

City of Othello  
Council Workshop  
June 4, 2001

Mayor E R Kelley called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Everett Cole, Donald Derifield, Jeannie Ochoa and Kenneth Johnson. Absent was Leonard Lyon. Also present were Rhonda Miller, and Curt Andrews, Department Heads; and Bill Shaw, City Administrator.

CITIES INSURANCE ASSOC. OF WASHINGTON – SHANE BELNAP

Shane Belnap, representing Cities Insurance Association of Washington, gave a presentation of the services provided by Canfield & Associates, administrators of CIAW. The City of Othello is a member of the CIAW insurance pool, which now consists of 118 governmental entities. His report included the origin of the insurance pool; the goals for the pool; utilization of in-house brokerage services; history of insurance premiums; safety surveys of the various city departments; and presentation of workshops for employees and elected officials. Mr. Belnap reported that there is a possibility of a 10% increase in 2002 penalties.

COLUMBIA BASIN HEALTH – LANDSCAPE AND LIGHTING ISSUE

Planner, Curt Andrews reviewed the request from CBHA for street lighting and landscaping. He discussed the concerns and issues for maintenance, use of right-of-way, and long term impacts. He noted that the City could create an ordinance to set standards for landscaping and trees within the right-of-way. This request will be presented for official action at the next Council meeting and the tree committee will be making a recommendation to the Council.

AWARD OF ANDERSON PERRY & ASSOCIATES TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

Mayor Kelley announced that the Scholarship Committee had recommended award of the \$500.00 scholarship to Senior Melinda Lopez.

EAGLE ESTATES WATER AND SEWER REQUEST

Bill Shaw reviewed the area known as Westwind Apartments and explained the owners of Westwind Apartments are Darrell Akkerman, John Tutt and Ed McKay. Mr. Tutt has begun the process of platting his portion of property and has requested water and sewer agreements from the city. Mr. Tutt explained that the sewer line would not be improved, it would remain in private property; not in the right-of-way. He explained that a homeowners association would be formed that could administer and maintain the water and sewer system, and be responsible for payment to the city. Mr. Tutt noted that they are still trying to negotiate purchase of the property owned by Darrell Akkerman. His plan is to remodel his buildings, upgrade the streets, fire hydrants and other county platting requirements. There was further discussion about the city requirement that water and sewer lines are to be in the right-of-way; and an option presented by Mr. Tutt regarding the city condemning the existing sewer line. Mr. Shaw reminded the Council of the attorney's opinion about not being able to enforce deferred improvements for infrastructure if the facilities exist when the covenant is authorized. Don Gentry, First Choice Realty noted the interest already shown in the remodeled units.

**DISCUSSION CONCERNING FUTURE OF FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE CHIEF POSITION**

There was a review of the May 7<sup>th</sup> workshop minutes regarding the Council's discussion of the future of the Fire Department. Mr. Shaw reported that specs are being reviewed for a new fire truck. There may be a possibility of purchase of a truck with Moses Lake's purchase of a truck. Mr. Swartz and the County Fire Chief are working on the purchase of new protective clothing. Mr. Shaw noted that implementation of the ICS command system is an extensive training system and will take some long term commitment from both departments to get this implemented. The ads for the Fire Chief are out and the city is accepting applications through the end of June. Mr. Shaw has written the fire station repair bid packet with the bids being opened mid-July. Location of the fire trucks during the construction time is being decided; the trucks will be parked and accessible for the volunteers during the construction period. Mr. Swartz is researching implementing the passport system. Mr. Johnson reported that the Fire Commissioners are willing to discuss contracting for the city's fire suppression services; they are not interested in any of the dispatching or administration services. Mr. Johnson suggested meeting with Jerry Grill to discuss combination of two departments and Mr. Shaw suggested Mr. Haworth, who is a consultant who provides help with discussion of combining these departments and how to assure that the city's needs are met.

Mayor Kelley appointed a committee to develop a plan and prepare for discussions with the Adams County Fire District Commissioners: Council members Everett Cole, Jeannie Ochoa and Ken Johnson. There was some discussion regarding extra compensation for Assistant Fire Chief Robin Swartz during the interim of acting as Fire Chief.

**FIRE CHIEF APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS**

A schedule has already been discussed regarding the application process. Mr. Shaw asked how the Council wanted to handle the review process. Mayor Kelley appointed the following committee to review the Fire Chief applications: himself, Bill Shaw, Jeannie Ochoa, Ken Johnson, Robin Swartz and one volunteer

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bill Shaw mentioned the following would be submitted at the next meeting: Contract with Washington Assoc. of Sheriffs and Police Chief; recommendation of the fuel bid award; Eagle Apartments request for water and sewer contracts. Mr. Andrews had submitted a report on the comprehensive zoning map.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Debbie Kudrna, CMC  
City Clerk