

City of Othello  
Council Workshop  
November 5, 2001

Mayor E R Kelley called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Everett Cole, Donald Derifield, Jeannie Ochoa and Kenneth Johnson. Absent was Leonard Lyon. Also present were Rhonda Miller, Debbie Kudrna, Curt Andrews City Department Heads, Police Chief Axtman and member of several community organizations.

#### TOURISM APPLICATIONS

City Clerk, Debbie Kudrna, reported on the requests that were received for tourism funding for next year, as follows:

Adams County Fair	\$ 4,000.00
All Cities Classics Car Club	\$ 1,800.00
Chamber of Commerce	\$19,100.00
City of Othello	\$20,000.00
The Old Hotel Art Gallery	\$ 4,096.00
The Old Hotel Art Gallery –	
Caboose Railroad Project	\$ 4,070.00
Othello Community Festivals	\$ 6,000.00
Othello Rodeo Assoc.	\$ 4,000.00

She mentioned that upon discussing a few issues with the State Auditors Office, she recommended that the amount of \$250.00 that was included in the request from the Caboose Railroad Project for a matching grant not be approved, because it does not meet the criteria for use of tourism funding. She also recommended that the \$20,000.00 requested by Council member Les Clemons to be used towards a matching grant for a tourism facility should be first considered by the Tax Lodging Advisory Committee. The Clerk discussed a budget review of the tourism fund, as provided by the Finance Officer, and staff recommended that at least \$6,000.00 be reduced from the total amount requested by the organizations, in order to maintain the minimum balance in the fund.

Council's consensus was to keep a minimum balance of \$40,000.00 in the tourism fund. Members of the various organizations addressed the Council to recap their request and answer any questions of the Council.

#### BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Finance Officer Rhonda Miller held a discussion about transferring excess funds into established or proposed reserve funds. She recommended transferring funds into a reserve to accumulate funding for a new pool and a new firetruck. Also to transfer the street reserve balance into a street equipment fund; transfer the water fund reserve to be accumulated for new wells; transfer the sewer fund balance for future lagoon upgrades; and the street excess funds for future equipment purchases. There was further discussion regarding other proposed amendments. The City Council received the Preliminary Budget and further reviewed the various fund revenues and expenditures.

#### BASALT COLUMN PROJECT

Council member Cole reported on the basalt column project. The basalt columns have been donated by Angel Garza and Council member Cole is organizing a volunteer committee has been formed. Design of the project will be done by John Pierre, Hollenbeck Excavation will donate time and equipment to move the rock, the city crew will be involved in the preparation and moving and Adams County Economic Development Council has agreed to a \$1,000.00 matching fund donation. Council's consensus was to proceed with the project.

#### STATE AUDIT REPORT

Finance Officer, Rhonda Miller reported that the State Audit report has been received. It noted that the city has had no findings for the past six audits and they found the city generally complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures.

COLUMBIA STREET REZONE

Building Official, Curt Andrews held a discussion regarding the Planning Commission's review of a rezone request of the area between Columbia Street and SR 16 from commercial to residential. He explained that the discussion would be to find a compromise between the property owners needs and the restrictions imposed upon the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue/SR 26 intersection by the DOT. The DOT's concern of this intersection actually imposes a vehicle capacity cap of the intersection, before they impose long term improvements, such as intersection improvements at 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue off of SR 26. The current zoning of this area as commercial will impact the intersection and impact the other prime commercial lots that are available on south 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. The Planning Commission is holding public hearings to review zoning options and discuss the effect of increased traffic caused by commercial lots to the intersection. He explained that WSDOT does not have plans to upgrade the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue/SR 26 intersection nor the overpass at SR 26.

Mr. Andrews reported that the Lee Road project is near complete. Mr. Andrews reported that Mr. Steve Muzik has been hired to perform consultant work for the city, including the water plan update. He also reported that he is considering consultant contracts for administering the various plats that the city has and will be receiving.

The Clerk announced that the next regular meeting is Tuesday, November 13, 2001.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Andrews explained that the emergency siren project is included in the FY 2002 budget. This will become a joint project with the various emergency response departments.

Mayor Kelley mentioned that applications for the City Administrator's position are still being taken, and he will give more details regarding the hiring of a new administrator at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Debbie Kudrna, CMC  
City Clerk