

**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, Kenneth Caylor, Everett Cole, Marc Spohr, Dale Wyman, and Tim Wilson.

**Also Present:** Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steve Dunnagan, Debbie Kudrna, and Jay VanNess; and City Administrator Ehman Sheldon.

**SWEARING IN OF OFFICER TIFFANY RAMSEY**

Police Chief Steve Dunnagan administered the oath of office to Police Officer Tiffany Ramsey.

**POOL PARKING LOT DISCUSSION**

Mayor McKay advised that the Council had met in Lions Park to view options for additional parking for the new pool. Councilmember Caylor recommended extending angled parking stalls from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue east to the pool, noting it will add an additional 45 parking stalls. It was recommended to slow the speed limit down to 20 mph on Pine Street in the ball field and pool areas. Police Chief Dunnagan advised that State law allows changes to the speed limits, if there is justification to do so, including areas in playground zones. City Administrator Ehman Sheldon advised speed limits can be changed by Ordinance. Councilmember Carlton recommended a sidewalk be installed adjacent to the new parking stalls. Mr. Sheldon recommended waiting to install sidewalks to the other parking lots to see what paths are naturally used by the citizens.

**ALLEY DISCUSSION**

Mayor McKay advised that he had viewed all alleys in the community and has concerns of the costs to maintain alleys and how alleys seem to create other exposures to danger. Councilmember Carlton agreed that many citizens feel that alleys create areas of malicious behavior. Mr. Pete Olson stated that alleys are an expense for developers and they provide no benefit to new developments. Councilmember Caylor advised that alleys are not essential in residential areas but are necessary in commercial areas for access and deliveries. Councilmember Spohr reported that residential housing can be built within 10' of each other and fences can be constructed at the property line on either side. This eliminates access to backyard for boats and vehicles.

**REVIEW OF PARK MITIGATION FEES**

Mr. Sheldon advised that O.M.C. 16.29.290 provides for a \$250 park mitigation fee per lot for a new subdivision with an option to provide dedication of areas for parks and playgrounds of not more than one-half acre for every twenty building sites in a subdivision. Finance Officer Mike Bailey reported that the park mitigation fund currently has a balance of approximately \$248,000. He surveyed other communities to find out how they assess new developments for park areas and found that many do not have park mitigation fees. A couple communities have the same fee of \$250 per new lot. Mr. Sheldon reported that Othello is approximately 15 acres short of park areas, which is based upon the State criteria for park area using community population. In order to receive IAC grants, the City would have to meet the park area criteria set by the State. There was further discussion for park mitigation and Council's consensus was to maintain the current park mitigation fee of \$250 per lot; revise the ordinance language that promotes small unusual parks; and look for future park property.

**SERGEANT ASSESSMENT TESTING**

Police Chief Dunnagan briefed the Council on the upcoming Sergeant assessment testing process. This will create an eligibility list that will be valid for two years. He advised that Council approved promoting one officer to a Sergeant position and this will provide better supervision on all three shifts and will create a better mentor program for new officers. They completed an in-house survey and task analysis to define Sergeant's responsibilities. Chief Dunnagan explained that an assessment center is a formal procedure, which incorporates group and individual

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exercises aimed to assess individual abilities. He advised that the five Sergeant candidates have been briefed and were given assignments to complete for the testing day.

**CONDUCTING COMMERCIAL BUSINESS IN CITY PARKS**

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna reported that Council had directed staff in 1995 to not allow businesses to conduct commercial activities in City parks, unless authorized by the City Council. Vendors at festivals and events are allowed by resolution and those vendors purchase an annual or itinerant business license and register with the event organizers. The ball field concession stand is reserved by the Cal Ripken League, a nonprofit organization, and the money generated at the concession stand is used to cover their expenses.

Our insurance carrier recommended that we not change our current policy and only allow nonprofit organizations to operate concessions at the ball park. If the Council elects to allow commercial activities in the park, they highly recommend that we not show favoritism. She advised that other communities request bids for operating concessions, which gives equal opportunity to all businesses. The Clerk reported that we recently received requests from several businesses to set up their commercial activities in our parks, which provided an opportunity to discuss the issue with the Council.

Mayor McKay stated that he did not support commercial activities in the parks, other than during the festivals. He explained that there are issues with working in areas where children play. Councilmember Cole stated that he supports the current policy to allow only nonprofit organizations to operate concessions. Councilmember Wilson asked that staff investigate what other communities do and how some cities run their commercial activities in their parks. There was further discussion regarding commercial activity in the park and staff will report back to the Council how other communities handle concessions in their parks. Councilmember Spohr advised that the Cal Ripken League does not operate concessions on Sunday's and this maybe an opportunity to have concessions for our citizens.

**WELL #4 STATUS UPDATE**

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay VanNess presented two options for replacement of the pump at Well #4. He explained that they pulled the turbine pump out and Council had approved installation of a submersible pump. They video taped the shaft at Well #4 and found that the shaft is fractured at several locations below the casing. They reviewed the options between installation of a submersible pump or a vertical turbine pump. Mr. VanNess advised there are concerns of damage to the pump and cable when installing a submersible pump and there are concerns of the limited life expectancy with a vertical turbine pump. It was Council's consensus to install the submersible pump.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the workshop at 8:15 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

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