

November 27, 2017

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, November 27, 2017, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Dennis Dawes called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Tony Ketchum, Daryl Lund, Dr. Isaac Pope, Bob Spahr, and Chad Taylor. Staff present included: Jill Anderson, City Manager; Caryn Foley, City Clerk; Melody Guenther, Court Administrator; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Andrew Hunziker, Property Maintenance Technician; Trent Loughheed, Community Development Director; Tim McGuire, Interim Finance Manager; Brandon Rakes, Airport Office Manager; Rick Sahlin, Public Works Director; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Judy Schave, Human Resources/Risk Manager; Don Schmitt, Street/Storm Superintendent; Dave Vasilauskas, Water Superintendent; and Patrick Wiltzius, Wastewater Superintendent. Members of the media included Graham Perednia from *The Chronicle*.

**1. Proclamation – Celebrating 22 years of “The Nutcracker” by the Southwest Washington Dance Center.**

Mayor Dawes read and presented a proclamation celebrating 22 years of “The Nutcracker” by the Dance Center. Administrative Director Marcia Greenfield and several members of “The Nutcracker” cast were in attendance to accept the proclamation.

**2. Citizens Business – Lewis County Senior Centers.** Ron Averill, Glenda Forga, and Fred Rider, board members of Lewis County Seniors, addressed the council requesting the city’s financial support. It was explained that the continuation of local senior centers is being transitioned from Lewis County to the newly formed Lewis County Seniors – a non-profit corporation. Mr. Averill explained that the centers are very important to the community’s seniors. He stated that the city of Centralia recently contributed \$15,000 to help support seniors and they were in attendance to ask the same of Chehalis.

Glenda Forga, the Lewis County Program Coordinator for Senior Programs, stated the program provides nutritional lunches and social activities and noted that 33% of seniors countywide are served through the Twin Cities location. She stated the centers are vital to keep seniors active in living.

Fred Rider stated of the lunches served, it estimated that they are probably the best meal of the week for one-third of the seniors that attend. He stated the centers are where some seniors go to socialize. Lewis County has agreed to provide the group \$100,000 for the first year operation and reduce the rent to \$5 per year. He believed the organization could be self-sufficient in a couple years.

Mayor Dawes asked if the request was one-time only. Mr. Rider stated they are looking to survive the first year, but would like to see an ongoing partnership, with the goal of becoming self-sufficient.

Councilor Ketchum recalled that the city supported senior programs in the past and wondered why that discontinued. It was speculated that the Great Recession probably played a part.

Councilor Pope thought the services were vital to seniors and that the county should reconsider their level of support.

Councilor Harris agreed that the nutrition and social activities are so important to seniors.

Councilor Lund agreed with everyone’s comments. He thought seniors should be appreciated for everything they have done for all of us. He stated his disappointment in the county for cutting the senior programs and “throwing them under the bus.” He moved that the city make a one-time contribution of \$20,000 in 2018 to Lewis County Seniors. The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor.

Councilor Spahr asked staff to provide a history of what the city has contributed to senior programs in the past. He also asked for a copy of the organization’s budget so the council had a clear picture. City Attorney Hillier suggested voting on the matter after the council had time to review the organization’s budget.

Councilor Lund stated he wanted to vote on the matter tonight to send a message to the county that Chehalis supports its seniors. Councilor Spahr stated he supports the contribution, but didn’t feel right voting on it before seeing their budget. The motion carried 6 to 1. Councilor Spahr abstained from voting.

Mr. Averill stated he would make sure the council received their budget.

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3. **Public Hearing – 2018 Proposed Budget and Revenue Sources, Taxes, and Levies**. Mayor Dawes recessed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing at 5:35 pm. He noted this was the second public hearing on the budget.

City Manager Anderson stated that on November 13, staff provided a detailed overview of the 2018 proposed budget. She noted a couple changes since first reading. The first included \$3,000 from the General Fund as a contribution to the community-wide homeless shelter that will operate during severe weather. The second included \$750,000 from the Wastewater Fund for the Prindle pump station repair project. The final change includes a correction to the beginning fund balance noted for the Wastewater Fund. The total correction is a little over \$1 million. She noted that all the numbers before the council were correct. She explained that an ending fund balance was placed as a beginning fund balance in error in 2016, which got carried over into the proposed 2018 budget. She noted the \$20,000 contribution to the Lewis County Seniors would be included in the first budget amendment of 2018.

Councilor Pope asked where the \$20,000 contribution would come from. City Manager Anderson stated it would come from the General Fund reserve.

Mayor Dawes called for any public comment on the budget. There being no comments from the public, Mayor Dawes closed the public hearing at 5:41 pm and reopened the regular meeting.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of November 13, 2017;
- b. November 15, 2017 Claim Vouchers No. 120802-120972 and Electronic Funds Transfer Nos. 1020171 and 112017 in the amount of \$390,422.19; and
- c. Addendum to City Manager employment agreement.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and carried unanimously.

5. **Ordinance No. 983-B, Second and Final Reading – Determining and Fixing the Amounts of Revenue to be Raised by Ad Valorem Taxes During 2018; and Ordinance No. 984-B, Second and Final Reading – Stating the Dollar Amounts and Percentages of Change in Property Tax Levies for 2018**. Councilor Taylor moved to pass Ordinances No. 983-B and 984-B on second and final readings. The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund and carried unanimously.

6. **Ordinance No. 985-B, Second and Final Reading – Adopting the Proposed 2018 Budget**. Councilor Harris moved to pass Ordinance No. 985-B on second and final reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

7. **Ordinance No. 986-B, First Reading – Amending the 2017 Annual Budget**. City Manager Anderson stated the budget amendment includes \$750,000 from the Wastewater Fund for the Prindle Street Sewer Main Force Line; \$200,000 transfer from the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter REET Reserve Fund to the Public Facility Reserve Fund for accounting purposes; and an increase to the Garbage Fund for costs associated with the organic waste disposal site.

Councilor Ketchum moved to pass Ordinance No. 986-B on first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund and carried unanimously.

8. **Administration Reports**.

a. **Finance Report**. City Manager Anderson stated the general financial position of the city is solid. Revenues are slightly below what was expected because the second property tax payment has not yet been received by the county, but should be received by the next financial report.

Mayor Dawes asked for an updated sales tax revenue report. City Manager Anderson stated she will send that out to the council.

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b. **City Manager Update.** Patrick Wiltzius provided an update on the Prindle sewer force main project. He reported that multiple holes were found in the pipe under I-5 and could not be repaired in-place. The alternative was to slip-line the pipe with an approved material. It was pressured tested and the hope is to have it connected and operational by next Wednesday. The last cost estimate was about \$285,000, well under the estimated \$750,000. He noted the repair may suffice as a permanent repair. A consultant will be hired to look at the line, as well as the Riverside line that had a leak a couple years ago.

Councilor Spahr recalled a tunnel in that area. Mr. Wiltzius indicated they had done a lot of excavating around the line and hadn't found a tunnel.

Councilor Pope asked if there were other lines that the city should be concerned about. Mr. Wiltzius stated the other lines are all much smaller and if they were to spring a leak or corrode, they can be easily dug up and patched.

Brandon Rakes stated there was some excitement at the airport today. Staff spotted an individual running across the north end of the field, which is fenced off. Staff apprehended the person until police arrived. Apparently, the man had stolen property from a local retailer, and had drugs and drug paraphernalia.

City Manager Anderson announced that Chun Saul has accepted the position of Finance Director. She is a senior account with the city of Lacey with more than 20 years of experience in finance, 13 being with Lacey. She will start the second part of December. Tim McGuire will stay on for some time to facilitate the transition and catch up on some projects.

City Manager Anderson reminded everyone that the Christmas Parade is this weekend beginning at 11:00 am. She thanked the parks & facilities crew and Councilor Harris for their efforts in decorating the city for the holiday season.

#### **9. Councilor Reports/Committee Updates.**

a. Councilor Pope participated in the Olympic Club open house for the George Washington statue fundraiser. He stated he was impressed by the turnout and encouraged everyone to learn about the history of the founding of Centralia.

b. Councilor Spahr stated W.F. West High School has a bowling team and he has been helping coach them over the last couple weeks. He stated it's been a blast.

c. Councilor Lund thanked the council subcommittee and staff for all their work on the 2018 budget. He also thanked Dr. Pope and his team for all they've done for the community.

d. Mayor Dawes attended the chamber's Business After Hours on November 16 and the Lewis County Historical Museum's annual meeting at the Hotel Washington. The Museum thanked the city for its continued support of the museum with lodging tax funds. Mayor Dawes also attended the George Washington fundraiser. He stated Dr. Pope's presentation at the event is viewable on Facebook, which was very informative. He thought the event raised about \$7,000.

10. **Executive Session.** At 6:03 pm, Mayor Dawes announced the council would take a short recess and then be in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) – Collective Bargaining not to exceed 30 minutes and there would be no decision following conclusion of the executive session. Mayor Dawes closed the regular meeting at 6:05 pm. Following conclusion of the executive session, the regular meeting was reopened and immediately adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Dennis L. Dawes, Mayor

Caryn Foley, City Clerk

Approved: 12/11/2017  
Initials: cf