

May 24, 2010

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, May 24, 2010, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Ketchum called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Dr. Isaac Pope, Bob Spahr, Daryl Lund, and Dennis Dawes. Councilor Taylor was absent (excused). Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; and Bob Nacht, Community Development Director.

1. **Executive Session.** Mayor Ketchum announced the council would be in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c) – lease or sale of real estate, and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) – potential litigation for approximately one hour and there would be no decision following conclusion of the executive session.

Mayor Ketchum closed the executive session at 6:04 p.m. and announced the council would take a ten minute recess and reopen the regular meeting at 6:13 p.m. Additional staff included: Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Kelvin Johnson, Fire Chief; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; Eva Lindgren, Finance Manager; Tim Grochowski, Public Works Director; Rick Sahlin, Street Superintendent; and Ben Smith, Summer Intern. Members of the news media included Adam Pearson of *The Chronicle* and Paul Walker of KITI.

2. **Interview Applicant for Historic Preservation Commission Vacancy.** Bob Nacht introduced David Plotz who applied for the vacant position on the Chehalis Historic Preservation Commission. The vacant position was previously held by Barbara Mason whose term expired December 31, 2009.

Mr. Plotz talked briefly about his background, noting he was born in Centralia and raised in Chehalis. He attended Washington State University and shortly after graduating moved to New York, where he bounced between Tokyo and New York for a period of 13 years. Mr. Plotz returned to the area and is currently the power supply manager for Lewis County Public Utility District. He felt it would be a great opportunity for him to get more involved with the community, by serving on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Councilor Dawes stated he appreciated Mr. Plotz' interest and thanked him for applying.

3. **Public Hearing Concerning the 2011-2016 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).** Tim Grochowski reported the administration was seeking council and public input to update the city's STIP for 2011-2016. He noted attached to the agenda report was the 2010-2015 STIP and the updated proposed street section of the Capital Improvement Plan, which identified street projects the administration believed to be of high importance.

Mr. Grochowski talked briefly about the extension of NW Louisiana Avenue and Airport Road, which was included on the STIP because it was a vital part of our regional transportation system. He noted the city had partnered with Lewis County and the Washington State Department of Transportation for grant funding for a portion of the improvement.

Mr. Grochowski reported the Chamber of Commerce Way Channelization Project would remain on the STIP until the project was completely closed out. He noted the city would continue to wait to hear about the \$700,000 of federal funds that were included in the Local Agency Agreement Supplement, adding they were just waiting for approval.

Mr. Grochowski stated the 2010-2015 STIP included the Chehalis Community Pathway Project, which was also on the statewide STIP. He noted the National Avenue and Louisiana Avenue overlay projects were included on the statewide STIP, as well, and had been submitted to the Lewis County Transportation Strategy Council for possible funding from the Federal Jobs Bill Project for pavement repairs, overlay and striping.

Mayor Ketchum closed the regular meeting at 6:18:05 p.m. and opened the public hearing. There being no public comment, Mayor Ketchum closed the public hearing and reopened the regular meeting at 6:18:20 p.m.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of May 10, 2010;
- b. Confirm appointment of David Plotz to the Chehalis Historic Preservation Commission for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2013; and

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c. Authorize the city manager to execute contract agreement for fixed asset appraisal services between the city and Suncorp Valuations, Inc., to meet management and fiscal reporting requirements.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

5. **Staff Reports.**

a. **April Financial Report.** Eva Lindgren reported on the general fund revenues, noting she had been in touch with the Lewis County Treasurer's Office to find out what funds had been received with regards to property tax. She noted at the beginning of May the city received \$440,000 in general property tax and an additional \$113,000 was collected by May 18, which was not reflected in the report. Ms. Lindgren stated they were not quite at the halfway point they hoped to see, but the LC Treasurer's Office indicated collections were in the ballpark of what they normally were. She noted everything else was basically addressed in the report in terms of any significant variances.

Ms. Lindgren reported on the utility funds, noting they still had budgeted repayments for \$566,000 to the water and sewer funds. She noted none of that had been remitted due to the fact that they had not yet issued debt. Ms. Lindgren stated she and City Manager MacReynold had met with a couple of individuals involved in the debt industry and were scheduled to meet with some bankers later in the week to discuss options.

6. **Council Reports.**

a. **Relay for Life Cancer Walk.** Councilor Dawes reported he assisted with the Relay for Life Cancer Walk on Friday, May 14. He also attended the first anniversary party at the Holiday Inn Express on Tuesday, May 18, adding it was well attended and they seemed to be very happy to be here. Councilor Dawes reported they were very complimentary on our recreation staff, noting they fill the motel numerous times on the weekends because of the various recreation programs the city offers. He reported the County Assessors were also having their annual conference there later this year.

b. **Lewis County Economic Development Council (EDC) Board Meeting Update.** Councilor Spahr reported he recently attended an EDC board meeting, adding there were some very interesting things going on. He stated he let them know we were talking about e-verify and the representative from Employment Security volunteered to come and talk to the council if they wanted more input on the subject.

c. **Chehalis River Basin Partnership Update.** Councilor Harris reported he attended the Chehalis River Basin partnership meeting on Friday, May 21. He noted they discussed budget issues, and they were still struggling with the 501c3 program.

Councilor Harris indicated a meeting was set for the Chehalis Basin Partnership and the Chehalis Flood Authority to meet with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers on Tuesday, May 25, at the Veterans Museum, at 9:00 a.m.

Councilor Harris reported he humbly accepted an opportunity to speak at the Relay for Life Cancer Walk on Friday, May 15, adding it was always fun to talk about cancer. He stated he and Mayor Ketchum had the opportunity to taste all the cakes that were up for grabs at the event, noting they had no idea there were going to be over 40 cakes to taste. Councilor Harris complimented Debbie Knapp and her crew, who put the event together.

d. **2011 Council Goals.** City Manager MacReynold reported a prioritized list of the 2011 council goals was included in the agenda packet. He noted the council came up with the goals during a work session on Monday, May 3, adding the goals were prioritized from high to low.

7. **Ordinance No. 857-B – First Reading, Implementing Federal E-Verify Requirements for City Contracts.** City Manager MacReynold reported, at the last meeting, the council had a discussion and took public testimony about whether or not they wanted to move forward on developing an ordinance with reference to e-verify. He noted the council gave some input as to what they wanted to see in an ordinance and directed the administration and city attorney to put together an ordinance for their consideration.

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Councilor Dawes noted the two items that held the most interest of the council were to set parameters on the amount of the project, and to set a penalty amount. He indicated the proposed ordinance set the main contract amount at \$1,000, and a penalty of up to \$5,000 to be held from retainage.

Councilor Dawes moved to pass Ordinance No. 857-B on first reading.

Councilor Harris seconded the motion.

Councilor Spahr inquired about Section 2, No. 2, asking how many contracts would be eliminated under the 60-day requirement. City Manager MacReynold noted in the last two years only one contract would have been eliminated.

Hal Washburn (14545 Wiley Lane, Olalla, Washington) stated he was one of the individuals who addressed the City of Lakewood numerous times during their consideration of e-verify. He noted he was a member of Washingtonians for Immigration Reform and was heavily involved in the immigration debate. Mr. Washburn noted over the years a number of small businesses have been put under pressure and have gone out of business trying to compete with other firms who hire illegal immigrants and pay them sub-standard wages. He felt e-verify would help greatly to protect jobs and would make sure they go to people who are eligible for them. Mr. Washburn thanked the council for spending the time to investigate the issue and hoped they would see it through.

Robin Roy (186 Calvier Road, Cinebar, Washington) thanked the council for taking e-verify under consideration. She noted she spoke to most of the council two weeks ago about the negative impact illegal immigration had on her family. Ms. Roy suggested for every illegal immigrant who had a job there are two American citizens that don't. She felt it was important for everyone to stand together for our culture and for the hard working American citizens who need the jobs.

Bill Smith (PO Box 227, Onalaska, Washington) reported he represented Act for America. He noted they were working with Congress to try to get them to understand how serious the problem of illegal aliens was. Mr. Smith stated there were hundreds, if not thousands, who cross our borders both north and south, and felt e-verify was very important to identify those who are illegally coming into our country.

Terry Schrader (5033 213th Avenue SW, Centralia, Washington) reported he had been in the construction business for many years as a one guy operation with one or two helpers. He noted it was cheap for a lot of companies to hire illegals, which made them impossible to compete with. Mr. Schrader thought construction was a great starting point for young men because they don't need a lot of education, and they could end up making a good living from it. He felt they needed to stop illegal immigration by reducing the incentive for people to come here.

Jack Tipping (2101 Hwy 508, Chehalis, Washington) thanked the council for their work on the e-verify program and was pleased about the contract thresholds the council was considering.

Mayor Ketchum thanked the city attorney and the administration for all their hard work, adding he also appreciated all the comments and the work the council did at the previous meeting during his absence.

The motion carried unanimously.

8. **Award Contract for the Chehalis Website Redesign and Development Project.** City Clerk Judy Schave recognized Airport Manager Allyn Roe, Co-Chair of the Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT), Larry McGee, CCRT Chair, and Caryn Foley, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager, who were all part of the selection committee.

Ms. Schave reported the Chehalis Renaissance Plan recommended the city implement a new Chehalis brand, which included redesigning our current website to include more focus on visitor information and promotion of business. She noted in June of 2009, the administration presented the council with a proposal to have our current vendor, Beachdog.com, redesign our site; however, the council thought it would be best to look at other options and approved a motion to direct the administration to do a Request for Proposal (RFP). Ms. Schave noted they sent out a request and received three proposals; however, due to funding issues the proposals were rejected and the project was pushed back to 2010.

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Ms. Schave reported in March the committee met and developed a new RFP. The committee researched many sites and made several notes as to what they wanted the new site to include. She noted the RFP went out in March 2010, and the city received 24 proposals ranging from \$2,300 to \$69,000. Ms. Schave explained the process the committee went through to narrow down their selection. She reported the committee was recommending Aha Consulting, Inc. for the website redesign project.

Mr. Roe offered to answer any questions the council might have, adding Ms. Schave did a great job putting it together. He felt what really attracted the selection committee to Aha Consulting was their eagerness for the business and their attention to the city in their proposal. Mr. Roe noted one of the key elements the committee looked at was to ensure the software being used to develop the website was open source, rather than proprietary. He noted the committee wanted to make sure that if the company went out of business, the technology behind the website could easily transfer to another source.

Councilor Spahr suggested it was one of those things that some people might look at and ask why it couldn't just be done in-house. He stated websites were difficult to maintain and thought the \$3,000 a year maintenance fee, for up to three years, was a good price.

Mayor Ketchum noted the city had been trying to do it themselves for years and it was time to progress.

Councilor Harris suggested the current site had been difficult to maintain.

Councilor Dawes felt it was important to keep up with technology, because if we didn't, things would become stale.

Councilor Harris moved to accept the proposal received from Aha Consulting, Inc., to provide website redesign and development services for the city, and authorize the city manager to execute the contract agreement.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

9. **Flood Zone District**. Commissioner Schulte reported he talked with City Manager MacReynold on Friday and gave him a list of names of the people who had volunteered for the flood zone district. He asked the council to select two names to represent the city of Chehalis and get them sent to the county so they could get the flood zone up and operating. Mayor Ketchum noted they would take the matter up at the next regular meeting.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned a 6:54 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of May 24, 2010.