

City of Othello
Council Workshop
November 4, 2002

Mayor Sanders called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jeannie L. Sanders, Council Members: Everett Cole, Eleanor Brodahl, Larry Bray, Kenneth Johnson, Leonard Lyon, Don Derifield, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon, Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Debbie Kudrna, Rhonda Miller, Dick Lee, and Police Chief Ron Axtman.

Mayor Sanders introduced Dr. Donald Sebesta. Dr. Sebesta reported that he has built a display area, which houses more than 200 animals, and that he has applied for federal grants. His hope is to encourage tourism and provide an educational service. He invited everyone to set up some time with him for a tour of his facility.

AQUATIC CENTER DISCUSSION –POOL DESIGNERS WILL DISCUSS PROS AND CONS

Mark Henderson and Mark Yates with Pool Works, and Rustin Hall with ALSC Architects were present to show examples of aquatic centers and pools that they have built. This included different types of facilities, options for the infrastructure, funding options, and location. Finance Officer, Rhonda Miller reported that the \$100,000 budgeted FY 2003 can be used for engineering and designing an aquatic center. She also noted the allocation to the real estate excise tax is being appropriated for an aquatic center.

Mayor Sanders asked that anyone wanting to be included on an aquatic center steering committee should contact City Hall. There was further discussion regarding funding options, the need to get citizen involvement and input, and how to meet future operating and maintenance expenses.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW – EXPENDITURES

Special Revenues - Council member Wilson announced the Lodging Tax Committee recommendations to allocate tourism funding for the Fair's request for \$10,000. The City Clerk reported that the Sandhill Crane Festival Committee (SCFC) had resubmitted their application for tourism funding and reported that she has found out that an agreement for tourism funding can be entered into between the City and the SCFC. Their new request was for \$9400. There was a discussion regarding the minimum balance that was set for the tourism fund of \$40,000. and it was the Council's consensus to maintain that amount. It was noted that this meant reducing some of the requests for funding.

It was agreed upon by a majority of the Council to not approve the \$10,000 request from Adams County Fair for a horse barn; Council approved \$8500 for the SCFC; decreased the Coulee Corridor Consortium request to \$2850; and allocated the remaining amounts as follows:

U.S. West Phone Line	\$ 500
Chamber of Commerce	14, 600
Old Hotel	4,135
Rodeo Association	4,000
Community Festivals	6,000
All Cities Classic Cars	1,800
Adams County Fair	5,000
Caboose	4,610
SCFC	8,500
Coulee Corridor	2,850

Council directed staff to revise the Tourism Funding Application policy by including the submitting of copies for both the current and next year's operating budget. These must be submitted with the application form, which will then be provided to the Council.

Real Estate Tax

Finance Officer, Rhonda Miller reviewed the Real Estate Tax Fund. The Mayor noted that the

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City's sidewalk budget might be reduced. Mr. Lee reported that if the \$200,000 sidewalk grant is approved, it would be used towards the sidewalks around the schools.

Utility Fund

Ms. Miller reviewed the Utility Fund and transfers to the General Fund from the utility tax fund.

Solid Waste

Ms. Miller reviewed the Solid Waste fund and reported that SWAC is reviewing a \$5.00 increase over the next three years.

Mr. Sheldon reported that the new I.S. employee job description has been changed to a Computer Technician. Other new employee positions for 2003 are a Police Department Dispatch Supervisor and Public Works laborer.

The Mayor requested that an analysis of tracking employees' time spent working in various departments be conducted in 2003 and every 4 years thereafter.

Reserve Fund

Ms. Miller reviewed the Reserve Funds.

Mayor Sanders adjourned the workshop for a five-minute recess at 8:40 p.m., and reconvened the workshop at 8:45 p.m.

DISCUSSION OF ZONING FOR GAMBLING

Mr. Sheldon reported that a citizen has asked if the Council is interested in allowing casino establishments within the city limits. He explained that state law allows gambling establishments, with cities controlling location of the establishments through zoning. Council requested that staff develop an ordinance providing for zoning for gambling establishments.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Sanders adjourned the workshop at 9:52 p.m.

By: _____
Jeannie L. Sanders, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
Debbie L. Kudrna, City Clerk