



## Regular City Council Meeting

Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Council Chambers

### 1. OPENING ITEMS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Invocation
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Public Input  
Jake Mendez- concerns about pedestrian safety
- E. Roll Call

#### City Council:

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

#### Administrative Staff:

Spencer Williams, Finance Officer/Interim Administrator  
Tania Morelos, City Clerk  
Aaron Garza, Police Chief  
Robin Adolphsen, City Engineer/Public Works Engineer  
Anne Henning, Community Development Director  
Sarah Montemayor, Grant Administrator  
Valerie Hernandez, Park & Recreation Coordinator

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved by: Angel Garza; seconded by: Chris Dorow

**Yea:** Angel Garza, Kelli Camp, Marc Spohr, Alma Carmona, Chris Dorow, Darryl Barnes, and Mark Snyder

**Motion Carries 7-0**

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

**Yea:** Angel Garza, Kelli Camp, Marc Spohr, Alma Carmona, Chris Dorow, Darryl Barnes, and Mark Snyder

**Motion Carries 7-0**

- A. Approve City Council Minutes for March 9, 2026

[2026.03.09.Draft.pdf](#) 

- 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. 63122 through Check No. 63185 in the amount of \$346,519.50.

- C. Adopt Resolution 2026-01 Declaring Surplus- IT

[2026.03.23.SurplusAgendaMemo.pdf](#)  [2026.01.Resolution.Declaring.Surplus.pdf](#)



4. **CURRENT BUSINESS**

- A. 20 Year Employee Recognition for Chief of Police, Aaron Garza

Mayor Johnson presented a 20-year service recognition award to Police Chief Aaron Garza for his dedicated service to the City of Othello.

- B. End of Session Presentation and Report by Emily Shay

[City of Othello End of Session Presentation.pptx](#)  [2026 Bills Impacting Cities..pdf](#)

 [2026 GTH Gov Budget Overview.pdf](#)  [AWC Budget Matrix 2026 Supplemental](#)

[Budget.pdf](#)  [City of Othello. EOS Report..pdf](#) 

Emily Shay, the City's lobbyist, provided a presentation on the 2026 legislative session. She gave an overview of the 2025–2027 biennial state budgets, noting increases in operating, transportation, and capital funding. The presentation also covered key outcomes of the session, Othello's legislative priorities, and additional

issues impacting the City. She concluded with next steps and opened the floor for questions.

- C. Approve Facility Use Agreement between City of Othello and One Othello & the Multicultural Association Service for 2026 Cinco de Mayo Celebration

[2026.05.02.CincodeMayoCelebration.AGENDA.pdf](#) 

[2026.05.02.CincoDeMayo.FacilityUse.pdf](#) 

Council considered a request from One Othello and the Multicultural Association to use Lions Park for a Cinco de Mayo celebration and parade on May 2, 2026. The event will include a parade at 9:00 a.m. (in coordination with the Little League parade) and a park celebration beginning at noon, featuring vendors, entertainment, and family activities. Setup will occur the day prior, with cleanup concluding at 9:00 p.m. Public Works will provide staffing for facility upkeep during the event. Parks & Recreation will also host Little League Opening Day the same day, with coordinated activities between both events. Council approved the request.

Motion to approve the Facility Use Agreement authorizing the use of city property between the City of Othello and One Othello & the Multicultural Association Service for the Cinco de Mayo celebration on Saturday, May 2, 2026.

Moved by: Chris Dorow; seconded by: Angel Garza

**Yea:** Angel Garza, Kelli Camp, Marc Spohr, Chris Dorow, Darryl Barnes, and Mark Snyder

**Abstain:** Alma Carmona

**Motion Carries 6-0**

- D. Approve Facility Use Agreement between City of Othello and Othello Holiday Committee for 2026 Easter Egg Hunt

[2026.04.04.HolidayCommittee.EggHunt.AGENDA.pdf](#) 

[2026.04.04.HolidayCommittee.EggHuntFacilityUse.pdf](#) 

Council considered a request from the Othello Holiday Committee to use the Lions Park Complex for their annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 4, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The family-friendly event is expected to draw approximately 500 attendees and will include bounce houses, food vendors, and a prize market. Setup will occur the day prior, with cleanup immediately following the event. The Committee will provide staff and volunteers to manage the event. Council approved the request.



Motion to approve the Facility Use Agreement authorizing the use of city property between the City of Othello and The Holiday Committee for an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 04, 2026.

Moved by: Alma Carmona; seconded by: Chris Dorow

**Yea:** Angel Garza, Kelli Camp, Marc Spohr, Alma Carmona, Chris Dorow, Darryl Barnes, and Mark Snyder

**Motion Carries 7-0**

- E. Fire Department Services Presentation by Tom Salsbury, ACFD #5 Fire Chief  
Tom Salsbury, Fire Chief of ACFD #5, presented to the Council on the department’s responsibilities and services provided to the City of Othello and Adams County, and outlined both short-term and long-term goals in response to the city and county’s growth.
- F. USDOT SS4A 2025 Grant Acceptance

[Agenda Memo - USDOT SS4A 2025 Grant Acceptance.pdf](#)  [SS4A FY25 Planning and Demonstration Funds Awarded City of Othello, WA.pdf](#) 

Council considered acceptance of the USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) FY2025 Planning and Demonstration Grant, awarded to the City of Othello in the amount of \$120,000 for the “Safe Streets Othello: Action Plan for Equitable and Connected Growth” project. The total project cost is \$150,000, including a \$30,000 local match to be funded with Street Funds. Staff noted that funds cannot be expended until the grant agreement with USDOT is fully executed and requested authorization for the Mayor to sign the agreement upon receipt and finalization. Council approved the grant acceptance and authorized the Mayor to execute the agreement.

Motion to approve the acceptance of the USDOT SS4A FY2025 Planning and Demonstration Grant and authorization for the Mayor to sign the grant agreement with USDOT upon receipt.

Moved by: Kelli Camp; seconded by: Mark Snyder

**Yea:** Angel Garza, Kelli Camp, Marc Spohr, Alma Carmona, Chris Dorow, Darryl Barnes, and Mark Snyder

**Motion Carries 7-0**

- G. Kiwanis Park Spray Park, Lighting & Walking Trails Increase

[Agenda Memo - Kiwanis Park Spray Park Lighting & Walking Trails Cost Increase.pdf](#)  
 [Attachement Kiwanis Park Splash Pad Amendment.pdf](#) 

Council considered a request for additional funding for the RCO LWCF Project #22-1644 – Kiwanis Park Spray Park, Lighting, and Walking Trails. Staff reported that increased construction and material costs, along with the previously approved Mega Soaker feature, have created a funding gap. Despite implemented cost-saving measures, the current budget is insufficient to complete the project as designed. An additional \$35,321.02 in City funds is required to proceed with final design and bid preparation. Council approved the additional funding and authorized staff to proceed with final design and bid documents.

Motion to approve additional funding for the Kiwanis Park Spray Park, Lighting, and Walking Trails Project and authorize staff to proceed with final design and bid preparation.

Moved by: Chris Dorow; seconded by: Angel Garza

**Yea:** Angel Garza, Kelli Camp, Alma Carmona, Chris Dorow, Darryl Barnes, and Mark Snyder

**Nay:** Marc Spohr

**Motion Carries 6-1**

H. Kiwanis Park Playground & Parking Renovation

[Agenda Memo - Kiwanis Park Playground & Parking Renovation.pdf](#)  [Kiwanis Park Playground LWCF Development Site Plan 021126.pdf](#) 

The City Council approved accepting grant funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for the Kiwanis Park Playground and Parking Renovation Project, including \$625,000 from the LWCF grant, \$500,000 from the WWRP grant, and a \$125,000 City match. With both grants now awarded, the full project scope can proceed. The Council authorized the Mayor to sign the grant agreements upon receipt.

Motion to accept grant funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for the Kiwanis Park Playground and Parking Renovation Project and authorize the Mayor to sign the grant agreements upon receipt.

Moved by: Chris Dorow; seconded by: Alma Carmona

**Yea:** Angel Garza, Kelli Camp, Marc Spohr, Alma Carmona, Chris Dorow, Darryl Barnes, and Mark Snyder

**Motion Carries 7-0**

I. RCO Grants Application Approval & Adopt Resolution 2026-2

[Agenda Memo - Resolution YAF, WWRP Taggares Park.pdf](#)  [2026.02.Resolution.RCO.Applicant.Authorization.pdf](#) 

The City Council approved Resolution #2026-02 authorizing the City of Othello to apply for grant funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for improvements at Taggares Park, including the YAF Project #26-1466 Soccer Complex Enhancements (\$350,000 grant request with \$35,000 City match) and WWRP Project #26-1551 Community Playground (\$500,000 grant request with \$50,000 City match). The projects will provide field lighting, a scoreboard, bleachers, and other amenities for the soccer complex, as well as a new playground to replace the previous unsafe structure.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-02 authorizing the City of Othello to apply for RCO grant funding for YAF Project #26-1466 and WWRP Project #26-1551.

Moved by: Chris Dorow; seconded by: Alma Carmona

**Yea:** Angel Garza, Kelli Camp, Alma Carmona, Chris Dorow, Darryl Barnes, and Mark Snyder

**Nay:** Marc Spohr

**Motion Carries 6-1**

J. Grants Update

[Agenda Memo - Grant Status Report.pdf](#)  [2026.03.23 - Grant Status Report.pdf](#) 

Sarah Montemayor, Grant Administrator provided an informational update on current grant activities, including awarded grants, active projects, and pending applications, as summarized in the Grant Status Report.

K. Introduction to Amending Sections of Chapter 17 of Othello Municipal Code to Prohibit the Sale and Distribution of 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) Products

[Agenda.Memo.Restrict.7OH.pdf](#) 

Aaron Garza, Chief of Police provided an informational issue regarding kratom products being sold within the City of Othello, highlighting the substance's psychoactive effects, potential for abuse, health risks, and lack of federal or state regulation. While kratom may have some harm-reduction potential, its unregulated sale poses a public health concern, particularly for youth and vulnerable populations. Staff recommended that Council consider restricting the sale of kratom in the City . Council directed staff to draft a proposed ordinance amendment to prohibit the sale and distribution of 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) Products.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Johnson gives an update on the City Administrator application review and interview process.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

Councilmember Spohr asks for an update on the pool study.

Councilmember Camp asks if staff could put a message out about autopay for utility billing.

**7. COUNCIL WILL ALSO RECEIVE**

A. Comprehensive Plan Update

[Comp Plan Update.2026.03.23.pdf](#) 

B. Planning Commission Minutes

[2026.2.17.Minutes.SIGNED.pdf](#)  [2026.3.2.Special.Meeting.Minutes.SIGNED.pdf](#) 

Adjourned at 7:26 pm.

By: Ken Johnson  
Ken Johnson (Apr 14, 2026 12:33:33 PDT)  
Ken Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: Tania Morelos  
Tania Morelos, City Clerk

# 2026.03.23.Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-04-14

Created:	2026-04-14
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