

July 27, 2009

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, July 27, 2009, 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, Robin Fuller, Daryl Lund, and Dennis Dawes. Councilor Taylor was absent (excused). Staff present included: Glenn Schaffer, Acting City Manager/ Police Chief; Amanda Vey, Assistant City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Kelvin Johnson, Fire Chief; Larry Allen, Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal; Tim Grochowski, Public Works Director; Bob Nacht, Community Development Director; Eva Lindgren, Finance Manager; and Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator. Members of the news media in attendance included Marquise Allen of *The Chronicle* and Paul Walker of KITI.

1. **Work Session – Spirit of America Foundation Presentation.** Acting City Manager/Chief Schaffer introduced John Jackson Jr., President of the Spirit of America Foundation (SAF), who briefed the council on the foundations interest in a 9-11 memorial.

Mr. Jackson reported the SAF was formed in 2001, shortly after 9-11, and the best presentation he could give would be to have the council stop by the Veterans Memorial Museum to see the display of artifacts. He stated Congressman Baird helped them by sending a congressional request to the internal revenue service to help get their 501-C3, which was one of the first hurdles for any non-profit organization to go through, in order to become a legitimate organization in the State of Washington.

Mr. Jackson reported their initial goal was to build the memorial at the state capital; however, the Revised Code of Washington sighted that no commemorative art works could be built on capital grounds until 10 years after an event.

Councilor Dawes asked if Mr. Jackson had narrowed down the site for the memorial. Mr. Jackson reported Director Lee Grimes of the Veterans Memorial Museum had mentioned an elevated piece of land next to the museum, which was owned by a private party. He noted Mr. Grimes felt there might be some interest in donating the property to the foundation, or a possibility of working something out with them. Mr. Jackson stated he heard there were other potential sites the city might have that could be developed into a memorial park.

Councilor Dawes stated he was thrilled with the prospect of the project becoming a reality. He felt if they put the memorial near the Veterans museum there would definitely be a tie to it, considering the significant conflict the nation was currently in. Mr. Jackson reported they had the sense that the memorial was more than just about 9-11, adding it was about Americans who stepped up and gave the ultimate sacrifice. He stated they would like it to be a living memorial where they could have a dedication ceremony every year for servicemen killed after 9-11. Councilor Dawes felt 9-11 affected not only service people, but police, fire, the airlines, and ordinary citizens, as well. He felt one of the other sites might ultimately be the ideal place, so it doesn't appear they are just trying to recognize the one segment.

Mr. Jackson stated he was interested in putting together a committee to work on the project, consisting of fire and police personnel, as well as retired military citizens. He briefly discussed the support they received from Kelly Fox, who was working with the Washington State Fireman's Council, adding he felt there would be some funding opportunities with that organization. Mr. Jackson stated they also had Berschauer Phillips signed on as the administrative contractor for the foundation, as well as a lot of other people who were willing to step up and help with the project.

Mr. Jackson talked briefly about his experience and ties to the community, noting he had lived in the Olympia area since 1977. He introduced their curator of historical artifacts, Jim Demetrio, who went back to meet with the renovation staff at the Pentagon, to pick out the material they wanted for the project.

Mayor Ketchum asked if Mr. Jackson was tied to the Lindbergh Foundation. Mr. Jackson reported Morgan Lindbergh was the grandson of Charles Lindbergh. He added Mr. Lindbergh (Morgan) was a contractor/welder whom he approached to see if he wanted to be involved with the project. Mr. Jackson reported he did, which opened a lot of doors for them on a national level.

Mr. Jackson stated their goal was to put the first memorial in Washington State, and hoped to set a precedent on how to work with communities to bring the project all together. He noted, eventually, they wanted to move to the east coast and put up a replica of the memorial in Washington, D.C.

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Councilor Fuller asked what their main source of funding would be. Mr. Jackson reported they would be working with John Watus, a public certified fundraiser, on a fundraising campaign. He noted once a site was located, they would begin their campaign. Mr. Jackson stated they had a lot of companies that were willing to donate materials, as well as a lot of interest from the carpenters, ironworkers and teamsters unions, to help with the project. Mr. Jackson indicated they would also be looking at state grant programs.

Councilor Pope stated he had the opportunity to walk around the area known as 'ground zero,' and asked if there would be an opportunity to get more artifacts. Mr. Jackson felt there was an opportunity to get more, if they wanted to.

Councilor Harris inquired as to how long the project would take to design, engineer, and construct. Mr. Jackson reported the lengthiest part of the project would be the artwork. He believed it could conceivably be built in 13 months. Mr. Jackson stated they would like to unveil the memorial on the 10th anniversary of the event.

Councilor Dawes indicated he was very interested in the project and thanked Mr. Jackson for looking at Chehalis.

The consensus of the council was to pursue the project.

Mayor Ketchum closed the work session at 5:26 p.m. and announced he would reopen the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Public Hearing- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy.** Fire Chief Kelvin Johnson briefly reported on the history of the EMS levy. He noted it started back in 1989, and the current levy would expire at the end of 2009. Chief Johnson stated they would be seeking to renew the levy by resolution later in the meeting.

Mayor Ketchum closed the regular meeting at 6:05 p.m. and opened the public hearing. There being no public comment, Mayor Ketchum reopened the regular meeting at 6:06 p.m.

3. **Cascade Country Cook-off and Classic Car Show 2009.** Mayor Ketchum presented Tracey Lowrey and Maretta Berg a proclamation declaring August 8-9, 2009, as Cascade Country Cook-off and Classic Car Show 2009 in the city of Chehalis.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of July 13, 2009;
- b. Claim Vouchers No. 94007-94169 in the amount of \$765,362.73 dated July 6, 2009;
- c. Accept Phase IV Water Filter Plant Combined Raw and Treated Water Booster Pump Station Project as complete and release retainage to Stellar J Corporation in the amount of \$54,471.56; and
- d. Accept proposal from Lewis County IT Services in the amount of \$5,007 for the purchase of miscellaneous WiFi equipment.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

5. **Staff Reports.**

a. **Chehalis Avenue Renaissance Plan Pilot Project.** Acting City Manager/Chief Schaffer reported one of the first projects of the Chehalis Renaissance Plan was a pilot parking project along Chehalis Avenue.

Tim Grochowski stated the administration came to the council back in June of 2008, to report on a parking demonstration that would take place along Chehalis Avenue from North Street to Park Street. During the demonstration, it was determined that the original plan was not going to work, so they came up with a similar plan of putting all of the angle parking on one side and have parallel parking on the other in that area.

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Mr. Grochowski reported City Manager MacReynold planned on meeting with, or would be sending a letter to the downtown businesses to let them know what the plan entailed. He provided the council with a design plan for what they wanted to use for the pilot project.

Councilor Lund asked how many parking spaces were gained. Mr. Grochowski reported they gained four spaces. He noted, as part of the pilot project, the Chehalis Foundation would be adding some potted trees sometime in the fall.

b. **Chamber Way Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.** Mr. Grochowski reported they set a date of Wednesday, September 2, at 10:00 a.m., for the Chamber Way Project ribbon cutting ceremony. He noted the event would take place in The Chamber office parking lot.

c. **Briefing on Business License Renewal Process.** Bob Nacht updated the council on how they intended on dealing with 2009 business license renewals. He noted in 2001, the council passed an ordinance requiring business licenses for those conducting business within the city limits of Chehalis. Mr. Nacht reported, at that time, the finance department was in charge of taking care of the licenses; however, in 2008 the community development department became responsible for administering the licenses, primarily because they were the department who inspected and approved the applications through the development review committee process.

Mr. Nacht reported in 2008, they issued just under a thousand business licenses, noting not all were necessarily located within the city limits of Chehalis. He indicated the current ordinance required that all business licenses expire on August 31. Mr. Nacht stated, for 2009, they decided to stagger the expiration dates on all business license renewals. He noted for the last couple of months they had been issuing 12-month licenses, rather than having them expire on August 31.

Mr. Nacht reported the annual renewal notices were due to go out later in the week. At that time they would be advising all businesses receiving the notice that, for this year only, the expiration dates were going to be extended anywhere from one to eleven months. He added in order to provide an incentive for businesses to renew early they would offer the longest expiration date to those who come in first to renew their license. Mr. Nacht stated it would be cost prohibitive to try and prorate the annual fee, therefore, they intended on keeping the renewal fee at \$15.00. He reported the new way of doing business was an effort to try and get all of the business licenses to expire equitably on a monthly basis, adding it would be relatively easy to set up the computer system to generate renewal notices on a monthly basis.

Mr. Nacht reported the finance department, through Microflex, Inc., was doing an audit of the city's business license system, to identify businesses located within the city that were not properly reporting or paying city sales tax.

Councilor Lund asked if the business licenses were listed on the city website. Mr. Nacht reported, because they changed on a weekly basis, they were not listed, but noted they had the capability of doing it. Mr. Nacht reported the license information was always available by calling the community development department, and the actual business license application was on-line, to allow businesses to apply on-line.

Councilor Pope noted for several years, people had been knocking on his door trying to sell him stuff. He asked if that was allowed, and if so, were door-to-door salesmen required to have a city business license. Mr. Nacht indicated the city did not have any regulations stipulating no door-to-door sales; however, a city business license was still needed to do it. Councilor Pope stated there were a lot of older people in his district and it bothered him having people selling door-to-door. Mr. Nacht stated those were typically police department type issues.

Councilor Dawes reported at one time the city had regulations against going door-to-door as part of the nuisance ordinance; however, there was a case a while back that struck that law down.

6. **Council Reports.**

a. **Events Attended and Update on the Lewis County Historical Museum.** Councilor Dawes reported he attended a ribbon cutting ceremony at Bella Bean Espresso on Market Boulevard; and the Business after Hours at Pope's Kids Place.

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Councilor Dawes gave an update on the progress of the paver project at the Museum, noting it was pretty much done and they were just waiting on the handrail for the ramp. As part of the project, Kaija's donated and planted roses in the new planter box along Front Street.

Councilor Dawes reported the museum was planning on another fashion show sometime in February 2010, and anyone interested in participating should contact the museum.

b. **2nd Annual Fun Day at Lintott/Alexander Park.** Councilor Pope reported on the 2nd Annual Fun Day at Lintott/Alexander Park, adding they had quite a few kids participate and a lot of volunteers. He noted they would like to continue the annual event, and invited anyone willing to participate to come to their meetings.

c. **Chehalis Renaissance Update.** Councilor Pope reported they were trying to locate a place to display posters. He noted Councilor Lund had a good suggestion, which was to use one of his display windows. Councilor Pope reported he would be taking the idea back to the committee, and thanked Councilor Lund for his offer.

d. **Special Thanks to Police Department.** Councilor Lund thanked the police department for escorting the procession for his mother's funeral. He noted he received a lot of comments on how impressive it was.

e. **Various Events Attended by Mayor.** Mayor Ketchum reported he attended a garlic festival committee meeting last week and things are well underway. He also attended the 2nd Annual Fun Day at Lintott/Alexander Park, as well as the Hispanic Festival at Centralia College.

7. **Resolution No. 12-2009, First and Final Reading – Adopting the Submission of a Ballot Proposition for an EMS Levy.** Chief Johnson reported that at the July 13 council meeting, Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Larry Allen provided some brief information to the council regarding the EMS levy proposition. Chief Johnson addressed the following questions that came from the meeting.

- How was the amount determined each year? – Chief Johnson reported as they go through the budget process, they determine what the figure will be. Once the council approved the budget that figure was sent to the Lewis County Assessor's Office, where each year they set the actual rate, based on the resolution adopted by the city.
- Timing – Chief Johnson stated, in looking at the majority of voters they had to have, they felt the general election typically showed the most voters to come out. He was very positive about the proposition and believed they had some strong information. He noted, in the event it does not pass, the next available election would be February 9, 2010. Chief Johnson stated, according to the elections office, if the city elected to run an election on its own, it would cost roughly \$6,500.
- Time to educate – Chief Johnson noted they had two solid months to educate people, which he believed was plenty of time. He indicated they were working with the stakeholders group and the local union, who were more than willing to pledge their support.
- Six-year timeframe – Mr. Johnson reported the RCW allowed for a six, ten, or permanent levy; however, in looking at the current economic time, they felt the six-year timeframe would be more appropriate.

Councilor Fuller asked if the department or city would be spending any amount of money on it. Chief Johnson stated the department would not, adding the stakeholders would be putting the information out.

Councilor Dawes noted he had always operated under the assumption that the ballot language was to be quoted verbatim in the resolution, and it had to be run by the civil attorney at the prosecutor's office to make sure it was per-say; and once they gave their blessing that was what was included in the resolution. City Clerk Judy Schave reported the language had been run by and approved by the prosecutor's office.

Councilor Dawes noted in section 4 of the resolution, it noted 'the city needed to certify to the Lewis County Auditor, at least eighty-four (84) days prior to said election.' He stated it was his understanding that the time-frame was forty-five (45) days. Mr. Johnson reported he talked with the elections office and was told that the primary election required the last day for the city to have the resolution in was August 11. He noted he checked again to make sure they were absolutely sure, and they confirmed it had to be in by August 11. Councilor Dawes didn't know why it would be any different from a school district levy. He noted he

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liked to error on the side of caution, and if for whatever reason they were not successful, he wanted a fallback.

Councilor Dawes moved to adopt Resolution No. 12-2009 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 6:39 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of July 27, 2009.