

City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
October 6, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Shawn Logan called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Shawn Logan; Councilmembers: Corey Everett, Genna Dorow, Angel Garza, Kenneth Johnson, John Lallas, and Mark Snyder.

Also Present: City Administrator Wade Farris; Department Heads: Police Chief Phil Schenck, Finance Officer Spencer Williams, and City Clerk Debbie Kudrna.

Absent Was: Councilmember Eugene Bain.

Council carried a motion to excuse the absence of Eugene Bain. M/S Dorow/Snyder.

**SOLID WASTE FUND REVIEW**

Finance Officer Spencer Williams advised that the current solid waste rate was established in 2006 and our current rates have not changed since that time. The reason for this is that we had a growing surplus in our solid waste fund and it was decided to hold the rates where they were until we could use up the surplus funds. Over the last 8 years this surplus has decreased; as expenses in the fund have increased.

Mr. Williams advised that we now need to review the rates to ensure the solid waste fund can cover its own expenses. He presented a rate schedule for the next three years. To set these rates we want to consider the impact to the community and the cost to maintain current services. He presented a worksheet that reviewed the financial activity of the Solid Waste (& reserve) fund. He has reviewed other communities' garbage rates and at a 5% increase for the next 3 years, our rates fall within their rates. Council's consensus was to consider the proposed rate increase.

**SEWER FUNDING COALITION**

City Administrator Wade Farris advised that many small communities in Washington State, including Othello, are faced with impending upgrade and or replacement of their sewer facilities. The costs for doing this are very high and exceed the budgets of most communities. The Mayor and Administrator of the City of Shelton have organized a coalition of small communities to put pressure on the state legislature to increase funding and they are proposing to hire a lobbyist. They have asked the City of Othello to participate, and our share, based on population, is \$1500. Mr. Farris asked for Council's guidance and Council will further consider the offer.

**WELL #9 UPDATE**

City Administrator Wade Farris updated on the Well #9 project: the sleeve will be installed and the pump set.

Mr. Farris stated that he spoke with a representative from East Columbia Basin Irrigation District and they are researching the fence along the Potholes canal. He was advised that anyone that builds up to the canal will have to install a fence.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Logan advised that The Transportation Benefit District will meet October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Logan adjourned the workshop at 7:30 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHAWN LOGAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

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