

Mayor E R Kelley called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Everett Cole, Eleanor Brodahl, Les Clemons, Leonard Lyon, Donald Derifield, Jeannie Ochoa and Samuel Garza. Also present were: Debra Travis, Debbie Kudrna and Curt Andrews, City Department Heads; and Linda Hugo, Northwest Regional Facilitators.

HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR ENTIRE COUNTY – LINDA HUGO

A housing needs assessment was produced on behalf of Adams County and Linda Hugo, administrator for the office of Northwest Regional Facilitators previewed some information included in the survey. The housing needs assessment was for the entire Adams County, but the information was broken down by cities and unincorporated areas. Her review included population changes; county median age assessment; gender assessment; ethnicity profile; household composition; income catalogs; sources of income; education profile; poverty information; housing units and type; urban/rural statistics; agricultural housing; housing age and condition; occupancy rates infrastructure/public services systems; estimated number of housing units needed and housing market; affordability of home ownership and rental housing comparison; and affordability as an income issue.

Ms. Hugo explained that this data can be used for housing grants to meet identified housing needs in Adams County. Councilmember Ochoa voiced some concerns regarding the accuracy and current status of the energy costs and infrastructure facts included in the assessment. She stated the city has the utility rate statistics from the State that shows Othello's utility rates are not high for Washington State. She also voiced some concern of the survey facts regarding housing needs in Othello.

Y2K REPORT

City Clerk, Debbie Kudrna gave a report regarding the progress of the city's Y2K efforts. This was detailed by what the different departments have prepared for and employee schedules on New Years Eve and weekend. She reported that the city is prepared and can be responsive to developments if needed. She noted that this process has increased the awareness than a focused emergency management plan is necessary for the Othello planning area. City and county staff will attend a meeting on January 19th to begin formalizing the emergency plan. It was reported that the generator for the City Hall/Police Department has been tested and is able to run the necessary equipment in the building to operate.

2000 BUDGET

Finance Officer, Debra Travis reported that good planning efforts and decisions have been made throughout this year regarding budget strategies. Initiative 695 impacted some of the safety factors in the city's budget and accelerated some of the planned rate changes. The city's 2000 budget is in balance, with minor changes made to it recently. She recommended that as early as January, planning and philosophies of upcoming years

begin. She stated that our budget is a tool; it is not a rule, and can be changed if necessary. Ms. Travis noted that there are upcoming I 695 workshops that will be informative. She noted that we haven't been formally informed of use of the State's reserves to replenish the amount lost from I 695. Further discussion on recent minor changes to the proposed budget was held.

Councilmember Ochoa stated that she is discouraged since there hasn't been any significant cost cuts. She noted that the capital expenditures were pushed ahead a year. Mayor Kelley noted that the fire truck purchase will be taken to the vote of citizens. He noted planning is essential for future budgets. Les Clemons commented that the work that the committee and staff did on the budget was appreciated, and the city will have to be careful and operate on the theory that we will not get the lost revenue replenished. Councilmember Lyon agreed with Jeannie's comments, and stated that we will have to discuss how to get the public involved and get them educated for the upcoming needs of the city.

Mayor Kelley asked for consideration of salary increases for the City Administrator, Bill Shaw and Building Official, Curt Andrews. Council agreed to the monthly wage of \$4,458 for Bill Shaw and \$3,600 for Curt Andrews.

Mayor Kelley reported that retreat sessions on the budget philosophies will begin as early as January.

DEVELOPMENT COSTS

Curt Andrews stated that by ordinance, we currently charge \$500.00 for the filing of a plat. He handed out a state review of the land use and subdivision fees. He noted the \$500.00 does not cover the costs, but the city can pay for part of that cost to encourage growth. The major cost to the city is the inspections of infrastructure. It has proven to be in the city's best interest to have continued inspection of the installation of infrastructure, but it's expensive.

It was Council's consensus to increase the major subdivision fee to \$500.00 per plat plus \$50.00 per lot and the developer to pay for the inspector fees. This will be drafted into an ordinance and presented to Council next Monday night.

OTHER BUSINESS

The City Clerk announced that we had received the newest survey by A.W.C. regarding utility fees.

Councilmember Derifield asked that the city's standpipe which is located across the street from Well #6 be monitored more closely. It was noted that it is on the honor system now, but many other ways had been tried at one time or another.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Mayor Kelley adjourned the workshop at 9:08 p.m. and opened a Special Council meeting.

Debbie Kudrna
City Clerk