

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting came to order at 6:03 p.m. June 15, 2015.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners: Chairman Terry Thompson, Pat Simmons, Brian Gentry and Roger Ensz  
Staff: City Community Development Director Travis Goddard, City Administrator Wade Farris, Council Member John Lallas and Planning Secretary Trisha Tolley

ABSENT: Mike Bailey

Quorum Established.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Stephen McFadden from Adams County Development Council was present to give a presentation on Economic Development and what it means. He presented a power point with a handout explaining Economic Development according to the International Economic Council. Economic Development in Washington State wide goal is to encourage Economic Development throughout the state that is consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Plans. Economic Development is a key chapter in the Comprehensive Plan because it sets forth the goals and direction for land acquisition and annexation and growth boundaries to infrastructure, whether that is water, waste water, fire, police etc.

A few bullet points Mr. McFadden talked about were business retention, business recruitment, workforce development, small business and entrepreneur startups. Those are the day to day keys to an economic developer.

Mr. McFadden had some exercise questions to help with the new Othello Comprehensive Plan for those who were present. Groups were formed to have an interactive conversation about what the economic chapter of the new Othello Comprehensive Plan would be.

**Exercise #1- What are the top Economic Drivers for Othello?**

Drivers are things that you see as having direct impact on local population growth. Some of the things groups came up with on the list are education, birth rates, water, illegal citizens becoming legal citizens, cost of power, demand for farm labor, lack of shopping, lack of entertainment and restaurants. We have low tax rates which affects revenues. Another thing would be leakage. Money being made in the area and being sent to other places, not being spent here in Othello.

**Exercise #2- What is Othello's Economic Development Vision?**

Diversification, sustainability, bring more retail in. Taking advantage of grants that are available. Planning and studies need to be done. Water management, Land Use, high range jobs, waste management, railways, mid to upper level rental availability.

**Exercise #3- What are Othello's Economic Development Goals?**

The different groups input were as follows: Develop tools to encourage new businesses. Develop a permit system with the least amount of road blocks. Identify what is missing in education of our work force. Prioritizing recreation and entertainment for all. The City and County should be parallel with their Comprehensive Plans. The City of Othello needs to begin looking at who we are and how we want to be conveyed to the rest of the world. Marketing and promotions is an economic development goal.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no other business at hand. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2015.

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Trisha Tolley, Planning Secretary