

City of Othello  
Regular Council Meeting  
December 14, 2009

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor McKay called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Shannon McKay, Councilmembers: Ken Caylor, Dan Dever, Kenneth Johnson, Mark Snyder, Marc Spohr, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: City Administrator Ehman Sheldon; Department Heads: Finance Officer Mike Bailey, Police Chief Steven Dunnagan, City Clerk Debbie Kudrna, Municipal Services Coordinator Jay Van Ness; and City Attorney James Whitaker.

Absent Was: Councilmember Eleanor Brodahl.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council carried a motion to approve the agenda. M/S Dever/Caylor.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes of November 23, 2009
- B. Approval of City Council Workshop Minutes of December 7, 2009
- C. Approval of Accounts Payable Checks
- D. Approval of Payroll for November 2009
- E. Set Public Hearing on the Renewal of the Northland Cable Franchise-January 11, 2010
- F. Contract Renewal with ALSCO – Public Works
- G. Resolution to Accept a Donation
- H. Resolution to Release Retainage for Well #4

Accounts Payable was audited and certified by the Auditing Officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080; and those expense reimbursement claims certified and as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing that has been reviewed by the Council audit committee and is available to the Council.

Expense Claim Check No. 37560 to No. 37646 in the amount of \$260,395.37.

Payroll Check No. 26249 to No. 26298 in the amount of \$244,131.16.

Council carried a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. M/S Wilson/Snyder.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING O.M.C. 12.16.340 APPENDIX S REGARDING SEWER RATES**

Finance Officer Mike Bailey presented a proposed sewer rate increase ordinance. He also provided a chart which compared the medium household income of similar sized cities. The proposed ordinance includes a 3-year sewer rate increase. Mayor McKay advised that the City will be required to make improvements to the sewer system and we will need to apply for matching funds. At that time, we will have to show that we are working towards that financial need. Mr. Bailey advised that we will transfer approximately \$500,000 at the end of 2010 into the sewer reserve fund and we will then have approximately \$2 million in the reserve fund. He explained that in order to receive any financial assistance for improvements to our sewer system, we have to show that our sewer rates will allow us to maintain the sewer facility. The rate increase is \$2 per month. Councilmember Spohr advised that our sewer rates are some of the lowest of the state.

Council carried a motion to approve AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OTHELLO MUNICIPAL CODE APPENDIX S TO CHAPTER 12.16 OF CHAPTER 12.16 ENTITLED WATER AND SEWER SERVICE AND RATES". M/S Caylor/Dever. This shall be known as Ordinance No. 1314.

**AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH ADAMS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO.1 FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT**

City Administrator Ehman Sheldon presented an amendment to the sewer agreement with Adams County Water District #1. He reviewed the process for rate amendments, per the contract terms. He advised that the Water District Board of Commissioners were invited to tonight's Council meeting to review the proposal. If the amendment is adopted by the Council, it will be forwarded to the Adams County Water District to consider at their meeting scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Council carried a motion to approve the 8th amendment to the agreement with Adams County Water District #1 establishing sewer rates. M/S Snyder/Wilson.

RE-ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT FOR AWC WORKERS COMPENSATION RETROSPECTIVE POOL PROGRAM

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna advised that Council authorized the contract with the Association of Washington Cities Labor & Industries Compensation Retrospective Pool Program (AWC Retro Program) in April 2004 and have renewed it annually since then. The retro pool program provides third party administration of the City's L & I claims through their contractor, Sedgwick Claims Management Services Inc. As part of a pool of members, our annual fee is pooled together for claims management. The fee is 6.5% of the City's prior year L & I premium, approximately \$5500 for 2010. The annual fee is distributed to the various funds. We did receive a refund in 2005; 2006; 2008 and expect to receive a refund soon.

Council carried motion to authorize re-enrollment in the Association of Washington Cities Group Retro program for 2010. M/S Johnson/Dever.

RE-ENROLLMENT IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY TESTING AGREEMENT

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna reported that Council authorized the contract with Public Safety Testing (PST) in 2004 and renewed a three year contract in 2006. PST provides the physical and written tests for Civil Service entry level police officer candidates. This has proven to be a successful program for recruiting entry level police officers. The annual fee is \$980 per year, and there is a savings of \$250 for the first year of the three year term. The City Clerk explained that the contract fee is budgeted in 2010.

Council carried a motion to approve the three year subscriber agreement with Public Safety Testing. M/S Wilson/Caylor.

CONSIDERATION TO CANCEL THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 28, 2009

Council carried a motion to cancel the December 28, 2009 City Council meeting. M/S Wilson/Johson.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor McKay read into the record information about Councilmember Eleanor Brodahl's accomplishments while serving as Councilmember. He thanked Councilmember Brodahl for her commitment to the City of Othello and displayed a plaque for her. Councilmember Brodahl was not present at the meeting. He read into the record a comment from Councilmember Brodahl. Councilmember Wilson presented an engraved gavel to Mayor Shannon McKay and read into the record his accomplishments during his term as Mayor. Councilmember Wilson encouraged our citizens to get involved in our community. Mayor McKay thanked the community for allowing him to serve as Mayor. He thanked the Council for being financially prudent and being good stewards of tax payer dollars. He also thanked the staff and the City Administrator for helping him during his term.

OATH OF OFFICE TO INCOMING MAYOR TIM WILSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS GENNA DOROW, JOHN RENEAU, AND KENNETH CAYLOR

City Clerk Debbie Kudrna administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected 2010 City Officials Mayor Tim Wilson, Councilmembers: Genna Dorow, John Reneau, and Kenneth Caylor.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor McKay advised that our current insurance deductible is \$5,000 per occurrence. He asked if the Council would want to make a change to that amount or leave it as it currently is. It was Council's consensus to not make any change to the insurance deductible.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the Council meeting at 7:27 p.m. Refreshments were provided to everyone attending.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

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