

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

Present: Councilmembers Larry Bray, Eleanor Brodahl, Everett Cole, Ken Johnson, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: Department Heads: Lieutenant Hampton, Rebecca Dover, Doug Jordan, Rhonda Miller; and James Whitaker, City Attorney.

Absent Was: Councilmember Shannon McKay, City Administrator Ehman Sheldon,

Mayor Sanders stated that the Agenda had been amended, item #1 "Consideration of Swimming Pool Demolition Contribution", item #2 "New Bargaining Unit", and that item #3 be moved to 7.5.

**SWIMMING POOL DEMOLITION CONTRIBUTION**

Mayor Sanders welcomed Mr. George Walker and stated that he has been with the community for 45 years, and thanked him for being present to speak on behalf of the demolition of the pool. Mr. Walker stated that some money could be saved, by having their group demolish the pool. He stated some of their concerns: What is to be saved? What is to be demolished? The uncertainty to what and how much they might actually be able to do, and what could be done with the debris-if it could be buried and how deep? Mayor Sanders stated that most of his questions would have to be answered by the engineers. She asked how many people would be assisting. Mr. Walker was unsure at this point in time. Councilmember Cole questioned the liability of the City having volunteers demolish the pool. City Attorney Jim Whitaker stated that if the volunteers are registered with the City then the City's insurance would be secondary, as the liability first falls under the liability of Labor and Industries. Mayor Sanders asked the Council if they'd support the idea of these volunteers to demolish the pool and it was unanimous.

Mayor Sanders then stated that Mr. Dave Anderson had a comment about the swimming pool election date. He stated that when a levy is voted in those taxes are not collected until the next year, which could cause a problem. He provided further information and briefed the Council in the process of collecting the tax, noting that specifics could be attained from the Bond Council and/or Financial Advisors. Finance Officer Rhonda Miller explained that payback of bonds can have specific provisions, such as setting a later payment date, and that the bonds would just accumulate interest. She further stated that there is a lag from the time you sell and from when you start paying them back. Mayor Sanders recapped the effects of running the ballot on the different dates, and asked the Finance Officer to follow-up with the State and report back to the Council with a commitment in writing. Further discussion was carried on regarding placement of the pool, the cost, and what to do with the debris (to resale or bury.)

**NEW BARGAINING UNIT**

Mayor Sanders introduced Kevin Wesley, the City's representative for union negotiations. Mr. Wesley stated that two administrative Sergeants that are currently not represented by labor organizations have selected Teamsters Local 760 as their designated bargaining representative, and are requesting that the Council recognize them as an individual bargaining unit. Mr. Wesley stated that the issue would need to be addressed by the Council. He advised that Teamsters has two options: 1) To recognize the Sergeants as members of the existing "Officer" unit or 2) To recognize the Sergeants as members of their own supervising group. Mr. Wesley further enlightened the Council, clarified questions, and stated his recommendation of option 2. Mayor Sanders briefed the Council on the current unions within the City. Council requested that the request be placed on the next agenda.

**ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES 2005 DIVERSITY CHAMPION AWARD-OTHELLO P.D.**

Mayor Sanders introduced members of Protection Azteca. She stated that they are the recipients of the Association of Washington Cities 2005 Diversity Champion Award and noted qualifications for the award. She briefed the Council of the organizations services and assistance to the Community and thanked the organization for their dedication and commitment to the citizens of Othello. Lieutenant Hampton expressed his appreciation for all of their help, especially for the extensive hours of assistance and with the local events.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY REQUEST**

City Attorney Jim Whitaker advised that Habitat for Humanity has requested for building permit fees to be waived. He provided examples and briefed the Council on state requirements, noting that a policy would have to be codified. Mayor Sanders advised that the City could lose up to \$1500, however property taxes could still be collected and the water and sewer connection fees would still be paid. Both Mr. Floyd Coffman and Mr. Ken Taylor stated supporting comments in regards to waiving the fees. After a lengthy discussion, it was conveyed to place the issue on the next agenda for consideration.

**WATER RESERVE POLICY**

Mayor Sanders recapped the memo regarding the Water and Sewer Reserve Policies, which was prepared by Finance Officer Rhonda Miller. Ms. Miller stated that this would be similar to what had been done with the general fund, (two separate reserves.) She provided the Council with a breakdown of the past four years, which included an example of transferring the funds for future capital water projects. Ms. Miller recommended that Council consider a \$200,000 emergency reserve for the Water Reserve Fund, which could minimize getting any lower than where the reserves currently are.

**SEWER RESERVE POLICY**

Ms. Miller indicated that the sewer reserve fund might not need as high of a reserve, based on current figures. She continued by referring to a handout, which was provided to the Council, and was based on the past four years. Ms. Miller explained advantages of having reserves and that they could possibly be used for future projects. There was a brief discussion on reserves falling below or near the minimum amount. She stated the reserve transferring probably wouldn't happen on an annual basis, but only as needed.

**ADAMS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 5 (ACFD No. 5) REPORT**

Fire Chief Clyde Fought stated that he could answer any questions from the Council regarding his report. He noted that they've been working with the City's Public Works Department to test fire hydrants (last tested 2001), and that a part-time seasonal position had been filled. Councilmember Spohr questioned negative impacts to ACFD No. 5's budget in relation to false alarms. Chief Fought stated that there is not a large impact, and that it is an issue of safety, they'd rather respond and not find a fire verses getting there too late. He further explained their process in handling false alarm calls, and also addressed the fire hydrant testing process.

Councilmember Cole questioned the City's liability in relation to the pyrotechnician for the fireworks display. Mr. Whitaker stated that the City's insurance policy covers the "Employer of the pyrotechnician" if they are injured. There was further discussion of firework display areas for future shows, in regards to the recent federal regulations.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Sanders stated that she has purchased a home in Spokane, Washington and could possibly be resigning as soon as July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders adjourned the workshop at 8:15 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
JEANNIE L. SANDERS, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
REBECCA DOVER, Deputy City Clerk