

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

Present: Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders; Councilmembers Everett Cole, Eleanor Brodahl, Larry Bray, Kenneth Johnson, Leonard Lyon, Don Derifield, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: Interim City Administrator Bob Noland, Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Debbie Kudrna, Dick Lee, Police Chief Ron Axtman; and Adams County Fire District #5 Chief Clyde Fought; Council candidates: Bob Guerrero, Susan Hobler-Inks, and Marc Spohr.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Inez Freeman, Mid Columbia Librarian thanked the City for their support of the recent library building renovations. She stated that they reopened to the public last week and they have received many compliments. She said that the community has greatly benefited from the co-operative efforts to get these renovations accomplished. There will be an open house on November 13<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**ADAMS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #5 QUARTERLY REPORT**

Chief Fought reviewed several items that were within his written report. He stated that the city's Ladder 1 truck needs to be recertified and there may be some expenses to replace the hoses. He also noted that the Fire District personnel are continuing their education and certifications or recertifications.

**2004 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Mayor Sanders reported that the Preliminary FY 2004 budget, prepared by Finance Officer Rhonda Miller, has been provided to the Council. She that noted further review of the requests is needed and asked Department Heads to provide reports indicating changes to their department's budget, whether they were increases or decreases. She state that a Saturday Budget Retreat will be scheduled.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Sanders reported that two illegal water connections serving potable water to McCain Foods have been discovered. She provided a copy of a draft letter informing McCains that they are being put on notice of the need to be in compliance with the Othello Municipal Code, State WAC, and NPC concerning these connections. Council's consensus was to send the letter and avoid having the illegal connections discussed as an issue during the water contract negotiations. Public Works Director Dick Lee explained where the connections were made and why the PW's employees hadn't noticed them.

Mayor Sanders advised the Council that the City Judicial committee had met with the City Attorney to discuss the incarceration and adjudication negotiations. The committee discussed the possibility of the City financially assisting with prosecutorial services. It was reported that these costs are not shown in the Preliminary Budget. They attorneys are setting up the first meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Civil Service Testing - City Clerk/Civil Service Secretary Debbie Kudrna explained that she has been researching the possibility of entering into a contract with Public Safety Testing (PST) for Civil Service Entry-Level Police Officer testing. She reported that the Civil Service Commissioners had agreed at their September meeting to forward a recommendation to the City Council to enter into a three-year contract with PST. She explained that PST would provide the advertising and promotion of Othello and the Police Department and provide year-round testing. Their testing process would include assuring that the candidates meet the minimum requirements of the agency and conducting the physical and written tests. Once candidates pass through that process their names will be forwarded to the Othello Civil Service, with the examiner conducting the oral interview process. Mrs. Kudrna noted that the

City of Othello  
Council Workshop  
October 6, 2003

Othello Civil Service Commission would still be responsible for reviewing the proposed candidates and certifying them, if they qualify; for hearing any grievances filed; and providing for Dispatcher testing, if needed. She explained that the recent entry-level testing process cost approximately \$2,000 to conduct, and estimates the costs for the first year, of a three-year contract to be about \$1100. Mrs. Kudrna stated that she has requested funding in the 2004 budget to cover this testing cost and any other necessary testing. Council agreed to allow the Civil Service Secretary to proceed with the process to enter into an agreement with PST for entry-level police officer testing.

- Payroll - Mayor Sanders reported that the Finance Department has discovered an IRS rule change regarding mid-month employee pay draws. The Federal Government now requires mid-month draws to include deductions for payroll taxes. Mayor Sanders stated that the Finance Department would continue to research the issue, with possible changes to be made to payroll at the beginning of next year.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: UNION NEGOTIATIONS**

Mayor Sanders adjourned the Council meeting for an Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss Union negotiations for approximately ten minutes and reported that there would be no action taken after the Executive Session.

Council reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Sanders adjourned the workshop at 7:45 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
JEANNIE L. SANDERS, Mayor

ATTEST:

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