March 26, 2018

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, March 26, 2018, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Dennis Dawes called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Tony Ketchum, Daryl Lund, and Bob Spahr. Councilors Isaac Pope and Chad Taylor were absent (excused). Staff present included: Jill Anderson, City Manager; Caryn Foley, City Clerk; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Brandon Rakes, Airport Operations Coordinator; Rick Sahlin, Public Works Director; Chun Saul, Finance Director; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; and Don Schmitt, Street/Storm Superintendent. Members of the news media in attendance included Alex Brown of *The Chronicle*.

1. **Twin Transit**. Derrick Wojcik-Damers, General Manager of Twin Transit, reported on the Countywide Transit Expansion Feasibility Study conducted by Nelson Nygaard. A transit conference will be conducted by the Board of Lewis County Commissioners on April 6 to discuss the issue. Twin Transit currently provides fixed-route and paratransit services in Chehalis and Centralia funded by a 0.2% local sales tax, and state and federal funding. The White Pass Community Services Coalition (WPCSC) operates the L.E.W.I.S. Mountain Highway Transit, but they plan to cease operations within the next two years.

Councilor Ketchum asked if residents paid into Twin Transit through their property taxes. Mr. Wojcik-Damers stated they do not.

Mr. Wojcik-Damers stated the study was conducted to evaluate the opportunity to expand the system to provide transit service to more parts of Lewis County, which would assume no change to existing Twin Transit service levels or routes.

Mayor Dawes asked if WSDOT could provide additional funding. Mr. Wojcik-Damers indicated there would be no additional funding from WSDOT. The legislature mandated a minimum match requirement and the WPCSC can no longer meet that requirement. Mayor Dawes wondered if the match could be raised by the communities on the east end of the county.

Mr. Wojcik-Damers stated the study determined that a county-wide transit system would be sustainable if a 0.2% sales tax was extended to the remaining parts of a new transit district using fixed-route and dial-a-ride services to connect residents, jobs, and communities.

Mayor Dawes had concern about a route to Olympia. He stated that was tried and it didn’t work, and it cut local services that have never been restored. He thought Intercity Transit was very well entrenched in the Chehalis-Centralia area. Mr. Wojcik-Damers stated they are working to bridge the gaps in the region.

Councilor Harris did not want to see residents being shipped out of the area to shop. Mr. Wojcik-Damers stated they are not trying to do that, but they are focusing on commuters that live in the Twin Cities and work in Olympia, and vice-versa. There is a lack of employees in our area, along with areas of massive unemployment, with no connecting services to bring them into the Twin Cities. He stated he was providing a representation of what services could look like.

Lewis County Commissioner Bobby Jackson added some of what is being talked about today includes long-term goals with the primary objective to create mobility inside Lewis County. He thought it would be good for the economy and education. He stated their main objective is to serve folks in our community and to gradually restore services that were discontinued.

Mr. Wojcik-Damers stated next steps include a conference to discuss and consider expansion of present transit services county-wide, and each incorporated jurisdiction is being asked to send a representative to the conference.

2. **American Behavioral Health Systems (ABHS)**. Tony Prentice, Administrator of ABHS, stated they will open a 22-bed acute detox facility at their Chehalis location effective April 1. He noted this was a secure facility that individuals cannot leave. The detox will be done and ABHS will work with the court system on the next steps for the individuals. Additionally, ABHS has opened another out-patient mental health facility in Centralia. He stated this has added 40 full-time employees in the two locations. He stated there have been concerns about how individuals will be released from treatment. He stated ABHS is required to return individuals to their county of origin.

Councilor Ketchum noted that when ABHS first came to Chehalis there were many concerns from citizens. He stated ABHS listened and did a great job of addressing the concerns. Mayor Dawes echoed Councilor Ketchum’s comments.

3. **Millett Field**. Brittany Voie, Marketing Director for Thorbeckes Athletic Clubs, spoke about Millet Field. The field is named after Daniel Caldwell Millett, a former mayor of Chehalis and prominent attorney, who died in 1908. The field was formally deeded to the city after Mr. Millett’s death. Historical accounts claim that the first athletic events happened on Millett

March 26, 2018

Field as early as 1896, and it is believed that some of the first Swamp Cup football games took place at Millett Field around 1907. The Semi-Pro Timber League, American Legion, Babe Ruth, Little League, and Bearcat teams all played on the field. Other events that took place included all-star games, state championships, boxing matches, and dances. The field was open until the American Crossarm & Conduit EPA Superfund cleanup forced closure of the park following a flood, which caused soil contamination. In 2006, Thorbeckes partnered with the city to purchase and install playground equipment in the northern corner of the field, which today serves Thorbeckes and Lewis County Head Start. Thorbeckes would like to see the space used for recreation again. They plan to dedicate space in their lobby on the history of the field with photos, articles, and artifacts, and they would welcome help in identifying other relevant items to include in a display. She thanked the Lewis County Historical Museum and Mr. Steve Reichert for their help with the project. Some council members had memories of the field and participating in athletic events there.

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

a. Minutes of the regular meeting of March 12, 2018;

b. March 15, 2018 Claim Vouchers No. 121869-122020 in the amount of $335,431.68; and

c. Resolution No. 2-2018, first and final reading – declaring property to be surplus.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund and carried unanimously.

5. **Transportation Benefit District (TBD) Update**. Don Schmitt stated the city is now receiving proceeds from the voter-approved TBD. The proposed project selection list was based on several factors. The proposed financing strategy includes taking the majority of the monies received each year for smaller projects, like grind and overlays, that do not require grant funds. Other funds would be set aside for grant matching funds, design costs, etc. Staff plans to utilize funds to maximize TBD dollars by using available funding on eligible projects, which is typically a 10-14% match; using in-house design and inspection for smaller projects to reduce consultant costs; and by using “value engineering.” Mr. Schmitt stated the estimated annual revenues are projected to be $1.08 million. Staff presented the following projects for council’s consideration:

2018

* Market Blvd. downtown parking – grind and repave multipurpose areas $66,000
* National Ave. under Chamber Way – slide repair Scoping Phase
* Chehalis Ave. from Main to John Sts. – spot repairs Scoping Phase
* Chamber Way to Louisiana Ave. to dead end – grind and repave $86,000
* Prospect St. – grind and repave slide repair area $12,000

2019

* Pacific Ave. from Main to Park Sts. – street reconstruction; storm/waterline $825,000

replacement; ornamental street lighting

* Chehalis Ave. from 3rd to 9th Sts. - reconstruction Scoping Phase

With regard to Chehalis Avenue, Councilor Ketchum thought Lewis County put in an inferior road in front of the jail, and it is also partly deteriorating from heavy truck traffic from Darigold. He asked if those two entities should help with the costs of repair. Mr. Schmitt stated it would be a good conversation to have, although Darigold using the street is a permitted use, so it should be built to those standards.

Mayor Dawes asked about grant funding for Chehalis Avenue from 3rd to 9th Streets. Mr. Schmitt stated that portion of Chehalis Avenue is a local access street and does not qualify for grant funding.

Relating to National Avenue, the plan is to shift traffic over earlier since traffic reduces to one lane just beyond the slide. There was concern from some council members about doing that. There was also talk that a roundabout was a possibility for the National/Chamber intersection. Councilor Lund stated he was not in favor of another roundabout. Not knowing when the Chamber Way bridge could be replaced, the council indicated they would like to see the slide repaired without shifting traffic.

March 26, 2018

Mr. Schmitt stated staff would like council’s concurrence to move ahead with the 2018 proposed projects, and will incorporate council’s feedback into the 2019-2024 Transportation Improvement Program scheduled for consideration in May.

With respect to National Avenue, City Manager Anderson stated staff could bring back some options and costs for addressing the slide.

The council concurred with the 2018 project list. Mayor Dawes stated he was happy that signs have already been purchased to notify the public that projects are being funded with TBD monies.

6. **Administration Reports**.

a. **Finance Report**. Chun Saul reported on the first two months of 2018’s financial activities. She explained that 16.7% (2 of 12 months) was used as the target percentage for comparing the actual year-to-date outcome to the 2018 adopted budget. Expenditures exceeded revenues by $371,537. She stated this was primarily caused by property taxes, explaining that the first half property taxes are not due until the end of April and the city will not receive those funds until May. She stated all other revenues were on target, while sales and use taxes were about 9% higher than this time last year. Ms. Saul stated most departments were under the 16.7% target. Those departments that had higher expenditures were due to WCIA insurance, which is paid in February; retroactive pay adjustments; and the purchase of a vehicle for the fire department.

Councilor Harris suggested that the PowerPoint presentation be placed on the city’s website for the public to view.

b. **City Manager Update**. City Manager Anderson stated the library roof will be replaced, but due to weather the project will start next Monday. She noted the drive-up window will be closed during operating hours as that area will be used for staging. The project should be completed in two to three weeks. Ms. Anderson reminded everyone about memorial services for Orin Smith that are set for April 8 and 2:00 pm in Kane Hall on the University of Washington campus. She shared a framed copy of the newspaper article surrounding the commemorative naming of a portion of SW 16th Street in Orin Smith’s name. The article was beautifully framed and generously donated by David Hartz, owner of Book ‘N Brush. Mayor Dawes noted a floral arrangement will be sent on behalf of the city to the April 8 services.

7. **Councilor Reports/Committee Updates**.

a. Councilor Harris reported that the Chehalis Basin Partnership has been asked by the legislature to update their watershed plan to include strategies and projects for off-setting the consumptive water use of new “exempt” wells (Hirst decision), which can impact development. Funds will be allocated to the Partnership for the project.

b. Mayor Dawes attended the Twin Transit board meeting for Councilor Taylor.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Dennis L. Dawes, Mayor

Caryn Foley, City Clerk

Approved: 4/9/2018

Initials: cf