

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor McKay called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Shannon McKay, Councilmembers: Eleanor Brodahl, Ken Taylor, Dan Dever, Mark Snyder, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Mike Bailey, Debbie Kudrna, Darryl Piercy, and Jay Van Ness; and City Attorney James Whitaker.

Absent Was: Councilmember Kenneth Johnson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda. M/S Brodahl/Caylor.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of September 28, 2009
- B. Approval of City Council Workshop Minutes of October 5, 2009
- C. Approval of Accounts Payable Checks
- D. Approval of Payroll for September 2009

Accounts Payable was audited and certified by the Auditing Officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080; and those expense reimbursement claims certified and as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing that has been reviewed by the Council audit committee and is available to the Council.

Expense Claim Check No. 237353 to No. 237409 in the amount of \$170,043.25.
Payroll Check No. 26133 to No. 26188 in the amount of \$ 231,154.94.

Council carried a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. M/S Wilson/Snyder.

ORDINANCE REGARDING RESIDENTIAL VEHICLE STORAGE

City Planner Darryl Piercy presented a proposed ordinance, which would provide additional requirements for residential parking in front, on the side, and in back yards. He reviewed a comparison between the existing codes and the proposed chapter. The intention of the code is to supplement the existing code not to repeal it. He presented pictures of residential property in Othello where vehicles and recreational vehicles are parked along the side, front and back yards. He explained that there are instances that curbs are being damaged because of vehicles driving over them; vehicles are parked too close to fire hydrants; numerous vehicles are being stored alongside homes, and RV's are parked in a way that the propane tank and hitch are extending out in the street. He reviewed some of the provisions that are provided in the new ordinance, which are not addressed in the current codes. He explained that the new code allows for a special permit for a variance from the requirements set in the ordinance.

There was review and discussion by the Council. Mr. Piercy advised our current codes prohibit storing inoperable and junk vehicles upon property. Mr. Piercy explained that under the proposed chapter, if the fence is not site obscuring, and there are junk vehicles parked in the back yard that can be seen by others (not on an improved surface), that would be a violation of the new code. Under the current code, it's difficult to identify vehicles as a nuisance. It was noted that there are existing codes prohibiting RV's parked in City right-of-way. Mr. Piercy explained that the proposed language provides that main driveways in the front yard would have to be concrete, asphalt, pavers, or brick. Gravel or crushed rock could be used in the side and rear yards for a parking surface. The City Attorney advised that changes could be made in the proposed ordinance regarding the types of allowable parking surfaces for front yard. Mayor McKay stated that properties with numerous junk vehicles parked on their front yards diminishes the residential areas.

Citizen Bonnie Valdez stated that she is concerned of the restrictions placed upon the citizens with the new ordinance. She is also concerned of restricting use of back yards; not being able to pull cars up on front yards in the winter time when the snow plows are running, and the costs for installing a site obscuring fence. She asked the Council not to pass the ordinance, as it is written. Mr. Whitaker explained that the State controls how to determine whether a vehicle is a junk vehicle and the regulations are difficult to enforce. As a compromise, a community has allowed portable car shelters to cover older vehicles in backyards. Mayor McKay asked that staff address the issues brought up tonight. He agreed that the City currently has a junk vehicle ordinance and

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safety provisions that can be currently enforced. Council directed staff to work on an ordinance to deal with the vehicle parking, site and safety factors in front and on the sides of yards, and to deal with the back yard issues separately.

TRAFFIC FLOW ON PINE AND CEDAR STREETS

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness explained that citizens have requested the stop signs at Cedar/Pine at 2nd Avenue and Cedar/Pine at 3rd Avenue be changed for traveling East and West. The current stop sign locations of 2nd and 3rd Avenues at Cedar and Pine require stops going north and south. The concern is vehicles traveling east on Cedar Street with no stop signs between 1st and 4th Avenues. The Police Chief advised there have been no accidents at these intersections but there have been citizen complaints. Mayor McKay explained that he received citizen concerns of traffic driving too fast on Cedar Street as it is with stop signs at 1st and 4th Avenues. Councilmember Caylor noted that there would be an issue of stopping on 2nd Street in inclement weather because of the hill. This will be discussed further at a workshop.

SPORTS FIELD LIGHTING

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness explained that \$75,000 was appropriated in the 2009 budget for installing lights in the northwest ball field in Lions Park. They found there is no grant funding to help pay for the lighting project. It was suggested that we also budget for lights at the southeast field and lights for the new basketball court in the 2010 project. He explained that if we carry over the \$75,000 from the 2009 budget and add the proposed 2010 lighting budget, we could save money on the bid amount. He proposed budgeting \$175,000 in the 2010 budget for the entire lighting project and update all four ball fields. Mr. Van Ness advised that the cost for lights for Kiwanis Park could be added to this project. He explained that they will use a sole source vendor for the sport field lighting equipment and will go out for bid for the installation. They could add the installation for the lighting in Kiwanis Park. It was explained that sports field lighting is different from what they expect in Kiwanis Park. Mr. Sheldon advised that lighting and additional cameras in Kiwanis Park will be presented to the budget committee. Council's consensus was to proceed with the lighting project as presented.

EXTRA TERRITORIAL UTILITY AGREEMENTS FOR SEWER SERVICES:

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna presented five new Extra Territorial Agreements to continue city sewer services to properties, whose current sewer agreements have expired. These properties are located within Meadow Lane Water Association and have been on city sewer services for 25 years. The properties are located outside city limits and their rates are based upon the O. M. C. at one hundred fifty percent of the charge for customers inside city limits.

Council carried a motion to approve the Extra Territorial Agreement for sewer services to William Field. M/S Snyder/Dever.

Council carried a motion to approve the Extra Territorial Agreement for sewer services to Ramiro Gomez. M/S Wilson/Brodahl.

Council carried a motion to approve the Extra Territorial Agreement for sewer services to John Hays. M/S Caylor/Dever.

Council carried a motion to approve the Extra Territorial Agreement for sewer services to David Martinez. M/S Snyder/Brodahl.

Council carried a motion to approve the Extra Territorial Agreement for sewer services to Juan Saucedo Jr. M/S Brodahl/Wilson.

BIAS ONLINE AGREEMENT

Finance Officer Mike Bailey presented a new agreement with BIAS for online payment services, which would give our utility customers the ability to receive and pay their bills online. He explained that the system will also allow credit cards payments at the two receipting stations. He suggested that we track the rates charged for the transactions made, noting that it will reduce the employee time to enter each payment manually. Initially, there will be no separate surcharge to our customers. Mr. Whitaker responded to a question about whether the fees imposed on the City for those internet transactions would be considered gifting services. He explained that the online system will be available to all citizens and it will be a charge to everyone whether they use the system or we can create a special category for the customers that use the service. The costs from the banking systems have decreased over time and all customers will have access to these services and it can be considered as part of the services offered by the City. Mr. Bailey explained that it is difficult to determine what the costs to the City would be. He advised that staff will train

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on the new program on October 20th. He also stated that information can be inserted in the City's utility bill to advise our citizens of the new program. Councilmember Caylor recommended that the Council review the program and costs in 6 months and Mr. Bailey advised that he will provide information on the project in his monthly reports.

Council carried a motion to approve the BIAS Software Gateway and Administrative Service Agreement. M/S Dever/Caylor.

Council carried a motion to approve the BIAS and the Merchant Application Agreement for online payments. M/S Snyder/Dever.

RESOLUTION TO RELEASE RETAINAGE FOR THE 2009 OVERLAY AND SPORT COURT PROJECT

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness reported that the 2009 street overlay and sport court project is complete and was accepted by Council in August. All obligations have been met and the retainage can be released.

Council carried a motion to approve A RESOLUTION TO RELEASE OF RETAINAGE TO CENTRAL WASHINGTON ASPHALT FOR COMPLETION OF THE 2009 OVERLAY AND SPORT COURT PROJECT. M/S Caylor/Snyder. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2009-20.

RESOLUTION TO SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness presented a resolution to surplus a 2004 Ford Vic to be auctioned at the Booker Auction in November. Public Works has a snow plow that they have not used and they would like to receive sealed bids for the plow. There are also 10 bicycles that the City would like Council to surplus to be shipped to our sister city Wulensi, Africa.

Council carried a motion to approve A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OTHELLO, WASHINGTON, DECLARING SURPLUS. M/S Wilson/Caylor. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2009-21.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilmember Spohr stated that the budget committees consider the proposed salaries for City employees. He advised that Oregon and Washington will not increase the minimum wages for 2010. Mr. Sheldon advised that the union agreement salary increases are based upon the All Cities West CPI, and the three year Teamster agreements have an automatic 5% increase for 2010. The Operating Engineers have a range of 3-5 percent and those workers will get 3 percent. All four union agreements will expire next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor McKay made the following announcements:

- The Mayor's luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th.
- Budget committee meetings are being held.
- Fall clean up is November 14th for yard debris only.
- The Old Hotel Auction is Saturday, October 17th.
- A Natural Gas meeting is scheduled for October 28th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council adjourned into an Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. regarding possible real estate acquisition for approximately 15 minutes. Mayor McKay called the meeting back to order at p.m. 9:06 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the Council meeting at 9:06 p.m.

By: _____
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk