

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; City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, and Planner Darryl Piercy.

Absent Was: Councilmember Marc Spohr.

SECOND QUARTER REPORT FROM ADAMS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 5

Adams County Fire Chief Gary Lebacken stated that they responded to 29 fire incidents in the 2nd quarter. No significant events for the City were reported. He reported on the training activities, business inspections, and hose and pump testing. Public Works will assist in fire hydrant testing beginning tomorrow. Chief Lebacken explained that volunteers under 18 years old are considered cadets and the Fire Department is developing a program for them. When they turn 18 years old, they can become a volunteer fire fighter. There was a discussion about the possible need for a generator for the City fire building. It was noted that the County building has a sign on it and the City building does not. He explained the state law regarding driving fire trucks over bridges.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION REGARDING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

City Planner Darryl Piercy explained there has been discussion regarding accessory structures, such as garages. He presented an example of a draft ordinance which deals with accessory structures, such as carports, greenhouses, storage buildings, etc. that are detached from the main residence. The ordinance also includes regulating height; setback requirements; roof pitch, and total ground area for an accessory. He reported that the structure built at 14th Avenue complies with all city codes. Council's consensus was to leave the current ordinance as it is written.

MAIL INSERTS WITH UTILITY BILLS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna reported that we now have a folder/stuffer machine that we use for the utility bills and we're able to include one additional page. We have taken the opportunity to include information to our citizens, such as the required Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and a centennial flyer. She presented a draft policy relevant to what type of insert can be sent out with the utility bills. It includes submittals by nonprofit and civic organizations and does not allow businesses to submit advertising. It provides that city information will always take precedence over other submittals; the City Administrator will review to approve or disapprove a proposed insert, and a proposed fee. It was decided to set the fee at \$65. This will be placed on the consent agenda.

LIQUOR PROFITS & EXCISE TAX DISCUSSION

Councilmember Ken Caylor explained that there are pending initiatives relevant to privatizing liquor sales, taxes, and profits. He stated that cities, counties and the state will suffer if these initiatives pass. He explained how the liquor sale profits are distributed and we receive approximately 40% from the liquor sale profits and a portion of the excise tax. Councilmember Caylor advised that he wants to educate other cities of the potential financial impact. Mr. Sheldon advised that AWC is not taking a stand on the issue. It was suggested that we send a letter to the State regarding our concerns. Council's consensus was to continue working on the project.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND OMC 4.24 ENTITLED "GARAGE SALES"

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna advised that we found several issues in the OMC relevant to garage sales that need to be discussed. The current ordinance provides that garage sales should only be conducted on residential premises. We have been issuing garage sale permits for nonprofit organizations to be conducted in Pioneer Park and at areas, such as churches without a residential unit and on commercial property. She asked for Council direction on changes to the code and suggested that nonprofit organizations be allowed to have yard sales, as long as they

City of Othello
City Council Workshop
August 02, 2010

meet all of the requirements in this chapter, and as long as they hold their yard sale on their property. Council's direction was to also allow nonprofit and civic organizations to have garage sales on their property or in Pioneer Park, if they meet all of the other requirements in the code.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND OMC 12.16.330 ENTITLED "ENFORCEMENT OF LIEN"

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna advised that Governor Gregoire signed into law ESB 6261, which addresses utility service's collections against residential rental properties. In general, the law amends RCW 35.21.217 by placing new requirements on landlords and city utilities. Due to these state law changes, some minor changes are needed to our ordinance regarding termination of utilities to rental residential units. Our current code provides for a three day notice. We are now required to provide written notice to rental residential units at least seven days prior to shutting off the water utility for nonpayment. Our current code also provides a process for renters to establish a sub-account, if their landlord has become delinquent in order to keep the utilities on. We also require a deposit paid by the tenant in the amount of two times the highest month of utility service charges within the past 12 month. The new law provides that if a landlord fails to pay for water services, any tenant may request that the services be placed in their name and may deduct that amount from the rent. According to the amendment to RCW 35.21.217, we need to provide water services to a tenant on the same terms and conditions as other residential utility customers and we can no longer require that a deposit be paid by the tenants because we don't require a deposit for other customers. Staff recommends that we change to a seven day notice for all delinquent accounts. The proposed ordinance amends the process for the deposit and sets the new policy as written in the new state law.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHARE INFORMATION

Mayor Wilson advised that the union committee has not yet had a meeting. Councilmember Johnson advised that Roger Krug and Grace Shelby are now working with the Adams County Development Council. They are hosting their 2nd annual golf tournament. Councilmember Caylor is on the SWAC committee and they are discussing the upcoming budget. He reported that the tipping fees will remain as is through June 2011. The grant funding will not be available after June 2011 and the free dump days may be discontinued. He gave an update about the recycling programs.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Wilson stated that McCain Foods requested to come online to the City's water today.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the workshop at 8:12 p.m.

By: _____
TIM WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk