

City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
August 7, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Shawn Logan called the workshop to order at 6:31 p.m. and led a silent invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Mayor Shawn Logan; Councilmembers: Eugene Bain, Corey Everett, Genna Dorow, Larry McCourtie, John Lallas, and Mark Snyder.

**Also Present:** City Administrator Wade Farris; Department Heads: Public Works Director Terry Clements, Finance Officer Spencer Williams, Community Development Director Anne Henning, City Clerk Rebecca P. Ozuna and City Attorney Roger Reed.

**Absent:** Councilmember Angel Garza

Council carried a motion to excuse the absence of Councilmember Angel Garza. M/S McCourtie/Lallas

**CITIZEN INPUT**

There was none.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda. M/S Dorow/Snyder

**UPDATE ON STATE BUDGET REGARDING FUNDING FOR WASTEWATER FACILITY PLAN PROJECT**

City Engineer Kurt Holland advised they have been in touch with the Department of Ecology. Mr. Holland reminded the council that the City had received a loan grant for the wastewater facility planning scope of work about four weeks ago and commented that they have already started on some elements of work. However before they went full speed ahead, Mr. Holland mentioned he wanted to bring the Council up to date and offer to potentially go back and reassess the agreement, if the Council so chooses, to prioritize or rearrange things to limit the risk for funding.

Mr. Holland mentioned that per conversation with Cynthia Wall at Ecology and from various news sources, there are some documents posted from Bob McClasin and Senator Padden which are the three major biennium state budgets: operations, transportation and capital improvement budget. The transportation budget was passed in May, the operations budget was passed in June, and the capital budget of \$4 billion was not passed, which is where the funding for the wastewater facility plan grant would come from.

Mr. Holland advised that this outcome was due to the disagreement of the Supreme Courts Hirst water rights decision in which he provided Council with some information about the case. He mentioned that the particular budget for the wastewater facility planning and other elements are not in question and stated that he believed that if it wasn't for the Hirst Act that it would have passed fine. Per the State Department of Ecology, since the capital budget has not been passed there is no money allocated to the state revolving fund which included the \$375,750 for the Othello Wastewater Facility Plan, half of which is a forgivable loan.

There was further discussion in regards to what the Department of Ecology is planning to do to further assist towns, cities and counties and what the committee has discussed and the route they are planning to take to help the City of Othello in their next meeting.

City Administrator Wade Farris requested that Mr. Holland give an update on the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Project. Mr. Holland commented that they have received a preliminary schedule where the contract had previously reflected 50 days however the scheduled reflects 40 days and they want

City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
August 7, 2017

to have the pre-con meeting the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was some discussion regarding road closures during the project and other street projects.

**GRANT WRITER CONTRACT – TEDDY WALLACE-HARDCastle**

City Administrator Wade Farris mentioned that at the last council meeting staff introduced Teddy Wallace-Hardcastle as a possible grant writer for the City of Othello. During the meeting, the Council agreed to proceed with the negotiations and have staff work with her to develop a contract. Mr. Farris presented the contract which includes the annual compensation of \$70,000 with a performance bonus of \$10,000.

Council carried a motion to approve the CONTRACT WITH TEDDY WALLACE-HARCASTLE FOR GRANT WRITING SERVICES. M/S McCourtie/Lallas

**IT PLAN UPDATE**

City Administrator Wade Farris advised the Council that IT Director Rigo Ozuna has resigned and has taken a position with the Othello School District. During this time, staff is considering the best option to replace him, including contracting with an IT service firm. Mr. Farris mentioned that however, in the interim, Rigo has offered to help keep our system going on a contractual, part time basis. The contract was presented to Council.

Mr. Farris also advised that in addition the staff is sending RFP's to several IT companies to get bids and proposals for their services. The reason behind this is because staff believes that since Rigo has gotten our system on a firm footing, the City could save money by contracting out our IT needs. Mr. Farris requested Council provide the approval of proceeding forward with the RFP for IT Company and approve the contract with Rigo Ozuna for interim IT services.

Council carried a motion to approve THE CONTRACT WITH RIGO OZUNA FOR INTERIM IT SERVICES. M/S Lallas/Dorow

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Logan adjourned the workshop at 6:54 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHAWN LOGAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
REBECCA P. OZUNA, City Clerk