

City of Othello
City Council Workshop
November 2, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

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

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

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

Absent Was: Councilmember John Lallas

Council carried a motion to approve the absence of Councilmember Lallas. M/S Bain/Everett.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Lynette Caruthers, representing the Othello Beautification Committee advised that the lighting project on Main Street, between 12th and 13th Avenue, will be complete by mid-November.

The Beautification Committee will complete the next block, between 12th and 11th Avenue, as a community service project in 2016.

Pet Rescue Annual Report

Kyya Grant, Sheena Sorensen and Jessica Alvarez from Adams County Pet Rescue gave their annual report and advised that the new shelter is complete. They now have limited space for cats and they have seen a decrease in Parvo cases after holding two vaccination clinics with the City and Sagehills Veterinary Clinic.

She reviewed their goals in the next three years: install more fencing at the new facility; host trap, neuter and return clinics a year; they will host vaccination clinics, and they will host spay/neuter clinics. She reviewed the County and City animal statistics; their 2016 operating budget; their general accounting report for 2015, and the costs for providing their services.

Kyya Grant asked for an additional \$10,000 annually. Mayor Logan advised that the additional \$10,000 request will be considered by Council.

Budget Discussions – Water, Sewer, Solid Waste, Special Revenue, Debt Service

Finance Officer Spencer Williams reviewed the proposed red zone items in the 2016 budget. He noted that the Council has reviewed the comprehensive budget along with the capital requests.

Mr. Williams then reviewed the capital requests for the following funds: water fund; sewer fund; solid waste fund; debt service funds and special revenue funds. Council gave direction on the capital projects.

ORDINANCE TO REPEAL OMC CHAPTER 5.24 VOLCANIC ASH CONTROL

Police Chief Phil Schenck explained that OMC 5.24 Volcanic Ash Control states that any violation of any provision of this chapter is a misdemeanor and a fine can be imposed. He noted that the City does not have the authority to enforce ordinances such as this as crimes, but must enforce them as civil infraction. Council agreed to put this agenda item on the upcoming Consent Agenda.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND OMC 9.08.065 RESTRICTED PARKING

Police Chief Phil Schenck advised that staff is recommending this code be amended. Hamlet does not intersect with 12th Ave. Our recommendation fixes this to the 1200 Block of Hamlet. Additionally, the current penalty is a crime and our recommendation changes this to a civil infraction. Councilmember Everett noted we currently restrict parking on a section of S. 1st Avenue. Chief Schenck offered to review this restriction with Public Works.

ORDINANCE TO REPEAL OMC CHAPTER 9.16 RAILROAD TRAINS

Police Chief Phil Schenck advised that the City does not have the authority to enforce this ordinance as a crime but must enforce them as civil code violations. Council agreed to put this agenda item on the upcoming Consent Agenda.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND OMC 9.12.060 LOAD LIMITS

Police Chief Phil Schenck advised that the City does not have the authority to enforce this ordinance as a crime but must enforce them as civil code violations. Councilmember Everett expressed some concerns of the current code. Chief Schenck advised this will be reviewed further.

ORDINANCE TO REPEAL 2.12 AND CREATE NEW 2.12 AND 2.23 POLICE DEPARTMENT AND POLICE RESERVE UNIT

Police Chief Phil Schenck recommends the current code be repealed and replaced with OMC 2.12 "Police Department" and OMC 2.23 "Police Reserve Unit". He explained that the current ordinance combines both the police department and the police reserve unit and established pay for the reserve officers and extends to them authority beyond what is authorized by statute. The recommended ordinances separate police and reserves into two ordinances. The recommended OMC 2.12 "Police Department" authorizes staffing levels tied to the budget. The Police Reserve Unit code establishes the reserve unit and reserve officer positions and limits the reserve officer authority. Council agreed to put this agenda item on the upcoming Consent Agenda.

