

City of Othello
Council Workshop
November 7, 2005

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Pro-Tem Shannon McKay called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Shannon McKay; Councilmembers Larry Bray, Eleanor Brodahl, Everett Cole, Kenneth Johnson, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Interim Police Chief Jake Evans, Debbie Kudrna, Rhonda Miller; and City Administrator Ehman Sheldon.

Absent was: Councilmember Marc Spohr.

Mayor Pro-Tem McKay welcomed the members of Boy Scout Troop 801 and their leader, Jan Walker.

PROCLAMATION SUPPORTING THE PURCHASE OF BUDDY POPPIES FROM THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Mayor Pro-Tem McKay read into the record the Proclamation supporting the purchase of Buddy Poppies from the Veterans of Foreign Wars on November 11th and 12th, 2005. Mr. Eric Morgan stated that buddy poppies will be sold at McDonalds, Bingers, Leprekon, and Wal*Mart.

HOTEL/MOTEL FUND APPLICATION REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM:

Mayor Pro-Tem McKay advised that the Council had changed the policy regarding appropriation of the Hotel/Motel funding, by limiting it to no more than 30% of the available funds or 5% above the previous 5-year average funding, whichever is the least. He advised that there is a year-end balance in the fund of \$420, still reserving \$40,000, as set by the Council. Finance Officer Rhonda Miller reiterated that the Council had established the funding policy earlier this year and at that time, the estimated available funds for 2006 were \$36,700. She reviewed the amounts allowed for the organizations that applied for funding using the calculations, noting there are two new requests that do not have history to create the 5-year average. McKay noted that funding for the American Fiesta Amistad was previously included in the Chamber's budget. Ms. Miller reported that the total available funds for 2006 have increased to \$40,200 and Councilmember Cole noted that all requests could be funded. Responding to a question from Councilmember Cole, Marie Lotz explained that the Othello Mexican Soccer League has been established for two years and the funds that they are asking for will be used for advertising expenses. She stated that they have tournaments every Sunday and they sponsor a big tournament, with teams traveling from Mattawa, Quincy, and as far as Walla Walla. The following is a list of the funding requests:

• Adams County Fair	\$ 3,950
• American Fiesta Amistad	\$ 2,600
• Caboose Project	\$ 2,200
• Chamber of Commerce	\$ 11,010
• Coulee Corridor Consortium	\$ 1,000
• The Old Hotel Art Gallery	\$ 2,920
• Othello All Cities Classic Car Club	\$ 2,500
• Othello Mexican Soccer League	\$ 1,500
• Othello Rodeo Association	\$ 4,500
• Othello Sandhill Crane Fest.	\$ 7,400

Representatives from each of the organizations made a presentation regarding their request. Mayor Pro-Tem McKay stated that we gained two new requests and lost the Community Festivals request. It was noted that the National Jr. Miss program no longer exists.

REQUEST FOR COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATES – COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Mayor Pro-Tem McKay explained that there would be a vacancy on the Council, pending the election results. He recommended accepting letters of interest from citizens who are interested in

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being appointed to the vacancy. Councilmember Brodahl suggested that the interested citizens submit the letters and be interviewed by the City Council, noting this would allow the Council to appoint an individual who understands the current issues. Council's consensus was to ask citizens to submit letters of interest for the Council position; those letters will be accepted up to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 14th; each candidate will be asked the same questions at a public meeting, and Council would select the best, qualified individual for the Council seat. Mayor Pro-tem McKay advised that they would decide when to interview the interested candidates at the next Council meeting. Councilmember Johnson cautioned that the selection be made only when the vacancy occurs. City Administrator Ehman Sheldon asked that Councilmembers submit questions for the candidates.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Pro-Tem McKay adjourned the workshop at 7:58 p.m.

By: _____
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk