

October 10, 2011

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, October 10, 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, Chad Taylor, and Dennis Dawes. Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; and Bob Nacht, Community Development Director. Members of the media included Bianca Fortis from *The Chronicle* and Bruce Hunting from KITI.

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

a. Minutes of the regular meeting of September 26, 2011; and

b. Claim Vouchers No. 101131-101220 in the amount of \$77,090.44 dated September 30, 2011; and Payroll Vouchers No. 35056-35135, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 2585-2655, and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 103 in the amount of \$696,318.03 dated September 30, 2011.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and carried unanimously.

2. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update from Councilor Spahr.** Councilor Spahr reported the council budget committee and staff had been meeting over the last two weeks to discuss the 2012 budget.

Councilor Spahr reported he also attended a train show with his granddaughter, adding they had a lot of good exhibits.

b. **Update from Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope reported on the Children's Justice Task Force meeting he recently attended. He noted the City of Sunnyside received a grant from the task force to deal with the trafficking of young people, adding he felt they were going to be the model for the way agencies approach those types of problems in the future. Councilor Pope indicated they had also been somewhat successful in addressing gang issues.

c. **Update from Councilor Dawes.** Councilor Dawes talked briefly about the 2012 budget meetings over the last couple of weeks, adding he was glad to get that done. He reported they weren't able to get everything back that they had to reduce over last few years, but felt the action they took put the city on a little better footing as we face the next couple of years.

Councilor Dawes reported he would be attending the AWC Regional meeting down in Vancouver, Washington, on Tuesday evening. He hoped to broaden his knowledge about what's on the horizon, besides budget shortfalls and how that may or may not affect the cities funding-wise.

d. **Update from Councilor Taylor.** Councilor Taylor gave a brief update on filling the Twin Transit general manager position. He reported they went through an all-day interview process about a month ago and at the end of the day they picked the candidate from Arizona. Councilor Taylor announced they offered Rob LaFontaine the position and he accepted it, adding he believed he would start work on October 17. He reported he planned to invite Mr. LaFontaine to a council meeting, so the rest of the council could meet him.

e. **Update from Councilor Harris.** Councilor Harris also commented on the 2012 budget review process, noting after four days of meetings it just had to be said again.

Councilor Harris reported the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee held a meeting on October 6 to go over the 2012 funding requests. He stated they had over \$500,000 in requests and would be submitting a recommendation to the council to give out about \$160,000. Councilor Harris indicated not everyone got what they wanted, and unfortunately some didn't get any. He felt the process was very effective, adding the conference they attended a couple of weeks ago helped them to have a very constructive meeting. Councilor Harris thanked the committee members for their time and commitment to the process.

Councilor Harris reported he had a chance earlier in the day to judge fire prevention posters in Centralia. He noted they would be hanging the posters up at the Centralia Outlets.

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3. **Authorize Signatures on Louisiana Avenue and Airport Road Connection (LAARC) Project Documents.** Bob Nacht reported they had been working with staff at Lewis County to comply with all of the requirements of the State Department of Transportation (DOT) to get the right-of-way certified for the LAARC project, also known as the Transportation Improvement Board project. He added the project was scheduled to go to construction next year.

Mr. Nacht reported the administration was recommending that the council authorize the mayor and city manager to execute the four documents before them, in order to get the right-of-way into a legal status. He noted since the agenda report was submitted on October 4, he had received word from the county that there may very well be a fifth document that needs to be addressed having to do with perpetual slope easement on the existing fill that was put in for the Louisiana Avenue road bed. Mr. Nacht indicated, should that document be necessary, he would bring that to the city manager for his signature.

Councilor Spahr stated it appeared they were doing this primarily to bring the road into a legal status and we are giving the easements to ourselves. City Attorney Bill Hillier noted they had to dedicate the roadways because the property was not originally platted for a roadway. He noted they were doing the easements for drainage purposes, adding it would be a benefit to both the city and the airport.

Councilor Spahr inquired about the perpetual easement for the slope. Mr. Nacht stated it had to do with the slope that was existing, adding the base of that slope actually encroaches on the Barnes property by a couple of feet. He noted it was anticipated at the time the road bed was installed that the filling activity on the Barnes property would occur at about the same time for development, which would negate this necessity. Mr. Nacht stated it was basically to protect the existing slope, and had to do with the criteria that DOT requires for certification.

Councilor Spahr moved that the council authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute the attached dedication and easement documents relating to the Louisiana Avenue/Airport Road Project.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

4. **Shoreline Master Program Update Interlocal Agreement.** Bob Nacht reported Lewis County requested that the cities partner with them in pooling the grant resources that are available through the State Department of Ecology (DOE) for the required Shoreline Master Program Update. He noted the interlocal agreement would allow the city to participate with the county to get the project done. Mr. Nacht reported one of the key issues mentioned in the agenda report was that if state funding does not exist later on, then the required mandate would be deferred until funding is available.

Councilor Harris inquired about the significant funding differences for the project, noting the city's portion was \$125K and all of the other cities were either \$40K or \$50K. Mr. Nacht reported they addressed that same question with DOE twice, noting the formulas were established by the Legislature. He suggested in transition, someone may have dropped a number one in front of the \$50K for the City of Centralia, which seemed reasonable. Mr. Nacht indicated they have asked DOE to research it to make sure the figures are correct.

Councilor Dawes moved that the council authorize the City Manager to execute the attached interlocal agreement with Lewis County.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Spahr and carried unanimously.

5. **Chehalis-Centralia Airport Board Appointments.** City Manager MacReynold reported the city would have two vacancies on the Chehalis-Centralia Airport Board at the end of the year. City Representative Frank DeVaul's term expires December 31, as well as the two-year rotating appointment held by Robert Schroeter who was appointed by Lewis County in 2010. City Manager MacReynold stated he would talk to the council members individually about filling the appointments for those positions.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

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Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of October 10, 2011.