

City of Othello  
City Council Budget Workshop  
November 07, 2011

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Tim Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. He gave general information about the workshop agenda.

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

**Also Present:** City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: IT Manager Stan Anderton; Finance Officer Mike Bailey, Public Works Supervisor Terry Clements, Police Chief Steve Dunnagan, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, and City Planner Darryl Piercy.

**PARK AND RECREATION FUND - EXPENDITURE REQUESTS - CAPITAL REQUESTS - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST**

Shawn Logan, representing the Othello Chamber of Commerce presented a request to the Council to enter into an agreement to appropriate \$50,000 from the City of Othello that would be used to hire an event coordinator. He explained that the Chamber would schedule park functions and they will promote hosting more types of tournaments; thereby expanding tourism into Othello. He noted there are some logistics and obstacles to work out with the City to accomplish their proposal. He presented an outline for proceeding; what needs to happen and planning for future event, and the expected revenue for the community. He also reviewed the benefits to the community and action plan. He concluded by asking that the City consider either: contracting with the Chamber for \$50,000 per year; enter into an agreement with the Chamber for a one year trial period, or the City create the new Park and Recreation staff position. He presented a summary of an event coordinator job description and a review of the City of Ephrata's recreation programs. He advised that the Chamber wants to partner with the City and come to a common understanding relevant to promoting tourism into the community. There was discussion between the elected officials. Janelle Anderson reviewed the past efforts of the July 4<sup>th</sup> events and advised that the Chamber cannot continue to put on the event as they have produced with the current funding. There was further discussion.

Mayor Wilson called for a 10 minute break.

**STREET DEPARTMENT FUND - EXPENDITURE REQUESTS - CAPITAL REQUESTS - BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REQUEST**

Lynette Caruthers, President, Othello Beautification Committee explained that to proceed with the grant funding and get public support of the Main Street beautification project requires creating a plan for their project. She explained that the Beautification Committee would provide \$7,000 and money generated from a local upcoming fundraiser to be used toward a landscape architect to complete a concept design plan. She requested that the City appropriate \$10,000 to proceed with the Main Street beautification project. She noted that \$9,500 could possibly be reimbursed to the City if the QUADCO grant monies are released. The combined funds would be used to hire a landscape architect to create a concept design plan for all of Main Street with emphasis on two mid-town blocks between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues. She explained the process for the project, including gaining public financial support. Mrs. Caruthers asked the Council to partner with them to move forward with the Main Street beautification project. She explained that a group visited downtown Grandview to view and find out how they accomplished their downtown beautification project. Mr. Logan explained how Grandview kept the downtown businesses involved in their local project. There was further discussion.

**DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS - HOW MY DEPARTMENT BENEFITS THE CITY - DEPT. CAPITAL REQUESTS**

The City Department Heads presented department information on how their department benefits the City. They also identified their capital requests.

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**COUNCIL DISCUSSION FOR 2012 BUDGET**

**Councilmember Caylor:** Budgeting \$50,000 in 2012 and \$50,000 in 2013 for engineering and future construction from the water and sewer fund for extension of a sewer line east of Concrete Drive to the Port District property line and upsizing the water line from 8" to 12" to the Port District property between 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> to tie into a looped system. Set aside \$50,000 from the gas utility fund to pursue a natural gas expansion. Appropriate \$500 to help fund kiosks for the Coulee Corridor and \$500 towards an update of the Audubon Society birding map.

**Councilmember Dever:** Development of a skate park and consider a piece of city property that is near Lions Park for the skate park. Pursue purchasing park property. He noted it will cost the City 15-20% more to replace the city administrator, upon his retirement. Raise the monthly pay for Councilmembers and/or pay a stipend for meetings that they attend. Budget for a park and recreation director.

**Councilmember Dorow:** Purchase property for a new park; continue funding for a community center and budget for a park and recreation director.

**Councilmember Garcia:** Purchase approximately 24- 30 acres for a multi use park facility. Pursue the School District on their available acreage. Look at a joint venture with the Chamber and treat them as an ambassador for our community.

**Councilmember Johnson:** Continue funding for a community center and funding towards a skate park. Purchase property for a new park and get a plan together, to include soccer fields and more ball fields.

**Councilmember Snyder:** Pursue purchasing park property and continue with development of a skate park; budget for a park and recreation director.

**Councilmember Spohr:** Budget for new dirt for the ball fields in Lions Park (Councilmember Garcia noted it may cost approximately \$50,000).

**Mayor Wilson:** Fund for S. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue improvements.

City Administrator suggested that we start the October 14<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the workshop at 9:20 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIM WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

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