

City of Othello  
Regular Council Meeting  
August 23, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Tim Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Tim Wilson; Councilmembers: Ken Caylor, Dan Dever, Genna Dorow, Charles Garcia, Mark Snyder, and Marc Spohr.  
Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Finance Officer Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steven Dunnagan, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, and City Attorney James Whitaker.  
Absent Was: Councilmember Kenneth Johnson.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Brad Boersma introduced the U-12 Babe Ruth Softball team members and the coaches and they all thanked the community for their support. They took 2<sup>nd</sup> in State in the Pacific Northwest Region Tournament and 7<sup>th</sup> overall at the Babe Ruth Girls 12 and Under Fastpitch World Series. Mayor Wilson gave each of them a centennial lapel pin.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda. M/S Dever/Garcia.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of August 9, 2010
- B. Approval of Accounts Payable Checks
- C. Resolution to Accept a Donation – Shop with a Cop

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

Expense Claim Check No. 38656 to No. 38714 in the amount of \$205,056.39.

Council carried a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. M/S Caylor/Dorow.

**LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH SUN BASIN STORAGE**

Eric Olsen stated that the Council is being asked to vote on the license agreement to place his sign within the city right-of-way. City Attorney Jim Whitaker advised that by state law, the Council has the authority to permit what is placed within the right-of-way. Councilmember Spohr advised that it's his opinion that the sign will block the visual concept. Mr. Sheldon noted that we have standards identified in the code and the proposal meets all of the land use codes. He also stated that the Council has total discretion in the right-of-way. Mr. Olsen stated that the sign will sit approximately 18" back from the sidewalk.

Council carried a motion to approve the license agreement with Sun Basin Self Stor as presented. M/S Garcia/Caylor. Councilmember Spohr cast an opposing vote.

**MAIN STREET PROJECT UPDATE**

Taylor Denny from Gray & Osborne, advised that the Main Street portion of the project is about 8 days behind, due to equipment breakdowns. He gave a full report on the status of the projects. Councilmember Spohr said he was surprised that it will be until December before the project is complete and thought it would go much faster. Mr. Denny gave a report on some of the issues that they have encountered and noted what would be accomplished this week. He also explained that the light at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street is flashing and we are working with the City's electrical contractor to see if there is way to reprogram it. He reported that the completion date in the original contract was in December, with the beautification projects included. The traffic light projects will be complete in March 2011. Mr. Denny advised that the new storm system should

City of Othello  
Regular Council Meeting  
August 23, 2010

take care of the water puddling in the alley by Carpet Carrousel. Councilmember Caylor stated that he believes the problem is the slope of the alley approach and gave a suggestion to fix it.

**JAIL/PROSECUTOR CONTRACT**

Police Chief Steve Dunnagan explained that the jail and prosecuting attorney contract will be a budget item for 2011. He explained that the City does not have its own municipal court system, which would include a prosecutor, office support, a judge, a public defender and a place to convene court. We have a contract with Adams County to provide prosecutor services. The City has paid \$50,000 per year for the past seven years with no increase in the original contract amount. The law and justice committee meets annually and this year Adams County presented a proposal of a \$23,323 increase in the prosecutor fees and an additional \$3500 increase in jail fees. He asked for feedback to take back to the negotiating meeting. Mayor Wilson advised that our court cases have more than doubled since the contract was originally agreed upon.

Councilmember Caylor suggested that we counter-offer on the proposed increase. Chief Dunnagan advised that we could hire an independent prosecutor to provide the same service and pay for the other associated costs. Attorney Whitaker explained that our officers currently write up state violations and the city would have to create a criminal code. He explained that a prosecutor has to be involved in every criminal case and there are extra issues and expenses. Chief Dunnagan advised that the current agreement is streamlined and cost effective. The Council's consensus was for the committee to negotiate a two year cost increase program. Councilmember Snyder advised Adams County is the only county that does not have an adult probation officer. Chief Dunnagan suggested that as part of the contract negotiations, they can report that we support analyzing the needs for an adult probation officer.

**RESOLUTION TO ALLOW USE OF CITY PROPERTY**

Due to a conflict of interest, Councilmember Garcia removed himself from the council bench. City Administrator Ehman Sheldon reported that there is an adult softball tournament scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. There are 30 teams expected to be in the tournament. The Council was presented a resolution to authorize use of City property. Mr. Sheldon stated that staff met with Councilmember Garcia to review the plans for the tournament; also noting that the pool would be opened this weekend. Councilmember Garcia stated that there will be no tent camping in Lions Park for the event, although there may be RV's in the north parking lot. Mr. Sheldon explained that by adopting the resolution the Council is waiving the closure of the park at 11:00 p.m.

Council carried a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF CITY PROPERTY FOR THE OTHELLO SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup> AND 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2010. M/S Dever/Snyder. Councilmember Garcia left the Council Chambers at this time. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2010-22.

Councilmember Garcia re-entered the Council Chambers.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION POLICY**

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon explained that the Federal Government has imposed the requirement that in order to qualify for grants, we have to have a greenhouse gas emissions reduction policy adopted by the Council. He noted that we already meet several of the requirements.

Council carried a motion to approve A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION POLICY. M/S Caylor/Dorow. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2010-23.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Sheldon reported that the School District is responsible to restore the walking path south of McFarland Middle School.

City of Othello  
Regular Council Meeting  
August 23, 2010

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Dorow stated that due to the Main Street project, traffic has increased on Hemlock Street and several property owners on the street have reported that vehicles are driving too fast on this street. Chief Dunnagan advised they are monitoring the situation.

Mayor Wilson made the following announcements:

- A building identification sign will be attached to the City Othello Fire Station building. It was decided the sign should be red.
- Paul Mahre of WSDOT has informed the City that the funding for stage 2 of the SR 26-SR 24 intersection has been approved. The project will get underway in 2012.
- Council's consensus was to have the Planning Commission review the garage size codes and forward their recommendation to the Council.
- The City received a certificate for their support of the 2010 Centennial.
- The City of Connell has invited the Mayor and Council to a formal unveiling of a sculpture in honor of their centennial, scheduled for Saturday, September 11, 2010.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the Council meeting at 8:26 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

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