

March 13, 2017

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, March 13, 2017, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Dennis Dawes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Daryl Lund, Dr. Isaac Pope, Bob Spahr, and Chad Taylor. Tony Ketchum was absent (excused). Staff present included: Jill Anderson, City Manager; Ken Cardinale, Fire Chief; David Fleckenstein, Airport Manager; Caryn Foley, City Clerk; Melody Guenther, Court Administrator; Trent Loughheed, Community Development Director; Dale McBeth, Municipal Court Judge; Judy Pectol, Finance Manager; Rick Sahlin, Public Works Director; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Judy Schave, Human Resources/Risk Manager; Mark Scheibmeir, Assistant City Attorney; Don Schmitt, Street Superintendent; and Dave Vasilauskas, Water Superintendent. Members of the media included Justyna Tomtas from *The Chronicle*.

1. Swearing In of Abraham Meyer as Firefighter and Derrick Paul as Fire Captain. New Firefighter Abraham Meyer and newly promoted Fire Captain Derrick Paul were sworn into their new positions by Municipal Court Judge Dale McBeth. Family members and fellow firefighters were on hand for the event. Mayor Dawes congratulated Firefighter Meyer and Captain Paul.

2. Chamber Update. Alicia Bull updated the council on happenings at the chamber. She thanked the council for their dedication to the chamber by allocating lodging tax revenue for the visitor center at the chamber. The money is used to have the chamber open on Saturdays; 25% of the facility is set up for tourism promotion materials; and an 800 telephone number is available for out-of-area callers interested in visiting our area. The chamber keeps track of all calls, along with visitors to the chamber. The chamber provides a relocation guide, the chamber directory, and all sorts of information about the community. The chamber promotes the Choose Local First campaign with radio spots. Ms. Bull distributed the new chamber directory and pointed out the new insert, which included recognition of businesses that support the chamber. The city is listed as a platinum sponsor, which includes recognition and promotion of Chehalis events on the chamber's electronic reader board. The insert includes a calendar of chamber-sponsored events, including many in the Chehalis. One of the events is the Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic (STP), and Ms. Bull indicated that they are really trying to "beef up" the STP within the city of Chehalis, including a celebration at Penny Playground last year. The chamber takes care of private housing, luggage, and the food for the one-day riders. They want people to enjoy the space so visitors will want to come back. She stated all of those events are on top of the activities funded by lodging tax. She stated these events are important and the chamber wants to support the city and businesses as best they can.

Mayor Dawes stated there was a recent Senate bill, that died, that would have had an impact on the Chehalis Wedding Show and the city's ability to fund that event, which hoteliers have identified as one of the biggest things that brings people in. The Wedding Show itself may not bring in many visitors, but the resulting weddings do.

Ms. Bull stated she and Chamber president Todd Chaput discussed that, and they definitely want to see the money stay at the local level. She stated they were happy to see the bill go that way and they will continue to stay involved. She stated the chamber's goal is to get people here and help them stay longer, spend more money, and want to come back. When the chamber talks tourism they look at how the communities can be sold together to get people here. They also worry about workforce and education – making sure our schools are strong. She reiterated how much the chamber appreciates the long-term lease the city has given the chamber for the property where the chamber is located. They value the relationship with the city and want to see that relationship grow.

Councilor Pope shared the history of housing in private homes for the STP. The grange had a big convention here and they needed housing. At the same time an effort was underway to have a performing arts center here. That group developed the private housing for the grange convention and from there, he and his wife set it up for the STP. He stated they had riders stay with them each year and even though they don't ride anymore, they still come and stay with them each year, which is really nice. Ms. Bull stated they also see that; people have formed long-term relationships and friendships.

Councilor Lund thanked Ms. Bull for the great job she's done for the chamber, and as a member he appreciates the information that gets out to the members. Ms. Bull stated they have a lot going on and now have four employees.

Councilor Lund asked Ms. Bull to tell the council about the upcoming fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club facility that is under construction. Ms. Bull stated that *Brews, Brats and Wine – First Pitch* will be held March 25 at 4:00 p.m. at the Pacific Athletic Center. Tickets are available on-line or through her.

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Mayor Dawes agreed that bringing people into the area requires cooperation, not amongst the chamber and the city, but amongst all groups. We need to recognize that the competition is not amongst us in Lewis County. The competition is amongst those around us that want the same things that we do. We've got to learn that there is enough for all of us, so let's be supportive of each other. Ms. Bull concurred and stated what's good for one community is good for all of us.

3. **Consent Calendar.** Councilor Spahr moved to approve the consent calendar comprised of the following:

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of February 27, 2017;
- b. February 28, 2017 Claim Vouchers No. 118407 – 118515 in the amount of \$204,125.25; and February 28, 2017, Payroll Vouchers No. 39403 – 39443, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 7998 – 8094, and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 169 in the amount of \$726,322.84;
- c. Approve bids for rock, gravel, and asphalt;
- d. Approve engineering services contract with RB Engineering in the amount of \$19,100 for fill and grade of Tract 5A at the Airport;
- e. Approve final acceptance of Salzer Creek Bridge Scour Project and authorize release of retainage in the amount of \$14,951.01 to JamesCo Pro, Inc., after statutory requirements are met;
- f. Approve final acceptance of National Avenue TIB Arterial Preservation Project and authorize release of retainage in the amount of \$16,037.45 to Granite Construction Company after all statutory requirements are met;
- g. Approve amendment No. 4 in the amount of \$35,500 to the professional services agreement with Parametrix, Inc., for SCADA services; and
- h. Authorize City Manager to sign the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Interlocal Agreement for Study, Analysis, and Implementation of Flood Hazard Reduction Solutions in the Basin.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund.

Councilor Spahr noted the National Avenue TIB Arterial Project came in about \$45,000 under bid. With regard to the High Level Reservoir Project, he asked why the original estimate did not foresee the needed SCADA services? Water Superintendent Dave Vasilauskas stated that when they went to bid for the project they did not know the magnitude of what needed to be upgraded, and the radio frequency needed to be changed. Not knowing all of that, they had to wait until all engineering was done and then implement what was needed.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Councilor Reports/Committee Updates.**

a. **Councilor Lund.** Councilor Lund attended a fair commission meeting and the Pope's Kids Place Gala, which was a wonderful event.

b. **Councilor Spahr.** Councilor Spahr attended the EDC board meeting and also Pope's Gala.

c. **Councilor Harris.** Councilor Harris attended the CCRT meeting. He was also busy relating to the Senate bill on lodging tax that Mayor Dawes mentioned earlier in the meeting. It appears that some places in the state are using the funds incorrectly and so we're all having to pay the price. He wished common sense would prevail and that they would realize that communities know what is best for them. The reporting requirements that were in the bill were unattainable. They were asking for exact information about how many heads were put into beds for every single program and that is just not possible. Councilor Harris is now the chair of the Chehalis Basin Partnership. They have lots going on and he wants to look at the 100% consensus

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requirement that the organization has to deal with. He stated that when you have 20 to 25 members, and the only way you can get anything done is if not a single person says no, you are handcuffed.

With regard to the lodging tax bill, Mayor Dawes agreed that somewhere, someone is upset over the way funds are being spent, so rather than address that particular group, they take the first grade approach and punish everybody.

d. **Mayor Dawes.** Mayor Dawes attended the Mayors' meeting where they discussed the Corps of Engineers and our community being in the Seattle district. He suggested that a letter be drafted to be signed by all mayors and Lewis County commissioners asking that we be put back under Portland's district. A letter was also sent to Senator Braun regarding the lodging tax bill. He suggested that if there are concerns from the hoteliers maybe they need to be the ones that take over the sponsoring of events and manage them because that's what we're trying to do to bring visitors in. A letter also went out to maintain the staffing at the Centralia Amtrak station. They will keep it staffed until the end of this year and it looks fairly promising to keep it staffed the following year, too.

5. **Executive Session.** At 5:42 p.m., Mayor Dawes announced the council would be in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c) – Sale/Lease of Real Estate; RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) – Litigation/Potential Litigation; and RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) – Collective Bargaining not to exceed 60 minutes and there would be no decisions following conclusion of the executive session. The regular meeting was reopened at 6:43 p.m. and the Mayor announced the council would be in executive an additional 20 minutes. He again reopened the regular meeting at 7:02 p.m. and announced the council would be in executive session an additional 30 minutes. Mayor Dawes closed the executive session at 7:19 p.m. and there being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was immediately adjourned.

Dennis L. Dawes, Mayor

Attest:

Caryn Foley, City Clerk

Approved:

Initials: cf