

City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
October 6, 2008

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

Present: Mayor Shannon McKay; Councilmembers Kenneth Caylor, Dan Dever, Kenneth Johnson, Mark Snyder, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson  
Also Present: Department Heads: Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steve Dunnagan, Debbie Kudrna, Jay Van Ness, and City Administrator Ehman Sheldon  
Absent Was: Councilmember Eleanor Brodahl

**RECEIPT OF DONATION (SANDHILL CRANE PICTURE FROM MARILYN FAKLER)**

Mayor McKay stated that Marilyn Fakler has offered to donate a picture she has painted of Sandhill Cranes. Mrs. Fakler explained the painting is 48"x 64" and there are approximately 16 cranes in the picture. She began working on the details in 2005 and entered it in the Adams County Fair where it received a blue ribbon; she may enter it in the Moses Lake Art Show in February. It was noted that her grandparents homesteaded in the area in 1906, and Mrs. Fakler agreed to participate on the Centennial Committee. The Mayor advised the City would whole heartedly accept the picture. She asked for a legal contract for the donation. Will Coats, representing the Sandhill Crane committee, advised that they have been thinking about how to reduce the picture down to be used for the festival poster.

**REPORT ON POST OFFICE INTERSECTION**

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness advised there have been several meetings with the Post Office regarding a solution to the traffic congestion at the corner of Main Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They have reviewed several solutions to re-route the Post Office customers and the City has proposed that the Post Office change the direction of travel for customers in their parking lot and the City would provide angle parking on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He explained the current traffic flow and the City's proposal, which accommodates six angle parking slots on the street. Signage would be placed to advise drivers of the revised driving directions. There would be additional yellow striping and temporary delineators on Main Street to clearly indicate the left hand turn lane going south on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Post Office will decide how to utilize the parking slots within their property. Councilmember Wilson noted his concern of vehicles backing out of the angled parking and suggested the yellow line on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue be moved further west to provide more area for them. Post Master Tim Maki advised the City's proposal is a significant impact to the Post Office. He is concerned of the sight restrictions of the pedestrians leaving the building and feels that the plan will increase congestion for their delivery trucks that back into the loading dock. Mr. Maki proposed another option for reconfiguration of traffic. This included keeping the current parking pattern going into their property and he suggested a barricade on the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street be placed to lengthen the area between the car lane on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the parking lot entrance. He agrees with the angle parking concept on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and concurred with moving the center line on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the west to provide more space. Mr. Van Ness noted there are no proposals to change the one way alley pattern. He stated that by moving the yellow line on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue further west, we would eliminate alignment of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue going north across Main Street. He explained that placing a barricade in the street could obstruct the storm water or cause a visual hazard for pedestrians crossing 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Councilmember Caylor suggested that instead of installing a barrier at the corner, installing a large curb area on the corner and it would stop the cars from making the short turn into the Post Office parking lot. Chief Dunnagan advised that if the traffic plan is not completely changed one way or another, it may lead to confusion and will still create safety and enforcement issues. Mayor McKay advised that there are merits to both suggestions and offered to continue to work together. Mr. Sheldon advised the property owner has been involved in the discussions. Mr. Maki said the property owner is not aware of the suggestions for speed bumps, crosswalks, fences, and mirrors. He asked that the final plan be shared with him.

**FUNDING SR 26 & 14<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE INTERSECTION – D.O.T.**

Mr. Van Ness received an estimate for the SR 26 and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection project, which indicates the City and Port's portion at \$74,610 each (plus a 25% contingency) and Washington

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State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) portion is \$276,780. He explained that the project will be similar to the SR 17 and Cunningham Road intersection configuration. He advised that 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue would not have a right turn lane. Mr. Van Ness noted that the alignment of Cunningham and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue would not occur due to a drain system on the south side of SR 26. This would provide more time for the City to consider options for improvements to the section of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Mayor McKay advised that they are not going to cut across SR 26, which eliminates installing water and sewer at that intersection.

Mike Beardsley, Port District Director, advised that there is an increase from the estimate prepared in April by JUB and this one presented by WSDOT. He believes the figures provided by WSDOT need to be scrutinized closely. He noted that this proposal provides for four lights, as there is at Hwy 17 and Cunningham Road. Since safety is such an issue at this intersection, he believes there is a need for more than four lights at the 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SR 26 intersection. He suggested that we request WSDOT to install eight lights at the intersection. He believes that WSDOT had initially committed more funding for lights than what they are offering now and thinks the City and Port District are being unfairly charged for the costs of traffic control. Mr. Van Ness advised he will send this proposal to the City's engineers and get their opinion on the costs and scope of the work. He noted that WSDOT is \$14,000 under their original committed dollars. Mayor McKay asked to collectively push for more lighting at the intersection.

