow Fourth of July Sun Faire Activities on city property and streets. This includes the Sun Run, parade and festivities in Lions Park for the day. It also allowed for over night vendor parking in city park parking lots during the Sun Faire Festival.

Council carried a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE OTHELLO SUN FAIRE TO BE HELD ON JULY 4TH, 2000. M/S Clemons/Brodahl. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2000-07.

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ORDINANCE AMENDING O.M.C. CHAPTER 2.12 "POLICE JUSTICE"

Council was provided an ordinance renaming O.M.C. Chapter 2.12 from, "Police Justice" to "Police Department." Police Chief, Bill McDonell noted that the Police Department is in the final stage of their accreditation project. This ordinance helps define the Police Department, under the direction of the Chief of Police.

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.12 ENTITLED "POLICE JUSTICE" AND RENAMING SUCH CHAPTER "POLICE DEPARTMENT." M/S Cole/Derifield. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1060.

ORDINANCE AMENDING O.M.C. CHAPTER 4.04 "BUSINESS LICENSES"

City Administrator, Bill Shaw explained that the proposed ordinance creates a fee of \$10.00 per day for itinerate merchants. It also provides that the merchants that are associated with city recognized community events will remit that fee or the annual business license fee, which ever is less, to the sponsor. The event sponsor is then responsible of remitting that fee and the application, prior to the event, to the city. The City Clerk reviewed the other minor changes in the proposed ordinance.

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 4.04 ENTITLED "BUSINESS LICENSES." M/S Lyon/Clemons. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1061.

RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT WITH BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Finance Officer, Debra Travis reviewed the agreement, noting the changes for this up coming year with the Boys and Girls Club. She stated that the annual sum to be paid to the Boys and Girls Club will be set by what is provided by the state contract.

Council carried a motion to allow execution of the agreement between the City of Othello and the Boys and Girls Club of the Columbia Basin. M/S Cole/Johnson.

RENEWAL OF SWIM TEAM AGREEMENT

City Clerk, Debbie Kudrna presented the agreement with the Othello Swim Team and explained the changes to the contract. The fee will remain the same at \$10.00 per participant for the 2000 swim season. The payment is due to the City by September 1st, 2000.

Council carried a motion to allow execution of the Swim Team Agreement as presented. M/S Lyon/Brodahl.

Council Member Eleanor Brodahl left the Council meeting at 8:01 p.m.

RENEWAL OF MIGRANT SWIM AGREEMENT

The City Clerk presented the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Othello School District regarding Migrant Summer School Swim. The dates of the contract are June 21st through July 27th, 2000 and the fee was set at \$.35 per student for a one-hour session between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The Council voiced some concerns of the number of participants in the Migrant Summer School Program, which may cause the capacity load of the pool to be reached without allowing admittance of other children that are lined up to be admitted into the pool.

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Council Member Cole made a motion to allow execution of the Intergovernmental Co-operational Agreement regarding Migrant Summer School Swim as presented. Seconded by Council Member Derifield. There was more discussion regarding the capacity load of the pool and the effects of children not being allowed into the pool once that capacity is reached. Council Member Cole withdrew his motion and requested that this be discussed with the Migrant Summer School Director at the next meeting.

NESTLE' BOILER EXTENSION AGREEMENT

Council carried a motion to allow a three month extension to the license agreement to Nestle' USA, Inc. Food Services Division for placement of a boiler unit on city right-of-way. M/S Clemons/Ochoa.

HIRE A VETERAN MONTH PROCLAMATION

Mayor Kelley read into the record the proclamation, which proclaimed June 2000 as, "Hire a Veteran Month."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Kelley requested an update of the Fire Commission meeting. Mr. Shaw summarized that from the two meetings held with the Fire Commissioners and Volunteers; it was evident that there was no economic advantage of combining the City and County Fire Departments. The Volunteers supported hiring a City Fire Chief and noted that both Chiefs have very little secretarial staff. There were concerns voiced at the meetings regarding the location of the City Fire Department, which house the vehicles that are also being used by the Volunteer Department. The Volunteers voiced support of moving the City's Fire Department closer to the County building to help with the operation and maintenance of the equipment and operation of their volunteer system. Discussion continued regarding building a structure that would house the City Fire Department equipment located near Well #6 on west Larch Street, which is across the street from the County Fire Department. This would also allow the Public Works Department to move all of their equipment into one building, if they could occupy the current Fire Department building. Mr. Shaw noted that he would develop some figures regarding building a structure to house the City Fire Department equipment. He suggested that the City may let bids for a new Fire Truck, which would help the Council with the discussion of funding available for a new building.

The Council reviewed the advertisement for the new Fire Chief and approved the salary set at \$45,000.00 to \$55,000.00, depending on qualifications. A review committee will be organized to review all applications, which could involve some senior representatives from nearby Fire Departments.

Council Member Cole noted that the Interior Decorating Committee has completed some of their projects. These include an area in the Lobby, Council Room and Conference Room Number Three. Mayor Kelley announced a five-minute break at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – REAL ESTATE

The Council and some staff adjourned into an Executive Session to discuss real estate at 8:40 p.m. for approximately 30 minutes. The Council reconvened at 9:11 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the Council meeting of May 22nd, 2000 at 9:12 p.m.

E R KELLEY, Mayor

ATTEST:

DEBBIE L KUDRNA, City Clerk