



Regular City Council Meeting

Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 500 E Main Street

1. OPENING ITEMS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Invocation
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Public Input
Jake Mendez presents suggested ideas to improve pedestrian safety.

- E. Roll Call

City Council Present:

Ken Johnson
Alma Carmona
Marc Spohr
Kelli Camp
Chris Dorow
Angel Garza
Darryl Barnes
Mark Snyder

Administrative Staff Present:

Tania Morelos, City Clerk
Spencer Williams, Finance Officer
Abner Garza, IT Director
Aaron Garza, Police Chief
Anne Henning, Community Development Director
Robin Adolphsen, Public Works Director/Engineer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved by: Angel Garza

Seconded by: Chris Dorow

3. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The following items will be enacted by one motion. If separate discussion is desired, that item may be placed on the regular agenda, with concurrence of the Council. Requests to remove items should be made under Agenda Item 2: Approval of Agenda.

Motion to approve the consent agenda.

Moved by: Kelli Camp

Seconded by: Alma Carmona

- A. Approve City Council Minutes December 8, 2025 and December 22, 2025

- B. Approve Accounts Payables

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.

Check No. 62818 through No.62880 in the amount of \$289,000.65

Check No. 62881 through No. 62889 in the amount of \$698,783.65

Manual Checks No. 5621 through No. 5622 in the amount of \$308.50

Manual Checks No. 5623 through No. 5624 in the amount of \$543.00

Manual Checks No. 5625 in the amount of \$932.85

- C. Approve Payroll and Related Expenses

Check No. 33484 through 33497 in the amount of \$717,592.64

4. **CURRENT BUSINESS**

- A. Appoint Aaron Garza as Police Chief and Approve Employment Contract between City of Othello and Aaron Garza

Following the retirement of Police Chief Dave Rehaume, Aaron Garza was appointed Interim Police Chief on November 24, 2025. City Council appointed Aaron Garza as the full-time Police Chief and approved the associated employment agreement. The agreement provides for the appointment to be retroactive to January 1, 2026, with a corresponding salary adjustment.

Motion to approve the appointment of Aaron Garza as Police Chief of the City of Othello and authorize the Mayor execute the employment agreement between the City of Othello and Aaron

Garza.

Moved by: Chris Dorow

Seconded by: Alma Carmona

B. Oath of Office Aaron Garza

Tania Morelos, City Clerk administered the oath of office to Chief Garza. His son, Ezra, pinned his insignia, and his wife, Lory, pinned his badge. Chief Garza shared a few words following the ceremony.

C. Nominate and Appoint Mayor Pro Tem

In accordance with RCW 35A.13.035, the City Council considered the appointment of a Mayor Pro Tem at the beginning of the new year. The Mayor called for nominations, which required a second to proceed. Following the nomination and voting process, Councilman Barnes was appointed Mayor Pro Tem by majority vote for a one-year term.

Motion to appointment Councilmember Barnes as Mayor Pro Tem to serve a one year term.

Moved by: Chris Dorow

Seconded by: Angel Garza

Motion Carries

D. Committee Assignments

In accordance with City policy and past practice, the City Council reviewed annual committee and board assignments for the 2026 calendar year. Vacant positions resulting from term expirations and proposed assignments were presented for consideration. Councilmembers discussed available positions, proposed changes as needed, and confirmed committee and board appointments to ensure continuity of City operations and effective governance.

E. Adopt Resolution 2026-01 Emergency Well #3

In accordance with RCW 39.04.280, the City Council considered declaring an emergency related to the City's water system. Well #3 was taken offline due to excessive vibration, and inspection determined a likely failure of a spider bushing requiring the pump and motor to be pulled for repair. With Well #7 already down for repairs and Well #5 temporarily offline for valve and meter replacement, the City's water supply backup was limited. Staff recommended declaring an emergency to expedite repairs without competitive bidding delays. The Council adopted Resolution No. 2026-01 declaring an emergency and dispensing with statutory bidding requirements, with costs to be funded from the Water Fund.

Motion to adopt the Resolution 2026-01 declaring an emergency and dispensing with the statutory bidding requirements.

Moved by: Chris Dorow
Seconded by: Kelli Camp

F. **Appoint Spencer Williams as Interim City Administrator**

Following the termination of the former City Administrator, the City Council considered the appointment of an Interim City Administrator to ensure continuity of City operations during the recruitment process for a permanent administrator. Finance Officer, Spencer Williams was appointed to assume the duties and responsibilities of the City Administrator on an interim basis. The interim appointment is temporary and will remain in effect until a permanent City Administrator is appointed or further action is taken by the Mayor and City Council. The Interim City Administrator will receive the salary authorized in the City budget.

Motion to call question.

Moved by: Chris Dorow
Seconded by: Angel Garza

Motion Carries

Move to appoint Spencer Williams as the Interim City Administrator until permanently filled.

Moved by: Chris Dorow
Seconded by: Angel Garza

Yea	Angel Garza, Alma Carmona, Chris Dorow, Ken Johnson, Darryl Barnes, and Mark Snyder
Nay	Kelli Camp and Marc Spohr

Motion Carries 6-2

G. **Recruitment Process to Fill Vacancy for City Administrator**

The City Council reviewed the proposed recruitment and selection process for filling the vacant City Administrator position to ensure transparency and Council involvement, as required by municipal code. The process includes authorization to recruit, review and posting of the position, application and screening of candidates, interviews, final selection by the Mayor, and City Council confirmation. Funding for the position is included in the adopted City budget. The Council provided direction and feedback on the proposed recruitment process.

Motion to authorize staff the initiation of the recruitment process for the City Administrator position.

Moved by: Kelli Camp
Seconded by: Mark Snyder

Motion Carries

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Dorow question about fire department report.

Robin Adolphsen, City Engineer/Public Works Director updates on PW issues.

Councilman Garza question about Sand Hill project.

Councilman Dorow question about AWC Conference on Jan 21-22.

Councilman Spohr gives a short introduction on himself.

Councilwoman Carmona inquires about more marketing/social media from the City.

Mayor Johnson read a proclamation for Nurse Anesthetists' Week.

7. COUNCIL WILL ALSO RECEIVE

- A. Fire Dept Report - Dec
- B. Building & Planning Report - December
- C. Finance Report

Adjourned at 7:27pm.

By: Ken Johnson
Ken Johnson (Jan 29, 2026 10:37:44 PST)

Ken Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: Tania Morelos

Tania Morelos, City Clerk

2026.01.12

Final Audit Report

2026-01-29

Created:	2026-01-29
By:	Tania Morelos (tmorelos@othellowa.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAZFvqx8n-O6MiO11YbgS-vXdqQZS4qx0i

"2026.01.12" History

-  Document created by Tania Morelos (tmorelos@othellowa.gov)
2026-01-29 - 6:04:30 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Ken Johnson (kjohnson@othellowa.gov) for signature
2026-01-29 - 6:04:35 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Ken Johnson (kjohnson@othellowa.gov)
2026-01-29 - 6:27:45 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Ken Johnson (kjohnson@othellowa.gov)
Signature Date: 2026-01-29 - 6:37:44 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2026-01-29 - 6:37:44 PM GMT