

City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
September 06, 2011

**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, Mark Snyder, and Marc Spohr.

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

Mayor Wilson announced that we are to remove agenda item 2.03: Discussion of the Prosecutor Agreement – Randy Flyckt.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – DEBBIE KUDRNA 25 YEARS**

Mayor Wilson read into the record recognition of 25 years for dedicated service of employee Debbie Kudrna, City Clerk and presented her a plaque of appreciation.

**PUBLIC HEARING – NOA NET FRANCHISE ORDINANCE**

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. Mayor Wilson asked for staff and other reports. City Administrator Ehman Sheldon explained that NoaNet has asked for a 25 year franchise to use city right-of-way for their fiber optics. However, he and the City Attorney recommend a 10 year term. There are bonding terms within the franchise ordinance. NoaNet has agreed to the terms in the ordinance.

Mr. Chris Walker, Executive of Operation of Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet) explained that they are a nonprofit wholesale telecommunications network mutual corporation. They include 16 Washington PUD's, funded by federal funds, and provide rural broadband wholesale services. They provide broadband service throughout Washington and their system will go through Othello to remote libraries and healthcare facilities. He explained how they were formed through grant funding and what their plans are to supplement broadband into rural communities. As they continue to build out, there are opportunities to extend their services to other rural communities. Mayor Wilson asked for Council comments. Mr. Walker explained that they provide broadband service and local companies will use their facilities to provide service to our community. They also provide networking services to libraries, hospitals and other agencies. Mayor Wilson asked for public comments. There were no public comments. Mayor Wilson closed the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

**MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT**

Finance Officer Mike Bailey reported that we have a cash balance in our checking account at U.S. Bank; invested cash reserves in the Local Government Investment Pool; and a portfolio with U.S. Trust. He reviewed the status and performance of investments in the local government investment pool and the Bank of America investment portfolio for the first seven months of 2011. He advised that during the budget process, the Council will review the City's various funds. Mr. Bailey advised that he expects our interest rates will flatten out and our investments with U.S. Bank have been corrected.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Caylor asked for an update on the S. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue project. He noted that this is a problematic time for the street to be closed with the Adams County Fair open next week. Mr. Sheldon advised that the School District is excavating sewer infrastructure on the street. The School District and City staff met and it was discovered that the contractor made the decision to close the street, without either entity knowing. Mayor Wilson noted that the contractor is now having some problems with the excavation process. Mr. Sheldon discussed the issue with the School District today and was advised that they will be done within two weeks. Due to the fair next week, Mr. Sheldon will meet with the School District tomorrow morning to discuss options for the street to be open next week. He reported that the permit is for 14 days; however we don't know when the start date was. Councilmember Caylor reiterated that it is very important to have the street open before the fair.

Councilmember Spohr asked about the status of Well #6. It was reported that we would run for 30 days and test for fluoride levels. Mr. Sheldon advised that we will have an analysis next week and

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the fluoride levels are dropping. Mr. Sheldon explained that DOH will only allow us to utilize Well #6 on an emergency basis, as needed, and we can flush it and test it, but we can't run it continuously for testing. Councilmember Spohr asked when the lights will be installed on the second basketball court. Mr. Sheldon advised he would find out. Councilmember Spohr stated that there are still bumps in the new asphalt on Main Street and asked when the contractor will re-roll it. Mr. Sheldon explained that the contractor, MRM has been asked to do that and they have reported that some of the bumps have minimized from vehicle travel. We have not released the final pay order and retainage. Councilmember Spohr asked that the City street sweeper be out, noting there is dirt and gravel on many city streets. Mr. Sheldon explained that the street sweeper is out on the streets and he would like to get a sweeper plan. Councilmember Spohr noted that the handicap access on the walk path on the west side of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue is not installed yet. Mr. Sheldon advised that we keep reminding the School District of this fact and they have explained that when their construction project is complete, they will complete the walking path. Councilmember Spohr stated that the City's overhead water stand next to the Fire District building has been removed. Mr. Sheldon explained that in 2002, the Council directed that something be done relative to the standpipe to monitor and meter the water usage. Staff researched options, but due to the volume of unaccountable water, DOH has said we would have to correct our issues. Since it has been removed, staff has worked out the process for contractors to check out the fire hydrant meter for their use. He and Chief Lebacken are working out the details for the wash rack water use.

Councilmember Caylor asked if we have parking lot striping scheduled for the front of City Hall? Mr. Sheldon advised that Public Works has equipment that can do this striping in the parking lot. He noted that the City Hall painting bids came in low and we could use some of this funding for that project. Councilmember Johnson noted that our population signs need to be updated. Councilmember Spohr advised that citizens have advised of a vibrating sound coming from the railroad tracks behind the Fire Station and a propane blast sound coming from one of the plants. He asked if we could find out about those and whether we have any noise restrictions for those types of issues. Councilmember Snyder said there might be an issue with the traffic light left turn at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street. Councilmember Johnson noted that there was good public input with the DOT's presentation for the SR 26 and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue intersection presentation. He believes that a lower speed limit would be most practical and economical. Mr. Sheldon advised that DOT will be at the October workshop to discuss their project further and we should receive correspondence from them soon about their review of the options presented at the August workshop.

Mayor Wilson made the following announcements:

- The next Mayor's Luncheon, normally scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month was moved to September 21<sup>st</sup> to adjust for a conflict with the Fair.
- This month is the quarterly Adams County Mayors' Luncheon. Todd O'Brien, Adams County Public Works Director, will be the featured speaker.
- The Pool Committee meeting to close out the 2011 season will be rescheduled to September 22<sup>nd</sup> at City Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the workshop at 8:03 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

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