ORDINANCE TO CREATE OMC 6.14 TITLED VENOMOUS AND WILD ANIMALS

Police Chief Phil Schenck advised that they have determined the need to establish an ordinance governing the prohibition or keeping venomous and wild animals and wild animals along with snakes over 6 feet. He noted there are exemptions for circuses, zoos, veterinarians and honey bees for agricultural purposes. Council agreed to put this agenda item on the upcoming Consent Agenda.

ORDINANCE TO REPEAL OMC 6.12 TITLED FOWL AND CREATE OMC 6.12 TITLED CHICKENS AND RABBITS

Police Chief Phil Schenck advised that they have researched the keeping of chickens and rabbits in the City, noting many cities in our state are allowing these animals. He explained that the recommended ordinance repeals the existing OMC 6.12 "Fowl" and replaces it with OMC 6.12 "Chickens and Rabbits". The recommended ordinance licenses and approves up to 3 chickens or rabbits and sets a license fee of \$10 per year. The ordinance establishes minimum setback from neighbors, coop size, and cleanliness. It prohibits these animals to run at large and it prohibits roosters and reoccurring nuisance noises. Council's consensus was to not adopt this proposed ordinance.

ORDINANCE TO REPEAL OMC CHAPTER 6.08 TITLED DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND CREATE OMC 6.08 TITLED LIVESTOCK

Police Chief Phil Schenck advised that they have determined the need to establish an ordinance which broadly defines prohibiting certain livestock animals in the City. Additionally, they recommend prohibiting slaughtering and butchering animals in the City. The recommended ordinance repeals the existing "Livestock" ordinance and replaces it with a more complete ordinance prohibiting keeping, slaughtering, and butchering of these animals in the City. It provides exemption for veterinarians and haulers. Council agreed to put this agenda item on the upcoming Consent Agenda.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND OMC CHAPTER 9.32 TITLED SPEED LIMITS

Community Development Director Travis Goddard advised that parts of OMC Chapter 9.32 "Speed Limits" do not match the speed limit signs posted on some street segments and parts of the code section are redundant. The Othello Police Department and the Community Development Department have prepared changes to this code section. These changes are:

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- Removal of the 50 Mile-Per-Hour (mph) language. This language refers to a segment of State Highway 24 and the speed is set by the State Department of Transportation;
- Removal of the 25 mph language. The default speed on streets within the City is 25 mph. Having a code section with only a partial list of 25 mph street segments sends a mixed message and could imply that the 25 mph speed does not apply in other locations.
- Correctly identifies all of the street segments that are posted as 35 mph. Previously, Broadway Avenue and Lee Street were not properly identified as 35 mph street segments, in spite of having been posted for such speeds.
- The addition of a 30 mph section for Main Street from the western city boundary to the start of the 35 mph zone identified by code. This represents a 5 mph increase of speed on this segment of Main Street.

Staff has been working with a radar recorder software to perform traffic counts and gather traffic speed data. The equipment was placed at three places on E Main Street and data was gathered in front of City Hall. Speed limits are typically set by the speed at which 85% of the drivers travel at when using the street segment. The reports for E. Main Street at City Hall show:

- 31.7% of the vehicles travel at or under the speed limit
- 68.3% of vehicles exceeded the 25 mph speed limit
- 19.6% of vehicles exceed 30 mph
- 2.7% of vehicles exceed 35 mph

Staff is recommending the change to the speed limit on E Main Street based upon this data. Data was also collected at two other locations: on the west end of E Main Street near the railroad tracks and near the corner of E Main Street and 16th Avenue. No increase in speed is recommended at this site because it is already posted 35 mph. There was further discussion about the proposed increased speed limit on Main Street and the use of crosswalks. This will be brought back for further consideration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There was none.

Mayor Logan announced that the Lions Club is hosting Turkey Bingo on Thursday at 6:30 at the Senior Center.

ADJOURNMENT

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

By: _____
SHAWN LOGAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk