

September 14, 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 5:30 p.m. with the following council members present: Dr. Isaac Pope, Chad Taylor, and Dennis Dawes. Councilors Harris, Fuller and Lund were absent (excused). Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; and Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator.

1. **Executive Session.** Mayor Ketchum announced the council would be in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) – collective bargaining for approximately 30 minutes and there would be no decision following the conclusion of the executive session.

Mayor Ketchum closed the executive session and announced the council would take a four-minute recess and reopen the regular meeting at 6:04 p.m. Additional staff included: Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Bob Nacht, Community Development Director; Tim Grochowski, Public Works Director; Patrick Wiltzius, Wastewater Superintendent; and Dave Vasilauskas, Water Superintendent. Members of the news media in attendance included Marquise Allen of *The Chronicle* and Paul Walker of KITI.

2. **American Legion Month.** Mayor Ketchum presented Vernon (Buddy) Barlow, Commander of American Legion Post 508, with a proclamation declaring September to be "American Legion Month" in the city of Chehalis.

3. **Chehalis Watershed Appreciation Day.** Mayor Ketchum presented Watershed Facilitator, Janel Spaulding, with a proclamation declaring September 19, 2009, as "Chehalis Watershed Day" in the city of Chehalis.

4. **Chehalis Renaissance Action Plan Update.** Larry McGee, Chair of the Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT), briefed the council on the progress of the team. Mr. McGee reported they put together a presentation, which he took to the Chehalis Rotary Club last week and would be taking to the Chehalis Business Association on Tuesday morning. He noted the same presentation was also posted on the city's website, replacing the 64-page version.

Mr. McGee reported they had a few changes in membership, adding one of the vigorous new members was Lewis County Commissioner Bill Schulte. He briefly talked about the plan and mission of the CCRT, adding the focus was to make Chehalis a better place to live; to create more youth involvement in the community; generate more jobs; make it a more interesting place for tourists; and to grow the retail environment. Mr. McGee stated the mission of the CCRT was to implement the council-approved plan. He noted it was simple to say; however, it was not so simple to do.

Mr. McGee reported on the 'activities and results' of the plan that the CCRT would like to complete in the next three to 18 months. Activities included:

- Meetings with individual councilmen
- Camas relationship started
- 60+ citizen conversations at the Farmers Market with the help of Councilmen Pope and Fuller
- Meetings held with Chehalis Avenue business owners
- CCRT took walking tour of Chehalis on September 11

Progress included:

- New Chehalis logo adopted
- Youth organization started
- SCORE sub-chapter started
- 46 large wayfinding signs would be up by year-end
- New I-5 historic signs would be up by year-end
- Downtown walking tour to be published by year-end
- Traffic calming/tree pilot project on Chehalis Avenue by early October

Mr. McGee reported Brenda Book from the Farmers Market had been very helpful in promoting the plan. He added because of her efforts, he was interviewed by The Evergreen Journal on KELA radio.

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Mr. McGee stated they were consistently sending the message that the city was a partner in the process, and it was the responsibility of citizens to provide leadership and to work in partnership with the city.

Mr. McGee thanked Councilor Pope for his time and commitment for being at the market every week.

Mayor Ketchum stated he loved the idea that it was a citizen project and not a council project, adding they tried a lot of things in the past that never went anywhere. He was pleased to see all the input the plan was receiving and felt it was going to turn out great for everybody. Mayor Ketchum stated he appreciated all of Mr. McGee's hard work. Mr. McGee stated he would pass that on to the committee.

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

a. Minutes of the special work session of August 18, 2009, and the regular meeting of August 24, 2009;

b. Claim Voucher No. 72009 in the amount of \$20,159.01 dated August 17, 2009; Claim Vouchers No. 94427-94602 in the amount of \$180,244.98 dated August 17, 2009; and Payroll Vouchers No. 32735-32845 in the amount of \$679,785.15 dated August 31, 2009.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

6. **Staff Reports.**

a. **Update on Holiday Inn Garbage Billing Issue.** City Clerk Judy Schave reported she spoke with Ed Lewis from LeMay Enterprises, Inc., and asked him to make contact with Todd Chaput, General Manager at the Holiday Inn, to discuss the issue of being billed for excess garbage. She noted she spoke with Mr. Lewis last week and the issue had been resolved.

Ms. Schave noted she also talked with Mr. Lewis about putting a flyer in the customer billing statements regarding excess charges for container lids open more than 45 degrees. She noted Mr. Lewis was going to check with upper-management and get back to her. Ms. Schave noted she would make contact with Mr. Lewis to see if he had followed through on that request.

Councilor Dawes commented on a phone call he received, noting there seemed to be a little confusion with the new bills. He noted when the city did the billing, it only referenced garbage service, and LeMay's bills indicate garbage and recycling services. Councilor Dawes noted some people thought they were paying more because of recycling and wanted to know if it was mandatory. He reported once he explained it to them, they had no problem with it. Councilor Dawes felt the transition had gone smoothly, adding he loved then new one-bin recycling container. Councilor Taylor liked the new bin as well.

b. **Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule Classification Report.** Bob Nacht first asked the council to take a look at the application document that Bobbi Boone would be submitting to FEMA on Tuesday morning for a \$1.1 million hazard mitigation grant, for the elevation of 25 flood-prone properties. He noted Ms. Boone had been working on the process for about three months.

Mr. Nacht reported on the building code effectiveness grading schedule, adding the agenda report pretty much summed it up. He noted they would continue to do what they had been doing, to keep insurance rates as low as possible.

c. **Public Works Update on Chehalis Renaissance.** Tim Grochowski reported on a meeting that was held at the Chehalis Deli on Wednesday, September 9, to talk about the Chehalis Avenue pilot project. He noted they sent out 64 invitations to the meeting and only had four businesses show up. They also had representatives from public works, fire and police, and various other city staff. Mr. Grochowski reported they discussed the reconfiguration of Chehalis Avenue and received some feedback and some concerns, which staff addressed. He noted Andy Sennes was also at the meeting to talk about the trees and tree placement. Mr. Grochowski stated they had already stripped Chehalis Avenue and in the following two weeks they would be putting the angle and parallel parking lines down.

Mr. Grochowski reported public works was taking on an increased responsibility with the wayfinding signage, adding he had the city sign technician and street superintendent looking at all of the placement areas and sign content, as

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suggested by Tom Beckwith. He noted they were looking at changing some of the content on the wayfinding signs, and would be also talking with Mr. McGee who also had some changes he would like to see.

Mr. Grochowski reported the city would be going out to bid on the wayfinding signage, rather than Mr. Beckwith, because he would like to see the city have more input in the placement of the signs. He stated they would probably be ordering the signs next month and hoped to have them up by year-end.

City Manager MacReynold reported, even though they only had four businesses show up, they asked all the right questions and received good responses. He noted the key would be how they would measure success over the next six months, once the pilot project was fully implemented.

d. **Chamber Way Plaque Presented at Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.** Mr. Grochowski reported on the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Chamber Way Project held on September 2. He stated Steve Gorcester from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board presented Mayor Ketchum with a plaque in recognition of the successful partnership in completing Chamber of Commerce Way.

e. **Update on Mayors Meeting.** City Manager MacReynold reported on the September 4 mayors' meeting and talked briefly about some of the items brought up by the Lewis County Commissioners that were not on the agenda. He stated the main purpose of the meeting was to introduce the new Director of Health and Human Services for the county.

City Manager MacReynold stated there was also some significant discussion about establishing, or consideration of impact fees in the county. He noted it was a very emotional issue and the Mayor from Napavine spoke on the subject because they were the only jurisdiction in the county that had approved impact fees for schools. City Manager MacReynold indicated impact fees could also be for transportation, fire and possibly parks. He added impact fees had to be passed by both the county and the city that they apply to.

City Manager MacReynold reported another issue that came up was 'transfer of development rights.' He noted the transfer of development rights tended to be in more urbanized counties, such as Pierce and King County; however, it was probably going to be discussed in more detail in the future, which was why they briefed the mayors on the subject.

Councilor Taylor asked whether the city applied fees to businesses that locate in the city, that go along with the business to mitigate the impact. Mr. Nacht reported the city did not implement impact fees, adding that was a very complex process. He noted the city currently used the SEPA authority to actually mitigate negative impacts created by a particular development. Councilor Taylor inquired as to what the benefit would be of an impact fee if the city was already doing it through SEPA. Mr. Nacht indicated there were many issues with both impact fees and with the SEPA authority, and it would probably be real difficult to weigh both sides at the moment.

City Manager MacReynold reported the main discussion now was schools, and in the future possibly around transportation. Councilor Dawes noted schools had been a big item for some time because of the large growth and immediate need for buildings, and the fact that the local economy didn't have it.

## 7. **Council Reports.**

a. **Events Attended by the Council.** Councilor Dawes reported he and Councilor Pope attended the smoke free sign planting at Penny Playground on August 28. He also spent a couple of days at the Garlic Festival, adding they thought they had in excess of 20,000 people attend the event over the three-day period.

Councilor Dawes reported he also sat at the Renaissance booth at the farmers market last Tuesday with Dr. Pope to help promote the plan and answer any questions people might have. He added, on Thursday, the Lewis County Historical Museum would be hosting the "Business After Hours" and invited everyone to stop by.

8. **Ordinance No. 847-B, First Reading – Updating Development Regulations for 2009.** Mr. Nacht reported the agenda report spoke for itself, and offered to answer any questions the council might have. He noted public hearings were held by the city council and planning commission on the issue, and felt all of the questions on specific items had been answered.

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Councilor Dawes moved to pass Ordinance No. 847-B on first reading.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and carried unanimously.

9. **Authorize Letter of Support – Chehalis River Basin Flood Reduction.** Councilor Taylor reported Congressman Baird and the Lewis County Commissioners sent letters to the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) asking them for some considerations, including: to update the 1982 study they did on water retention; and to kindly ask them to include water retention in the general investigation study. He was hoping the city council could send a letter to show our support.

Councilor Taylor moved to send a letter of support to the Corps on the Chehalis River basin flood reduction project.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

10. **Resolution No. 14-2009, First and Final Reading – Declaring Personal Property to be Surplus.** Patrick Wiltzius reported they were pretty much done with the old treatment plant and planned to go out for proposals in 2009 for scrap rights to the plant; however the bottom fell out on the scrap market, so they pretty much just locked the gate for now. He noted there was interest from a few different parties, such as the Airport, on getting some of the stuff for their projects.

Mr. Wiltzius reported Three Rivers Regional Wastewater Authority (TRRWA) in Kelso/Longview, Washington, had a need for the old Hycor fine screen. He noted the one at the old plant was at least 15 years old and was pretty much trash. Mr. Wiltzius called around for scrap metal prices, which were running 40 cents, a pound, and estimated the value of the screen to be \$200.

Councilor Dawes moved that the council adopt Resolution 14-2009 on first and final reading and authorize the city manager to sign the interlocal agreement between the City and the TRRWA, transferring ownership of the screen to the TRRWA for \$200.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned a 6:43 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 September 14, 2009.**