

CALL TO ORDER:

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. and advised that Mayor Pro-Tem McKay was not in attendance and requested the Council to appoint a chairperson for the workshop meeting.

Council carried a motion to appoint Councilmember Spohr to act as chairperson for the workshop meeting. Councilmember Spohr accepted.

Present: Councilmembers Larry Bray, Eleanor Brodahl, Everett Cole, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Interim Police Chief Jake Evans, Debbie Kudrna, Dick Lee; and City Administrator, Ehman Sheldon.

Absent were: Councilmember Kenneth Johnson and Mayor Pro-Tem Shannon McKay.

EMERGENCY SERVICES PLAN BRIEFING – JAY WEISE AND CHIEF EVANS

Interim Police Chief Evans reported that he has located the Emergency Plan Manual for the City of Othello and provided a copy for the Council to review. He advised that we are part of the Emergency Management Council, created in 1984, provided by an Interlocal agreement between Adams County and the City. Chief Evans noted that the emergency plan is standard for a jurisdiction this size and it's typical that County and City agencies cooperate in emergency planning, and it's not unusual that the County is the lead agency. He reported that the Police Department is updating sections of the manual, which is a continual effort in order to keep it current. He has made it priority that the Officers are trained in Incident Command System and in National Incident Management System (NIMS). There is a Proclamation that will be presented to the Council when the Officers are trained in NIMS, as required by the Federal Government.

Jay Weise, Coordinator for the Emergency Management System, reported that the County has obtained funding from the State to help update the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. He advised that the City's siren could be used for emergency notifications; protocol would need to be developed for use of the siren for emergencies. Mr. Weise advised that the County may have their own emergency advisory system in Ritzville and Othello by year-end, and the travelers radio station and a computerized phone bank may be utilized for emergency broadcasts in English and Spanish. Mr. Weise advised of ongoing contracts that the Emergency Department has, including EFSEC/Columbia Generating Station funding obtained from the power plants to help with education efforts for communities adjacent to a nuclear plant. He expects that an emergency shelter program will also be developed. They also have obtained EMPG performance federal and homeland security funding for their emergency services and programs. Mr. Weise reviewed other projects that will be implemented in order to qualify for various funding. He advised the County should become compliant with NIMS in 2006. Mr. Weise advised that the Adams County Emergency Director is Sheriff Barger. There was further discussion regarding coordinated efforts of emergency or disaster situations.

Councilmember Cole advised that we may be able to provide emergency or public information on Channel 3 of the cable network. Chief Evans reported that the 1610 am radio station has limited range and it would take community education to use it properly. Councilmember Spohr stated that citizens probably are not aware of what the siren can be used for.

COLUMBIA RIVER DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE – ROGER THIEME

Roger Thieme, Chair of the Columbia Basin Development League gave a presentation of the development and accomplishments of the League and reviewed the crisis of the Odessa Sub-Area aquifer. There is approximately 170,000 agricultural acres being served by deep wells in the area and many of those wells are in jeopardy and some have already been abandoned due to the declining water table in the area. He advised that there is currently support from the Department of Ecology and landowners for exchanging aquifer water for surface water. The League has assumed responsibility of the issues by sponsoring the Columbia Basin Water Initiative. This

includes their support of the development of the second half of the Columbia Basin Project and studying withdraw of water from the Columbia River. They have organized forums to evaluate the aquifer situation and hired consultants and staff to accomplish some of their goals, which was funded by Grant and Adams County Economic Developments and Valmont Industries. They have acquired a consultant to help gain legislative support, hired a facilitator to interact with agencies in the assessment and negotiations process, and continue to improve dialogue among the affected partnerships. He advised that the Bureau of Reclamation has begun their assessment of the Odessa Sub-Area, which will take approximately five years to complete, at an estimated cost of \$6 million, to be shared equally between the State and Federal governments.

Mr. Thieme reported that Governor Gregoire has allocated \$600,000 to partner with the Bureau of Reclamation for the study to find solutions to the declining Columbia Basin Odessa aquifer. He advised that the Columbia Basin Water Initiative will require ongoing funding of approximately \$250,000 per year for five years to meet the goals as he outlined and requested that the Council consider appropriating \$1 per resident per year for the five year period.

THIRD QUARTER REPORT FROM ADAMS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 5

Chief Clyde Fought, of the Adams County Fire District 5, presented the third quarter report and recommended that Council surplus the City's 1989 Ford Quick Attack vehicle. He also reminded the Councilmembers of the upcoming Fire Commission bi-annual meeting.

AG WATER TO M & I WATER

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon advised that the City has received notification from the Bureau of Reclamation that we will not be able to use agricultural water for Kiwanis Park and the alternative is to use municipal and industrial (M & I) water. He noted that Lions Park is irrigated by M & I water, negotiated by contract in 1997. In 1999 the Bureau had asked the City to change to M & I water for Kiwanis, and at that time the City had decided not to make the change. He also advised that the Bureau had sent advisory to the City that the Sagestone Plat must be also be changed from ag water to M & I water. Mr. Sheldon recommended the Council consider an M & I contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, noting that currently the charge for ag water is \$22.95 per acre foot and M & I water is \$39.00 per acre foot. He advised the City can accumulate additional water than what our current needs are with M & I water. The terms of the contract are for 40 years and there is a clause that allows an escalator in costs that they can impose. Mr. Sheldon reported that the cost for M & I water for Kiwanis Park is approximately \$2,000 per year. Councilmember Bray advised that the City may want to consider use of domestic water for our parks if the water supply is discontinued.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sheldon reminded the Council that budget meetings begin this week.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Councilmember Spohr adjourned the workshop at 8:24 p.m.

By: _____
MARC SPOHR, Chair

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk