

May 3, 2010

The Chehalis city council met in a special work session on Monday, May 3, 2010, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Ketchum called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Dr. Isaac Pope, Daryl Lund, and Dennis Dawes. Councilors Taylor and Spahr were 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 for approximately 30 minutes and there would be no decision following conclusion of the executive session.

Mayor Ketchum closed the executive session at 5:50 p.m. and immediately opened the work session. Additional Staff included: Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator. Members of the news media in attendance included Paul Walker of KITL.

2. **Discuss City Nickname.** City Manager MacReynold reported at their last regular meeting the council continued to table the item regarding a new city nickname. He noted the council was copied on the proposal of the nickname, as well as an email sent to Councilor Spahr from a local resident suggesting the council consider an alternative proposal. City Manager MacReynold noted the purpose of the discussion was to find out what the council's thoughts were on the matter.

Councilor Dawes reported one reason he did not support the nickname of 'The Friendly City' was because it was basically a retread of what the city went through in the 1950s and 1960s. He noted he had a brochure he purchased off of e-bay that talked about Chehalis – 'The Friendly City,' which included a picture of the old library and city hall before they were remodeled. Councilor Dawes stated another reason he did not support it was, anytime a chance comes along to make a snappy headline it was going to be thrown in their face in a not so flattering way. He added, the negative headlines would not serve anybody well.

Councilor Dawes stated he appreciated all the work the renaissance committee had done and continued to do. He remembered the committee being charged to come up with a tagline, but was unaware of anything coming to them to change the nickname from the current 'Rose City' to anything else.

Mayor Ketchum noted he had come up with the same opinion; that it would just get thrown back in their face.

Councilor Harris stated he didn't disagree, adding that moniker didn't do much for him either. He noted in defense of whatever they decide on for a nickname, it could be turned around in some fashion. Councilor Harris felt they needed to step above the third grade mentality and not worry about what someone can do to it, otherwise they were going to end up with virtually nothing. He felt the fact that it had been tried before reinforced his desire not to support it.

Mayor Ketchum stated he didn't believe they had ever been slammed for being called 'The Rose City.' He wasn't sure if they were going to come up with any solutions, but knew they didn't like the nickname 'The Friendly City.'

Councilor Lund stated Frank DeVaul was a very astute businessman in town. He noted he trusted him and if he thought they should be called 'The Friendly City,' then they should do it.

Councilor Dawes reported at the last council meeting he asked Larry McGee if the tagline was enough for them to precede without any disruption, and he said it was. He felt there was no rush for the council to do anything at this time, adding it appeared there was not enough support for 'The Friendly City.' Councilor Dawes suggested there might be something out there that no one had thought of yet that could be tagged into history.

Councilor Harris noted during the renaissance meetings they talked about the possibility of using different colored roses to depict the various districts and such, which he didn't have any problem with. Councilor Dawes noted if they do anything down the road with the street signs, it would be nice to get the city's new seal on them.

Councilor Dawes suggested at the next regular meeting they bring the item off the table and not take any action on it.

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3. **Review 2010 Projects and Goals.** City Manager MacReynold reviewed the most recent report, which identified the progress on the council's 2010 goals and projects. The goals and projects identified included:

- Continue progress on the Louisiana Avenue Project, begin construction in 2010: the county had made significant progress on the design to run it from where it currently ends, to out and over to the levee; the Washington State Department of Transportation would be paying for it to go over the levee; city was coordinating to have the connection done during the same time the Mellen Street project was being done in Centralia; piping should be done in 2011; and construction in 2012-2013.
- Maintain the fiscal viability of the city: the city continues to be right on the edge and depending on what happened over the next couple of months, that could change; administration continues to be paying attention month-to-month and may be coming to the council if it does not maintain or get better; research was being done to pay off utility loans for city hall and the outside construction work on the library property.
- Transportation entrances to the city - Plan for entrance enhancements and beautification to draw people off I-5: freeway signage was done; wayfinding signage was all up; next phase would be to look at where additional signage may be needed, and to look at pedestrian signage.
- Continued support of the implementation plan and the renaissance team: established the implementation team (The Chehalis Community Renaissance Team); took lead on the pilot project on Chehalis Avenue that focused on parking changes and street trees; provided wayfinding signage that supported the new logo and city colors; produced a Historic Walking Tour and brochure.
- Develop a customer service program for the city: a draft plan had been put together on how to develop and implement a customer service program.
- Analyze identified city programs/services to improve service delivery at less cost: the administration will be analyzing the utility billing system to determine if it can be done at less cost and maintain or improve customer service from an outside source; analysis will include other local governments, special purpose districts and private sector providers.
- City Capital Improvement Plan: Ensure that phase II is underway: currently being developed by the city's planning consultant and would be presented for review and approval as part of the Comprehensive Plan update process later this year.
- City Comprehensive Plan - Completion and approval of the Comprehensive Plan update, which includes a Parks Comprehensive Plan: a draft plan from the consultant on the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan was being reviewed in-house; initial drafts of the required elements of the city's Comprehensive Plan have been completed; the completed draft Plan will be presented to the council for public hearings and consideration.

Councilor Dawes wondered why they had left flooding solutions off their 2010 goals, since they had been working through it for some time. He felt if they were trying to be the lead agency they needed to have it as one of their goals. City Manager MacReynold agreed, noting there had been a lot of staff and council time spent on the issue. He thought it was one of those things they were so involved with that they just missed adding it in 2010. City Manager MacReynold suggested it be one of the 2011 goals.

Other comments on the update included: Councilor Dawes asked if Lintott/Alexander Park was included in the signage; and Councilor Harris inquired about the small triangular piece of property owned by the county just north of I-5 Toyota, to see if the city might be able to obtain it to use for advertising. City Manager MacReynold reported he would check to see if any of the wayfinding signs included Lintott/Alexander Park; and according to staff, the county had already identified the value of the property that Councilor Harris inquired about, based on what was going on at the Barnes property.

4. **Identify and Discuss City Projects and Goals for 2011.** City Manager MacReynold reported he and Mayor Ketchum hoped to have more of a low-key discussion about what the council cared about, and then identify what they believe they want to have happen next year with regards to the 2010-2011 goals and projects.

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Councilor Dawes stated he liked to throw out ideas with some sense of reality. He reported he didn't see the economy turning around that quick, and while the five of them probably had some great ideas for goals and things they would like to see done, he didn't want to set anybody up to fail by throwing out a bunch of things they couldn't obtain.

Councilor Dawes suggested the following goals and projects:

- Continue work on regional flood issues/solutions
- Consolidation-regionalization of fire services with Fire District #6 (suggested meeting more often)
- Continue to work on 2010 goals not identified as 100 percent complete

Councilor Lund suggested the following goals and projects:

- Institute the taking of credit cards and electronic payments
- City take lead in land development at the Barnes property

Councilor Ketchum suggested the following goals and projects:

- Improve quality of our parks

Councilor Pope suggested the following goals and projects:

- Street repairs throughout the city, identify how we're going to get them done
- Continue to look at relocating the fire station
- Develop more programs for the youth in our community
- Clean up city property on Chehalis Avenue near Green Hill School

Councilor Harris suggested the following goals and projects:

- Improve downtown aesthetic and infrastructure
- Develop "Stream Team" to enhance local streams, using youth and volunteers
- Get more involved with Lewis County campus project
- Pool improvement project (City needs to approach Chehalis Foundation)

Councilor Pope noted he had investigated and found we could not have a YMCA in our community because our area was too small and we were too close to the one in Olympia.

City Manager MacReynold and the council talked briefly about the current fire station facility. City Manager MacReynold noted a few years ago they formed a facilities citizen committee who suggested tearing the current facility down once we have a new fire station. He reported even though the facility had a lot of history, the committee found the cost to do anything with it would be so significant that it would be much cheaper to tear it down. City Manager MacReynold noted, since then, they had created the walking tour which talked about a lot of the history in that building. He wondered if the council would want to keep the fire station and try to do something else with it, because it was such a historical building.

Councilor Pope believed somewhere in the minutes the building was declared unsafe, and couldn't understand why it was still occupied. Councilor Dawes believed it stated they could not do much upstairs because they had taken the front stairwell (exit) down; and as for the lower floor, they did some retro-fitting of that building, but said in order to bring it up to code it would be cost prohibitive. Councilor Dawes stated they never declared the building unsafe.

Councilor Pope reported there was a rumor about St. Joseph's closing their school again, and if that was true, the city should buy it. Mayor Ketchum indicated the rumor was not true.

Councilor Dawes stated they could always make it a historical type building like Astoria, Oregon, did, noting they display old fire engines and other things along that line in their old fire station.

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Councilor Harris felt there was no reason why they couldn't use it for storage, noting they had plenty of things to store.

Councilor Lund suggested a children's museum.

The council agreed to add the following to their 2011 goals:

- Consider other uses for the fire hall building

City Manager MacReynold asked if the council wanted to prioritize their goals. Mayor Ketchum suggested the list be put in the packet for Monday, May 10, so everyone had it. He asked the councilors to prioritize the goals as high, medium and low (1 - being a high priority, 2 - being a medium priority, and 3 - being a low priority) and to turn them in on Monday the 10th.

5. **Chehalis Newsletter**. City Manager MacReynold noted staff was still looking for ways to save money and the city clerk had looked into doing an electronic newsletter, rather than paying to have it printed and delivered. Ms. Schave reported she and staff were in the process of narrowing down their selection for the website redesign project. She noted the final two vendors they were looking at both offered e-newsletters, and asked the council if they might want to consider moving in that direction.

Ms. Schave noted she currently sent out two newsletters per year, which ran \$1,900 per year for printing and \$1,340 per year for postage. She provided a copy of City of Centralia's newsletter, noting they had already started producing their own newsletter in order to save money. Ms. Schave noted she already had the program needed to do the same type of newsletter. She felt staff would be able to provide more information and do it more often than what they were currently providing.

Mayor Ketchum was concerned about people that don't have access to the internet. Ms. Schave reported they could continue to have hard copies available at the various 'city' locations.

The consensus of the council was to have staff start producing our own newsletter.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned a 6:50 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the city council work session of May 3, 2010.