

August 22, 2011

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, August 22, 2011, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Pro-tem Dawes called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. with the following council members present: Dr. Isaac Pope, Bob Spahr, Daryl Lund, and Chad Taylor. Mayor Ketchum and Councilor Harris were absent (excused). Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; and Bob Nacht, Community Development Director.

1. **Executive Session.** Mayor Pro-tem Dawes announced the council would be in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) – collective bargaining, and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) – potential litigation for approximately 30 minutes and there would be no decision following conclusion of the executive session.

Mayor Pro-tem Dawes closed the executive session at 6:03 p.m. and announced the council would take a three minute recess before opening the regular meeting at 6:06 p.m. Additional staff included: Kelvin Johnson, Fire Chief; Herta Fairbanks, Public Works Director; and Patrick Wiltzius, Wastewater Superintendent. Members of the media included Lee Hughes from *The Chronicle*.

2. **Report on the Steam Train.** Bill Thompson, President of the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum, reported they were running mostly to capacity every weekend due to the Groupon sales that their marketing people put out. He stated financially they were sound and only getting sounder. Mr. Thompson noted there were some rumors floating around concerning the city's locomotive (Engine #15), that it was being neglected and they were spending all of their money on the locomotive (Engine #25) that was donated to them from the City of Centralia. He reported that was not true, adding they hadn't spent anything on Engine #25 except for a whole case of W-D 40. Mr. Thompson reported they wanted to make it clear that Engine #15 was in pristine condition. He noted it ran as smooth as silk and he would put it up against any engine that runs through here. He stated if there were anymore rumors or if anyone hears of any rumors they would like to know about it right away, rather than hearing about it on the street.

Mr. Thompson reported Engine #15 had eleven years on it and four more to go before they would need to rebuild it. He stated they were looking between \$125,000 and \$150,000 on the rebuild, which they would foot the bill for. Mayor Pro-tem Dawes asked if the rebuild of Engine #15 would be done during the off season, so it doesn't miss a year. Mr. Thompson indicated it would be.

Councilor Spahr asked what their intention was with reference to Engine #25. Mr. Thompson reported they work on it during the winter months, noting during the summer they're just too busy keeping up with business. He stated he would be surprised if Engine #25 was done in four year's time. Mr. Thompson reported it was their intention to get it running, noting it was one of the three engines that worked on the railroad back in the day. He indicated Engine #20 was scrapped, #15 went to Chehalis, and #25 went to Centralia.

Mr. Thompson reported they recently put on a barbeque and train ride for 250 people from the National Railroad Historical Society. He noted every state was represented with the exception of one, and they also had two people from Japan in the group.

Councilor Spahr reported he had heard that the Railroad Association was kind of a closed group and wondered how many people were involved, and if someone was interested, how could they become involved. Mr. Thompson stated it wasn't a closed group, adding they had members from all over. He suggested they bring their gloves and work clothes and come on out, noting they hold two work parties per month and would take anybody willing to help out.

3. **Presentation of Proclamation.** Mayor Pro-tem Dawes presented Maretta Berg with a proclamation declaring September 17, 2011, as "Health and Wellness Day" in the city of Chehalis.

4. **Consent Calendar.** Councilor Spahr moved to approve the consent calendar comprised of the following:
- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of August 8, 2011; and
 - b. Claim Vouchers No. 72011 and 100725-100864 in the amount of \$182,417.16 dated August 15, 2011.

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The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund and carried unanimously.

5. **Administration Reports.**

a. **July Financial Report.** City Manager MacReynold briefly reported on the financials for the various funds. He reported the general fund was doing relatively okay with regards to revenues, noting they were a little bit under the projected amounts that were built into the budget. City Manager MacReynold indicated the departments continued to do an exceptional job of staying within their budgets, with the exception of a couple that are dealing with issues that are driving costs up.

City Manager MacReynold reported the wastewater fund revenues and expenditures were doing pretty well, noting the department continued to under spend their budget, and were a little bit above with regard to fees.

City Manager MacReynold reported the water fund was coming in under the projected revenues, but felt the fund was still doing relatively well. He noted they were significantly under in expenditures.

City Manager MacReynold noted the stormwater fund had always been a challenge with reference to the fees being charged, but it was doing okay. He noted they were also greatly under in expenditures.

b. **Presentation of the Infiltration/Inflow Strategic Plan.** Herta Fairbanks reported the city, as well as many other cities, suffers from inflow and infiltration (I&I), which amounts to surface water getting into the sewer system from various means. She noted it causes a number of problems at the treatment plant by diluting the flows and strengths of the sewer, which causes staff to be reactive to try and figure out how to treat it properly, so that the end result meets our permitting purposes.

Ms. Fairbanks reported the study basically took a look at the city's I&I and prioritized areas within the city that will provide the highest reductions in I&I, in the most cost effective manner. She noted they took a look at it from a ten year perspective and found ten projects somewhere around the \$1 million per year range. The reason they went with the \$1 million per year was to make it a large enough project to where they could pursue outside funding from agencies, such as the Department of Ecology, the Public Works Trust Fund, or USDA.

Ms. Fairbanks indicated the report was completed in 2010. She talked briefly about the table listed in the agenda report that provided the following information: a list of prioritized basins; which of the replacement methods was recommended; and a cost estimate for each of the projects.

Ms. Fairbanks stated the report was for informational purposes, and a chance for the council to ask questions.

Councilor Spahr noted, several years ago, the Department of Ecology (DOE) graciously came down and agreed to look at our plan because nobody had really done one. He felt the city established a program where over 20 years they were going to completely redo the city; however, DOE wanted it done in four years. Councilor Spahr asked if the 10-year program would pass muster with DOE. Ms. Fairbanks reported there was no requirement at this time for the city to do I&I, adding they were just trying to take a pro-active approach. She noted, in the course of history, the new wastewater plant helped a lot in terms of being able to address I&I issues because the city has excess capacity that allows enough room to treat all of the I&I that we are currently receiving and then some.

Councilor Pope asked if the separation project they did several years ago was ever completed, and if so, how much did that help. Patrick Wiltzius noted they did a bunch of those projects back in the 1980s and some in the early 1990s.

Mr. Wiltzius reported the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was going over DOE's head and auditing various cities and their collection programs to see how they are maintaining their sewer systems. He noted they've already hit Seattle and some other bigger cities. Mr. Wiltzius indicated we were not on their radar yet, and a good part of the plan was to be ready for when they come knocking on our door. He noted he was also working on a collection system management plan.

6. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update from Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope asked Bob Nacht to update the council on the recent Chehalis

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Foundation meeting. Mr. Nacht reported the community development staff met with the Foundation and discussed the possibility of the Foundation supporting, through funding, a renovation of the outdoor swimming pool. He noted the Foundation did commit to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000 of their funding to the community for a specific renovation program for the outdoor pool. Mr. Nacht stated the Foundation was in the process of putting the financing package together and would be doing a presentation to the council on exactly what it was all about. He noted the city was also putting together the technical package on how it's to be accomplished. Mr. Nacht thanked the Foundation for their generous commitment to the city.

b. **Update from Councilor Spahr.** Councilor Spahr reported he attended an Economic Development Committee Board meeting, but there was nothing in particular to report. He also attended the North Lewis County Regional Fire Authority (NLCRFA) Planning Committee meeting and encouraged the public to go to the website to find out more information.

Councilor Spahr reported he, as well as Mayor Pro-tem Dawes and Councilor Lund, attended the opening ceremony of the SW Washington Fair.

c. **Update from Councilor Taylor.** Councilor Taylor updated the council on the hiring process for the new Twin Transit director. He thanked City Manager MacReynold for allowing Peggy Hammer to take his place on the panel while he was on vacation. Councilor Taylor reported they narrowed the field of applicants down to ten and they planned to do some conference call interviews to narrow the field down even further. He hoped Ms. Hammer would be allowed to continue in the process until it was done, adding her experience was very helpful and appreciated.

d. **Update from Mayor Pro-tem Dawes.** Mayor Pro-tem Dawes reported he attended the opening ceremony of the SW Washington Fair along with Councilors Spahr and Lund, and worked a stint in the Lewis County Historical Museum fair booth. He echoed what Councilor Spahr stated about checking the NLCRFA website because if something comes to fruition it's the people that will make the ultimate decision.

7. **Chehalis-Centralia Airport FAA Grant Offer.** Airport Manager Allyn Roe reported every year they were eligible for approximately \$150,000 in airport improvement program funds from the FAA, which is funded by a charge assessed to every commercial airline ticket. He indicated, with the rollover from last year, they requested to use the funds for the following projects: purchase of new snow removal equipment; repairs to the weather equipment; new fencing on the south end of the airport; and paint for part of the runway project.

Mr. Roe reported before the council was a grant offer from the FAA, adding the city along with Lewis County, as sponsors of the airport, were the ones that need to sign and approve it.

Councilor Spahr moved to authorize the airport, on the city's behalf, to enter into an agreement for the FAA grant offer in the amount of \$170,000.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of August 22, 2011.