

**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, Charles Garcia, Kenneth Johnson, and Mark Snyder.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Finance Officer Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steven Dunnagan; and City Clerk Debbie Kudrna.

Absent: Councilmember Marc Spohr.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – TRISHA TOLLEY 15 YEARS**

Mayor Wilson read into the record recognition for the 15 years of dedicated service by employee Trisha Tolley and presented her a plaque of appreciation.

**LEOFF 1 DISCUSSION**

Councilmember Caylor explained that the LEOFF 1 retirement program was set up by Washington State to pay medical expenses above other insurance sources for law enforcement officers and firefighters. We have eight LEOFF 1 members still on the program; all but one has other insurance to cover costs of medical expenses. This individual became eligible for Medicare July 1, 2011; however, there were several high medical bills prior to that date. The City has a budgeted line item to cover the LEOFF expenses and a fund for the long term care insurance. He advised that due to the high bills paid to date, we may need to add funding. The LEOFF Board is watching the costs closely. City Administrator Ehman Sheldon advised that we have to watch our costs because it changes from year to year. About eight years ago, the City purchased long term care insurance on all of our LEOFF members, excluding the one that is uninsurable.

**CRIME FREE RENTAL PROPERTY**

Police Chief Dunnagan explained that a crime free rental program establishes a partnership between the police department, local landlords and tenants to work together to provide a safer, healthier community by identifying and eliminating criminal activity in rental units. Criminal activity in rental units can have extremely negative impacts to rental property, surrounding neighborhoods and the community. The Chief advised that this program is supported by the State legislature, and explained some negative impacts from criminal activity. The program would include an ordinance for Council's consideration that would require owners that have rental property to purchase a license. If a landlord would participate in the crime free housing program, the annual license fee would be waived. He explained the components of the crime free housing program, noting that it would be ran by the Police Department. The Chief mentioned that several neighboring communities are running the program. He was asked which communities are running the program with similar demographics. Councilmember Johnson mentioned that he would like input from citizens and those with rental properties, maybe through a meeting. Chief Dunnagan explained that the State already includes the landlord/tenant act; however, not many rental managers utilize the system already in place. Council's consensus was to proceed with citizen education and review the proposed ordinance. Mr. Sheldon explained that the Chief can organize a meeting with landlords and then have a public hearing before the City Council.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS – COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHARE INFORMATION**

Councilmember Caylor explained that GWMA is working on the hydrologic water modeling project and will have some of it accomplished by this fall. They are also trying to establish a base for local funding. Councilmember Snyder reported that the Law & Justice Committee met and they are working on getting an adult probation officer. He expects that the entities involved will have to pay for the new program. Mayor Wilson advised that the prosecuting fee is being increased to \$75,000 annually.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Wilson made the following announcements:

- Night Out Against Crime is Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at McFarland Middle School.

City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
August 01, 2011

- Healthy Communities meeting is this Wednesday at 12:00 at the Adams County Services Building.
- The last day the pool will be open is August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> is the Mayor's luncheon and Sheriff Barger will be the guest speaker.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the workshop at 7:33 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

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