

Mayor E R Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Leonard Lyon, Les Clemons, Everett Cole, Don Derifield, Jeannie Ochoa and Kenneth Johnson. Absent was Eleanor Brodahl. Also present were: Debra Travis, Debbie Kudrna, Curt Andrews, City Department Heads; William Shaw, City Administrator; James Whitaker, City Attorney and Tami McCourtie of Tee Pee Septic.

Council Member Les Clemons led the opening invocation and Mayor E R Kelley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#### CONSENT AGENDA

##### A. Approval of Minutes of November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2000

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

#### PUBLIC HEARING ON 2001 BUDGET

Mayor Kelley opened the public hearing on the city's budget for 2001 at 7:04 p.m. Mayor Kelley announced that the city's proposed budget had been drafted and reviewed by city staff and administration. Copies of the proposed budget have been available for public review since November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2000. Finance Officer Debra Travis gave a report on the proposed budget dated November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2000. She reviewed some of the changes in the budget from previous discussions and requests, which included an increase to our janitorial contract of \$1,800.00; the Boy's and Girl's Club request of \$8,000.00 for support of the teen program; an estimated cost of \$20,000.00 for the Fire Department roof repairs; an increase of \$500.00 for the computer agreement with Adams County for the Police Department; an increase to the LEOFF I medical expense line item for the additional LEOFF I retiree in the amount of \$4,000.00; an increase for the Fire Department equipment budget line item and a decrease of other line items, which had an overall increase of \$5,350.00 from the original Fire Department budget. Ms Travis noted that Fire Chief John Cagle has reviewed the fire department budget and has reported that he may not be able to accomplish all of the equipment purchases out of this years' budget and may need to carry over approximately \$60,000.00 from the 2000 budget into the 2001 budget. Mayor Kelley asked for public in-put and there was none. Mayor Kelley asked for Council's comments. Council Member Cole spoke of concerns regarding the Recreation Department increases. Their request is \$12,000.00 for the Summer Park Program and a new request for \$8,000.00 to help with their teen program at the Boy's and Girl's Club. Mr. Cole also voiced a concern with the Othello Rodeo Association requesting 3 1/3 times more than their past request for tourism funding. Staff clarified that the Recreation Department budget is over and above the SIG grant received for operation of the club.

Council Member Lyon voiced concerns of the utility tax expenditures and reliance upon this tax money. He spoke of concerns of the tourism money requests, noting that there is no guarantee of this revenue and was concerned of the organization's reliance upon this funding for their operations. He noted that he is not in favor of the additional \$8,000.00 request from the Boy's and Girl's Club to help with their teen program. With no further comments received, Mayor Kelley closed the public hearing on the city's budget for 2001 at 7:17 p.m.

**ORDINANCE TO ADOPT SOLID WASTE FEE**

The City Clerk, Debbie Kudrna explained that the next four items on the agenda are re-adopting ordinances that were adopted by the City Council in 1999. The four ordinances had originally set new fees, which may be impacted by the outcome of Initiative 722. However, she noted that these fees are ones that are occasionally charged. These include the Solid Waste Fees, Subdivision Fees, Development Fees and the Water Notice Fees. By adopting the same ordinances, with the exception of new ordinance numbers and effective dates, will alleviate any questions regarding the ability to impose them from this date forward.

City Attorney, James Whitaker explained that the Council did re-adopt the sewer rate ordinance recently because of the language in I 695 regarding the ability to increase utility rates. He recommended adoption of the four proposed ordinances, which will confirm the ability to impose these fees from this day forward. Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 5.08.190 OF CHAPTER 5.08 ENTITLED "SOLID WASTE AND REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL." M/S Ochoa/Cole. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1077.

**ORDINANCE TO ADOPT SUBDIVISION FEES**

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE TITLES 16.17.030 ENTITLED "SUBDIVISIONS." M/S Clemons/Johnson. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1078.

**ORDINANCE TO ADOPT DEVELOPMENT FEES**

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 16.29.290 OF CHAPTER 16.29 ENTITLED "DESIGN STANDARDS." M/S Lyon/Cole. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1079.

**ORDINANCE TO ADOPT WATER NOTICE FEES**

Council carried a motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 12.16.330 OF CHAPTER 12.16 ENTITLED "WATER AND SEWER SERVICE AND RATES." M/S Cole/Johnson. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1080.

**RODEO LAKE STEERING COMMITTEE – AMENDMENT #2**

The City Clerk asked the Council to authorize execution of the inter-local agreement between the City and Adams County for continuation of the Rodeo Lake Steering Committee for one additional year. She noted that Shawn Logan, Chairman of the Committee has reported seeing merit to continue the agreement for an additional year to allow time to finalize the process. Adams County is in the process of acquiring a natural drain easement, which will alleviate the flooding in the Rodeo Lake residential area and this should be accomplished within the next 12 months.

Council carried a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Amendment #2 between the City of Othello and Adams County regarding the Rodeo Lake Steering Committee. M/S Ochoa/Derifield.

**CABLE TELEVISION RESOLUTION**

City Administrator, Bill Shaw explained that during the public hearing for the renewal of the cable franchise and the time that the citizen committee was appointed to discuss

future needs for cable TV service, there were few comments received. The Resolution presented to the Council listed some community needs and interests related to future cable television service as recognized by the city staff and attorney.

City Attorney, James Whitaker suggested a five or ten year term for the renewal in order to keep current of the changing technology. Mr. Whitaker explained that an EMS crawler, as provided in the resolution, is an emergency text on the cable TV channels, which could advise the citizens of any type of emergency.

Council carried a motion to adopt A RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING THE CITY'S PRELIMINARY FUTURE CABLE TELEVISION RELATED NEEDS AND INTERESTS. M/S Ochoa/Johnson. This shall be known as Resolution No. 2000-21.

#### EXPIRATION OF TEE PEE SEPTIC AGREEMENT

Council was notified of the extension to the agreement allowing Tee Pee Septic to dump into the city's sanitary system would expire November 30, 2000. Tami McCourtie, Tee Pee Septic, Inc. requested a three-month extension to the extended contract and explained to the Council her need for this extension. Council was provided a copy of a letter from Department of Ecology, which explained that they had received her permit application and that it has not been processed at this time. Dept. of Ecology would permit her to land apply septic without a permit as long as the requirements that were provided in the letter were met. Ms. McCourtie explained that due to the freezing temperatures, it would become quite difficult to incorporate the effluent into the soil within six hours. She explained that the five requirements in the letter are only a portion of the requirements that must be met once DOE processes her permit. Ms. McCourtie explained that she has less customers during the winter months because porta-potties are not being used and people have prepared for the freezing temperatures and soil conditions. Ms. McCourtie explained that she will be leasing 30 acres owned by Bob Jahns for land application and the acres will be mapped out showing the sequence of application and tillage process. She will also be constructing a holding tank with a clay lining for winter purposes only; otherwise it will be tilled into the soil within the time specified by D O E. Ms. McCourtie explained that she does service the Columbia Basin, which includes Othello, Royal City, Moses Lake, Mesa and Connell. Ms. McCourtie did acknowledge that her other option would be to haul to the Quincy site, which would increase the costs to her customers. A lengthy discussion was held about a three-month extension to the agreement with Tee Pee Septic and other similar businesses who may request the same agreement terms. Council Member, Ochoa stated that the reason that the agreement and extension was provided to Tee Pee Septic was to provide a service to the citizens who have needs for septic disposal until another process could be obtained. Council Member, Derifield noted that as being the City's representative to (GWMA) Ground Water Management Association, one important issue is ground water and nitrates and he did support the three-month extension to Tee Pee Septic.

Council's consensus was to consider other requests for the same three- month extension. This would be for any licensed operators who have a current application for land application submitted to the Department of Ecology upon the same terms that are provided in the original agreement with Tee Pee Septic, Inc. This would include but is not limited to licensing, bonding, reporting, contract fees and possible testing.

Council carried a motion that a three-month contract extension, as with Tee Pee Septic be permitted to any licensed operator with a permit already in process with the Department of Ecology prior to August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000. These licensed operators shall meet the Department of Health rules to operate as a septic hauler with an absolute end to the extension on

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2001. They must also meet all other conditions of the existing contract with Tee Pee Septic. M/S Derifield/Ochoa.

Council Member, Lyon voiced some concerns about accepting other septic loads from other operators and the liability of damage to our lagoon system.

#### **LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Council Member, Cole reported on the Lodging Tax Advisory Committees' recommendation to the Council on a few of the recent requests for tourism funding. Their recommendation for the request from Jahns Pipe Construction for \$7,000.00 for a beautification project was to not approve it for use of tourism funding. The City Clerk explained that she had discussed the request with the State Auditors Office who in turn discussed it with the Attorney General's Office. Their opinion was that the City should not consider this request until the applicant had received a signed contract allowing use of the right-of-way. It should only be considered as a project funded by tourism funds, if signs were placed in the right-of-way, which encourage the Sandhill Crane Festival or tourism into the area. The Clerk explained that getting approval for signs in the right-of-ways might be difficult because of the Washington State Highway Beautification Project, which limits signs in these areas. The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee reviewed the request for \$500.00 for tourism development for the Chamber Manager. They recommended that the Council approve this. They also considered the Old Hotel's request for \$780.00 for salary and had no recommendation, although; Council Member Cole was personally against that use. Council Member, Ochoa stated that she disagrees with the salary request from the Old Hotel. She had concerns that it would set precedence for future use of the money for salaries. City Attorney, Whitaker explained that the tourism funding can be used for salaries, as long as documentation is made that the salaries were for tourism related activities. Council Member, Lyon voiced some concerns that the organizations are heavily depending upon this tourism money with no guarantee that the revenue income will continue.

#### **APPOINT JANICE OWEN TO THE LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE – BEST WESTERN LINCOLN INN**

Mayor Kelley appointed Janice Owen, manager of the Best Western Lincoln Inn to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Council Member, Jeannie Ochoa made a statement regarding the recent discussion with the Adams County Commissioners regarding dissolution of the Health District and the creation of a health fund. She felt that it was her duty to share the information regarding this possibility with other cities and having the support of the Council and other city's, may have made a difference regarding the County Commissioners decision on whether or not to dissolve the Adams County Health District.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member, Lyon discussed the City's requirement of new businesses having a KNOX Box System installed for rapid entry by emergency services. He noted that the City has required businesses to install this system and that the City needs to install the system on our emergency vehicles. The city's system will need to be compatible with the ones that have been installed by the businesses. He voiced concerns of the level of security measures and the need to discuss the KNOX Box System with the businesses that have

already installed their lock boxes. It was agreed that the City cannot reduce the level of security on these KNOX Box Systems and this will be discussed with the new Fire Chief.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the Council Meeting of November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2000 at 8:30 p.m.

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E R KELLEY, Mayor

ATTEST:

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DEBBIE L KUDRNA, City Clerk