

August 13, 2018

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, August 13, 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, Dr. Isaac Pope, Bob Spahr, and Chad Taylor. Staff present included: Ken Cardinale, Fire Chief; Caryn Foley, City Clerk; Andrew Hunziker, Property/Facilities Manager; Brandon Rakes, Airport Operations Coordinator; Rick Sahlin, Public Works Director; Chun Saul, Finance Director; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief (Acting City Manager); and Mark Scheibmeir, Assistant City Attorney. Members of the media included Will Rubin of *The Chronicle*.

1. **Citizens Business.** George Dodd, Fair Commissioner, invited everyone to the Southwest Washington Fair, which runs August 14-19. Individuals wanting to be involved with the fair can be part of the fair commission or the booster club.

Mr. Dodd also spoke about the Veterans' Relief Fund Program that serves qualifying veterans and their spouses with funeral expenses, utilities, and rent. A couple things they have found to be lacking are transportation for veterans to the VA clinic and veterans needing to put in a claim. In response, the county is going to have a veterans' service officer through its Public Health Department to help veterans with filing a claim to provide them direct access into the VA system instead of having to do so through the VA clinic because the clinic does not have internet access, which delays submissions.

Mayor Dawes asked about no internet at the VA clinic. Mr. Dodd stated the VA clinic will not let the Veterans' Relief Fund organization have access to the internet because of security.

Councilor Spahr stated the media indicates that many of the homeless are veterans and he asked if the organization reached out to those people. Mr. Dodd stated they do reach about, but one of the problems is having a place to put veterans. There is no local facility besides the shelter where they can be placed. They can temporarily house them for one week in a hotel, but they only do that if they have a place to go following the week, such as a rehabilitation facility.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of July 23, 2018 and the special meeting of July 26, 2018;
- b. July 31, 2018 Claim Vouchers No. 123108-123279 in the amount of \$576,215.36; and
- c. July 31, 2018, Payroll Vouchers No. 40374-40443, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 9717-9824, Electronic Federal Tax and DRS Pension/Deferred Comp Payments No. 192-196 in the amount of \$825,350.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund and carried unanimously.

3. **Resolution No. 6-2018, First and Final Reading – Declaring an Emergency Relating to the Asbestos Found in the Fire Department Building.** Acting City Manager Schaffer stated that earlier this year the city hired contractors to make improvements to the fire department building, including replacing windows and exterior doors, stripping and sealing floors, and installing an exhaust system in the apparatus bay. On August 1, it was discovered that the contractors scraped up flooring tiles that contained asbestos. In response, the fire department employees were evacuated from the building, the city began the process of accessing what levels of asbestos contamination existed, and how to go about abating the situation. The State Department of Labor & Industries and the Southwest Clean Air Agency were contacted immediately and staff began contacting contractors trained and licensed to test and abate the asbestos levels. On August 7, Now Environmental Services located in Federal Way conducted a settled dust investigation, collecting samples from the building. The samples were sent to an EPA accredited lab in New Jersey. The report indicated there was asbestos dust contamination in the lunch room, captain's office, sleeping quarters, chief's office, in the engine bay, and the ambulance bay. On August 9, a contract was signed with Tacoma Abatement Company to remove the remaining asbestos materials, properly clean the fire station, and take air samples as required by the state, which work will begin tomorrow. The entire circumstance was unforeseen and beyond the control of the city and presented a real and immediate threat to the proper performance of essential functions of the city, and certainly required immediate action, so the council is being asked to declare the situation an emergency pursuant to RCW 35.33.081 and RCW 38.52.070.

Councilor Spahr moved to adopt Resolution No. 6-2018 on first and final reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Harris.

August 13, 2018

Councilor Pope asked if the cost for removal of the asbestos was for only a portion of the building. Acting City Manager Schaffer stated the first estimate was around \$60,000 to clean the first floor fire department areas. Staff intends to speak with the contractor about the second floor areas used by staff.

Councilor Pope stated it was bothersome to him because ever since he's been on the council he's been trying to get something done about the fire station and the safety of the firemen. The city is going to invest \$200,000 to \$300,000 to make it a safe place, but a new fire station is still needed.

Councilor Spahr asked if the rest of the floor tile would be taken up. If asbestos is found in residential homes, it is usually just sealed. Acting City Manager Schaffer stated the contractor started removing the tiles and it was his understanding that what was remaining is the gray backing material.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Administration Reports.

a. **City Manager Update.** Acting City Manager Schaffer expressed thanks to Riverside Fire Authority and Lewis County Fire District 6 for their assistance in helping the Chehalis Fire Department remain functional during the asbestos situation.

5. Councilor Reports/Committee Updates.

a. Mayor Dawes attended the Music in the Park series, ChehalisFest, and the George Washington statue unveiling in Centralia.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Dennis L. Dawes, Mayor

Caryn Foley, City Clerk

Approved: 8/27/2018

Initials: cf