

City of Othello  
City Council Workshop  
December 05, 2011

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Tim Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor Tim Wilson; Councilmembers: Ken Caylor, Dan Dever, Genna Dorow, Charles Garcia, Ken Johnson, Mark Snyder, and Marc Spohr.

**Also Present:** City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Finance Officer Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steven Dunnagan, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, and City Planner Darryl Piercy.

**ERIC MORGAN PRESENTATION**

Mr. Eric Morgan explained that they want to refurbish all of the Pioneer Park Christmas decorations. He explained how much material and manual work is involved and that they want to rebuild the sleigh and the reindeer to use it for pictures with Santa Clause. The Chamber of Commerce is donating \$250 and he will be back in January to request funding from the City Council. Mr. Morgan said that McDonald's employees have put up lights in Pioneer Park and the Mr. Moreno has paid for the lights. Councilmember Spohr reminded the Council that the City just appropriated money for the fireworks and the Chamber of Commerce will not have to fund the fireworks in 2012.

**UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

City Planner Darryl Piercy explained that the City's existing comprehensive plan is outdated and the Planning Commission has systematically worked on sections of the comprehensive plan and worked on a mission statement for the past 2 years. They recognized that items of the plan will change over time of the review and they worked on policies and goals. He noted that the current comprehensive plan does not meet the requirements of a City's environment and businesses considering to locate in a community will usually review a City's comprehensive plan to see if it is consistent with the business goals. He noted there are seven distinct elements of the City's comprehensive plan and asked the Council to provide feedback on the section about performance standards, noting that this will become a tool for budget projections. The new census for Othello has been released and we will also receive growth projections from the Office of Financial Management (OFM). He explained that Adams County does not need to follow the Growth Management Act (GMA); however, they have referenced some GMA planning concepts within the document. Council decided to review at least two areas at the upcoming workshops and they will review the mission statement; land use and housing sections at the January workshop. Mr. Piercy intends to forward new population information to the Council.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REQUEST TO REVIEW ITINERANT VENDORS OMC**

City Planner Darryl Piercy explained that the Planning Commission is seeking authority from the Council to review and make recommendations regarding sections of the Othello Municipal Code relevant to mobile vendors and itinerant merchants. They are concerned that there are too many mobile vendors in our community and perhaps they are not being properly located. We currently do not allow itinerant merchants on Main Street; however, they are allowed on 1<sup>st</sup> and Broadway Avenues. Councilmember Johnson commented that he would suggest that the Planning Commission keep an open mind to potential new businesses. Council's consensus was to allow the Planning Commission to review the current codes.

**GWMA – PAUL STOKER**

Mr. Paul Stoker introduced Adams County Commissioner Roger Hartwig. Mr. Stoker reviewed GWMA's work plan and explained that they were funded to perform a recharge assessment for each of the 25 cities within a four county region, including Othello. They have contracted for the assessment and it is slated to be complete by June, 2012. Mr. Stoker further explained that they were asked to do an assessment of each of the cities options if they lost their current potable water supply. The summary included Othello's information. He reviewed the future role of GWMA and noted that they have been funded by the State and Federal Government for the past 15 years. The Adams County Commissioners have asked him to survey the cities if they are acceptable to a proposed tax assessment to continue the role of GWMA. He noted there has been no local funding

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toward GWMA. There was further discussion about the options for future water supply. Mr. Stoker noted that there already are farm use reductions because of loss of static water and there are a significant number of inoperable wells for farms. GWMA has recommended to the farms east of the low canal to connect to the canal water system and abandon their wells. In response to a question, Mr. Stoker advised that somewhere between Hwy 17 and Bruce Road, there is a dike formation. He recommended the Council begin to consider solutions for future water supply. It was noted that the proposed tax assessment would go through a formal process and he asked for Council's support to forward to the County Commissioners. Councilmember Caylor stated that GWMA has made great strides and accomplishments without asking for local financial support and recommended that communities financially support them. It was Council's consensus to entertain GWMA's proposal. Adams County Commissioner Roger Hartwig explained it would be a huge economical impact to our County if GWMA does not receive funding to continue their studies.

**MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT**

Finance Officer Mike Bailey reviewed the performance of the City's investments for the first ten months of 2011 with the local government pool and the Bank of American investment portfolio. He stated that we have approximately \$8 million invested.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Wilson noted that the City has recently received several requests for City funding and the Council needs to consider how to handle these and what type of policies they would be establishing. The Mayor also asked that a letter be sent to the Planning Commission thanking them for all of their work and have it signed by all of the elected officials. The Mayor asked that the Council have at least three of them agree to items of concerns for the staff research and work on. Councilmember Spohr stated that they are still citizens and basically anyone can ask for public documents. City Administrator Ehman Sheldon explained that it's not requests for public records; it's rather requests from Councilmembers for staff research. And the issue is if it's a request for staff research, whether the majority of the Council wants to direct the Mayor to have staff work on an issue. It was Council's consensus to continue this practice.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Wilson made the following announcements:

- The swearing in of elected officials will be at our December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- DOT will present drawings of the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue/Highway 26 project at our December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The quarterly Adams County Mayors' luncheon is Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Othello Senior Center.
- You can bring items for the Community Christmas baskets to the Police Department or the Fire Department by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the workshop at 8:27 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
TIM WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk