

City of Othello
City Council Budget Workshop
November 05, 2012

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Present: Mayor Tim Wilson; Councilmembers: Eugene Bain, Ken Caylor, Dan Dever, Genna Dorow, Charles Garcia, Kenneth Johnson, and Mark Snyder.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Finance Officer Mike Bailey, Public Works Director Terry Clements, Police Chief Steve Dunnagan, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, and new Finance Officer Spencer Williams.

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF TOURISM FUND REQUESTS

Finance Officer Spencer Williams explained that we received requests for tourism funding and by using the adopted formula for distribution for tourism funding, and maintaining the \$40,000 minimum balance, the following lists the requests for funding and the maximum funding allocations:

	<u>2013 Request</u>	<u>Maximum Funding Allocations</u>
1946 Caboose Project	\$ 3,050	\$ 2,012
Adams County Fair	\$ 3,872	\$ 5,281
American Fiesta Amistad	\$ 4,950	\$ 4,017
Coulee Corridor Project	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,390
Greater Othello Chamber	\$22,000	\$15,119
Othello All City Classic Cars	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,962
Othello Community Museum	\$ 1,498	\$ 819
Othello Rodeo Assoc.	\$ 8,500	\$ 5,836
Othello Sandhill Crane Festival	\$15,000	\$10,853
The Old Hotel	<u>\$ 7,140</u>	<u>\$ 2,968</u>
	<u>\$69,310</u>	<u>\$50,257</u>

Comments were given by representatives of those that submitted tourism financing applications: Shawn Logan, President of the Chamber of Commerce; Emil Martinez for American Fiesta Amistad, and Sally Laufer of The Old Hotel Art Gallery. Councilmember Johnson noted that there are two organizations that are getting more funding than what they have requested (Adams County Fair and the Coulee Corridor Project) and recommended that the amounts for both be reduced to their requested amounts and the extra money be kept in the tourism fund. The City Council agreed with this recommendation.

REQUEST FROM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Lynette Caruthers, spokesperson for the Othello Beautification Committee advised that they have been working on this project for two years and advised that a conceptual plan for the Main Street beautification project has been completed. The first phase of the project will be improvements to the first two blocks from 14th to 12th Avenue. She presented a PowerPoint showcasing their proposed Main Street project. The project will include infrastructure, lighting, trees, and planters.

Mrs. Caruthers reviewed the estimated project costs, which includes the above ground project; infrastructure; tax; project contingency; engineering and administrative costs of \$311,403. She noted that the City has received \$19,000 in grant funding to be used for pedestrian lights. The Beautification Committee will host a campaign to obtain corporate, industrial, and personal contributions to fund the above ground improvements and to be used as matching funds for grants. The Othello Beautification Committee requested \$85,000 from the City for infrastructure costs to get the project underway. City Administrator Ehman Sheldon advised that we would go out for bids for the project.

Mr. Dale Wyman, 848 E. Juniper, advised that 100% of the citizenry does not support the Beautification Committee proposed project. He presented information on the City's past sidewalk projects, which were accomplished to make them safe for pedestrians. He is also concerned of the cost to operate and maintain the lights. Mr. Wyman spoke against the proposed trees in the sidewalk; the cost of the pedestrian lights; and use of tax payer dollars for the project. He

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suggested use of private property and private funding and encouraged the Council to reject the Beautification Committee's proposition.

Mayor Wilson advised that we are going to apply for another grant that could be used towards the lighting project.

Dave Sperl, 862 Crestline Road, gave a report on the Beautification Committee's projects and goals.

Mayor Wilson stated that he would like the Council to support the proposed two blocks. Councilmember Caylor suggested use of the grant funding to do the arterial lighting. City Administrator Mr. Sheldon advised that the lighting operations cost has to be calculated for the grant application and because of the grant application deadline, staff will need to know what direction the Council wants to go.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Finance Officer Spencer Williams reported that Council committees have already reviewed the proposed budget line items. Half of the budget will be reviewed tonight, with the final review at the next Council meeting. He reviewed the minimum ending fund balances, which was used for Council's decisions about the capital requests. He also reported that there was a refund request submitted to the Department of Revenue from a local company, which may become the City's responsibility to pay back brokered natural gas tax in the amount of \$176,859. Staff is looking into the matter and researching options relevant to the refund request. Mr. Williams also noted that brokered natural gas tax is a significant revenue source and \$450,000 is budgeted for 2013. He explained what the REET funding could be used for and advised that there is approximately \$430,248 available. He presented the capital requests that have been proposed for 2013, in the amount of \$1,691,512. Mr. Williams also presented a list of possible funding sources, while maintaining the minimum fund balances, as set by the Council.

Finance Officer Williams reviewed the various capital requests for the 2013 budget and the Council made decisions about funding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Johnson reported that Adams County Development Council is hosting the new president of Big Bend Community College on November 14th at the Adams County Services Building at lunch time. They are inviting community members to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Wilson made the following announcements:

- Monday, November 12th is a holiday and our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13th.
- There is a natural gas conference in Spokane on November 13th.
- Seahawks game and transportation tickets are available for this weekend's game.
- At the November 13th Council meeting, the Council will complete the 2013 budget review. Our last public hearings and budget adoption are scheduled for November 26th.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the workshop at 8:33 p.m.

By: _____
TIM WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk