

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Present: Mayor Shannon McKay; Councilmembers: Eleanor Brodahl, Kenneth Caylor, Everett Cole, Dan Dever, Mark Snyder, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson

Also Present: Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Police Chief Steve Dunnagan, Debbie Kudrna; Jay Van Ness, and City Administrator Ehman Sheldon

OATH OF OFFICE TO COUNCILMEMBERS: DAN DEVER AND MARK SNYDER

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to new Councilmembers Dan Dever and Mark Snyder.

OATH OF OFFICE TO POLICE OFFICERS: GREG SOSS AND BLAKE HAMPTON

The Police Chief administered the Oath of Office to new Police Officers Greg Soss and Blake Hampton.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITIONS:

Mayor McKay presented a certificate of appreciation and lapel pin to citizen Ken Dockins for his volunteerism to the community. The Mayor also acknowledged Tom Tindell for his volunteerism.

DAVE ANDERSON – DISCUSSION OF COUNTY SWITCH

Adams County Assessor Dave Anderson reported that up until 2008, the City's statutory levy was controlled by the rate of the levy, approximately \$3.60, less the amount of the Library District's levy. Due to property value increases in Adams County, the City would collect more taxes than allowed if the old formula was used. Therefore, the \$3.60 cannot be used this year. Now, the State allowed 101% of the previous lawful levy, plus, new construction assessments must be used for the levy calculations; that also reduces how much the highest, lawful levy will be in the succeeding year. This reduces the City's tax funding approximately \$9600 in 2008, because of the effects of the levy switch agreement, approved in 2006 with Adams County. Mr. Anderson explained that he has always reported that the County levy switch was a total reimbursement to the City and with this recent discovery, the City will not be totally reimbursed. If the levy switch is approved for one more year, the reduction in the City's levy for 2009 will also be \$4800. There will not be additional reductions after the 2009 budget, if the levy switch is not continued after the '09 budget process.

Mr. Anderson requested the Council authorize the levy switch for one more year and have the City Attorney write an amendment to the 2008 budget, in order to explain the reduction in the levy. If the levy switch is not approved, there will be a reduction of \$362,000 to the County budget. The 101% calculation (plus new construction) will now be used for the taxing calculations. If the levy switch is approved by all cities within Adams County, this will allow one year for the County Commissioners to review their options. The City could opt to not approve the levy switch contract and Mr. Sheldon advised the contract will be presented to the Council on December 10th. The City Attorney found that there is no restriction for the County to pay the reimbursement through another fund. This will be forwarded to the County for review. Mr. Sheldon reported that the City could be reimbursed by a reduction in another Interlocal contract amount to make up for the lost revenue. Mr. Anderson explained that Ritzville has approved the levy switch and he's meeting with Lind and Washtucna later this week. All cities have to agree to the levy switch, or it can not be used.

ENGINEER'S REPORT ON THE WELL #6 EVALUATION

City Engineer Alan Schroeder advised that Well #6 has elevated fluoride levels and the water is commingled between the two aquifers. In an effort to identify where the fluoride comes from and where the major water zones are, a contractor lowered miniature cameras and sampling equipment into the well; the testing was unsuccessful. To maintain production from the well, he presented two options: Option 1 would be to seal the lower zones off and set the pump up in the

Wanapum aquifer. This could produce 800-900 gpm, similar to Well #8. This would solve the commingling of water problem and may alleviate the fluoride issue. Option 2 would be the option to perform advanced testing. They could pull the pump and lower equipment to sample fluoride levels at different zones, which could cost around \$70,000. Mayor McKay stated that the City is interested in solving the fluoride issue in order to utilize the well. Mr. Schroeder advised that option 1, sealing off the lower water zone, requires the least risk and work, but it will reduce the water production. If they were to conduct further testing and work, there is a potential to maintain the high water production, approximately 1500-2000 gpm. He advised there are indications that the fluoride may be in the lower portions of the Wanapum or the top level of the Grand Rhonde aquifers; that's why it's unknown if we can reduce the fluoride and still maintain the high production.

Councilmember Caylor advised that they would need to isolate each water zone to analyze water quality. Mr. Schroeder noted that a disadvantage would be that the well wouldn't be pumping as usual, and is not an accurate demonstration of the well production, however, the water quality could be tested; the deeper aquifer has more potential for volume. Councilmember Cole advised this is the third study that he has received and the solution has always been sealing off the bottom aquifer. Mr. Schroeder estimated that it would be \$150,000 - \$200,000 to complete the electrical, construction, and to seal off the lower aquifer. Mayor McKay stated that presently, DOE only allows us to use Well #6 in emergency situations. If we were to pump less water out of the well, those unexpended water rights can be used at another site. Mr. Sheldon advised that the existing pump is big and it would be more efficient with a smaller pump. Mr. Van Ness indicated that work on the well would have to be scheduled during non-critical times.

GWMA PRESENTATION – PAUL STOKER

Mr. Stoker advised that there are no restrictions to pump water from the Grand Rhonde. He provided information about the effects of water quality and quantity from basalt layers; water flows; well mapping; well productions; lava faults and dikes in the Columbia Basin region.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor McKay made the following announcements:

- He thanked Wal Mart for allowing us to move the recycling bins to their property. It is evident that their employees are keeping the area cleaned up and it seems to be a good location for the citizens.
- He thanked the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the plaque; it celebrates their 50th anniversary, which was in 2002.
- Area Six 4-H club members will be at City Hall tomorrow at 3:15 to decorate the holiday tree in the lobby. They will also get tours of the Police Department. This will be one of their community service projects.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the workshop at 8:30 p.m.

By: _____
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk