

COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2025 – 9:30 am

Those present were:

Commissioner Gary Weaver

Commissioner Deena Vietzke

Commissioner Homer Montemayor

Executive Director Chris Faix

Executive Assistant Carmon Derting

GUEST: Mayor Logan, City of Othello

Called to order at 9:22 am.

G. Weaver made a motion to approve the agenda; H. Montemayor seconded; the motion passed.

H. Montemayor made a motion to approve the minutes G. Weaver seconded; the motion passed.

G. Weaver made a motion to approve the vouchers with questions and explanation of the Straight A and Precision Engineering invoice; H. Montemayor seconded; motion passed.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

The Port Commissioners asked about 17/Cunningham roundabout, but the County Commissioners do not know more than the Port does. The Port Commissioners updated the County Commissioners on the Water Tower Project and the CIP work at the Airport. The Ritzville Broadband just got the final permit but is still waiting on permitting from Othello.

CITY OF OTHELLO

A discussion was started about the 26/Reynolds intersection. The City applied for a grant for a traffic study for 26/Reynolds intersection, but did not receive it. Commerce did not have the money at the time, but once it opens again, they will resubmit the grant request. Mayor Logan suggested that we wait and see if that happens. Mayor Logan asked what the plans for the property are. The next project on that land is to bury the canal, but we are waiting for the information from the Irrigation District before ordering the piping. The Port is looking to do both commercial and residential. The Mayor suggested making the land as close to shovel ready as possible which means we could sell it for more. There was confirmation of a sleeve that ends at Columbia. Natural drainage would be best and that would be located on the west end of the land. The Port can investigate grant money or Congressional money to gain more money needed to do what we want to do. It was also suggested we investigate a person who could directly Lobby for the money. The Mayor suggested we get a copy of the Capital Budget coming out this week. The next 5 years are critical for development for the Othello/Bruce area. Mayor Logan gave a good overview of the City of Othello and what is needed to work on drawing people to town and to help build our "story." The average age of the population is 24, we need 1400 houses and 88% Hispanic. The Mayor mentioned using the data that ACDC and the City of Othello has. The Port should always be looking for more property. The City of Othello is mostly Ag related and frozen storage businesses. ACDC is working on/with CEDS and the Port and City need to be involved with the information with that. We need a 5-year strategic plan. Mayor Logan suggested we reach out to CERB about the intersection and the land development for Reynolds and try to get a planning grant for the traffic study. John Culton is a recommended Lobbyist. There may be some land available along Lee road, the water is located 1 mile away from it. The Mayor would like to have more regular meetings with the Port. The Mayor excused himself from the meeting.

The Commissioners discussed going forward with a special workshop meeting.

AIRPORT

C. Faix showed the Commissioners the preliminary quote for the Pilot's Lounge. This quote confirmed that the project needs specifications and will need to go out to bid.

H. Montemayor asked if people are still looking for hangars. The answer was yes. There was a suggestion of building a 5th hangar, but there is a problem of having water storage that is required by the County. There was an idea of purchasing Conner's hangar due to the preliminary quote to turn Building 1, Hangar 1 into a Pilot's Lounge and there would be the ability to do more. C. Faix will speak with Mr. Conner.

FAA has signed off on the Tie down project. We also have done the closeout and will receive the final \$31,000 owed to us.

K&L has turned our claim into their insurance. The Port expects reimbursement to plant seed (disc and plow), adding charcoal, and the money from the sterilization that should not have happened, soil tests and any additional mowing needed before it can be planted.

BRUCE

The Water Tower Project is still moving forward. There is some additional water testing needed.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The downstairs toilet overflowed again. The contractor and plumber have been contacted. It has been suggested to send a camera down.

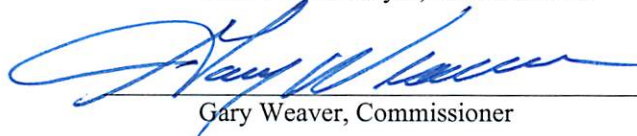
OTHER

With no further business coming before the Port of Othello Commissioners, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 am.

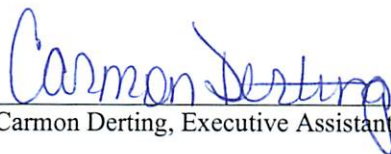
Deena Vietzke, Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Montemayor", written over a horizontal line.

Homer Montemayor, Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Weaver", written over a horizontal line.

Gary Weaver, Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carmon Derting", written over a horizontal line.

Carmon Derting, Executive Assistant