

City of Othello
Regular City Council Meeting
July 23, 2001

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

Council member, Les Clemons led the opening invocation and Mayor Kelley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN INPUT

Ben Kirkpatrick, speaking for the Othello Senior Citizens, requested that the automatic lawn watering system be rescheduled to not water the evening before or the morning of the Farmer's Market at Pioneer Park. The Othello Senior Citizens group occupies Pioneer Park every Saturday during the harvest season for Farmer's Market. Mr. Kirkpatrick also mentioned the need for controlling aphids in the big trees around Pioneer Park.

Harold Janett of Royal City, owner of property on South First Avenue, voiced his opposition of the city's Sidewalk Project, which includes construction of a new sidewalk on tax parcel 1-529-030-680-174, owned by Harold Janett/Sun Royal Company. Mr. Janett explained that he doesn't know why there is the requirement for the sidewalks on both sides of the streets and stated that there is very little foot traffic on his property. Mayor Kelley mentioned that the city would work with him to get information on sidewalk construction including plans for his sidewalk. He explained that the council has set this project as a priority in order to be in compliant with the American Disability Act for providing safe and passable designated walking areas for our citizens.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda as presented. M/S Clemons/Cole.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of July 9, 2001
- B. Approval of Special Warrant

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

Expense Claim Check No. 23594 in the amount of \$3,260.82.

Council carried a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. M/S Derifield/Clemons.

GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION OF GWMA PLAN AND REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT

Mr. Paul Stoker, Executive Director of the Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Association, presented the executive summary of the GWMA Plan, dated May 24th, 2001 to the city council. Mr. Stoker gave a summary of the grass roots formation of GWMA including the goal of the group, which is the reduction of nitrate concentrations in the ground water throughout the three participating county's; Adams, Grant and Franklin. The twelve hundred page GWMA plan was presented to Adams County Commissioners in July and is an attempt to inform the public, farmers and entities regarding ground water protection and to focus on the ground management nitrate problem. He presented the schedule for the upcoming eleven public workshops, which will be an opportunity for citizens to review the complete GWMA plan. He explained that GWMA has

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a free soil test for the top ten feet of soil to determine the amount of nitrate levels. He noted that this would help with the property owner's use of chemicals and watering. This is also an opportunity to re-evaluate that property and practices in 2005. Council member, Derifield was an active member of GWMA and stated that he felt it showed a local management for the rights of safe water and asked the council to support the GWMA plan as submitted.

Council carried a motion to support the Ground Water Management Area Plan and signed a letter of support. M/S Clemons/Ochoa.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ANNEX – CURTIS ROBERTS

Council received a notice of intention to commence annexation proceedings and a preliminary map filed by Curtis R. & Sue Ann Roberts. This property included Lot #4 of the Roberts Short Plat, Adams County and is approximately 14.74 acres. City Planner, Curt Andrews presented a map of the property for the council and requested that the city proceed with the 60% petition method.

Council carried a motion to accept the intent of annexation and preliminary map as submitted by Curtis R. & Sue Ann Roberts; they will require the annexed area to assume all of the existing city indebtedness and be subject to the city's Comprehensive Plan and zoning regulations; they referred the zoning issue to the Planning Commission; they directed the city staff to meet with the initiating parties to discuss the proposed boundaries; and directed the preparation of a petition for annexation. M/S Cole/Clemons.

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW FIESTA AMISTAD – AUGUST 11, 2001

Council carried a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF CITY PROPERTY FOR THE AMERICAN FIESTA AMISTAD TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 11, 2001. M/S Derifield/Ochoa. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2001-22.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BUILDING PERMIT – SCOOTNEY SPRINGS

City Administrator, Bill Shaw presented a resolution to authorize building improvements on unplatte land for a portable classroom at the Scootney Springs Elementary School. He noted that the building permit included construction of a fire hydrant at the southeast corner of the intersection of Cemetery Road and 14th Avenue.

Council carried a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS ON UNPLATTED LAND. M/S Ochoa/Cole. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2001-23.

