

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**Present:** Mayor Shannon McKay; Councilmembers Eleanor Brodahl, Kathy Carlton, Everett Cole, Marc Spohr, Dale Wyman, and Tim Wilson.

**Also Present:** Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Debbie Kudrna, Dick Lee, Rhonda Miller; Police Chief Steve Dunnagan, and City Administrator, Ehman Sheldon.

**Absent Was:** Councilmember Kenneth Taylor.

**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB PRESENTATION**

Brad Overberg reviewed the National Boys and Girls Club mission statement; their underlining philosophy; youth development strategy; core beliefs and the core program areas. Ryan Davenport of the Boys and Girls Club reported on the programs and opportunities at the Othello Club, which includes: the game room; discover center; arts and crafts room; gym; and the photography, newsletter and art clubs. He reviewed the National Boys and Girls Programs: Smart Kids and Nutrition to Grow on. Mr. Davenport reported that they currently have 125 members; 35-55 youth per day at the club; 65% of the members are from economically disadvantaged families; 50% are from single parent families, and over 85% qualify for free and reduced lunches. He reviewed the Branch Board goals, who advocate on the behalf of the local Boys and Girls Club. They are kicking off the local "Campaign for Kids" program and are locating donors to help supplement the costs to run the club programs. The Mayor was presented a plaque, drawn by a local club member, acknowledging the City of Othello for their support. Mr. Davenport advised that their membership count is slightly above last year and expect that number to increase for the summer park and food program. He explained that the computer room is structured to provide the kids basic computer skills and they have a very strict internet policy. Internet use is only allowed if a supervisor is present. He also advised that there is one full time director and four part time staff members.

**WATER RIGHT COSTS**

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon reported that information has been presented to the Council regarding extending water service to County developments and a complete summary will be reported at an upcoming Council meeting. He advised that the costs to purchase additional water rights can fluctuate from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per acre foot, based upon location and need. Mr. Sheldon advised that there has been a change in the law and the 5 year status of use it or lose it (water rights) is no longer valid. He explained that an acre foot of water is equivalent to one acre with 1 foot depth of water. Mr. Doug Muscott explained that one acre foot is equal to approximately 360,000 gallons of water, not to be confused with a second of water or cubic feet. Mr. Sheldon stated that the City currently has water rights to drill two new wells, which is different than the amount of water that we can actually pump. The City can purchase additional water rights and municipalities do not have any advantage over others to buy water rights. Mr. Sheldon advised that a summary will be provided to include how much water rights the City has, how much water rights are currently being used, and how much water the golf course is asking for. He also clarified that the City would not lose their current water rights for the Odessa aquifer if they did not use them. Mr. Sheldon explained that developers inside the City limits have the right and expectation to city water and two years ago a group asked the Council if they would provide water to the golf course development. At that time, the Council indicated that they would; however, staff met with the developers shortly after and asked for certain information for the Council to make the decision, such as quantities, number of houses, and peak hours. The staff has provided information to the Council for consideration of providing water to developments outside the City limits and the Council will have to make the final decision. Mayor McKay reiterated that if the City has approved extension of water service and those developments are not using it, the unused water rights are not factored against the City's fire rating. Mr. Sheldon explained that the Department of Ecology has to approve the request to purchase new water rights and those water rights can be bought from a private or municipal entity. County Commissioner Hartwig mentioned

that he would like to see the project approved. Mayor McKay advised that similar projects are developing nearby and Othello needs to capitalize on growth and be prepared for future growth.

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon reported that a new nuisance ordinance was adopted last year and Council asked that staff implement a better enforcement program. Staff has developed a program consisting of the Building, Police, and Public Works Departments. Building Official Curt Andrews reported that his department deals with new, expanded, or rebuilt buildings, or a change of occupancy of any building. They control the life/safety issues and the health and property protection of those structures. They review the plan and compare it to the State building codes to ensure safety and health standards are met. Their process includes inspections and issuance of occupancy permits, which states the building type and use. If the building use changes and is not maintained to the occupancy permit criteria, the permit can be pulled and the building has to be vacated. A new certificate of occupancy can be issued once all safety and health issues are met for a new building use. The one issue that the Building Department handles that is not a life/safety matter is the front setback, which is a zoning issue, as provided for in Othello Municipal Code Title 17. The front setback maintains the neighborhood appearance in the residential area and provides for a sufficient sidewalk in the commercial districts.

Police Chief Steve Dunnagan explained that the Police Department enforces all illegal parking on public right of way, including storage of vehicles. The Police Department can enforce ordinances and provides back up for Code Enforcement dealing with misdemeanors, noting that the Code Enforcement Officer cannot enforce misdemeanors but can impose civil infractions. The Police Department receives copies of placement permits, which helps officers who notice building projects going on while on patrol.

Public Works Director Dick Lee reported that Doyle Palmer has done an outstanding job as the new Code Enforcement Officer. He has been successful with the animal control portion of his job and has developed a process with Pet Rescue for homeless animals. Code Enforcement Officer Doyle Palmer advised that he enforces the city codes regarding parking on private property, including hulk vehicles parked in yards and off city right of way. He advised that six hulk vehicles have been voluntarily removed; thirteen pit bulls have been removed from the city limits, and he has also informed unlicensed businesses of the City's business license regulations. Mr. Palmer advised he has begun to work on nuisances, including obstructions on street corners. Letters have been sent out regarding weeds and vegetation growth to 20 citizens; 53 unclaimed dogs have been picked up; and 19 of those were returned to owners and properly licensed. In the past two months, 150 dogs have been licensed and the number of dogs at large has greatly reduced. Pet Rescue has found homes for 35 of the unlicensed dogs and there are currently only 4 dogs in the pound. He also explained the process of when an unlicensed dog is found.

Mr. Lee advised that the shoulders of portions of vacant lots on S. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue have been flattened so that it can be mowed easily. The areas have been planted with test grasses by Washington State University and rocks have been removed. Another lot will be worked on after a sign is removed from the area. Mayor McKay stated that this work parallels with the projects that are being completed by the Beautification Committee. Mr. Lee explained that articles regarding code enforcement will be published in the local newspaper. Mr. Palmer reported that the boxing ring on south 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is being removed. Councilmember Wyman suggested that dumpsters that are placed in the street should have reflectors on them.

#### **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finance Officer Rhonda Miller reported that revenues are exceeding expenditures in all funds, excluding the General Fund. She expects property tax revenues in May, which will change the General Fund status. City wide revenues exceed expenditures by \$266,000 and sales tax revenues are 1.5% above last year's figures. Ms. Miller then reviewed the investment summary, which

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indicated a gain of 3.9%. Two agency bonds and a T-bill will come due next quarter and these funds will be reinvested at a higher rate with the Bank of America private client group.

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING NATIONAL PRAYER DAY**

Mayor McKay read into the record the National Day of Prayer Proclamation and reported that the special observance is scheduled on May 4, 2006.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Councilmember Spohr reported that he will not be able to attend the upcoming biannual meeting with Adams County Fire District and asked that citizen comments be forwarded to Councilmember Wilson and Cole. Mayor McKay announced that the Town of Lind has invited the City Council to participate in a round table discussion on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Lind Lions Club. The Mayor reported that surplus equipment will be sold at an upcoming auction on May 6<sup>th</sup>. He also thanked Chief Dunnagan, Sheriff Barger, Othello Public Works, Adams County Juvenile, Adams County Sheriff's Posse, and the Lind Fire Department for their assistance at the march held earlier that day.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Police Chief Dunnagan reported that Mr. Cardenas had applied for a parade permit and the march was held earlier that day same day. Three pre-planning meetings with local agencies were held and several positive meetings were held with the organizer. The parade lasted 38 minutes and the post announcements and speeches lasted for approximately 40 minutes. They estimate that 1,000 – 1,500 people participated and those involved were very respectful. More than 1,000 kids were absent from school today. Mr. Cardenas has reported that they do not have other events planned. Chief Dunnagan explained that a late request came into City Hall for approval of a band in the park after their march. Unfortunately, there was not a Council meeting after the request for Council to consider the use of the park.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the workshop at 8:17 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk