



Regular City Council Meeting - Jul 27 2026 Minutes

Monday, July 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. OPENING ITEMS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Invocation
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Public Input

Jim Lewis – Jim suggested exploring repairs to the existing community pool. He recommended contacting a concrete repair specialist, Dan Hoskins from BM Group.

Jake Mendez – Jake emphasized the public's First Amendment right to record on public property. He also raised concerns about unsafe operation of e-bikes and encouraged voter participation in the upcoming levy election.

Kenya Luna - Kenya requested that the city repair the nonfunctioning lights at the tennis and pickleball courts in Lions Park.

E. Roll Call

Council:

Alma Carmona	Marc Spohr
Kelli Camp	Mayor Ken Johnson
Chris Dorow	Darryl Barnes (Remote)
Mark Snyder	

Administrative Staff:

Yvonne Torres, Deputy City Clerk	Jaime Mendoza, Assistant Chief of Police
Spencer Williams, Finance Officer	Robin Adolphsen, Public Works Director
Brent McFarlane, Chief of Police	Valerie Hernandez, Parks & Rec Coordinator
Abner Garza, IT Director	

Motion to excuse Councilman Angel Garza

Moved by: Chris Dorow; seconded by: Alma Carmona

Motion Carries 6-0

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved by: Kelli Camp; seconded by: Mark Snyder

Motion Carries 6-0

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.

A. Approve Accounts Payables

Accounts Payable were 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.

Accounts Payable Check No. 63761 to Check No. 63812 in the amount of \$286,356.77

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved by: Chris Dorow; seconded by: Alma Carmona

Motion Carries 6-0

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Swear in of Sergeant Steven Perez

Chief of Police Brent McFarlane introduced Sergeant Steven Perez and read his professional biography. Deputy City Clerk Yvonne Torres administered the oath of office, officially swearing in Sergeant Perez.

B. Swear in of Sergeant Rafael Vargas

Chief of Police Brent McFarlane introduced Rafael Vargas and read his professional biography. Deputy City Clerk Yvonne Torres administered the oath of office, officially swearing in Sergeant Vargas.

C. Recognition of Councilor Camp for AWC Certificate of Municipal Leadership

The city recognized Councilwoman Kelli Camp for earning the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Certificate of Municipal Leadership.

D. Adopt Ordinance 1651 Granting a 10-Year Franchise to NFC Northwest: 2nd Reading

Ordinance No. 1651, a franchise agreement between the City of Othello and NFC Northwest, LLC, was presented for Council consideration. The ordinance had been introduced at the previous meeting and was brought back for final passage. Mayor Johnson called for discussion or comments; none were offered.

Motion was made to approve Ordinance No. 1651, the franchise agreement between the City of Othello and NFC Northwest, LLC.

Moved by: Alma Carmona; seconded by: Kelli Camp

Motion Carries 6-0

E. Approve Facility Use Agreement between City of Othello and Foursquare Church for Tent Revival

Motion to approve the Facility Use Agreement for the Othello Foursquare Church Tent Revival to be held at Lions Park.

Moved by: Kelli Camp; seconded by Alma Carmona

Motion Carries 6-0

Council discussed the proposed facility use agreement, focusing on the City's role and potential recourse if event organizers or participants engage in conduct that reflects negatively on the community but may not violate the law. Concerns were expressed that the agreement lacks language addressing unacceptable behavior and suggested considering provisions that could affect future facility use if an organization permits conduct deemed inconsistent with community expectations. Staff explained that event organizers are responsible for managing their events, participate in pre-event planning and post-event debriefings, and are required to comply with City rules and applicable laws. Councilmembers discussed the challenges of defining and enforcing standards beyond legal requirements, particularly regarding First Amendment protections and the difficulty of policing subjective "gray areas." Several members cautioned against including language that could be interpreted as government regulation of protected speech, while acknowledging that future facility use requests could be evaluated based on an organization's prior event history. No amendments to the agreement were proposed during the discussion, and the motion was approved.

F. Approve Facility Use Agreement between City of Othello and Nuestras Raices for Back to School Resource Fair

Motion to approve the Facility Use Agreement for Nuestras Raices Resource Fair to be held at Pioneer Park.

Moved by: Kelli Camp; seconded by Alma Carmona

Motion Carries 6-0

G. **Approve Facility Use Agreement between City of Othello and Chamber of Othello for Back to School Movie Night**

Approve the Facility Use Agreement for the Othello Chamber Back to School Movie Night at Kiwanis Park.

Moved by: Kelli Camp; seconded by Mark Snyder

Motion Carries 6-0

H. **Approve Facility Use Agreement between City of Othello and Chamber of Othello for Fall Festival**

Approve the Facility Use Agreement for the Othello Chamber Fall Festival at Kiwanis Park.

Moved by: Mark Snyder; seconded by Kelli Camp

Motion Carries 6-0

I. **Award Animal Shelter Project**

Bids were opened on July 23. The apparent low bid of \$68,652.90 from Cortez Fencing LLC was submitted approximately 20 minutes after the deadline. Because the bids were not required to be sealed, the city may accept the late bid. The second bid was \$101,897.35. Both contractors were determined to be qualified and in good standing with the appropriate state agencies.

Robin Adolphsen, Public Works Director, noted the engineer's estimate for the fencing work was \$112,000, making the low bid significantly below estimate. The original project budget is \$340,000, with remaining funds available for utility connections and additional shelter improvements.

Staff recommended awarding the fencing project to Cortez Fencing LLC in the amount of \$68,652.90.

Moved by: Chris Dorow; seconded by Alma Carmona

Councilman Mark Spohr requested additional information on the scope and location of the new animal shelter project. Staff explained that the city purchased 77 acres on Lee Road, with approximately three acres designated for the animal shelter and future expansion, including the potential for a dog park. The initial shelter will occupy one acre of the site.

Following discussion, the motion to award the fencing contract was approved by a unanimous vote.

Motion Carries 6-0

J. **Review and Discuss the Proposed Draft Ordinance Regulating the Operation of E-bikes**

Chief Brent McFarlane presented a draft e-bike ordinance for Council review and discussion, noting it was developed after reviewing ordinances from jurisdictions across Washington with the goal of creating regulations that are clear, practical, and enforceable.

Council expressed support for the proposed classifications and definitions, noting the ordinance appeared straightforward and enforceable. Chief McFarlane indicated additional research is needed and be bringing the ordinance back for further Council review.

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Council members addressed Robin, Public Work Director, on several lights not working appropriately. Robin informed council that she would address these and get them reset. Robin also informed council that they were free to call her and make her aware of these types of issues when they come up.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Ken Johnson congratulated Othello Little League.

Adjourned at 7:37p.m.

By: *Ken Johnson*
Ken Johnson (Aug 12, 2026 08:07:34 PDT)

Ken Johnson, Mayor

Attest:

By: *Yvonne Torres*
Yvonne Torres (Aug 19, 2026 12:27:46 PDT)

Yvonne Torres, Deputy City Clerk