

City of Othello
Council Workshop
August 6, 2001

Mayor E R Kelley called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Leonard Lyon, Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Everett Cole, Don Derifield, Jeannie Ochoa and Ken Johnson. Staff present were Rhonda Miller, Curt Andrews and Reuel Klempel; department heads; Bill Shaw, City Administrator; and John Cagle, Fire Marshall. Clyde Fought, Adams County Fire Chief. There were two citizens in attendance.

FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT

Everett Cole explained the process he and committee members Jeannie Ochoa and Ken Johnson went through with the county to arrive at an agreement with Adams County Fire District #5 and the City of Othello to combine their fire departments. The basic agreement presented to council deals with Adams County Fire providing the fire chief leadership, building inspector and one other person on a full time basis. The city has agreed to accept Adams County Fire in their leadership role to deal with fire suppression in the city. Exhibit A deals with detailed things the city expects Adams County Fire to do, such as the response time, and ability to suppress fires in the same manner as in the past years. Exhibit B deals with how much it will cost the city for this service. Mr. Cole asked for questions from council at this time. Councilmember Lyon had several on item numbers 6, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 17. These were discussed. Exhibit B was discussed. The memo council received before the meeting was brought up to discuss cost issues. There were other minor points discussed. This contract will be discussed at the next regular council meeting.

WATER PROJECT – PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Shaw introduced Fire Marshall John Cagle who has been doing fire hydrant testing throughout the city. Mr. Cagle explained to council that the city did not have a current operational flow test program and had to start at the beginning. Included in this is a hydrant identification system, water flow, and minor deficits. During testing, rocks and other debris was forced through some of the hydrants which in some cases were large enough that the hydrant could be blocked. Some of the major areas of concern that were discovered was low fire flow at McFarland Jr. high school, Oasis Apartments, and in the Othello Land Company 1st Addition area. Limited hydrants in the Hiawatha Elementary school were noted and general fire hydrant distribution throughout the city needs to be improved. The most important issues to be discussed is the low fire flow at the junior high school, the apartments and Othello Land Company Addition. Discussion was held on projected cost of upgrade to the system in the above areas.

EXPENDITURES FOR POLICE CHIEF CANDIDATES

There will be five candidates arriving on August 27th to attend the assessment center on the 28th. Mr. Shaw asked if the council would cover their expenses for meals, lodging and mileage. Discussion was held on costs and the council gave their consent to cover their expenses, up to \$1,000.00 (total).

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FINANCIAL REPORTS – RHONDA MILLER

Mrs. Miller directed the council to the quarterly reports in the packets and said she had made some changes to make the reports easier to read and understand. Discussion was held on the reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – SIDEWALK BIDS

Invitations to bid have been sent out to about 14 contractors. Bids should be back to the city by August 23rd and make the award by September 1st. Also, since work will be done on sidewalks in the Wahluke area there is a possibility of widening the radius of the street to better accommodate trucks using this street. There was some discussion. Other unfinished business was removal of a pole on Othello Street which have not been taken down.

Mr. Shaw told the council at the next council meeting August 13th, Ed Dobbs will be coming to present his new development area. Then he will go to the Planning Commission on August 20th. The commission will present their findings to council for the 27th meeting when Mr. Dobbs will ask for a building permit. He does not have a plat as yet. This process is going to have to gone through very carefully to avoid serious problems. There was discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The workshop was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Nancy Wanless
Administrative Secretary