April 9, 2018

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, April 9, 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, Daryl Lund, Dr. Isaac Pope, Bob Spahr, and Chad Taylor. Councilor Tony Ketchum was absent (excused). Staff present included: Ken Cardinale, Fire Chief; Caryn Foley, City Clerk; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Trent Lougheed, Community Development Director; Brandon Rakes, Airport Operations Coordinator; Rick Sahlin, Public Works Director; Chun Saul, Finance Director; and Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief/Acting City Manager. Members of the news media in attendance included Alex Brown of *The Chronicle*.

1. **Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)**. Annalee Tobey, Executor Director, announced that the CCRT received $133,333 through the B&O tax credit program, which is the maximum, annual amount allowed through the Main Street Program. She thanked the city for their $50,000 contribution, and all of the other businesses that made donations. Other CCRT activities include planning for ChehalisFest to be held July 28; launching the Experience Chehalis website by the end April; painting a second mural on the downtown restrooms; restoring and reinstalling downtown benches; continuation of the façade improvement grant program; launching a micro grant program for smaller improvements such as sandwich boards, window displays, etc.; working with W.F. West to establish a mentorship program; and working on creating a courtyard in the back of the Chehalis Coworks facility. Ms. Tobey noted the Coworks already has seven monthly memberships.

2. **Port of Chehalis**. Chief Executive Officer Randy Mueller reviewed accomplishments over the last year by the Port that included sales to Pacific Mobile Structures, Inc., Wood Products, Inc., and the Water Doctor; demolition and cleanup of four rental homes; construction of a regional storm water facility; expansion of Habein Road Industrial Complex; a new billboard; and new tenants including U-Joint, Pacific NW Pet Center, Wilson Oil, RG Construction, and RG Crushing. Current projects include Maurin Road Industrial Site 1; McBride Court building project; Dark Fiber project w/Lewis PUD; and creating a buildable lands inventory. Mr. Mueller stated the Port supports the city on several issues, including reestablishment of the city/county interlocal agreement for permitting; city annexations of UGA; downtown revitalization; flood prevention and habitat restoration; and transit. Future projects include STEM industrial park tours; working with local farmers/potential future ag center; and rewriting the Port’s long-range capital projects list.

3. **Youth Advocacy Center**. Samantha Mitchell, Forensic Interviewer, stated the center is located at the NW Pediatric Center in Centralia. She stated the center provides services to child victims of sexual abuse, maltreatment, neglect, and physical abuse, and to vulnerable adult victims of abuse. The center provides medical exams, forensic interviews, mental health, and victim advocacy services using a multi-disciplinary team. Ms. Mitchell stated that since 2015, the number of children being served continues to rise. She provided several statistics relating to the ages of children served, medical referrals, the location of where the children reside, and the financial implications of abuse. According to the most recent census, there are 16,678 children under the age of 18 in Lewis County. It is estimated that 1,668 will be abused before their 18th birthday. She noted that the use of a children’s advocacy center approach leads to a dramatic increase in felony prosecutions of child sexual abuse. Ms. Mitchell stated the center will be moving into NW Pediatric’s new building this year, which means they will begin paying rent, but the location serves as a safe place for families to come. There is no stigma of people knowing that they are going to a child advocacy center.

4. **Fire at Old Wastewater Treatment Plant**. Chief Cardinale reported on the fire that took place yesterday at the city’s old wastewater treatment plant. Multiple districts joined the Chehalis Fire Department in responding to the fire. He stated there was a dispatching glitch and they did not tone out off-duty personnel or him, so he was not aware of the fire until later that morning. He met with Steve Mansfield this morning to correct that problem. Chief Cardinale stated the building was a total loss. The cause is still being investigated, but it was most likely started by a transient. They experienced some water problems in the area, specifically very low pressure, which caused a delay in getting water on the fire. After speaking with Water Superintendent Dave Vasilauskas, it was determined that the problem is that the water line is only a 4-inch line built in 1905 that has a lot of encrustation, causing reduced flow. To address that, the Fire Department has already updated its response plan to include water tenders to augment responses to future fires in that area.

5. **Citizens Business – Community Farmers Market**. Mokey Skinner, President of the Community Farmers Market, addressed the council regarding the upcoming market season. She stated the Tuesday market begins June 5 and runs until the end of October. She invited everyone to the market’s Friends & Family Night fundraiser at the Olympic Club on April 24 from 5:00 to midnight. She stated the market has grown over the years and they have been looking at ways to expand. Last year, they tried a seven-week pilot series of Friday markets from 4:00 to 7:00 to serve working families. They would like to expand the Friday market to a full season this year, working with the “brick-and-mortar” business owners to promote their services and specials during market days, and to make sure the additional foot traffic is beneficial to all. Ms. Skinner stated the market has

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started an ambassador program and talking to business owners to create growth, not just for the market, but for the downtown. She encouraged business owners who have comments or concerns to contact her directly. One issue that came up during her contacts related to parking and the market is working to address those concerns. Ms. Skinner thanked the city, the downtown business owners, and market customers for their support over the years. She presented the council with a letter of support from several business owners.

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

a. Minutes of the regular meeting of March 26, 2018;

b. March 30, 2018 Claim Vouchers No. 122021-122149 and Electronic Funds Transfer No. 22018 in the amount of $232,533.63;

c. March 30, 2018, Payroll Vouchers No. 40161-40204, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 9305-9406, and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 182 in the amount of $802,840.89;

d. Interlocal agreement with the Town of Pe Ell for fire investigation services;

e. Interlocal agreement with the City of Winlock for fire investigation services; and

f. Award bid to Lakeside Industries in the amount of $74,000 for the North Market Boulevard Grind and Inlay Project.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund and carried unanimously.

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

a. Councilor Harris stated he, along with Dr. Pope, Councilor Spahr, and Mayor Dawes, attended the Chehalis Foundation dinner. The event raised a lot of money.

b. Mayor Dawes attended the ribbon cutting for the Second Time Around Thrift Shop; the Chehalis Foundation dinner; and the mayors’ meeting where the expanded transit system was discussed. Mayor Dawes stated *The Chronicle* reported that all cities, except Napavine, voted in favor of expanding transit countywide and putting a measure to the voters in November. Mayor Dawes stated the Chehalis city council took no action on the matter, so when he attended the meeting, his statement to the group was that he would not take a position one way or the other because Chehalis is already within the transit district and he thought the decision should be made from the cities not currently in the district. He told them Chehalis would cooperate with the ultimate decision of the group.

c. Councilor Pope stated the Chehalis Foundation was originally organized for the city of Chehalis so the city could take care of projects without raising taxes, and the Foundation has done that quite well, including Lintott/Alexander Park, the Gail & Carolyn Shaw Aquatics Center, the Kiddy Spray Park, and many other projects. The Foundation’s next project is the renovation of Penny Playground. Donations dedicated to this project should be sent to the Foundation.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Dennis L. Dawes, Mayor

Caryn Foley, City Clerk

Approved: 4/23/2018

Initials: cf