

**City of Othello
City Council Workshop
August 05, 2013**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

Present:

Mayor Tim Wilson

Councilmembers:

Kenneth Johnson

Ken Caylor

Dan Dever

Genna Dorow

Eugene Bain

Mark Snyder

Staff:

Public Works Director Terry Clements

Finance Officer Spencer Williams

Police Chief Steven Dunnagan

Interim City Clerk Nacelle Heuslein

City Engineer Larry Julius

Absent:

Charles Garcia

MOTION: Council carried a motion for the excused absence of Councilmember Charles Garcia. M/S Bain/Dorow

2. CURRENT BUSINESS

2.01Presentation by AWC

Victoria Lincoln, AWC's Government Relations Advocate and Lobbyist provided information to the Council regarding the many services the Association of Washington Cities offers. The association advocates on behalf of the state's 281 cities. It provides educational offerings as well as networking opportunities. They offer a Worker's Compensation Retrospective Rating Program, a Drug & Alcohol Consortium in addition to the Employee Benefit Trust providing an array of medical, dental, vision, life and long-term disability insurance, long-term care and an employee assistance program to 230 municipalities.

The association works closely with the Governors' Office and helps educate Legislators on those issues affecting cities. They tract all state agencies and develop partnerships with other organizations similar to AWC. They hold an annual conference; have regional meetings and action conferences talking about specific issues of the day.

2.02 Presentation by Lobbyist

Scott Cave, Olympia lobbyist stated his first and foremost job is to establish and maintain working relationships with the Governor's Office and members of the State Legislature including applicable Committees to advocate the City's position and advance its legislative agenda. He is familiar with capital budgets and would actively represent the City with the Legislature, Governor and local legislators working closely with the City to monitor, identify, analyze and prioritize legislation of benefit to the City. He has worked with consultants on projects including our City Engineer Larry Julius. Mr. Coves' fee structure could be on an hourly basis or a monthly retainer. He is interested in helping the City develop a strategy to seek Federal Funding for projects as well.

2.03 Camera Demo for Police Cars

Chief Dunnagan provided a demo of the cameras in the City's Police cars showing their effectiveness in aiding Othello's Police Officers. Based on the usefulness and the many benefits of having camera systems in the city police cars, the council approved the purchase of the camera system. Using these cameras is also a proactive risk management tool as well.

2.04 Consideration of Legal Review of the Othello Municipal Code by Code Publishing

Interim City Clerk Heuslein provided information and concerns about the Othello Municipal Code. Code Publishing Company, the city's codifier will provide a legal review applying principles of statutory construction and applicable common law for every state. The review will encompass state and federal constitutional questions, case law conflicts and court interpretations. The code is scrutinized for vagueness, fair notice to citizens, free speech infringement, danger of selective enforcement and equal protection in view of fundamental rights. The Code Publishing attorney will review all sections of the code for consistency, archaic language and internal conflicts, as well as to ensure accurate references to state statutes. The review also identifies conflicting, duplicative or out-of-date fees, fines and penalty provisions.

The city will receive a detailed written report, including a thorough analysis and basis for amending or revising ordinances as necessary. This is a \$2,500 cost from the Professional Services line item. This item was presented to the staff on July 30, 2013 and it was the conclusion of those in attendance this would be an important undertaking.

CONCURRENCE: **Council concurred this item be placed on the August 12, 2013 Council agenda for consideration.**

2.05 Consideration of Linking Ordinances to PDF's in Ordinance Table of the OMC

Interim City Clerk Heuslein stated at the end of the Othello Municipal Code an Ordinance list entitled Ordinance Table appears at the back of the code describing how it affects the code with links to the chapters. If one wants to see the actual ordinance, it is *necessary to either go to the city's website & search the year and ordinance number or for staff to actually search for the paper copy in the vault.*

The city has used a consistent file naming convention. This would allow Code Publishing to provide links to the PDF versions of the ordinances residing in their offices without a lot of conversion issues. To provide the original links CPC charges \$75 per hour and estimates three (3) hours or less. The fee to host these ordinances is \$75 per year. As the city adopts ordinances they will be linked as well. The cost for the first year would be \$225 or less. Providing this feature would assist the public, department directors and city attorney.

This item was presented at the staff meeting on July 30, 2013 and there was concurrence this service would be beneficial.

CONCURRENCE: **Council concurred this item be placed on the August 12, 2013 Council agenda for consideration.**

2.06 Well #5 Failure on 7-28-2013

Public Works Director Terry Clements stated on Sunday, July 28, 2013, it was noticed that well #5's production levels had dropped to about half. There were also concerns regarding noises coming from the motor. Due to the urgency of the issue and the fact the motor is under warranty with Schneider Equipment, the decision was made at Public Works, to contact Schneider Equipment to come and investigate the situation. Schneider was contacted on Sunday and they were able to adjust their schedule and showed up on Monday. They have the pump pulled out of the well and will be working on making repairs, as well as determining the cause of the failure.

The motor is under warranty, but there will be costs associated with renting the crane, pulling the column, disassembling it, making any repairs, re-assembling it and putting the motor back on. Those costs are not under warranty. Staff will try and cover costs out of operations and if we are unable to do so, then the issue will be brought back to council to request emergency funds to cover the expenses.

Public Works Director Clements asked the Council to consider this an emergency event with it possibly taking additional funds to repair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Caylor provided an update on the recharge issues with the aquifers. There are two or three pilot programs and Othello is on the list. The Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Area continues to work closely with the Department of Ecology and municipalities. Department of Ecology has had this matter on the books for a number of years and has the backing of GWMA. The city may not be out of any dollars at all and on the leading edge. GWMA will come to council and provide additional information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Ken Caylor commented he had received several complaints regarding the site problems at Wal-Mart and wondered if we talk with Wal-Mart or just trim back the trees.

Councilmember Caylor also stated he had received several complaints about 7th & Scootney. Since the city extended the parking lane, citizens are assuming this is a right hand turn lane. He suggested backing up the parking lane and leaving two lanes, one for making a right turn.

Councilmember Mark Snyder commented two lanes turn into one lane on 1st Avenue and there is no signage to indicate this.

Mayor's Announcements:

Mayor Wilson stated tomorrow the city will be hosting a meet & greet for the City Administrator finalists. This is open to the public from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

City of Othello
City Council Workshop
August 05, 2013

Additionally, the committee and staff will be conducting interviews on Wednesday for the city administrator. He requested Councilmembers to be in the Council Chambers by 8:15 a.m. for a meeting with Greg Prothman prior to the interviews.

Mayor Wilson read the following letter from Washington Babe Ruth Softball into the minutes:

Dear Mayor Wilson,

I am writing to thank you for the hospitality shown teams from around the state at the recently completed Washington Babe Ruth Softball Tourney.

I had last been in Othello in 2004, when I attended a regional softball tourney there. I found this year a comfortable return. Broad, clean streets, a beautiful Lions Park that had changed little over the years, friendly and efficient city employees who were responsible for preparing the fields each day, and folks in the community who are among the most welcoming I've seen. Even the weather dipped down into the 80's so a resident of the Olympic Peninsula could find it tolerable.

Special credit should be given to Pete Guzman and Chasity Krebs, who managed the tournament and brought team to Othello to enjoy the ball and spend their money. I hope Othello realized the benefit of their work, as I know I left a few dollars behind in the local economy.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

*Jim Lunt
Washington Babe Ruth Softball Commissioner*

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Mayor Wilson adjourned the workshop at 8:18 p.m.

By: _____
TIM WILSON, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: _____
NACELLE J. HEUSLEIN, Interim City Clerk