ORDINANCE TO ADOPT NEW SOLID WASTE RATES

The City Clerk reviewed the proposed ordinance regarding solid waste rates and explained that the only new fee or change of fee was the turn-around compactor fee of \$90.00 per service in addition to the pick up fees as provided by the existing rate ordinance. She noted at the last meeting, the council authorized the first amendment to the Solid Waste Collection Agreement with Consolidated Disposal Services, which included a 3.2% increase in the contractors rates, effective July 16, 2001. It also included the turn-around compactor fee of \$90.00 per service. She noted that upon review of the solid waste fund, that staff recommends that the council not increase the solid waste rates to our citizens and adopt the proposed ordinance as presented, which included the new \$90.00 turn-around compactor fee. She explained that by state law we must provide a 45 days notice to our citizens of any new or increase of solid waste rates, and if adopted, the new rate could not be imposed to our customers until September 16th, 2001.

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Council member, Ochoa asked if anybody had researched whether the proposed \$90.00 fee is comparable to what other contractor's charge for a similar service. The City Clerk noted that they had not checked with other contractor's and noted that the council had already adopted CDSI's rates at the last meeting.

City Attorney, James Whitaker explained that the council has already approved the contractor's CPI increase of rates and that this ordinance only provides for the city imposing the contractor rate to the customers who use this type of compacting unit. He also explained that the city would absorb the contractor rates until a rate is established by the city.

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 5.08.190 OF CHAPTER 5.08 ENTITLED "SOLID WASTE AND REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL." M/S Derifield/Clemons. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1094.

COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH MOSES LAKE – FIRE TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT

City Administrator, Bill Shaw noted that the City of Moses Lake is in the same process of purchasing a new fire truck and equipment as we are currently researching. He noted the City's Fire Marshall has been discussing a cooperative agreement for purchasing this type of equipment with the Moses Lake Fire Chief.

Council carried a motion to authorize execution of the cooperative purchase agreement with the City of Moses Lake for purchase of a fire truck and equipment. M/S Clemons/Cole.

APPOINT CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONER

Mayor Kelley announced that he has appointed Mr. Roy Dodge to fill an unexpired term on the Civil Service Commission left by the resignation of Timothy Flint. He noted the term for this position expires in April of 2006.

MORATORIUM ON CONTROL BURNING INSIDE CITY LIMITS

Mayor Kelley announced the moratorium on all controlled burning within the city limits until further notice.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Police review selection committee scheduled a meeting for Thursday, July 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Council authorized City Administrator, Bill Shaw to send out letters to all applicants for the Fire Chief position explaining the current status of negotiations with Adams County Fire District #5 for fire suppression.

Mr. Shaw showed a picture of the electrical service ditching at the Buck Meadows location, which indicated flooding from ground water. He noted that the Department of Health is concerned of allowance of septic tanks in this area due to the water infiltration.

Mr. Shaw reported that water samples during the week of July 16th in the Othello Community Hospital area revealed coliform bacteria. He noted that this is not a dangerous reading; it is an indicator of nutrients in the water. He explained that further test results were taken and the Public Works Department had flushed and chlorinated the northeast portion of the water system on July 19th and July 23rd. The city will closely monitor the area and test results should be received by the following day regarding testing after the chlorination process.

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Mr. Shaw noted that the bids for the Fire Department roof repair had been opened and stated that all three bids were considerably more than the Engineers estimate for the project. Staff is reviewing the project to determine if the scope of the work can be narrowed down.

The City Clerk announced the success of the American Crown Circus.

Finance Officer, Rhonda Miller reported that the refinancing of the city bonds is on hold at this point, noting that they are watching the interest rates carefully.

Council member, Ochoa reported on the recent Adams County Health Board activities including the fly infestation problem, which stems from the chicken and egg ranch near Lind. They are also working on the Buck Meadow's ground water situation and have dealt recently with a failed septic system in Adams County, noting that this problem is under control. She reported that Dr. Atwood has retired and was replaced by Dr. Moody.

Council member, Brodahl reported citizens concerns of a net and power polls in the area of 4th and Othello Street, which have been placed on city right-of-way.

NEW BUSINESS

City Attorney, James Whitaker responded to a question from council member Johnson regarding the city's responsibility for streetlights. Mr. Whitaker noted that the Department of Transportation dictates arterial illumination and noted the city would have limited responsibility along with pedestrians or drivers involved in incidents.

Mayor Kelley announced that he would not be re-running for the Mayor's position.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the city council meeting of July 23rd, 2001 at 8:26 p.m.

E R KELLEY, Mayor

ATTEST:

DEBBIE L KUDRNA, City Clerk