

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Pro-Tem Shannon McKay called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Larry Bray, Eleanor Brodahl, Everett Cole, Kenneth Johnson, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Lt. Bob Hampton, Debbie Kudrna, Dick Lee, Rhonda Miller; and City Administrator, Ehman Sheldon.

FRANCHISE ORDINANCE WITH AVISTA CORPORATION

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon advised that the Council must have two meetings relative to the franchise agreement with Avista Corporation and are not required by law to have a public hearing. The franchise agreement allows use of public land and right-of-way. He explained that the agreement outlines and delineates the duties and responsibilities of the City and Avista relative to those uses. Mr. Sheldon explained that the three year average revenue from Avista is \$343,411 from utility taxes and the three year average expenses paid to Avista is \$324,652. He then reviewed the various projects that Avista has donated labor and material to and stated that the City has had a long standing relationship with Avista and the proposed ordinance mirrors the franchise agreement with Big Bend Electric.

Bob Rew, local manager of Avista Corp. clarified that they only changed the name from Washington Water Power to Avista Corporation. He agreed that they have had a long standing relationship with the City and they strive to support the community.

Don Malisani, manager of the Real Estate Department in Spokane, noted that they have been working on the agreement details. He explained that Avista wants to continue providing service to the community and are willing to work out any issues within the franchise terms. He stated that having the two electrical services in Othello has not been an issue and management has worked out who will provide service extensions within new developments.

Mr. Sheldon advised that the respective attorneys have reviewed the agreement and he will bring it back for Council to consider on September 26th.

DARE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PRESENTATION

Police Officer Dave Rehaume explained that they began the School Resource Officer (SRO) program on March 1, 2003 with a three year grant, which expires March 1, 2006. He was advised by Congressman Reichert that there would not be any more federal funding available for this program. He stated that the School District and the City's fiscal years do not match up and suggested that discussions be held regarding funding the SRO program. Finance Officer Rhonda Miller advised that the annual cost for the SRO is \$62,000. Rehaume advised that teaching DARE is part of the duties of the SRO. He explained that the DARE program has been funded in various ways: the School District has paid a portion of the costs and community mobilization funding has been provided by the Adams County Mental Health Services. Rehaume explained that this will be the last year that community mobilization funding will be available for the DARE program because it no longer meets their criteria.

Officer Rehaume explained that DARE is a 10 week program and he is currently providing the DARE program in Lutacaga and Hiawatha Schools and will be at Scooteny in the spring. Rehaume provided statistics to the Council. He advised that tonight he gave out 80 home drug test kits to parents of Jr. High students, provided free from First Check. He also provided an outline of his duties as the SRO/DARE Officer. Rehaume explained that he has seen a maturity in the kids that have graduated from the DARE program and noted that the Officers want to have positive relationships with them. He reviewed his typical day and noted that he does sight searches and tests tinted windows for the kids at the High School. He is in full uniform with a marked patrol car. He also gets involved in Drivers Ed; Psychology; and parenting classes and they are revisiting the lock down and 911 response calls procedures. Officer Rehaume advised that some communities have discontinued their DARE program because of funding constraints or they may feel that the program does not accomplish their expectations. He advised that in Othello, the DARE program is strong. He explained that there is also financial support through the District Court.

Councilmembers Wilson, Spohr and Mayor Pro-Tem McKay agreed that the SRO and DARE programs are an asset to the community.

ANDERSON PERRY & ASSOCIATES – SEWER FACILITY PLAN

Alan Schroeder of Anderson Perry & Associates advised that they have been working on the sewer wastewater engineering facility plan for a year. They are preparing the final document and expect that to be completed by month end. He advised that Public Works has completed televising the sewer collection system and those results will be implemented into the overall study. Mr. Schroeder advised that the City's overall sewer system is in reasonable good shape. One of the items that the collection system study revealed is that there is not a lot of extraneous water entering the system. He reviewed the criteria for the City's waste discharge permit and noted there are a few items that need attention: the influent flow meter is not measuring accurately during heavy flow times and the regulating the PH effluent discharging into Owl Creek. At times our system has high PH during the hot season and is outside the level of the discharge permit and this should be researched further. Mr. Schroeder recalled that there has been past concern that the lagoons will have to be relined and the results of ground water monitoring around the lagoon do not indicate a significant impact to ground water quality, which should temper the lagoon lining discussion. The main issues to work on is water quality effluent limits, noting the current permit is based upon what the wastewater treatment plant should produce. Many communities have faced new water quality limits and our current permit includes installation of a flow monitoring station on Owl Creek. Some of this work has been accomplished and a flow meter will be installed. The data results will be used to measure the flow rate into Owl Creek and will be used by Department of Ecology (DOE) to compare the relative volumes of Owl Creek and the City's discharge. This improvement will also allow the City to perform water quality sampling in Owl Creek. Mr. Schroeder advised that the next permit cycle is 2009 and the City may face more stringent water quality discharge limitations and DOE may develop a schedule for improvements.

Mr. Schroeder presented suggestions for financial planning for future improvements. He asked Council to consider a \$3 per month increase for sewer rates to build a sewer reserve for long term needs and improving the lagoon system, which could accumulate \$270,000 to \$1 million. He advised that many surrounding communities have rates of \$30/month and Othello is fortunate to have one of the lowest sewer rates. He advised that the permit allows collection of 2 million gallons per day and we currently receive about 1 million gallons per day and the current treatment technology that we're using may not be sufficient. Councilmember Bray advised that the influent flow problem is not a big project and suggested that the pipe and meter be changed and Mr. Schroeder suggested the elevation be changed.

Mr. Schroeder explained that the City currently disinfects when necessary, which is allowed by DOE but it's not a reliable mechanism to maintain the bacterial levels. He encouraged the Council to consider improvements that may be imposed upon the City in the future and plan financially for those. Mr. Schroeder advised that the City will have obstacles to overcome to continue discharging into Owl Creek and other entities have built very high mechanized systems to replace the natural lagoon systems. They could also look into reuse of the effluent for irrigation or wetlands.

POOL DEMOLITION DISCUSSION

Public Works Director Dick Lee advised that George Walker has offered use of his excavator and labor to demolish the decking and sections of the existing pool. They estimate one week of work, noting there are many unknowns, such as how much rebar is built into the existing pool. The work would be done under the direction of Public Works. Mr. Lee suggested removing the pool top, pipes, the conduits and some demolition of the pool and leaving the inside wall of the utility tunnel in order to support the building. They have developed a memorandum of understanding outlining the responsibilities of the City and Mr. Walker and a resolution accepting his donation. McKay asked if it would be better to wait until the levy is ran to know the outcome and maybe have a plan of the new facility. Mr. Lee agreed and noted if the pool levy fails, the site would need to be prepared differently. Mr. Walker agreed and is willing to help when needed. Mayor Pro-Tem McKay suggested that the work be accomplished after the levy is taken to the citizens in the spring.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AMENDING O.M.C. SECTION 17.17.030 ENTITLED "SIDE YARD"

Building Official Curt Andrews advised that the Planning Commission has been reviewing side yard set back issues. The trends in residential neighborhoods that they are reviewing are:

1. Houses are getting larger and taller
2. Courts have limited cities ability to regulate the use of a backyard
3. There are more vehicles per home
4. The appearance of the front yard is not as important as it once was

The Planning Commission is also discussing privacy issues; fire space between buildings; open sky; noise; backyard access; impacts to tight neighborhoods, and curb appeal. He asked direction from the Council whether curb appeal and backyard access is important. Spohr, McKay, and Wilson all agreed that curb appeal and first impressions are important. Spohr suggested that the City have ordinances to uphold the standard and the need to enforce those codes. McKay questioned whether the 5' side yard setback was enough. Mr. Andrews explained that the 5' setback is from the fence to the wall. He stated that the Planning Commission is considering this issue and are reviewing other issues such as fire spread, privacy and noise and changing the setback to: the bigger the house, the bigger the setback. Councilmember Cole stated that we do not need to increase the front street setbacks but should consider more distance between the homes. Councilmember Johnson asked Pete Olson how other communities deal with setback issues. Mr. Olson stated that Moses Lake base theirs on the wider the lot, the bigger the setback and likes Mr. Andrews' proposal better.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AMENDING O.M.C. SECTION 5.08.190 ENTITLED "SCHEDULE OF RATES"

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna proposed a change to the garbage rates for temporary garbage service for specific classes of customers. The proposed ordinance allows the City to charge the estimated cost for garbage service for floor shows, vaudeville, circuses, carnivals, or exhibitions, prior to providing the service. She advised that the estimated charges would be based upon the rates set in the garbage ordinance, plus the State recycling tax. The ordinance allows the City to charge for additional service and if that amount is not collected, the business license would be revoked and those outstanding amounts will be turned over to collection. Councilmember Cole suggested that a reasonable fee could be developed based upon certain criteria instead of handling refunds. The City Clerk explained that the fee would be easy to calculate and most times there wouldn't be additional fees charged or refunds to be paid.

CALL FOR 2006 HOTEL MOTEL FUND APPLICATIONS

Finance Officer Rhonda Miller advised that we will be advertising for Hotel/Motel tax applications for 2006 in the newspaper and will be sending application packets out to the current recipients of the funding. She then reviewed the proposed Hotel/Motel Funding Policy criteria, noting that all requests will be reviewed by the Council at the November 7th workshop and that the estimated available funds are \$30,000.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Pro-Tem McKay suggested that the new garbage rate ordinance and the Avista franchise ordinance be placed in Consent Agendas.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Spohr stated that he feels that Pet Rescue is a great service to Othello and the City seems to be in limbo about dog patrol as they have been advised that Officers do not like to pick up dogs. Mr. Lee advised that Pet Rescue has volunteered to help build a fence for an exercise area at the dog pound. Mr. Sheldon advised that Mayor Pro-Tem McKay has asked the City to research alternatives for code enforcement duties and the Police Department budget committee will consider those during the budget preparation. Spohr asked the Council to consider donating \$1,000 to Pet Rescue. It was suggested that Heather Fuger attend a Council meeting to discuss Pet Rescue's needs.

Spohr stated that he would like to promote the new ballfield lights and volunteered to turn the ballfield lights on and off for those that call him. The City Clerk explained there is \$5 fee for ballfields and a deposit for the ballfield light keys. Mr. Lee advised that the lights will eventually have automatic timers.

Luanne Bordi advised that the speed limit will be reduced to 50 m.p.h. for the section of Hwy 26 from the east side of the County shop to the west side of the overpass and a dedication of the DUI signs for Tracy Rodgers and Joshalyne Robinson will be held at 6:30 the next evening at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Pro-Tem McKay adjourned the workshop at 8:45 p.m.

By: _____
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk