

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
September 27, 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, Kenneth Johnson and Marc Spohr.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Police Chief Steven Dunnagan, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna; and City Attorney James Whitaker.

Absent Was: Councilmember Mark Snyder

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of September 13, 2010
- B. Approval of Accounts Payable Checks

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. 38796 to No. 38841 in the amount of \$90,240.14.

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

ORDINANCE AMENDING OMC CHAPTER 4.04 ENTITLED “BUSINESS LICENSES”

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna explained that the proposed ordinance adds one section to the business license exemption code to exempt artists, crafters, and authors who sell their work as a part of an event sponsored by a registered nonprofit or for-profit organization. She noted that we already had exemptions for persons making casual sales at a flea market, rummage sale, yard or garage sale or bazaar, if those fall on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. The request to exempt artist and authors from business licensing came from the Sandhill Crane Festival organizers. The changes also clearly exempt artists and crafters that sell their merchandise at the Christmas bazaar.

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 4.04.050 OF THE OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 4.04 ENTITLED “BUSINESS LICENSES”. M/S Caylor/Johnson. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1328.

ORDINANCE RELEVANT TO SECURING VEHICLES

Police Chief Steve Dunnagan advised that in 2009, 41 vehicles were stolen from Othello residences, of those, 61% had left their keys in their car. This represented property loss equivalent to \$253,000. The Police Department is attempting to reduce the number of vehicles that are accessible to car thieves. He proposed an ordinance to make it unlawful to leave keys in unattended vehicles whether parked on public or private property. Exemptions to the new law would include in-service commercial vehicles, UPS trucks and vehicles with automatic car starters. Current State law allows officers to issue citations for leaving a key in a car on a public street. The O.P.D. will also implement public education. He shared a flyer that will be distributed door-to-door; they are partnering with local insurance agencies to provide the information to their clients; have ran advertisements on local Spanish radios, other advertising, and will have an advertisement ran in the local theater. Several Councilmembers asked that the citizens be educated prior to implementing the citations for violating the new laws. Responding to several concerns from the Council, Chief Dunnagan explained that the police officers will not be out looking for keys left in cars and the ordinance is a part of the education process. Chief Dunnagan asked that the Council adopt the ordinance to help the Police Department reduce the car theft problem. He reported that the Police Department has worked aggressively on reducing the number of car thefts since 2008.

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Councilmember Dever made a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE CREATING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 9.48 ENTITLED "UNATTENDED VEHICLES", changing the effective date to January 1, 2011. Seconded by Councilmember Dorow. Motion was withdrawn.

Councilmember Dever made a motion to table the motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE CREATING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 9.48 ENTITLED "UNATTENDED VEHICLES" to the next workshop meeting to discuss this further. Seconded by Councilmember Dorow. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Police Chief Steve Dunnagan reported the Police Department is working on the following programs:

- The trespass program is being met with very positive interest
- A citizen academy was offered this year but it will be cancelled, due to lack of interest
- The Senior check program is working well
- The Explorer program
- The Reserve program is being discussed with the citizens
- The car theft reduction program
- They have 2 volunteers working on Wednesday's
- The GREAT program started today at the McFarland Middle School SRO program

He also presented a report relevant to "The Crime Triangle".

PROCLAMATION – JUMPSTART'S READ FOR THE RECORD DAY

Mayor Tim Wilson read the proclamation into the record.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Spohr read an article from the Seattle Times relevant to cost of living wages.

Mayor Wilson made the following announcements:

- The next Teamster Union Negotiating Committee meeting is September 29th at 9:00 a.m.
- The second bi-annual meeting of the Adams County Fire District #5 is Tuesday, October 12th at 7:00 p.m.
- Finance materials for the October 4th workshop are on your desk. The rest of the agenda items will be on Board Docs.
- The final Community Gang Prevention Forum planning meeting is a luncheon meeting on September 30th at the Othello High School Corridor.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the Council meeting at 7:47 p.m.

By: _____
TIM WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk