

City of Othello  
Council Workshop  
November 1, 1999

Mayor E R Kelley called the workshop to order at 7 p.m. Members present were: Everett Cole, Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Leonard Lyon and Jeannie Ochoa. Absent with cause were Don Derifield and Samuel Garza. Others present were: Bill Shaw, City Administrator; Debbie Kudrna and Debra Travis, Department Heads and Kenneth Johnson, Council-elect.

**ANNOUNCE APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF**

Mayor E R Kelley announced the appointment of the new Assistant Fire Chief, Robin Swartz. Mayor Kelley read the credentials of Mr. Swartz and commended him for his dedication to the volunteer fire department. Fire Chief, Duane VanBeek presented the Lieutenant's fire hat to Mr. Swartz and thanked him for his continued support.

**YEAR 2000 BUDGET**

The Council reviewed the requests for Hotel-Motel tax funding. The city staff had prepared a recommendation for allocation of the funds. Discussion was held on the amount to dedicate to the Sandhill Crane Festival and other requests made from the Chamber of Commerce. A change was made to the amount to be allocated to the Chamber and the other recommendations were tentatively approved. Council's consensus was to have the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee review the requests from the Caboose Committee and the Museum, because these were new requests.

Comments regarding their budget philosophy were heard from the budget committee members Kenneth Johnson, Jeannie Ochoa and Leonard Lyon.

A discussion was held on the reserve funds and the impacts of using fund reserves. Councilmember Ochoa requested a review of the impact on the reserves. Mrs. Ochoa then discussed the past levy attempts of the Adams County Park District #1 for park operation and maintenance costs.

Further discussion was held regarding budget impacts due to Initiative 695, purchase of a new fire truck, pool operations, library services, personnel, union negotiations in 2000 and the impact of the utility tax decrease in 2001.

City Administrator, Bill Shaw reviewed the various funds projections.

**CABLE FRANCHISE RENEgotiations**

Mr. Shaw explained that we had requested citizen participation in the cable franchise renegotiations and had received only two interested in serving on the committee. Further attempts will be made to get citizen participation in the process.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Council directed staff to request that the porta pottie be removed from the walk path by Ash Street for the winter.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the workshop at 9:27 p.m.

Debbie Kudrna, CMC  
City Clerk