

March 8, 2010

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, March 8, 2010, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Ketchum called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Dr. Isaac Pope, Bob Spahr, Daryl Lund, Chad Taylor, and Dennis Dawes. Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Bob Nacht, Community Development Director; Tim Grochowski, Public Works Director; and Patrick Wiltzius, Wastewater Superintendent.

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 45 minutes and there would be no decision following conclusion of the executive session.

Mayor Ketchum announced the council would take a four minute recess at 5:59 p.m. and re-open the regular meeting at 6:03 p.m. Additional staff included: Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Kelvin Johnson, Fire Chief; Eva Lindgren, Finance Manager; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; Dave Vasilauskas, Water Superintendent; and Rick Sahlin, Street Superintendent. Members of the news media included Adam Pearson from *The Chronicle* and Ron Hall from KITI.

2. **Tourism Dollars.** Jim Valley, Centralia-Chehalis Chamber Executive Director, talked briefly about the tourism dollar allotment the Chamber would receive as part of the tourism contract with the city, which was on the consent calendar for the council's consideration. Mr. Valley stated they looked forward to putting forth a greater effort at the Chamber to do a better job of promoting Chehalis, Lewis County, and the City of Centralia. He noted they recently started working with the webmaster that runs the Tour Lewis County website, adding they would be doing some improvements to that as well.

Councilor Dawes noted they used to receive emails about upcoming ribbon cutting ceremonies and such, and had noticed those had slacked off. Mr. Valley noted Councilor Dawes must have slipped off their email list, but he would make sure he received the notices from now on. Mayor Ketchum suggested he check to be sure that all the councilors were on the list to receive emails. Mr. Valley reported they had a ribbon cutting ceremony the following day, at 11:00 a.m., at the Visiting Nurses on Market Boulevard.

3. **2009 Chehalis Community Spirit Award.** Mayor Ketchum, along with Chehalis Foundation Representative J. Vander Stoep, Chehalis Business Association (CBA) Chair and Director of the Lewis County Historical Museum Debbie Knapp, business owner and CBA member David Hartz, and Jim Valley, presented James Lintott, a former resident from Chehalis, with the 2009 Chehalis Community Spirit Award in recognition of his generosity and continued support to the community. Mr. Lintott was presented with a proclamation, Chehalis mints, a desk clock with the city logo, and a key to the city.

Mr. Lintott thanked the city, adding he lived a very blessed life everyday because of the people of this community. He stated he grew up with wonderful parents, teachers, mentors and friends who were always there to worry, care and help when he needed a hand. Mr. Lintott indicated his success really wasn't that surprising considering the support he received. He stated he felt like he had the spirit of Chehalis in his life everyday, adding he missed the west coast terribly and still considered it to be his home.

Mr. Hartz reported they were holding a reception for Mr. Lintott at the Shire, and invited the council and community to join them following the meeting.

4. **Rosie the Riveter.** Edna Fund and Dr. Susanne Weil reported on the Rosie the Riveter Celebration taking place at the Centralia Community College on Wednesday, March 10, at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Weil, who coordinated the 2010 Lyceum Lecture Series, provided a copy of the 2010 brochure to the council and members of the audience. She reported the lecture series showcased Northwest Washington talent, with this year's focus on Lewis County. Ms. Fund noted the refreshments for the March 10 event would be coming from the Chehalis Deli.

Dr. Weil talked briefly about some of the other events, noting 2010 was the centennial of Mark Twain's death and Timberland Library and the Lyceum had put together a whole series of events for the occasion.

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

a. Minutes of the special work session of February 16, 2010, and the regular meeting of February 22, 2010;

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b. Payroll Vouchers No. 33334-33385 in the amount of \$106,759.89 dated February 19, 2010; Claim Vouchers No. 96105-96224 in the amount of \$123,802.19 dated February 26, 2010;

c. Authorize the City Manager to execute the 2010 Agreement between the city and the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce to provide tourism promotion and visitor information services for the City, the City of Centralia, and Lewis County in an amount not to exceed \$21,000 (\$7,000 each);

d. Authorize the City Manager to execute a master interlocal agreement for reimbursable work between the City and Lewis County Public Works;

e. Confirm re-appointment of Dr. John McCord to the Chehalis-Centralia Airport Governing Board for a six year term expiring December 31, 2015;

f. Award bid for the Newaukum River Bridge Watermain Replacement Project to Pilchuck Diversified, Inc., in the amount of \$347,664.16; and

g. Authorize City Manager to execute the interlocal agreement between the City and the Chehalis-Centralia Airport Governing Board; the addendum to the interlocal agreement between the City and the Port of Chehalis; and the memorandum of understanding between the City and the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of retaining legal counsel and professional services in the review of the FEMA map diagram as presented.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

6. Staff Reports.

a. **Status of Spring Park Openings.** Bob Nacht reported the kitchen facility and picnic shelter application form had been revised to be consistent with the City of Centralia's form, adding their goal was to make things as consistent with other agencies processes and procedures, as much as possible.

Mr. Nacht reported they would be reducing the number of rental periods for the V.R. Lee Building and Hess Kitchen from the current three periods, to two periods a day. He noted, with limited staffing, they didn't have the ability to monitor and replace paper towels and such, as frequently as they used to. Mr. Nacht indicated they were experiencing a number of issues with the facilities, which was causing them to have to do more cleaning in between renters. He felt by reducing it to two periods per day, it would allow more time for staff to clean in between rentals. Mr. Nacht reported they did some research on the number of building rentals and found very little usage during that second period of the day and believed the public would not be negatively impacted by the change.

Mr. Nacht reported they were also addressing the banquet permits for alcohol usage and liability insurance. In addition, they were identifying ways for a person who rents a shelter to actually be able to reserve a portion of the grassy area outside a shelter, or building for purposes of outdoor weddings, receptions, and such. Mr. Nacht noted they had a lot of usage for those types of purposes and were trying to set up a mechanism to where people can set up their outdoor events without violating a lot of the parks protocol.

Mr. Nacht reported they were also developing a process to address issues they were running into for community-wide uses of the park, such as, the Seattle to Portland bike ride, the Cascade Country Cook-off, and a number of other usages of the park system.

Mr. Nacht indicated they were going to start allowing building rental applications to be submitted to the community development department for up to one year in advance, rather than opening the door every year on November 15 for all building rentals for the following year. He reported as they go through the process of streamlining their procedures they may run into a glitch here and there, but those issues would be addressed as they run across them.

Councilor Pope reported the Lintott/Alexander Park had a nice new shelter that was built and completed this past year.

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b. **Update on Hiring Attorney for FEMA Mapping Issue.** City Manager MacReynold reported they had been interviewing four different attorneys and attorney firms over the last couple of weeks. He noted the interview panel consisted of Chamber Executive Director Jim Valley, Airport Manager Allyn Roe, City Attorney Bill Hillier, and Bob Nacht.

City Manager MacReynold reported they had completed the interview process and had narrowed it down to two. He stated all references had been contacted as of late that afternoon and they would be meeting Tuesday afternoon to make their selection. City Manager MacReynold noted City Attorney Hillier would be working with him to negotiate a contract, adding he was encouraged by the references and the level of experience that the two front-runners brought.

City Manager MacReynold reported they would be working in cooperation with Lewis County, who was taking care of the technical side through Prosecutor Michael Golden's office. He noted they would also be working with the Lewis County Public Utility District, as they had some significant contacts at the federal level.

Councilor Spahr asked if we sign a contract with an attorney now, could another organization or municipality join later. City Manager MacReynold stated they certainly could, adding we would welcome all the help we could get.

Mayor Ketchum stated he appreciated all of those who had stepped forward to join us in the fight.

Councilor Harris stated he had been contacted by a number of individuals who would be affected by the new FEMA maps, adding it would be nice to find a way for them to be heard. City Manager MacReynold reminded Councilor Harris that there would be a public process that FEMA would have to go through. He stated with the assistance of the county and the other partners, their hope was to get them to push the release of the draft map out, which would give us more time to develop a strategy that would position us through any possible legal process.

7. **Council Reports.**

a. **Way Finding Sign Unveiling.** Councilor Dawes noted he and Councilor Spahr attended the unveiling of the first of the new way finding signs located across the street from city hall. He reported Larry McGee did a nice job speaking on behalf of the Chehalis Community Renaissance Team.

b. **Lewis County Historical Museum Fashion Show.** Councilor Dawes reported he attended the Lewis County Historical Museum Fashion Show on February 20. He felt the show itself went off great, and they raised about \$3,300 for the museum. Councilor Dawes stated it would have been nice to see a few more people in attendance.

c. **Meeting with Lewis County Economic Development Council (EDC) Director.** Councilor Spahr reported he had a meeting with Lewis County EDC Director, Dick Larman, adding he was still trying to bring himself up to speed on a lot of issues.

d. **Fact Finding Mission in Arizona.** Councilor Spahr noted he just got back from a fact-finding mission down in Arizona. He reported in looking over his brother-in-law's utility bill, they had very little applied to usage and a lot to the base charge. Councilor Spahr reported their fees for water and sewer were about \$86 dollars per month, whether you were there or not. He felt Chehalis was pretty competitive, adding he originally thought they were a lot lower than what we were.

e. **Chehalis River Basin Partnership Meeting.** Councilor Harris reported on the Chehalis River Basin Partnership meeting he attended, adding both Commissioners Schulte and Averill were also in attendance. He stated they were still looking for new sources of funding and had decided to form a foundation, rather than a non-profit. Councilor Harris noted the reasoning behind forming a foundation was because it would allow the committee to have more control.

f. **Ghost Hunting Adventure.** Mayor Ketchum reported he sat in on a ghost hunting session at the Aerie in Centralia; however, there were no encounters with any ghosts that evening.

g. **28th Annual Historical Bicycle Ride.** Mayor Ketchum announced the 28th Annual Historical Bicycle Ride put on by the Chehalis/Centralia Optimist Club was set for Saturday, May 8, with registration between 7:00 – 9:00 a.m., at Stan Hedwall Park. He noted Rose Spogen who normally comes to the council to promote the bike ride was unable to make it this

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year.

h. **Comcast HD Technology Fee.** Councilor Spahr brought up the letter received from Comcast concerning the new HD Technology fee, and the old HD equipment rental fee. He noted he was unsure if they could do anything about it, but he would like to question it a little bit more. Councilor Spahr noted it appeared the new \$6.50 HD Technology fee was going to be charged for each hookup, and he was curious as to what the fees were for the rental equipment they were no longer going to charge for.

City Manager MacReynold reported he would be happy to follow up on the issue.

8. **Resolution No. 6-2010, First and Final Reading – Amending the 2010-2015 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP).** Tim Grochowski reported the administration was requesting the council to approve an amendment to the current 2010-2015 STIP. He indicated the request was due to the addition of three projects that were identified for potential stimulus funding. The projects included asphalt overlays for the following:

- National Avenue from Kresky Road to Exhibitor Road
- Louisiana Avenue from Highway 6 to Chamber of Commerce Way
- Riverside Drive from the south city limits

Mr. Grochowski reported the projects needed to be shovel ready at the time the funding becomes available. He noted there was not much more work they could do except asphalt overlay on those projects.

Mayor Ketchum stated it was always good news when they had the possibility to do something with someone else's money.

Councilor Harris moved that the council amend the 2010-2105 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan and Resolution No. 9-2009 by adopting Resolution No. 6-2010 on first and final reading.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned a 6:41 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of March 8, 2010.