

City of Othello
Council Workshop
September 5, 2000

Mayor E R Kelley called the workshop to order at 5:48 p.m. Members present were Leonard Lyon, Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Donald Derifield, and Kenneth Johnson. Absent were Council Members Everett Cole, and Jeannie Ochoa. Others present were: Debra Travis, Curt Andrews, Bill McDonell, Reuel Klempel, and Debbie Kudrna, City Departments Heads; William Shaw, City Administrator; Keith Olson and Alan Schroeder from Anderson Perry & Associates.

Mr. Shaw presented information on the following: water usage for 2000; actual water use for 1998 and 1999; water demand on the City's infrastructure; typical daily demand cycle; height of storage - three day period (using different conditions and scenarios).

Further discussion was held regarding the different scenarios that could happen to the City's water capacity including one well being down, two wells being drilled and 250 new homes connected to our water system. It was noted that these scenarios do not include conservation efforts. Mr. Shaw noted that it's very hard to implement conservation efforts within a residential community, but the city recently implemented a block rate structure which would effect citizens when they consume high usage water. He noted it would be more likely to get industries to make efforts towards conservation. His scenarios did not include irrigation water for new developments. Mr. Shaw noted that our current system meets demands for fire flow but does not allow for addition 250 homes. Staff made recommendations for two new wells being drilled to accommodate new growth. The meeting was adjourned for a half-hour for dinner.

At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Kelley called the meeting back to order, and Curt Andrews, City Planner discussed water issues. He stated that the City is in a very envious water position; the City must develop conservation, rationing, anticipation pumping, and consistent production; must limit industries increase in water use; must fund drilling a new well and sealing the bottom of Well #6; the next well will cost approximately \$500,000; must complete a water Comprehensive Water Plan update; and must drill a new well every five years. Mr. Andrews reviewed long-term well production through the year 2030 and reminded the Council that DOE is still in the process of consolidating the City's water rights. Mr. Shaw noted that the water contract with Nestle Foods will transfer to the new owners and stated that during this transfer of ownership it would be an ideal time for the City to discuss the contract terms and hopefully be able to renegotiate a water contract.

Mr. Shaw reviewed budget funds and revenue sources. These included the solid waste revenue and expenditures up to year 2004; water revenue and expenditures up to 2004 (including several different scenarios including new wells); sewer revenue and expenditures up to 2004; the street fund revenue and expenditures up 2004; and the general fund revenue and expenditures (by departments). Mr. Shaw noted that it has recently been discussed about the need to replace the circuitry and street traffic light system. Mr. Shaw noted that a new Administration Staff for the Public Works/GIS system will be discussed during the Budget season. Mr. Shaw reviewed different scenarios that would impact the General Fund, including if the Rural Library District is not approved by the voters; and he reviewed a scenario if the utilities tax sunset clause comes into effect.

The City's engineers agreed that the City is in need for an updated Water Comprehensive Plan to help strategize long term planning and meet state regulations regarding water and sewer capacity.

Mr. Shaw concluded that drilling of two new wells, the addition of a transfer pump at one reservoir and capping one aquifer in Well #6 would be an acceptable avenue for the Council to follow for long term planning.

Planner, Curt Andrews discussed growth and the cost for growth, including cost to the City and developer cost. He reviewed the cost per-housing-unit impact to the General fund and showed the different revenue sources that make up the General fund. It was agreed that the current Police Department personnel can handle the current population, but when the population increases to 7,000, there will be a definite need for increase to staff and services.

Mr. Shaw reviewed upcoming Labor issues. He mentioned the Public Works Department is reviewing a need to hire a park mower, and using the higher skilled Public Works personnel in other areas; and the request from the Public Works for an Administration Staff/GIS technician. Mr. Shaw noted that the past Fire Chief had requested additional paid staff for several years and during the interview process for the Fire Chief, it was noted by several of the gentlemen interviewed for the Chief's position about their observance regarding the need for additional paid staff in the Fire Department.

A discussion was held regarding the potential of increasing the City's sale tax. Finance Officer, Debra Travis noted that it would have to be voter approved, with an explanation of the need for an increase in funding. Mr. Shaw noted that the Council could implement a Utilities Tax on the water and sewer services. Further discussion was held regarding possibilities of increasing other revenue sources. Keith Olson of Anderson Perry noted that most cities do purchase a back up generator source for at least one well.

With no further business to discuss Mayor Kelley, adjourned the September Workshop at 8:27 p.m.

**Debbie Kudrna
City Clerk**