

CALL TO ORDER Planning Chairman, Larry McCourtie, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. September 19, 2011.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Chairman Larry McCourtie, Co-Chairman Rex Robins, Claire Lackie, Terry Thompson

Absent:

Staff: City Planner, Darryl Piercy and Planning Secretary, Serena Martinez

Quorum established.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 18, 2011 PC MINUTES

Minutes of April 18, 2011 are approved without discussion M/S Lackie/Thompson.

REVIEW OF DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Darryl Piercy handed out the 1995 Comprehensive plan that is currently in effect. Changes in the Comprehensive plan process were discussed. It was decided that all recommendations would not be forwarded to the City Council for another month or so because there was a lot of information to review and compare. Adams County and the Cities within Adams County are not required to plan under the State Growth Management Act. They are referenced but they only provide a basis to be looked upon. It is used as a guide, but it has not been imposed as a requirement. One of the key focuses to the council is how the Land Use plans have shifted in the last 10 years, including the financial documents. The comprehensive plan outlays where it will grow in 20 years of infrastructure, and the preparations for the growth projections will ultimately reflect the budget requirements. Some of the things to look at are how will the city provide for the water capacity and delivery systems or solid waste, storm water control and garbage services. How will the city provide for and meet the requirements that will be set forth on future growth of Othello. The comprehensive plan is linked into the budget process for this exact reason. The comprehensive plan creates a guideline for the developer and has become an important document for the economic development not only for the city but by others. Seven areas the Comprehensive plan looks at are: Land Use, Housing Needs, Utilities, Transportation/Infrastructure, Water System Plan, Economic Development and Parks & Recreation.

Mr. McCourtie inquired on who sets up the template for the Comprehensive plan and is it for commercial areas as well as residential areas. Mr. Piercy explains that Othello is still functioning under a zoning concept that was developed in the 50's to 60's. There have been a couple of meetings mapping out where Othello would grow. With the commercial and residential intertwining, on an economic scale it is hard to make it work, so for now we show the zoning separated.

Mr. Piercy expressed to the Planning Commission members to call him with questions, and that typically comprehensive plans are reviewed at least every five years with some jurisdiction review every year to stay on top of them. Economy as a whole has taken a down turn and Othello is very fortunate to still have the financial and population growth that is has at this time.

Mr. McCourtie inquired about the 3 way stop on 14th street. Mr. Piercy explained that the school district is under construction and are required to go through the SEPA review and platting review. Out of the traffic analysis one of the recommendations was to put in a three way stop to slow down the traffic and provide a safer traffic plan for the school children to get to school. Other discussions were on the parking area and the speed limit on 14th ave. When Columbia street is developed it will alleviate a lot of traffic in that area.

It was decided that the Planning Commission members would receive a copy of the Comp Plan by email except for Larry McCourtie and Terry Thompson. After review of the Comprehensive Plan, an overhaul of the zoning code will be done to make sure it is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. At this time Darryl Piercy asked if anyone would work as a Planning Commission member.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business at hand Vice Chairman Rex Robbins asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting the next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2011 Motion/Seconded Lackie/Robbins. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

By: _____ Date: _____
Serena Martinez, Planning Secretary

NOTE: These are abbreviated minutes that contain all motions and business conducted. These meetings are taped; a complete record of the minutes may be obtained by contacting the Planning Commission Office or a verbatim copy of these minutes can be ordered at the requestor's expense.

