

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Sanders called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders; Councilmembers Everett Cole, Eleanor Brodahl, Larry Bray, Kenneth Johnson, Leonard Lyon, Don Derifield, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon, Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Debbie Kudrna, Rhonda Miller, Dick Lee, Police Chief Ron Axtman; Adams County Park District #1 Board members: Bill Bethmann, Alan Hanks, Dan Leary, and Chris Larson; Council candidates: Bob Guerrero, Kenneth Caylor, Susan Hobler-Inks, Shannon McKay, and members of the Aquatic Center Steering Committee.

Mayor Sanders welcomed everyone to the workshop. She clarified a statement made by her, quoted in the Othello Outlook: she was discussing the sunset clause and utility tax at the August 25th Council meeting, there was discussion regarding reverting it back to the sunset, of which she was an advocate of supporting a few years ago; and she noted that there was also discussion about potential increases in the Police Department Dispatch budget.

Bill Bethmann, Chairman of the Adams County Park District #1 opened their meeting at 7:02 p.m.

AQUATIC STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mayor Sanders opened the discussion about the negotiations of a proposed aquatic center, and introduced the Adams County Park & Recreation District #1 members: Bill Bethmann, Alan Hanks, Chris Larson, and Dan Leary.

Alan Hanks made a motion to place on the fall 2003 ballot, a measure that will provide \$3 million dollars to build an aquatic center outlined in Option #2, as provided to us by the aquatic committee, and agree to participate in the design and construction oversight of the aquatic center subject to the following conditions:

1. That the City of Othello agrees to assume the operation and management functions necessary to operate the facility.
2. That the City pledge up to \$100,000 per year for ten years to insure the project is able to break even.
3. That the Park and Recreation District is paid a fee each year, as a project operating expense, an amount of no less than \$10,000 to defray out of pocket and administrative expenses.
4. That each party's attorney can agree to the legality and terms of an arrangement of a District owned facility being placed on City owned property with management being provided by the City.

Seconded by Chris Larson. Motion passed.

Mayor Sanders stated that the \$3 million offer was the most conservative option; noted the City has experience operating a pool, and asked if the City would be responsible for the financial aspects. Mr. Hanks said that it was his intent the City would be responsible for the financial accounting system, although the Park District would be responsible for the bonding payments (\$3.0 million 20-yr). Finance Officer, Rhonda Miller explained that the Option #2 is for an outdoor facility, with a lap pool, diving boards, recreation pool with a splash ground area, wave pool, water slide, zero-depth entry, and concession stand.

Mr. Sheldon explained that the city can not appropriate funding without a balance to the compensation, and an Interlocal agreement can be negotiated that would include certain language to meet all guidelines. The balancing tool could be that the pool be located within the City to provide a service to the community. Mr. Sheldon reviewed the fact that the motion included provisions that there is potential deficit between the expenditures and the revenues, and whatever that financial gap is, that is what "up to \$100,000" would be. Mr. Alan Hanks stated that the Adams County Park and Recreation District #1 (ACPRD) was formed for the development of Taggares Park. They do support the development of a pool, but they have no administration

support to do any further, and the \$10,000 is to cover any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the Park District. It was explained that the City could create a pool fund, where the expenses and revenues are detailed out, which could include an annual payment to the ACPRD to cover any of their out-of-pocket expenses.

Mr. Sheldon explained that the number of staffing at the pool is based upon the actual size of the facility, and a new aquatic center shouldn't impact the current city staff enough to prompt additional staffing at City Hall. It was clarified that the citizens that could vote on the issue would either be the voters inside the city limits (if it was a City bond) or the voters inside the ACPRD #1 boundaries (if it was an ACPRD bond). Council member Cole asked that if the ACPRD successfully votes a bond for the construction of the aquatic center, and the city operates it, can the Interlocal agreement include ownership of the facility after the bond is paid in full? Mr. Hanks stated the Park District has no wish to own the facility and would support the city obtaining ownership. There was support voiced from the attendees, for the city to plan for expansion of the facility and making it an indoor facility in the future, or as a second phase of construction.

Mayor Sanders introduced Doug Muscott, Adams County Park District candidate. There was additional discussion regarding use of a portion of the Utility Tax towards the construction costs or for a temporary commitment of the reserve through mid-2005. Mr. Muscott stated that if the voters approve a \$3 million project, and assuming that the projected revenues and expenditures are accurate, the city's annual deficit for operating the pool may decrease. County Commissioner Johnson stated that he felt the voters would approve the \$3 million project ballot by the Park District. Mr. Shannon McKay stated the School Board would be supportive of an indoor facility to offer swimming within the school's curriculum. Council member Wilson noted that other school districts are interested in the use of the pool for their curriculum.

Council's consensus was to review a draft agreement between the City and ACPRD #1 and requested to have assurance on the figures presented during the meeting. Council member Cole requested a review of other aquatic center operation & maintenance financial reports.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Sanders reported that Adams County has sent a letter to the City, which indicated that they wish to seek termination of the Interlocal Agreement between the two entities regarding prosecutor and jailing services, effective January 1, 2004. Mayor Sanders asked for a Council committee to be formed to discuss negotiations for jail services and prosecution services. Adams County Commissioner, Richard Johnson stated that the County wants to discuss this issue with the full boards (City and County). Mayor Sanders invited the County Commissioners to the September 8th City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Sanders adjourned the workshop at 8:10 p.m.

By: _____
JEANNIE L. SANDERS, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk