

City of Othello
Regular Council Meeting
November, 13th, 2000

Mayor Pro tem, Everett Cole called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Don Derifield, Jeannie Ochoa and Kenneth Johnson. Absent were Leonard Lyon and Mayor E R Kelley. Also present were: Debra Travis, Debbie Kudrna, Curt Andrews, City Department Heads; William Shaw, City Administrator; James Whitaker, City Attorney and representatives from the Boys and Girls Club, the Rural Library Board of Trustees and organizations who have applied for tourism money for next year.

Council Member, Jeannie Ochoa led the opening invocation and Mayor Pro tem, Cole led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda as presented. M/S Ochoa/Derifield.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of October 23rd, 2000.
- B. Approval of Payroll and Related Expenses for October, 2000.
- C. Approval of Warrants for October, 2000.

Accounts Payable was audited and certified by the Auditing Officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080; and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing that is available to the Council.

Expense Claim Check No. 22351 to No. 22489 in the amount of \$404,938.26.
Payroll Check No. 13770 to No. 13861 in the amount of \$145,262.17.

Council carried a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. M/S Clemons/Johnson.

Mayor Pro tem, Everett Cole announced that there will be several budget issues discussed during the Council meeting but there would be little or no decisions made on those requests tonight.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB 2001 BUDGET REQUESTS

Debbie Sanchez, Boys and Girls Club Program Director gave a report of the Summer Program that was contracted to the Boys and Girls Club and was held in Lions Park. She noted that it was a 50-day program, which included breakfast, lunch and snacks. The hours of the Summer Program worked well with the hours of operation of the Boys and Girls Club and allowed many of the children who attended the Summer Park Program to be escorted to the Boys and Girls Club for the remainder of the day. This was a very successful program and she requested that the Council appropriate the necessary funds to continue this well needed Summer Youth Program. Jim Bates, Director of Operations of the Boys and Girls Club of the Columbia Basin, approached the Council and reported on statistics of use of the Boys and Girls Club. He noted that the Boys and Girls Club is asking for an additional \$8,000.00 to the original \$12,000.00 request, which is used for the Summer Park Program. The additional \$8,000.00 would be used to help compensate the Boys and Girls Club Teen Program. This program includes career preparation, job preparation, career launch, goal setting, conflict resolution and a Keystone Program for pier leaders and community service projects.

RURAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES – BUDGET DISCUSSION

Peggy Puryear, representing the Rural Library Board of Trustees requested that the City of Othello fund the library services and continue the Mid-Columbia contract through the 4th quarter of 2001 allowing both county and city residents access to library services. In turn, the Othello Rural Library District will agree to reimburse the City of Othello \$30,000.00, payable in equal installments of \$7,500.00 over a period of four years beginning in the year 2002. Should it become possible of reducing that period of a time to three years, by increasing their installment payment, the Library District Board of Trustee's would agree to do so. She noted in making this proposal, the board had received an estimate of property taxes to be collected in 2002 of \$237,000.00 from the Adams County Assessor. They took into account the estimation of the cost of operating the library in the year 2001 to be approximately \$206,000.00. The difference of the property tax collected and the cost of the library operation may leave a \$31,000.00 cushion that the board could use to repay the City of Othello. She noted that the show of support for the library shown in the recent balloting indicates that this community, including the county residents who call Othello their home, believes the library to be an extremely important resource. She asked for their partnership in meeting the need for uninterrupted access to the library.

Council Member, Ochoa questioned the reimbursement amount of \$30,000.00. Finance Officer, Debra Travis explained the Mid-Columbia Library contract shows the county portion is approximately \$30,000.00 and \$19,000.00 was appropriated for the operation and maintenance. Council Member, Ochoa stated her support of the library and said that it is the Council's consensus and unanimous decision to not pay the county's portion of the library expenditures but would be supportive of the Library Board of Trustee's proposal, if the dollar figure was corrected. Mrs. Puryear responded that the Board of Trustee's would be willing to negotiate the terms. Mayor Pro tem stated his appreciation for their efforts and that the Council would be more than willing to work out the details of an agreement that would be workable for all entities.

TOURISM FUNDING REQUESTS FOR 2001

The City Clerk stated that staff had received and reviewed applications for tourism development funding, with copies being presented to Council in their packets. She noted that there was one application that was received tonight from Jahns Pipe Construction, which should be discussed. She summarized the requested funding:

- Adams County Fair - \$2,500.00

This was the same request as last year for radio, newspaper and posters. All are advertising that would meet the criteria for the use of the funds.

- Chamber of Commerce - \$18,100.00

Similar to prior approved expenditures, except the \$500.00 for tourism development. Tourism funding can be used to develop strategies for expanding tourism such as, hiring a consultant or attending workshops regarding tourism. Their request is to help fund training and attend workshops regarding tourism development. She noted the Library Tax Advisory Committee may need to discuss this request.

- All Cities Classics Car Club - \$1,800.00

This is similar to prior approved expenditures, all are advertising, all meet the criteria for use of the funds.

- The Old Hotel Art Gallery - \$3,221.00

Projects #1 - #7 are tourism promotion including money for new signs. Project #8 is for extra employment hours for special events in the amount of \$780.00. This is similar to the Chamber's request last year for their manager's salary. The

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Lodging Tax Committee reviewed that request and the Council approved last year's request for use of tourism money for salary.

- Othello Rodeo Association - \$3,500.00

All of the advertising are normal requests and meet the criteria for the use of the funds. The Circuit Buckle Sponsor is \$300.00 and will be used for a trophy, which is also a legitimate use of the money. The T-shirt give-a-way request of \$50.00 is a new request from them but it is a legitimate request because the shirts are used as prizes or given to dignitaries.

- Milwaukee Caboose Committee - \$2500.00

This funding is to complete the heating, electrical and restoration work on the interiors. The RCW 67.28.1815 allows the funding to be used for the acquisition of tourism related facilities or the operation of tourism related facilities.

Operation of facilities does include maintenance. So, this could be considered "operation of tourism-related facilities" and is considered similar to the use of the tourism money to purchase the two cabooses.

- Othello Community Festivals - \$5,000.00

This funding is used solely for supplies for the float and has been awarded for several years.

The City Clerk provided the summary of tourism funding request, showing the amount approved for 1999/2000 and the amount requested for 2001. She also presented the tourism fund projections. She noted that with the expected beginning balance for 2001, and projected revenues, and if the Council were to award the total amount of \$37,121.00 as requested, the expected ending balance for 2001 would be \$46,485.00, which exceeds the minimum balance set by the Council of \$40,000.00. The City Clerk stated that Johns Pipe Construction, Inc has submitted a new request, which is not included in these projections.

Mayor Pro tem Everett Cole allowed representatives from each of the organizations to review their requests or answer questions. Nichole Cerrillo, representing the Chamber of Commerce reviewed the use of the funds and stated that the \$1,000.00 for the Sandhill Crane Festival is to be used solely for advertising. Council Member, Brodahl questioned whether the Sandhill Committee was planning on using their own funding and Mrs. Cerrillo stated that they would use their own funding for speakers, lodging and bus rentals and other expenses. Council Member, Brodahl stated that funding is available from the state for tourism development. Kimberly Beard, Director of the Old Hotel explained that they would be re-printing the Old Hotel brochure, which will include their recent recognition by Washington State declaring the Old Hotel as a state registered landmark. She noted that the funds for extra employee hours for special events are solely to help cover the salary for promoting the special events held in the Othello area. Adams County Fair, Skip Hall, President and Charlotte Taylor, Treasurer both gave their appreciation to the Council for past funding to help promote the Adams County Fair. Mrs. Taylor stated that all of the funding requested is used solely for tourism development and promotion. Othello Rodeo Association represented by Donna Van Beek and Max McCombs, both expressed their gratitude for past funding that has been used for advertising and promotion of the rodeo and demolition derby. Mrs. Van Beek stated that as the Rodeo Queen travels, representing Othello, she hands out Othello tourism information and promotes the area extensively. Othello Community Festivals was represented by Chris Mayer who noted that all the funds requested are used solely to build the float and thanked the Council for their past support. She noted that the Othello royalty promotes Othello on their travels and we were fortunate enough to have a float from Penticton, Canada come to Othello for last year's fair and rodeo parade. The Milwaukee Caboose Committee was represented by Nichole Cerrillo, who explained that the money requested would be used to complete the heating, electrical work and restoration work on the interiors of the two cabooses. Curt Andrews noted that the plan is to move one of the cabooses to a location for a tourism information center. Lori Jahns, of Jahns Pipe Construction submitted a request for \$7,000.00 to be used for

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landscaping and beautifying the right-of-way area, which is adjacent to and north of Highway 26 just directly west of the pothole canal (outside of city limits). The funding would help go towards site preparation, irrigation system, trees, rock and iron art.

The City Clerk recommended that the request from the Chamber of \$500.00 regarding tourism development and the request from Jahns Pipe Construction in the amount of \$7,000.00 for landscaping be reviewed by the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee with the recommendation to come back to the Council.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE REGARDING PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Pro tem Everett Cole read the proposed ordinance by title only. A motion was carried to approve the first reading of **AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE MILLENNIUM HOUSE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY AND GRANTING APPROVAL OF THE PRELIMINARY PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SUCH OVERLAY DISTRICT.** M/S Clemons/Derifield.

A motion was carried to set the public hearing regarding the creation of the Millennium House Planned Unit Development Overlay and reviewing the ordinance approving the Preliminary Planned Development District Development Plan for Monday, December 11th during the Regular Council Meeting. M/S Johnson/Clemons.

JANITORIAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE CITY HALL/POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING

The Council received a request from Jeannie Leverett, d.b.a. Leverett's Cleaning Service, requesting an increase to her contract amount from \$1,300.00 per month to \$1,450.00 - \$1,500.00 per month. The City Clerk explained that the contract provides that the janitor is responsible to provide all cleaning chemicals, equipment, labor, transportation, supervision, a janitorial insurance bond for no less than \$5,000.00 and liability insurance for no less than \$50,000.00. Mrs. Kudrna recommended that the Council extend the terms of the current contract and to take into consideration her request understanding the option of requesting proposals for this service.

Council carried a motion to authorize execution of the contract through December, 2001 to Leverett's Cleaning Service increasing the monthly contract amount to \$1,450.00 per month. M/S Derifield/Brodahl.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ADAMS COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

Council carried a motion to adopt **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE ADAMS COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT.** M/S Derifield/Clemons. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2000-20.

ORDINANCE TO AMEND O.M.C. CHAPTER 2.11 ENTITLED "FINANCE OFFICER"

Council carried a motion to adopt **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.11 ENTITLED "FINANCE OFFICER".** M/S Ochoa/Johnson. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1076.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The City Clerk announced that the three surplus police vehicles that were sold at the Eltopia Auction held by Booker Auction Company sold for \$7,200.00 with a commission to be paid to Booker Auction of \$540.00, which makes the net amount due of \$6,660.00.

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Curt Andrews updated the Council on the City Storm Water Project reviewing the plans, which include ditching, piping, routing and landscaping and changes to the recently purchased pit property. He explained that this would alleviate the city draining into the Rodeo Lake area. He did discuss funding for the project, which includes the \$200,000.00 grant that was obtained in 1994. This will cover the ditching and some of the piping and we will be able to sell excavation from the pit to be used for the Highway 17 - 26 overpass and that money can be used for the landscaping. Council authorized beginning the designing project with Anderson Perry for the Storm Water Project.

Mr. Shaw noted that meetings have been held with Columbia Colstor, McCains and Simplot regarding the Lee Road Project, getting all of the industries on-board with that upcoming project.

NEW BUSINESS

Patricia Turner/Kephart resident of 71 E Soda St. Lot #7 approached the Council regarding the recent sidewalk project on South First Avenue, which is directly in front of her residence. She explained her concerns of holes in the sidewalk, which need to be completed and noting that it is a danger to pedestrians. She also presented other concerns of hers including vehicles speeding on South First Avenue, trucks on First Avenue and her concern of there being no cross-walk for the kids to cross First Avenue. She appealed to the Council to post more speeding signs in that area and encouraged the city to get the sidewalk project completed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro tem Everett Cole adjourned the Council meeting at 8:45 p.m.

EVERETT COLE, Mayor Pro tem

ATTEST:

DEBBIE L KUDRNA, City Clerk