

August 24, 2009

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, August 24, 2009, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Ketchum called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Dr. Isaac Pope, Robin Fuller, Chad Taylor, and Dennis Dawes. Councilor Lund participated telephonically. Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Kelvin Johnson, Fire Chief; Bob Nacht, Community Development Director; Eva Lindgren, Finance Manager; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; Tim Grochowski, Public Works Director; and Dave Vasilauskas, Water Superintendent. Members of the news media in attendance included Marquise Allen of *The Chronicle*.

1. **New Rehabilitation Center at Old St. Helen Hospital.** Constance O'Hara, of American Behavioral Health Systems (ABHS), first introduced Executive Manager Jody Starns. Ms. O'Hara reported ABHS had been in operation for 10 years as an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program. She noted they were originally part of the Salvation Army and started out with approximately 40 beds, but it didn't take long before they expanded to two operations; one in Spokane, and one in Spokane Valley.

Ms. O'Hara reported they were getting more and more clients from Western Washington, so they made the decision to expand on this side of the state. She stated they purchased the old St. Helen Hospital and were in the start-up phase of the project. Ms. O'Hara briefly explained the mission of the program, which included:

- Serving the indigent and poor who need alcohol and chemical dependency treatment
- Providing daily regimented schedules for clients
- Helping clients to develop a quality world and set goals in their lives
- Teaching clients to make proper choices in their lives

Ms. O'Hara reported they do not take clients that are currently under the influence of drugs or alcohol. She indicated they had an 80 percent completion rate and their clients leave with a plan in place of where they are going and how they can avoid using drugs and alcohol in the future.

Mayor Ketchum stated he had been approached by a local judge with concerns for the neighborhood, after meeting with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and was told there would be 300 'bad' people housed in the facility. Ms. O'Hara reported the maximum capacity for the facility was 210. Mayor Ketchum asked if any clients would be coming from the prison system. Ms. O'Hara indicated there could be some, but it would depend on the circumstances and history of the client. She reported their facility was not a lock-down facility; however, they had alarmed doors so they would know of any movement. Ms. O'Hara indicated most people seek treatment after they've had an encounter with the law, and most of the people she had dealt with were people who were in recovery wanting to obtain hope in their life.

Councilor Harris asked if any of the clients were opting to go through treatment in lieu of incarceration. Ms. O'Hara noted some of them do.

Councilor Pope noted when he was questioned about the facility, he informed people ABHS had other facilities elsewhere, and if they wanted more information they should contact the other communities to find out what types of problems they've had. In response to Mayor Ketchum's concerns about what DOC was reporting, he felt they couldn't always trust what DOC had to say. Ms. O'Hara stated she had never had an incident in a neighborhood or in either of the communities of the other two facilities.

Councilor Dawes reported he attended a law and justice meeting, and his interest level was peaked at the lack of answers to questions regarding the facility. He stated the person speaking from DOC was one of the local individuals he had worked with before and he didn't sound any alarm bells with him, unlike the one who apparently talked to the judge.

Ms. O'Hara reported the individuals coming from DOC would be non-violent inmates. Councilor Dawes hoped there would be some type of screening process before inmates were allowed to participate in the program. Ms. O'Hara stated they had the theory of thirds: one-third wanted to be in the program; one-third end up there because life events brought them there; and the other third were there only because they had to be. She stated they very quickly identify the one-third that don't want to be there and consider them non-amenable to treatment and move them out of the program very quickly. Ms. O'Hara indicated they did have an admission screening process to determine if the individual could perform in the program.

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Councilor Dawes asked how clients would be transported from the facility after completion of the program, or if an individual decided to drop out of the program. Ms. O'Hara reported as part of the discharge process, the client had to arrange for someone to pick them up, or they were taken to Greyhound for a pre-determined bus ride. She noted many of the tickets are purchased by ABHS, and they spend between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per month to transport people to and from treatment. Ms. O'Hara reported those who breach treatment had to fill out paperwork to receive their belongings back, and at that time they are encouraged to make a safe-haven phone call to make arrangements to leave the facility. If they refuse to talk and walk out, they cannot stop them; however, if they believed they are a threat to anyone the local police department would be contacted.

Ms. O'Hara talked briefly about visitors coming to the facility, adding before clients could have visitors they needed to make choices of appropriate visitors that will help them build a support system in their lives.

Councilor Fuller inquired as to what Ms. O'Hara's level of education was, and what the average education or training level of the staff was. Ms. O'Hara stated she had a bachelor's degree in behavioral science and was halfway through a masters program. She noted she had been an executive director and administrator for 20 years, working with gangs in Los Angeles, acute psych hospitals, senior retirement centers, dementia programs, and alcohol and chemical dependency treatment facilities. Ms. O'Hara reported the counselors were required to be certified chemical dependency professionals licensed in the State of Washington, and most of the supervisors had masters degrees.

Ms. O'Hara introduced Operations Service Manager Bobbie Kiblen, who had been with the company for three years and was being transferred to Chehalis to run operations and help train line staff. She also introduced Administrator Bob Geissinger who had worked in the chemical dependency field for 35 years.

Councilor Pope inquired as to how many people the facility would employ, and what type of health care providers they would have on staff. Ms. O'Hara reported they hired about 30 employees so far, and anticipated a total of 60. She indicated they had secured 12 hours a week with an ARNP, which would work for their current needs. Councilor Fuller asked if most of the staff would live locally. Ms. O'Hara believed they would, if not the immediate area, the surrounding areas.

Councilor Taylor inquired about the clients coming from DOR, wondering if there was a list of what they were committed for, and if ABHS would admit patients with a history of violent crimes. Ms. O'Hara reported the most common crime would be some form of drug possession with intent to sell. They also had clients who had theft associated with their substance abuse, and occasionally domestic violence involving alcohol. She added clients would be admitted on a case-by-case basis.

Councilor Dawes asked if it would tie into the Lewis County drug court. Ms. O'Hara reported they had several counties placing clients through drug court.

Ms. O'Hara left her cell phone number and asked that the council and/or administration call her directly if they had any problems.

Mayor Ketchum thanked Ms. O'Hara for coming and briefing them on such short notice. Councilor Dawes also thanked Ms. O'Hara, adding it was incumbent upon the council to look at the safety aspect of anything coming into the community, and for them to ask the questions posed to them by their constituents.

**2. Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Outreach.** Centralia Community Development Director Emil Pierson reported in 2005, Lewis County and several other communities and districts in Lewis County all participated in a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan. He reported Lewis County came up with some dollars to pay Centralia for Mr. Pierson's time, to facilitate, write and update the plan. Mr. Pierson stated two months ago, there was discussion about applying for a hazard mitigation grant with FEMA, and in order to do so they had to update the multi-jurisdictional plan, which was required to be updated every five years. He was confident they could meet the five-year goal to have the plan adopted and updated by then.

Mr. Pierson reported as part of the plan they were required to reach out to the public for participation. He stated he was traveling to the various municipalities, inviting them to attend one of the three open houses. Mr. Pierson noted he would be back in front of the council in a couple of months, asking them to hold a public hearing and to adopt the plan. He indicated he was working closely with Mr. Nacht and Fire Chief Kelvin Johnson to ensure all aspects of the city's plan were covered in the updates.

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3. **Public Hearing on Proposed Changes to Development Regulations 2009.** Mr. Nacht entertained any questions on the specific proposals that the council might have.

City Manager MacReynold noted the council would have an opportunity to ask questions at both readings of the ordinance, and could also put suggestions in writing for the administration to consider.

Mr. Nacht reported the SEPA process would also apply as they go through the two readings, which meant the council would take care of the environmental review at the same time they consider the two readings of the ordinance.

Mayor Ketchum closed the regular meeting at 6:41 p.m. and opened the public hearing.

Executive Director Jim Rothlin from the Port of Chehalis stated, as part of the Port's efforts to create shovel ready property, they had been working with Mr. Nacht to try to get the type of zoning that was best for their clients and the Port, as well as meet the needs of the city. Mr. Rothlin stated the Port appreciated and supported the efforts of Mr. Nacht, who took their needs into consideration.

Mayor Ketchum closed the public hearing at 6:43 p.m. and reopened the regular meeting.

Councilor Harris moved that the council direct the administration to prepare an ordinance to implement the proposed changes to the development regulations.

Councilor Taylor seconded the motion.

Councilor Pope stated he had the privilege of overhearing a discussion regarding property that was once in the city's urban grown area. He asked Mr. Nacht if the property could be developed to include city utilities. Mr. Nacht stated there were a couple of caveats having to do with health and safety, and he would want to explore the specific property and circumstances before he gave a yea or nay. Councilor Pope noted he would stop by and talk to Mr. Nacht about it.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of August 10, 2009;
- b. Payroll Vouchers No. 32621-32734 and 784-856 in the amount of \$683,687.27 dated July 31, 2009; and Claim Vouchers No. 94338-94426 in the amount of \$95,777.77 dated August 3, 2009; and
- c. Award 2010 Water System Plan Update to HDR Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$177,522.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

5. **Staff Reports.**

a. **July Financial Report.** Eva Lindgren stated the July report was considerably better than June due to some one-time grant revenues. She did, however, point out that the sales and use tax revenue had dropped a half million dollars from last year. Ms. Lindgren stated because the city did some conservative budgeting we were not seeing a real severe variance. She added at this time they were just looking for sustainability.

b. **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Chamber Way Project.** Tim Grochowski reported they were still planning a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Chamber Way Project on Wednesday, September 2, at 10:00 a.m., at the Chamber of Commerce. He added Interim Chamber Director Dan Duffy was excited about the event and was busy cleaning up their area. Mr. Grochowski noted they also partnered with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to supply a couple of tents, if needed, as well as a podium and microphone. He noted the Governor would be sending a representative from her office and Representative Brian Baird hoped to be there, as well.

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Mayor Ketchum inquired about the condition of the southbound off-ramp at Chamber Way, noting it appeared to be bubbled and pitted. Mr. Grochowski reported he had been in contact with WSDOT about the issue and they were looking into what could be done to repair it. He noted the damage was caused by asphalt dripping off of vehicles that were using the exit during the I-5 paving project.

c. **Chehalis Avenue Parking Plan Meeting Rescheduled.** Mr. Grochowski reported invitations were being sent out to Chehalis Avenue merchants regarding a public meeting on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 a.m., at the Chehalis Deli. The meeting would be to discuss the pilot parking project along Chehalis Avenue.

## 6. **Council Reports.**

a. **Chehalis Renaissance Booth at Farmers Market.** Councilor Pope reported the Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT) would be setting up an informational booth at the Farmers Market, in particular to talk about the first initial phases of the project. He noted they also planned to set up the demo wayfinding sign to demonstrate to the public what they would look like. Councilor Pope stated the CCRT was planning on being at the market until it closed in the fall. He invited the rest of the council to participate if they were interested.

b. **Events Attended by Councilor Dawes.** Councilor Dawes reported he attended the annual employee safety picnic on Friday, August 2, and also spent some time at the Southwest Washington Fair in the Lewis County Historical Museum booth.

c. **Meetings and Events Attended by Councilor Fuller.** Councilor Fuller reported he attended the Economic Development Council breakfast at Kit Carson, which was very well attended. He noted the guest speaker was from a new company in Morton, Washington, that produced bullets. Councilor Fuller stated they were capable of putting out 80,000 bullets per day and hoped to eventually employ about 50 people.

Councilor Fuller also attended the annual employee safety picnic, along with Councilors Taylor and Dawes.

d. **Commercial Garbage Customer Complaint.** Councilor Taylor reported he received an email from the manager at the new Holiday Inn, who was having issues with his garbage service. He noted the customer's lid was always up a few inches and now he was being charged extra for the excess garbage, which he had never been charged for in the past. City Manager MacReynold reported staff would follow up on the complaint and report at the next meeting.

Councilor Fuller asked if a notice ever went out to notify customers they would be charged for additional garbage if their lid was open more than 45 degrees. Neither Councilor Fuller nor Mayor Ketchum saw anything about that in the information they received from the garbage company. City Attorney Hillier reported our jurisdiction was only over residential enforcement of charges, and the commercial accounts had never been under the city's jurisdiction. He indicated it would be a civil matter between the business and the provider; however the city still had some influence and had the right to interpret our own ordinance. City Attorney Hillier suggested the city speak with them to find out the facts, and consider sending out a notice to the public on the potential of extra charges for excess garbage, just for educational purposes.

Councilor Dawes reported he once had an issue with his bill, and when he called he was told he was charged for an extra can because his lid was up. He was informed that the regular driver did not always make a notation of the extra; however, on that particular day they had a substitute driver on that route. Councilor Dawes suggested it might be more prevalent with the new company, to charge for a lid open in excess of 45 degrees.

e. **Meetings and Events Attended by the Mayor.** Mayor Ketchum reported he attended the open public meeting regarding the hazard mitigation grant application process at Recreation Park. On Tuesday, August 18, he, along with Councilors Harris, Fuller, and Dawes, attended an informative work session in Centralia on the proposed levy project. The meeting included representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Centralia, WSDOT, and the Governor's Office. Mayor Ketchum noted he was promised by Keith Phillips of the Governor's Office that they would send a group down to investigate and discuss the cleaning and dredging of China Creek, Salzer Creek, and Dillenbaugh Creek, to see if there was any impact on holding water back.

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Councilor Harris noted, as part of the Chehalis River Basin Partnership, different communities within the basin were working with what they called "stream teams." He reported they were able to do a lot more than just pull debris out. Councilor Harris suggested they look into putting a 'stream team' together to look at Coal Creek and Dillenbaugh Creek in the same way.

f. **Public Meeting Regarding Hazard Mitigation Grant Application**. Mr. Nacht reminded the council about the second of two neighborhood public meetings on the hazard mitigation grant application process, which would take place on Monday, August 31, at 5:15 p.m. at the VR Lee Building. He stated they had seven citizens show up at the first open house.

7. **1960 Fireliner Fire Engine**. City Manager MacReynold reported, at the last council meeting, there was a request to take a look at what it would cost to rehab the 1960 fire engine to make it available to the councilors for parade opportunities and other events, rather than selling it. He noted Chief Johnson looked into the request and came up with an alternative proposal, which he believed might be even better.

Chief Johnson offered to answer any questions that might not have been answered in the agenda report or in the letter from Centralia-Chehalis Pupil Transportation Co-op Shop Supervisor Harvey Bamford.

Councilor Lund stated he wished the city had people who could find a way to solve a problem, instead of just saying 'no, we can't do it.'

Councilor Fuller asked if we ever used the other fire engine owned by the Local, or if it just sat. Chief Johnson stated the firefighters did use it, particularly during the Christmas Parade, and other parades within the city; however in talking with President Casey Beck, it was just a matter of people talking about what they need, and letting them know when they would like to use it. He reported the department also had other in-service fire engines that could be used in parades based on availability.

Mayor Ketchum noted there was no estimated noted in the agenda report as to how much it was going to cost to make the vehicle roadworthy. Chief Johnson reported he spoke with Mr. Bamford about the vehicle, and was told it would be hard to tell how much it was going to cost until money was spent to dig into it.

Councilor Lund reported he had known Mr. Bamford since high school and he was a problem solver. He stated it seemed odd to him that Mr. Bamford couldn't figure out a way to make the engine work.

Councilor Dawes felt in the spirit of what Councilor Lund wanted, they could certainly use one of the other in-service vehicles. He noted he respected the fact that the other vehicle was owned by the Firefighters and they used their own personal money on the upkeep. Councilor Dawes stated after making this part of the reason for wanting to consider keeping it, they as councilors needed to follow up and be there to ride it. Mayor Ketchum noted he actually rode on it the last couple of years with his grandchildren.

Chief Johnson reported the department also had a 1978 fire engine that was better maintained, and at such time they decide to surplus that vehicle, that would be another option for the council.

Councilor Fuller asked if the firefighters would be willing to enter into a letter of understanding stating the council could use their vehicle. Chief Johnson stated he would need to speak with President Beck about that, but felt they would be interested in listening.

Councilor Dawes felt the opportunity was there if council wanted to participate in using one of the other in-service vehicles. He stated he also knew Mr. Bamford and had asked him about the vehicle last spring when they brought it over to the bus garage. At that time Mr. Bamford told him it wasn't worth a hill of beans, so he was not surprised by the written report.

Councilor Fuller moved that the council accept the bid received by Bob Gallagher in the amount of \$2,222.22 for the purchase of the 1960 fireliner fire engine.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Dawes and carried 4 to 3, with Councilors Lund and Taylor, and Mayor Ketchum voting against the motion.

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8. **Resolution No. 13-2009, First and Final Reading – Declaring City Property Surplus.** Chief Johnson reported the item for surplus was the old SCBA compressor, which was replaced about three or four years ago with grant funding. He noted the department had no intentions of using it, and he checked with Property Manager Andy Sennes to see if any other city department could utilize it, which there was no interest.

Chief Johnson reported Fire District No. 11 had been looking for a compressor, since they currently fill their air bottles at our fire department. He noted he also checked with a manufacturer representative from MAKO, who advised him there was not much of a market for that particular piece of equipment. In the interest of working within our county, Chief Johnson put forth the offer to transfer the equipment over to Pe Ell.

Councilor Dawes moved that the council adopt Resolution No. 13-2009 on first and final reading and authorize the city manager to execute the interlocal agreement.

Councilor Taylor seconded the motion.

Councilor Dawes wanted to make sure all liability would attach to the district. City Attorney Hillier reported that issue was addressed in paragraph 8 of the interlocal agreement.

The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned a 7:13 p.m.

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Mayor

Attest:

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City Clerk

**SUGGESTED MOTION**

**I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of August 24, 2009.**