

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Present: Mayor Shannon McKay; Councilmembers Eleanor Brodahl, Kathy Carlton, Kenneth Caylor, Everett Cole, Marc Spohr, Dale Wyman, and Tim Wilson.

Also Present: Department Heads: Curt Andrews, Mike Bailey, Police Lieutenant Bob Hampton Dunnagan, Debbie Kudrna, and Jay VanNess; and City Administrator Ehman Sheldon.

PET RESCUE REPORT

Ken Simmons and April Hoksbergen represented Pet Rescue and reported that they want to renew the agreement with the City and recommended several changes to the agreement and operation of the City animal shelter. They explained that the group is made up of all volunteers and 100% of the money received all goes to Pet Rescue projects. Their goal is to spay/neuter, vaccinate, and adopt the animals they recover. They work with Adams County Sheriff's Department; Othello Police Department, Washington State Patrol, and the Code Enforcement Officer. For the City, they feed, clean, walk, socialize and take care of the animals in the City animal shelter. The City provides for the well being of the animals for the first three days and tries to locate their owners. If unclaimed after the third day, Pet Rescue starts vaccinations, spay/neutering and adopting out. They have adopted out more than 150 animals, with a majority of those originating from the County. Mr. Simmons explained their process for rescuing, sheltering, and adopting out animals. Code Enforcement Officer Doyle Palmer advised that citizens have three business days to claim their dogs in the animal shelter. He also explained that pit bulls are taken to Grant County Humane Society. Mr. Simmons explained that they have foster homes for animals from the County; they don't have the facilities to harbor the animals. He explained that they currently take care of the animals once they are received at the dog pound.

Mr. Sheldon advised that the authority to pick up dogs is vested with the City. They are transferred to the pound and after the three day period, they are transferred into Pet Rescue's care. Mr. Palmer reviewed the blueprint of the City facilities and the area where Pet Rescue keeps the dogs. Councilmember Brodahl asked why the City wouldn't want Pet Rescue to care for the dogs in the dog pound. Mr. Sheldon explained that our insurance carrier recommends limiting the City's liability and transferring the animals to Pet Rescue at the appropriate time. If we continue to have Pet Rescue care for the dogs from the time that they enter the shelter, we need to impose specific contractual arrangements. He explained the City should continue to care for the animals in the building in order to maintain the heating and air in the building and care of the dogs and then transfer them to Pet Rescue after the three day provision. Mr. Simmons remarked that they currently have liability insurance. Mr. Sheldon noted that Pet Rescue's proposal is for the City to collect the dogs and Pet Rescue would take control of the facility and animals from that point after. Mr. Simmons advised that when they show a dog to someone, they usually meet at Pioneer Park. Mrs. Hoksbergen provided information about community development grant funding available to remodel and restore the City's animal shelter. Pet Rescue also provides collars, ID tags, food and cover veterinary bills.

Mayor McKay thanked Pet Rescue for their diligence. He noted the Code Enforcement Officer has a lot of duties and appreciates Mr. Palmer's dedication. Mr. Sheldon remarked the issue is how to work together to accomplish the service and develop language in a contract. Mr. Simmons noted that Mr. Palmer provides the service that Pet Rescue cannot; they are able to provide service after work hours and on weekends. Councilmember Spohr asked if Pet Rescue took full control of the animal shelter, would they require all dogs to be spayed/neutered if they were retrieved by the owner within the three days. He noted some concerns from citizens about Pet Rescue's process to alter the dogs. Mrs. Hoksbergen stated they would not if the owner came forth; it is their intent that stray animals be spayed/neutered and adopted out.

OTHELLO SCHOOL DISTRICT AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Othello School District Superintendent George Juarez questioned if the city would require Pet Rescue to have liability insurance if they leased the property to Pet Rescue? Mr. Juarez noted that he was informed the Boys and Girls Club was going to close and he was asked what programs the Othello School District provides after school. He reviewed the programs that each of the schools provide to students after school. Most of the after school programs are academic in nature, including the Gear Up and Central Washington University programs. He noted each building has home work clubs and tutors and they are focused on student needs. Mr. Juarez acknowledged that he will discuss this further with the school administrators, noting he does not want to dismiss any opportunities. Councilmember Carlton stated that she believes the Othello School District could provide a better program than the Boys and Girls Club and hopes that the School District could provide a non-academic atmosphere sometime during the week. Mayor McKay stated that the community needs a safe atmosphere for children to go to after school. Councilmember Brodahl advised that the summer program provided by the Boys and Girls Club served 10,000 meals last summer and the community needs to replace that program. Councilmember Caylor advised that he hasn't given up on the local Boys and Girls Club and hopes that the community will support it and help to build a better program. Mr. Juarez will update the Council after the school district discusses this further.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor McKay adjourned the workshop at 8:05 p.m.

By: _____
SHANNON MCKAY, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
DEBBIE L. KUDRNA, City Clerk