



MINUTES

City Council Workshop

6:30 PM – Monday, December 4, 2017
Council Chambers, City Hall – 500 E Main St

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Logan called the meeting of the Othello City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. and led a silent invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present:

Genna Dorow
Angel Garza
Corey Everett
Larry McCourtie
John Lallas
Mark Snyder

Councilmembers Absent:

Eugene Bain

MOVED BY ANGEL GARZA, SECONDED BY MARK SNYDER, COUNCIL EXCUSE ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER EUGENE BAIN. CARRIED.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT

Shawn Logan, Mayor
Rebecca P. Ozuna, City Clerk
Spencer Williams, Finance Officer
Anne Henning, Community Development Director
Terry Clements, Public Works Director
Police Chief Phil Schenck

CITIZEN INPUT

Rob Simmons, 455 S 18th Ave, approached Council to request the possibility to consider moving the snow to the center to the street on Main Street between Broadway Ave and 4th Avenue as it used to be done in the previous years. Discussion was held with Staff and Council as to the option of pushing the snow to the center of street and also the possibility of picking up the snow and placing it in a vacant lot that the City of Othello owns. The consensus was to find a solution for snow removal that will help benefit everyone located on Main Street between Broadway Ave and 4th Avenue.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda. M/S Dorow/Snyder

CURRENT BUSINESS

BONNIE VALDEZ - 15 YEARS

Mayor Logan presented a plaque of appreciation to Utility Biller Bonnie Valdez for her 15 years of employment with the City.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS

Mayor Logan presented Community Service Award certificates and lapel pins to the following citizens: Pam Dodge, Marie Lotz, Denae Valdez and Maria Quezada.

UNDERGROUND OF UTILITIES

Community Development Director Anne Henning mentioned that at the November 27 meeting, the City Council discussed the current ordinance requiring undergrounding of utilities, OMC 14.56, and whether changes should be made. The Council requested more information. Ms. Henning commented that staff intended to bring sample ordinances to the Council. However, in researching this issue, staff has learned that it is more complicated than it first appeared:

- Telecommunication companies have been suing cities for non-compliance with the federal Telecommunications Act, especially in regard to requirements to underground existing lines.
- OMC 14.56 likely has conflicts with the governing state law, RCW 35.99, since the OMC section was adopted prior to RCW 35.99. In addition, case law suggests that RCW 35.99 may have conflicts with the federal Telecommunications Act.
- On November 28, Moses Lake repealed their undergrounding ordinance due to legal concerns with the ordinance. Othello's ordinance is very similar to what Moses Lake had. Moses Lake will be adopting a revised ordinance in the future.

Ms. Henning gave the recommendation that the Council take no action on amending OMC 14.56 at the current time, due to all the potential legal issues. This would allow time for staff and legal counsel to research the issues in more depth, so that the resulting ordinance is legally supportable. It was the consensus of the Council to find a middle point with restructuring our ordinance while waiting to see how City of Moses Lake restructures theirs.

OTHELLO SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND LEVY RESOLUTION PRESENTATION

Othello School District Superintendent Dr. Chris Hurst and Executive Director of Business Services Dr. Brian Bodah gave a small presentation about the Othello School District Bond Levy and commented that the Othello School District bond will be presented to voters within the Othello School District in Adams, Grant, and Franklin Counties on February 13, 2018. The Othello

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School District seeks the support of the City Council of The City of Othello, Washington to support the bond proposal.

Councilmember Lallas had many questions regarding what the current tax rate per assessed value is and how much more the taxes would rise if the levy passed. These questions led to a discussion between Council and Othello School District staff as to how long the bond is for, who would all be effected by the levy, the price for the new constructions and how many more students they will be able to accommodate. The council requested more information as to the current rate the average homeowner pays for state and county school taxes and how much it will increase if levy passes and decided to place the resolution on the December 11th council meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FINAL 2018 BUDGET

Mayor Logan opened the public hearing at 7:42p.m. Finance Officer Spencer Williams explained this is the final public hearing on the 2018 budget and the budget is the same as discussed at the last meeting.

Mayor Logan asked for comments in support of the rate proposals. There was none.

Mayor Logan asked for comments neutral to the rate proposals. There was none.

Mayor Logan asked for comments in opposition to the rate proposals. There was none.

Mayor Logan closed the public testimony.

Mayor Logan closed the public hearing at 7:44p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilmember Lallas commented on some light poles that are on S 14th Avenue and questioned if those are going to be replaced by the Beautification Committee because the concrete pads are already there and there is supposed to be lights going up on S 14th Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Logan adjourned the Council meeting at 7:47p.m.

By: _____
SHAWN LOGAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
REBECCA P. OZUNA, City Clerk