

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
October 23, 2000

Mayor Pro Tem, Everett Cole called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Leonard Lyon, Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Jeannie Ochoa and Kenneth Johnson. Absent were: Don Derifield and Mayor E R Kelley. Also present were: Debra Travis, Debbie Kudrna and Reuel Klempel, City Department Heads; William Shaw, City Administrator and James Whitaker, City Attorney.

Council Member, Kenneth Johnson led the opening invocation and Mayor Pro Tem, Cole led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda as presented. M/S Clemons/Johnson.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes of October 9, 2000.

Set Discussion for the Planned Unit Development Preliminary Plat for November 13, 2000.

Council carried a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. M/S Ochoa/Johnson.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2001 REVENUE SOURCES

Mayor Pro Tem, Cole opened the public hearing to receive a staff report and public input about the revenue sources for 2001 at 7:03 p.m.

Finance Officer, Debra Travis gave a staff report regarding the expected revenue sources for the year 2001. This included: city imposed taxes, inter-governmental tax sources, utility tax funding, expected sales taxes, fees for services and miscellaneous revenues.

Mayor Pro Tem, Cole asked for public testimonies and there were none. There were no other staff comments and no questions from the Council Members and Mayor Pro Tem, Cole closed the public hearing on the expected 2001 revenue sources at 7:11 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CAPITAL FACILITY PLAN FOR 2001-2006

Mayor Pro Tem, Cole opened the public hearing to receive a staff report and public input about the city's Capital Facility Plan, year 2001-2006 at 7:12 p.m.

Finance Officer, Debra Travis stated that the items listed for 2001 in the Capital Facility Plan are in the proposed budget. She gave a brief overview of several items on the plan, including: the fire rescue unit, the pumper fire truck, fire station, changes to our well maintenance program and a transfer pump, a RV dump site and a storm water project.

Mayor Pro Tem, Cole asked for public testimonies and questions and there were none. There were no Council comments and Mayor Pro Tem, Cole closed the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

AD VALOREM TAX ORDINANCE

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OTHELLO, WASHINGTON FIXING THE AMOUNT TO BE PROVIDED BY AD VALOREM TAXES UPON PROPERTY IN 2001. M/S Lyon/Clemons. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1074.

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ORDINANCE TO RE-ADOPT SEWER RATES

City Attorney, James Whitaker explained that Initiative 722 uses a different definition for taxes than Initiative 695 used. No decision has been made by the court of the legality of I-695. If found valid, in whole or in part, the courts should instruct governments on how to deal with utility rates, enterprise funds and requirements for bond debt. I-722 automatically invalidates utility rates voted on between July of 1999 through December of 1999, regardless of the effective date. Mr. Whitaker noted that due to the language of I-722, if passed, it might invalidate the sewer rate ordinance adopted by the Council in September of 1999. He recommended adopting the ordinance before them, which re-adopts the sewer rate that became in effect July 16th, 2000.

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE RE-ADOPTING APPENDIX S TO CHAPTER 12.16 ENTITLED "WATER AND SEWER SERVICE AND RATES." M/S Lyon/Clemons. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1075.

PUBLIC WORK'S CLERK POSITION

The Council was presented a job description for a Records Clerk position for the Public Works department. Mr. Shaw explained that staff had taken Council's concerns under advisement regarding the GIS technical work that was included in the draft job description. He noted that staff now recommends that the GIS work be contracted with Yakima County for the initial mapping technical work. This elevates that type of work from the Records Clerk position. Mr. Shaw requested to advertise the Records Clerk position as presented immediately to fill the position in 2000 with funding that is already appropriated in the budget and asked for assurance that it would be also appropriated in the up-coming 2001 budget. Mayor Pro Tem, Cole polled the Council on whether they did or did not support the position as presented. There was lengthy discussion regarding a full time versus a part time position, the impact to the general fund, and the proposed beginning pay scale, which was proposed by Mr. Shaw at \$2,300.00 per month, depending upon experience and training. Mr. Shaw noted that the impact to the general fund is 5% of the total wage and they discussed lowering the entry level wage by \$300.00, which would allow for an increase to be given at entry level depending upon the applicants experience with the GIS and CAD mapping programs. Concerns were also voiced regarding the proposed employee's exposure and safety issues with the environment at the Public Works department. Council Member, Ochoa made a motion to create a temporary three-year position for the GIS/CAD mapping program and a part time permanent position for a Public Works Clerk. This motion died due to a lack of a second.

Council carried a motion to create the Public Works Clerk position as presented with an entry level salary comparable to the entry level secretary positions at City Hall. M/S Clemons/Brodahl. Council Member, Ochoa cast an opposing vote.

City Administrator, Bill Shaw announced that Finance Officer, Debra Travis has resigned from her position as Finance Officer, effective December 31, 2000.

ANDERSON PERRY & ASSOCIATES SCHOLARSHIP

City Clerk, Debbie Kudrna announced that the City's Engineers, Anderson Perry & Associates have donated a \$500.00 scholarship for an Othello High School senior. A committee will need to be appointed to establish the criteria for receiving this scholarship and she offered to send a letter of appreciation in behalf of the Mayor and Council to Anderson Perry & Associates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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Council Member, Kenneth Johnson stated that he had mentioned to the Council at a previous meeting the possibilities of purchasing a fire rescue support unit with the cost being shared by Adams County Fire District #5 and the City of Othello. He stated that the Adams County Fire Commissioners have stated that they would carry full insurance on the vehicle and would be responsible for the full maintenance of the vehicle, if the City would share in the initial purchase of the unit. Mr. Shaw noted that the Fire Department has \$40,000.00 available in the current operating budget that could go towards the purchase of this vehicle. Council Member, Johnson stated that the County Fire Commissioners have already called for bids for the vehicle.

Mr. Shaw reported that the contractors and sub-contractors for the Wal-Mart building are in full force and work is on schedule.

Mr. Shaw reported that the Well #3 project is on line with a camera survey scheduled for later this week.

He reported that the City had been experiencing some water problems with older piping and Public Works is working on an old piping system at the corner of 4th Ave and Main Street. He stated that we have also experienced some water leaks in the library building.

Council Member, Brodahl expressed some concern of replacing Debra Travis, Finance Officer's position in an expedient manner. Mr. Shaw noted that he is meeting with Debra this week to discuss the job description and ordinance that creates her position and will advertise as soon as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem, Cole adjourned the Council meeting at 8:18 p.m.

E R KELLEY, Mayor

ATTEST:

DEBBIE L KUDRNA, City Clerk