**2008 REVENUE ESTIMATES REVIEW**

Finance Officer Mike Bailey presented the preliminary revenue estimates for 2009 and the 2008 year end estimates. He advised the County Switch Program is being eliminated. Local retail sales tax is coming in at a tremendous rate, the City will benefit from the streamline sales tax. Property taxes are coming in well; permits, licenses and intergovernmental revenues are down from the estimates; State revenues are higher than anticipated, and he noted that the School District building permits have increased those revenues. He advised that our estimated revenues were \$4.3 million and we anticipate a year end estimate at \$4.6 million. He reported on the street fund revenues; utility tax fund; the water, sewer, and solid waste funds. He advised there is water and sewer rate increases scheduled in 2009 and noted there will be sufficient money to transfer into the reserves for the new well and other projects.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS – COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHARE INFORMATION**

Councilmember Ken Caylor reported that the Centennial Committee held their first meeting. The committee will meet the first Thursday of each month (time to be determined). They want to get a lot of participation from others and will request funding in the 2009 and 2010 budgets. They will begin activities in 2009 and want to have events throughout 2010 to celebrate the community centennial. They will set up sub committees for the various events and want the entire City involved.

Councilmember Johnson advised that the Adams County Development Council meeting is scheduled this Thursday in the Othello Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. They have hired a CEO and have leased an office in Ritzville. Mr. Sheldon advised that he is meeting with several members of the ACDC to draft a proposal for the CEO to have shared locations in Othello and Ritzville.

Councilmember Wilson advised that the Pool Committee met and they would like to have trees planted for shade in Lions Park and a gazebo or a large umbrella erected. The pool expenditures were \$106,000 more than the income for 2008. Councilmember Spohr estimated that we subsidized the pool \$400 per day. Mr. Sheldon advised that the committee identified some cost savings, including staff scheduling and changes to the chlorination system. He stated that the Mayor got 20+ trees donated to the City for Lions Park. Councilmember Wilson noted they also talked about moving fencing at the pool and having better signage for the concession stand.

Councilmember Spohr advised that the Library committee met and the library contract is valid to the end of 2009. The City has to provide a one year notice of termination of the contract with Mid Columbia Library District (MCLD). They have been notified that MCLD plans to increase the

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multiplier portion of the annual service fee. The committee will continue to negotiate and look at options and the Library Board is looking at other alternatives for Library services. Mr. Sheldon advised the taxing rate for Othello is currently lower than the other libraries within the District and they want to raise it to be level with others. Councilmember Spohr explained that we have been with MCLD for 14 years and most of the books and resources are theirs. We currently have access to 500,000 books and he's looking at whether their service to this community is worth the increased fee. Mr. Sheldon advised that the Library Committee has given the Adams County Library District a month to provide options for library services. Councilmember Spohr advised there are three entities involved: the City; Mid Columbia Library District, and Adams County Library District.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Sheldon has been advised that the housing report may be completed within 3 weeks. He explained that Council will receive the fluoride testing results of Well #6 on October 27<sup>th</sup>. EWU is currently performing the last chemical test. Preliminary reports are that there is good water down to 900 feet, with little fluoride. The high fluoride seems to be coming from the middle section of the well. The theory is to case the mid section and get water from the bottom and top section; the fluoride levels should remain low with the possibility of 1500 gallons per minute.

Mr. Sheldon explained that the State Auditor's Office recommends that the City needs to have a tax advisory committee to review the tax funding applications. The funding applications have been sent out. Mr. Bailey explained that if the Council makes decisions based on revenue, the Auditor's office considers this as a change and if there is change every year, then we need a committee review. Councilmember Spohr advised that Prosser is entering problems with their budgeting and looking at cuts.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Sheldon reported that we have worked on the HVAC system at City Hall for two years and would like to complete some electrical and actuator work this year, estimated at \$4820. There is \$5,000 available in the budget. There will also be a phase to the project in 2009.

Mayor McKay made the following announcements:

- The Council received the budget committee meeting dates
- Delegates from Wulensi will be visiting Othello October 10-17<sup>th</sup>
- The company that we purchased the fire truck from would like to use it for one day to demonstrate in Oregon on October 14<sup>th</sup>. There would be no cost to the City and insurance coverage and fuel will be provided. The rate established is \$194 per hour. Mr. Sheldon will meet with the company to solidify the terms
- October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. - ACDC meeting
- October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. - Council Fire Department meeting at the County Fire Station
- October 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. – meeting with businesses in the SR 26 industrial area businesses to explain future improvements and ask for their suggestions. The City's engineer will be at the meeting to clearly explain all issues.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the workshop at 8:34 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

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