

City of Othello  
Regular Council Meeting  
July 11, 2011

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Tim Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Tim Wilson; Councilmembers: Ken Caylor, Dan Dever, Genna Dorow, Kenneth Johnson, Mark Snyder, and Marc Spohr.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Finance Officer Mike Bailey, Public Works Supervisor Terry Clements, Asst. Police Chief David Inks, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna; and City Attorney Katherine Kenison.

Absent Was: Councilmember Charles Garcia.

Guests: Members of Boy Scout Troop # 802

Members of Boy Scout Troop #802 presented the flags and let the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda. M/S Johnson/Caylor.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of June 27, 2011
- B. Approval of Accounts Payable Checks
- C. Approval of Payroll and Related Expenses

Accounts Payable was audited and certified by the Auditing Officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080; and those expense reimbursement claims certified and as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing that has been reviewed by the Council audit committee and is available to the Council.

Accounts Payable Checks for June Check No. 39953 to No. 40014 in the amount of \$193,924.76. Payroll Checks for June No. 27244 to No. 27309 in the amount of \$ 289,363.55.

Council carried a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. M/S Spohr/Dever.

**PRESENTATION TO U.S. AIR FORCE – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Mayor Wilson introduced the Othello Chamber of Commerce President Janelle Anderson and U. S. Air Force Colonel Thomas F. Roshetko and his wife. Chamber President Anderson then presented a floral corsage to Mrs. Roshetko. Mayor Wilson and President Anderson proceeded by bestowing a banner to the U.S. Air Force for their participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July flag raising ceremony, which was signed by local citizens. Mayor Wilson gave a certificate of appreciation to Chamber President Anderson. Then President Anderson summarized the U.S. Air Force's participation in our 4<sup>th</sup> of July events. Colonel Roshetko gave a short report and presented Mrs. Anderson a token of appreciation.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO CLOSE THE CDBG PROJECT – WELL #6**

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing at 7:19 p.m. City Engineer Larry Julius advised that the City received a Community Development Block grant in the amount \$312,000 for the rehabilitation of Well #6; the actual amount of grant funding used was \$309,384.70. This grant program was part of the American Recovery grants. The public hearing is required as part of the grant process.

State guidelines relevant to high fluorides prompted the need to rehabilitate Well #6. The Council chose to rehabilitate the well and the project began in 2009. The bottom steel screen was removed and the bottom of the well hole was plugged off with concrete to reduce the comingling of the two aquifers. Water samples were drawn and it was found that the fluoride levels had dropped to approximately 4 mg/L. Mr. Julius reported that the project is complete. Mayor Wilson asked for public testimony and comments. Brianna Azula, 380 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, asked what will happen to the unused funds. Mr. Julius advised that the funding will stay with the CDBG program. Mayor Wilson asked for Council comments. There were none. Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Council carried a motion to accept the Well #6 project. M/S Dorow/Snyder.

#### DISCUSSION OF WELL #6 STATUS

Engineer Larry Julius explained that a number of water tests were performed on Well #6 and an herbicide, known as DCPA showed up on one of the tests. DCPA is a general use pesticide used on annual grasses and weed species. They checked with the Department of Health (DOH) about this test result and there are no issues with the finding. DOH advised to continue monitoring and testing the well. He reported that the recent fluoride levels have been 4.3 mg/L. Kevin Lindsey, GSI Water Solutions, Inc., gave a report of the history of Well #6, prior to the rebuild and post-rebuild (March 2011). With the successful removal of the liner and screen, the rebuild plan was revised to eliminate comingling of water from the Grande Ronde/Wanapum aquifers and attempt to remove the fluoride production from the lower Wanapum aquifer. They continued testing and found fluoride reduction from 5.1 mg/L down to 4.37 mg/L during a constant 24 hour testing period. With the removal of most of the up hole flow of water, they believe they are pumping out some of the high fluoride water that flowed out into the immediate hydrologic environment. They believe the well is pumping out some of the old water that got out in the immediate area and also pumping more of the cleaner, shallower water. The well used to pump 3,000 gpm and now it is down to 2,000 gpm. Their findings include that the well, at the top of the bottom plug, no longer comingles water from the two aquifers. Mr. Lindsey recommended pumping the well at different intervals to find out what production rate they can run the well for general use, while keeping the fluoride level down. Mr. Julius noted that we need to reduce the amount of fluoride and Public Works will be working to see how much water we can pump while keeping the fluoride level reduced. He noted that DOH and the EPA are considering reducing the fluoride levels down to between 1 mg/L and 2 mg/L, which will impact all of our water sources. The DOH is in favor of pumping water out of the well into the city infrastructure to comingle water before it hits the first meter service to see if that will reduce the fluoride levels. Councilmember Caylor asked if they are confident that they sealed the bottom of the well. Mr. Lindsey stated that the video reveals a cement plug at 1006 feet down. Councilmember Caylor asked if we should consider a mixing tank to mix the water from the well with other water before it goes into the city's infrastructure. Mr. Julius advised that a recent water sample was cloudy and it could be that the well was not used for so long and maybe it wasn't flushed a lot prior to the testing. He explained that there was approximately 10'-12' of seal at the bottom. Councilmember Spohr recommended that we pump the well during high demand for water. Mr. Julius advised that because of the demand on the City's water infrastructure during the summer months, DOH should allow the City to run the well to relieve the pressure on the other wells and run tests. Councilmember Dorow suggested that the City test daily and have an accredited lab tests ran weekly.

#### RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PUBLIC WORKS TRUST FUND LOAN SR 24 INFRASTRUCTURE

City Engineer Larry Julius advised that the City received a Public Works Trust Fund loan for engineering work performed for the infrastructure improvements around the SR 24 industrial park area. The project is complete and a final financial draw is pending. Councilmember Spohr advised that he has never seen the plans and would like to review those prior to acceptance of the project. Mr. Julius advised that plans were reviewed with staff and offered to provide them to the Council for review. Mr. Sheldon offered to have the plans available for review on Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> between 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Councilmember Johnson noted that an interest rate was set on the Public Works Trust fund and thought that we would be charged a higher interest rate, the longer we take to start the project. Because this project is the beginning of the Moon Street project, he asked if the interest rate would change for the new Public Works Trust Fund loan. Mr. Sheldon advised that the Moon Street project is a separate project, leading up to the SR 24 infrastructure project. Finance Officer Mike Bailey clarified that we have to pay this loan back within 5 years and if we start construction within that 5-year window, then the payback will extend out to 20 years.

#### MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT

Finance Officer Mike Bailey reviewed the year to date investment status information for the City's cash reserve investments in the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) and a portfolio with the Bank of America. Councilmember Spohr asked if there are restrictions to invest more money with

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Bank of America. Mr. Bailey advised that the money in the LGIP is liquid and money can be transferred anytime when needed.

**CHANGE OF SPEED LIMIT ON S. 14<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE**

Assistant Police Chief Inks advised that the speed limit between Ash Street and SR 26 is currently 40 mph going south bound and 25 mph going north bound. Future development plans include new residential areas, a new school and increased bus and pedestrian traffic. He recommended that the speed limit on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue running north and south between Ash Street and SR 26 be reduced to 25 miles per hour, noting this is the standard residential speed limit. Once the school is built, it would automatically reduce to 20 mph.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilmember Johnson announced that there is an ACDC meeting this Thursday in Ritzville. Councilmember Caylor advised that there was a LEOFF Board last week and he would like to discuss some of those issues at the next workshop.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Councilmember Spohr commented that the Main Street signal lights seem to not line up with the street lanes. They have been advised that they have always not lined up with the lanes. He suggested that fixing this be discussed during budget. Councilmember Caylor asked if the caution light at Broadway and Main Street has been changed. He explained that the caution light is fast and would like to see it on caution longer. Mr. Julius noted that they will look into it.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Wilson made the following announcements:

- A finance audit committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- The City/County review of the prosecutor agreement is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Adams County Services Building.
- The City's Relay for Life team is having a spoon taco feed outside in front of City Hall on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2:00 p.m.
- Othello's Relay for Life event is Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday morning, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at the High School football field.
- The All Cities Classic Car Show is this weekend; slow drags are on south 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and the car show is all day on Saturday in Kiwanis Park.
- The Mayor's luncheon is this Wednesday at noon at the Othello Senior Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the Council meeting at 8:27 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIM WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

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