

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Present: Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders; Councilmembers Everett Cole, Eleanor Brodahl, Larry Bray, Kenneth Johnson, Leonard Lyon, Don Derifield, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon, Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Debbie Kudrna, Rhonda Miller, Dick Lee, and Police Chief Ron Axtman.

Mayor Sanders announced that the following items would be discussed under Unfinished Business: dispatch, McCains water use, and the aquatic center.

ADULT BUSINESS ORDINANCE

City Planner, Curt Andrews held a discussion regarding the Planning Commission's review of the creation of an ordinance to regulate adult businesses. Their consensus was to "do the best we can, and enforce regulating adult businesses as much as we can". He stated that a new ordinance can't impact existing businesses and they want to be pro-active (noting there is nothing pending driving this subject). They have found they can regulate these businesses by separation from protected facilities and protect our neighborhoods. Mr. Andrews reviewed an outline of an ordinance, which included adult business definitions, protected facility definitions, provisions of an adult business, and non-conforming uses. They reviewed the Attorney's memo regarding regulating adult businesses and the Council's consensus was to be pro-active not reactive, and have as strong of an ordinance that would be defensible in courts.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL

Finance Officer, Rhonda Miller reported that the auditor has emphasized the need that receipts received for reimbursable expenses must be itemized with the name of the vendor, the date, and a detailed listing of all items purchased. She also recommended that changes be made to the city's ordinance regarding paying for employees/elected official's meals when traveling for city business. IRS rules provide that meals should not be paid by the City unless overnight stay is involved, or if the meals are paid without overnight stay, the charges to the City's Visa account are to be considered income on the employees/elected officials W-2. She explained that she has researched this quite extensively, has consulted with the State Auditors office other cities and she recommends that meals should not be reimbursed or paid for unless the employee/elected official is in the IRS definition of travel (overnight stay). Council's consensus was to allow reimbursement of meals during travel in the city's capacity, whether overnight or not, and have this amount reported on the employees/elected officials W-2 form as taxable income.

SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Axtman reported that the Police Department is set for re-certification on November 2, 2004. He noted that their "accreditation team" spends many hours reviewing, revising and upgrading over 200 standards during the time between accreditation to re-certification. He was introduced to a WSU student, Ashley Pinozo, who is updating Grant County's data records this summer and assisting them in their re-certification process. He reported that there is funding in wages that would cover wages (\$8.00) to hire Ms. Pinozo part-time to assist the department in their re-certification process. He noted this would be an efficient way to complete the process and relieve the officers of some of the data work. She would work evenings to work with Sergeant Pierre during this process. Council's consensus was for the Chief to proceed with his plans.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Axtman reported that he had met with Day Wireless, who would be involved in moving the ALLI system to Othello, (we currently have an ALLI system in Othello known as a secondary PCAP.) The State no longer funds secondary PCAP's for upgrades in equipment and maintenance, therefore, our ALLI system will no longer be funded. All 911 calls will be routed to Ritzville (call taker), and if it is an Othello area call, this can be transferred to Othello for dispatching (call dispatcher) through the Spillman database. The ALLI system currently allows the dispatcher to locate the phone number and location; the GIS information will be included in Phase 2 of the

project. Day Wireless has indicated that call dispatching can still be provided, and phone numbers will still be accessible via the Spillman database if the ALLI system is not moved to Othello (cost of \$7200 in 2003). This system will be tested on June 16th and then we'll have conclusive results to whether the current system will work. Because of this new development, there may not be a need to move the ALLI system to Othello if the existing system provides the necessary information to keep our level of dispatching services high and maintain our officer's safety.

Mayor Sanders stated that this new information was shared with Adams County today during the dispatch meeting. Chief Axtman reported that beginning in January, it could cost approximately \$33,000 to maintain our 911-system (Dictaphone, T-1 line, and radio system.) To help this project, the County has said that they are planning, within the next five years, that they will be providing a centralized dispatch center in Adams County. Chief Axtman stated that a new maintenance contract for 2004 might include a raise in the fire (LI) calls to \$18 per call, noting the current fee is \$12 per LI call. He stated that the City would be meeting with the State to discuss the funding possibilities for operation and maintenance of current equipment. The County is also researching funding options to upgrade their radio system to perform dispatching for Othello. He will also be looking at equipment costs to continue dispatching for ourselves. Mayor Sanders stated that Lincoln County is moving out of our Spillman system.

Ehman Sheldon held a discussion on the questions raised by the Council regarding McCains drilling their own well and severing water service from the City. He reported that the City is not required to provide fire protection if McCain Foods willingly disconnects from the city water system. If they want fire standby service they will remain as a utility customer, and can be charged the fee established by the Council. He stated that Mr. Whitaker advises that the \$15,000 minimum charge for the industrial standby fee is a legal and binding fee, which has been set by the Council for this type of a customer. He also noted that we could not provide standby service at no charge. He presented further information on the city water needs vs. industry water needs; city fire equipment vs. industry fire equipment needs; and capital improvements for the City vs. capital improvements made for industry needs. He also reviewed statistics on the increased industrial water usage from 1978 – 2002. Mr. Sheldon also reviewed water expense cost comparisons. He noted that Council's direction was two-fold: the City has incurred indebtedness and made investments on industry behalf and they should be responsible for the indebtedness incurred on their behalf. The City also recognizes that industry is a good neighbor and they are a significant employer and the City should continue to work with them on this water issue. He compared McCains, Simplot and other customers' water costs and expenses and revenues. He also presented a projection if McCains was to disconnect (excluding 2 small meters at approximately \$12,000/year revenue), which indicated that the impact would be placed upon the residential and commercial water customers. He noted McCains had indicated that they are willing to discuss the issue of their responsibility for the debt incurred by the City to meet industries' needs, and they will be meeting next week to discuss this further. Councilmember Lyon noted that the City had installed the 16" looped water line and fire hydrants that will still be available to provide standby use. Mr. Sheldon explained that these improvements provide the ability to offset their insurance premiums and provide sufficient fire flow, and we can justify that they are responsible for a portion of the indebtedness of these improvements. Mr. Sheldon stated that if McCains goes off the City's water service, it would not affect the City's fire rating because we won't have the accountability of providing fire service to that entity. Mr. Sheldon explained that it is unlikely that McCains can provide fire protection from their own well and standpipe.

Councilmember Wilson provided an update from the Aquatic Center committee. He invited everyone to Tuesday's meeting. ALSC will be presenting a concept that they have developed from input of the committee members and citizens. He reported that the committee is in the planning stages and their goal is to have the funding issue on the ballot this fall. On June 17th, there will be a meeting to discuss the bonding issue.

Mayor Sanders reported that the Civil Service Commission has certified a list of six candidates for dispatcher.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Derifield reported that the traffic lights seem to be set on a long timer. Dick Lee, Public Works Director explained that our stoplights are set according to the Washington Traffic code. Staff will research whether the timers can be altered. It was reported that the cross walks on 1st Avenue by Akins needs to be repainted. Mr. Sheldon reminded everyone that the crosswalk emphasis program has started.

Councilmember Brodahl stated that the City should review the necessity of a stoplight at 14th and Main Street, stating it is a very busy intersection. Mayor Sanders explained that the City has collected \$30,000 of the projected \$200,000 needed. It was discussed that the City might want to install the light now, at the current costs, and charge the properties their portions when they develop. Mayor Sanders noted that the City needs to encourage Wal*Mart to maintain their stop signs within their development.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Sanders adjourned the workshop at 8:13 p.m.

By: _____
JEANNIE L. SANDERS, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk