

City of Othello
City Council Workshop
June 1, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Present: Mayor Shannon McKay; Councilmembers: Eleanor Brodahl, Kenneth Caylor, Dan Dever, Kenneth Johnson, Mark Snyder, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon and Department Heads: Debbie Kudrna, and Jay Van Ness

SR 26 – 1ST AVENUE INTERSECTION INFORMATION

Mayor McKay introduced Bob Romine, Department of Transportation (DOT) Project Engineer. Mr. Romine advised that funding has been appropriated by DOT for improvements to the SR 26 and 1st Avenue intersection project. He advised that stage 1 of the project includes regrading under the SR 26 bridge and regrading 300' both the north and south sides of the underpass and the SR 24 spur. The grade under the bridge will be lowered an additional 2'9" under the bridge. They anticipate the project to begin in March 2010. Traffic will be re-routed up the SR 24 spur during the stage 1 phase and they expect this will be complete within 30-35 days. Stewart Hilmes asked what they will do to accommodate the site distance. Mr. Romine advised their plan meets the design site standards. He advised that stage 2 will include the intersection improvements at SR 26 and 1st Avenue. There have been 21 collisions in the last 3 years at this intersection and DOT has created a design to mitigate the issue. The design improvements include new striping and raised islands and traffic will be diverted for left hand turns off north and south 1st Avenue. They will also restrict traffic crossing SR 26 from 1st Avenue. They will install signage to divert the traffic properly. He advised there is an option for businesses to buy roadway signs. He noted there may be some modifications of the business driveways adjacent to the intersection area. Also in the 2nd phase they will also perform radius improvements at the corners of Wahluke and Broadway and 1st Avenue to accommodate the truck route.

Mayor McKay asked for public comments. Roger Thieme, Evergreen Implement, advised that the plan seems good and they will cooperate any way they can to make this a safer intersection. Mrs. Parrish, Saddle Mountain Farm Supply, asked if they will close the access to her business. Mr. Romine advised that it should not impact their business access. Stewart Hilmes asked if they could increase the radius at the corners for the truck route. Mr. Romine stated that it was designed at the standard for safe road intersections and they will look at the possibility about a wider radius at the corners. Mike Beardsley, Othello Port District, agreed that wider radius improvements would be good. Jerry Fuhrman, Harvest Fresh, asked if any of the roads will be closed during construction, noting they need access for their trucks. Mr. Romine stated they will have the roads tore up but will keep sufficient lanes open, signage and may temporarily reduce the speed limit. Barbara Caylor asked how far back the divider will be on north 1st Avenue side. Mr. Romaine stated that he does not know how long the divider is. They could designate the farther west lane on 1st Avenue as a turn lane and try to minimize the impact. Mayor McKay agreed that stopping the cross traffic will be best for the community. Mr. Romine advised that stage 2 of the project will be performed in March 2011. Stewart Hilmes noted there is a site problem with the big storage building on Columbia Street and Broadway. Mr. Romine advised that their funding will only pay for the project as proposed. He noted that there are opportunities for future improvements. Mayor McKay advised that the City is planning a \$6 million improvement project for the SR 24 Industrial area and he hopes the two projects will tie together and improve the area, and asked for Council comments. Councilmember Wilson stated that a lot of trucks cannot negotiate the right hand turn traveling east off SR 26 onto the SR 24 spur. Mr. Romine advised that they will look into that turn radius. Councilmember Spohr stated that the State has been criticized about the intersection because it used to have flashing signs and the speed was reduced to 40-45 mph and the speed limit has now been raised to 50 mph. There was some discussion regarding the speed limit on SR 26 and it was noted that the current sign flashes the speed a vehicle is traveling. Councilmember Caylor thanked DOT for changing the construction time from the fall to spring. Mr. Hilmes suggested that the Council consider restricting parking on Wahluke Street

City of Othello
City Council Workshop
June 1, 2009

since it will become the truck route. Mrs. Parrish stated that traffic will increase up to Wahluke Street. Mayor McKay closed the public meeting at 7:38 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councilmember Spohr agreed to be on the cable franchise negotiation committee. Mayor McKay will be the alternate committee member. Councilmember Caylor advised the Centennial Committee meeting is this Thursday, June 4th at 4:30 p.m. He advised that he attended an Odessa sub area meeting last week and they discussed surface water and the issue of recharging our deep wells. Mr. Sheldon advised the swim team began using the pool today. Councilmember Spohr noted that the tennis court project is on the 30th day. Mr. Van Ness advised the tennis court fencing will be installed this week and the overlay will be done next week. Councilmember Wilson advised that several fire department volunteers passed the training course just recently.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the workshop at 7:44 p.m.

By: _____
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk