

September 26, 2011

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, September 26, 2011, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Ketchum called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Dr. Isaac Pope, Bob Spahr, Daryl Lund, and Dennis Dawes. Councilor Taylor was absent (excused). Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Mark Scheibmeir, Assistant City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Bob Nacht, Community Development Director; Becky Fox, Court Administrator, Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; and Eva Lindgren, Finance Manager. Members of the media included Lee Hughes and Bianca Fortis from *The Chronicle*.

1. **Citizen Business – Emergency Shelter.** Carl Bohlin (2100 N National Avenue) reported during the last three years the local emergency shelter had received 1900 bed requests as well as dispatch calls from the police departments during the off season. Mr. Bohlin stated the shelter has a 'no questions asked' policy, so that those who might fall through the cracks have an opportunity to be safe from the cold outside. He indicated the shelter was staffed by volunteers and supported by donations from the community.

Mr. Bohlin reported on their annual sleeping bag drive taking place on October 8 and 9, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. He noted sleeping bags could be dropped off at the Lewis County Sheriffs Office, or at the Centralia Police Department. Mr. Bohlin stated if anyone would like to give a cash donation they can do so at any of the Sterling Savings Bank branch offices.

2. **Employee Service Award.** Mayor Ketchum presented Municipal Court Clerk Melody Guenther a certificate of appreciation for 20 years of service with the city.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of September 12, 2011;
- b. Claim Vouchers No. 82011 and 100989-101130 in the amount of \$414,604.99 dated September 15, 2011; and
- c. Adopt Resolution No. 16-2011 on first and final reading renaming a portion of NE Adams Avenue to SE Adams Avenue.

Councilor Spahr seconded the motion.

Councilor Spahr stated, with regards Resolution No. 16-2011, he understood why the city originally numbered NE Adams Avenue the way they did, noting the break point was Main Street. He indicated he totally supported the change.

Bob Nacht reported, based on the numbering scheme and the configuration, they requested the address number be 9 SE Adams Avenue. He noted there would still be some additional numbers available if other properties were built up there.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Administration Reports.**

a. **August Financial Report.** Eva Lindgren gave a brief overview of the finances, noting they were pretty straight forward. She stated there were very small variances in the general fund overall for both revenues and expenditures, if you take out the debt service that the administration was looking at doing.

Ms. Lindgren reported the largest variance on the revenue side for both wastewater and water was the fact that they hadn't received the proceeds from the debt issuance happening later in the year.

b. **Update on Revisions to City's Shoreline Master Plan.** City Manager MacReynold noted, based on prior discussions, the city was moving forward with the state requirement for doing a shoreline master plan update. He felt it would be timely for the council to receive an update from Mr. Nacht to find out where the city was with reference to the update.

September 26, 2011

Mr. Nacht reported, about three months ago, the county contacted all of the cities and indicated they wanted to pursue the requirement to update the shoreline master plan. He noted our current master plan was adopted in 1981, and the State Department of Ecology (DOE) requested that it be updated.

Mr. Nacht reported the county contacted DOE and other agencies, and has assembled the cities. He noted some of the cities were going to coordinate their efforts with the county and others have chosen to do their own plan. Mr. Nacht indicated DOE has provided grant funding for this endeavor; however, it remained to be seen what the state would do with their budget issues.

Mr. Nacht reported they were in the process of drafting an interlocal agreement that Lewis County will present to the cities. He stated he and City Manager MacReynold were working with the county to get the project underway. Mr. Nacht reported it would be a three year project and hopefully within the next couple of months, they would have some definitive direction on where they were going and how to get there. He noted at some point the issue would be brought back to the council.

5. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update from Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope reported, while doorbelling in the city's fourth district, he found a water leak off of Magnolia Avenue. He stated he appreciated how quickly the water department responded to the call.

Councilor Pope reported he was very surprised at the number of vacant homes in his district, and how some of the yards were left un-kept. He thought the city should do something, adding it was a very dangerous fire hazard. Councilor Pope reported he was confronted by a resident on 21st Street who had concerns about an area near her home, adding if it ever caught on fire they would lose about five or six houses.

b. **Update from Councilor Spahr.** Councilor Spahr reported he attended the North Lewis County Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee (NLCRFA) meeting along with Councilor Dawes, adding there wasn't much new to talk about, but they were getting ready to take a speakers bureau around to organizations that want to hear about what's going on. He noted there were questions being raised now as to what it all means. Councilor Spahr stated the important thing to remember was that in the end it was the citizens who will make the decision whether there is any consolidation, or not. He noted it could take the committee up to two years to compile the information to find out what they want and what it's going to cost.

Councilor Spahr reported he went down to New Mexico to visit his daughter who is a Major in the Army Reserves. He noted it was interesting and fun to see another part of the country. Councilor Spahr added he was very proud of his daughter.

c. **Update from Councilor Harris.** Councilor Harris reported he and Caryn Foley, and Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) members Natalie Ketchum, Todd Chaput and Rick Burchett attended a lodging tax forum up in Everett, Washington, hosted Jan Jutte, director of legal affairs for the State Auditor's Office. He noted they provided some great information and clarification, adding Ms. Jutte did a good job explaining to the hoteliers that it wasn't all just about heads-in-beds. Councilor Harris reported the state was impressed by the fact that this was really monitored by the councils in the local jurisdictions, and by the County Commissioners. He indicated the Auditor's Office was happy with the two step process of having the applications go through a LTAC and then to a board or council.

Councilor Harris reported about five years ago the city received an audit finding for using tourism funding to buy flower baskets for the downtown community, which had to be repaid back out of the general fund. He noted Ms. Jutte explained that they could not buy flower baskets with lodging tax funds; however, if the city sponsored an event and had an organization doing its bidding, if they want flower baskets as part of that event they can use lodging tax dollars to buy them. Councilor Harris stated, in essence, they explained to them how to package things to meet the criteria.

Councilor Harris reported they did hang on one issue, which was conflict of interest. He noted they suggested cities be very conscientious when it comes to any appearance of conflict of interest, adding if any member of the council has anything to do with a funding request, they should bust those out individually and allow those council members, if they wish, to recuse themselves from voting on those.

September 26, 2011

He noted the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee would be spending a day or two next week going over the 13 applicants who applied for lodging tax funding for 2012.

d. **Update from Councilor Dawes.** Councilor Dawes reported he was able to attend the Business After Hours event at *The Chronicle*, which was highlighting the 'Family' section that they periodically print.

Councilor Dawes followed up on Councilor Spahr's report regarding the NLCRFA meeting, adding they put together a PowerPoint presentation to show to the various community groups to let them know what the committee has been working on. He noted they had one tentative date set with the Centralia Rotary Club in October.

Councilor Dawes reported on September 17 he attended an event with the Soroptimist Club and Child Advocacy Center in Centralia, adding he thanked them on behalf of the city for providing that service to the community.

e. **Update on Chehalis Foundation.** Councilor Pope reported at the last Chehalis Foundation meeting they decided to move forward with the funding effort for the Chehalis swimming pool. He added they were somewhat disappointed that the announcement of the \$100,000 donation to the city for the pool was not taken notice of. Councilor Pope indicated the community promotion program should be getting started soon, to collect matching funds for the \$100,000. He noted the Foundation was going to try to make an effort to do the whole project.

f. **Update from Councilor Lund.** Councilor Lund reported over the weekend he went to Nevada for the Nevada State Rail Symposium. He stated the Nevada Railroad was started in 1905 to haul ore to the smelter. Councilor Lund noted they had two operating steam locomotives, all of the coaches from the 1890s, and seven full-time employees. He reported he was visiting with the director and asked if they had hotel/motel tax. The director indicated they did not, adding a few years ago their county commissioners said the two percent on the hotel/motel rooms would stay with them. Councilor Lund reported the town was about the size of Chehalis and was between 250 to 300 miles away from any major population base, so they really had to promote to get people to come to their location. He stated it was quite impressive and it would be nice if other people could learn from them.

6. **Resolution No. 15-2011 – First and Final Reading, Surplus of City Property.** City Manager MacReynold reported the administration was requesting the council to surplus another generator from the public works department.

Councilor Harris moved to adopt Resolution No. 15-2011 on first and final reading.

Council Pope seconded the motion.

Councilor Dawes noted he read in some materials he received from the Airport Board that something was being prepared for them to pay a dollar to get a generator from the city. City Manager MacReynold reported the airport was very interested in the generator up for surplus. Councilor Dawes believed there was statute that would allow the city to turn the surplus equipment over to another agency. City Manager MacReynold indicated there just had to be an agreement for the transfer.

Councilor Lund suggested they use the generator on a holiday display at Alexander Park, or something. Councilor Harris stated he appreciated Councilor Lund's candor and his appreciation of him.

The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk