

March 25, 2013

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, March 25, 2013, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Ketchum called the meeting to order at 5:30 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; Herta Fairbanks, Public Works Director; and Dennis Osborn, Community Development Director.

1. **Executive Session.** Mayor Ketchum announced the council would be in executive session pursuant to 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 Ketchum closed the executive session at 6:07 p.m. and announced the council would take a two minute recess before opening the regular meeting at 6:09 p.m. Additional staff included: Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Eva Lindgren, Finance Manager; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; and Becky Fox, Court Administrator. Members of the media included Kyle Spurr from *The Chronicle*.

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

a. Minutes of the special meeting of March 4, 2013, and the regular meeting of March 11, 2013; and

b. Claim Vouchers No. 105510-105591 and Electronic Funds Transfer No. 12013 in the amount of \$69,576.50 dated February 28, 2013; Claim Vouchers No. 105592-105721 in the amount of \$171,314.37 dated March 15, 2013; and Payroll Vouchers No. 36348-36406, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 3817-3893, and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 120 in the amount of \$667,302.54 dated February 28, 2013.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Spahr and carried unanimously.

3. **Administration Reports.**

a. **February Financial Report.** Finance Manager Eva Lindgren reported on the general fund, adding there were some variances in the finance department and the community development department that didn't include any notes.

Ms. Lindgren stated, with regard to the finance department, a budget amendment was done in 2012 to pay for the capital asset software finalization; however, they didn't receive a bill until after the year ended. She noted she planned to bring back another budget amendment to take care of the issue.

Ms. Lindgren reported there was also a large variance in community development with the retirement of Bob Nacht at the beginning of the year. She noted considerable leave accruals attributed to the large cashout at the time of his retirement.

Ms. Lindgren reported on the latest results for sales and use tax revenues, noting the city was up 9.8 percent for the month-to-month comparison, and 10.9 percent for the quarter.

b. **Update on City Wellness Program.** Wellness Committee Chair Becky Fox reported the employee committee met on March 7 to first set up some priorities. She noted the first project was to distribute the "Needs and Interest" survey, noting there was still time for people, including the council, to turn those back in.

Ms. Fox talked briefly about the "Health Screening" coming up on April 11, at the V.R. Lee Building from 7:30 - 11 a.m. She noted any employee who is part of the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Trust and their spouses are welcome to participate in the screening. Ms. Fox stated information on how to register on-line would be provided with the March payroll checks. She noted they plan to provide some healthy snacks for those who participate in the health screening.

Ms. Fox felt they were off to a good start, adding they had 49 of the 90 points needed to achieve their first award. She hoped to have some good activities planned for later in the year and would keep the council up to date.

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4. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Dawes.** Councilor Dawes reported their last Regional Fire Authority meeting was cancelled because they were still gathering information regarding the plan. He noted their next meeting was scheduled in April, and one of the items they would be talking about is a governance model for the functional consolidation.

Councilor Dawes reported it was going to take some time to make sure everyone is trained to work together and operate as one department. He noted the functional consolidation would start around May or June of this year.

Councilor Dawes reported he attended the Business After Hours at the KITI/Live 95 Radio Station, along with Councilor Spahr and Mayor Ketchum. He stated KITI was always one of the nicer places to visit.

b. **Update From Councilor Harris.** Councilor Harris reported he received a call from AWC asking him to meet in front of Senator Braun's Committee on House Bill 1253 concerning lodging tax. He stated there is also a Senate bill going through with different language, adding either one would be fine for the city.

Councilor Harris reported it was very important to keep the current legislation from sunseting with regard to how the money can be spent. He stated both bills include the two things they really need, which are flexibility and operations. He noted if the legislation does sunset the money can only be used for marketing and promotion.

Councilor Harris reported there were a number of hoteliers present who were in favor of letting it sunset because they believe the money should simply go towards promotion. He noted there were some people from East Lewis County at the meeting who were having trouble with the House bill because it included the moniker of "local traveler." Councilor Harris reported the city tries to advertise at least 50 miles away to draw people in to put "heads-in-beds," as well as for shopping, eating and purchasing fuel.

Mayor Ketchum reported he heard that Senator Braun's bill was a little more restrictive than the House bill.

Councilor Harris stated it was; however, there were still some things within it that we can utilize. He noted the one big thing it didn't have was language related to "local traveler." Councilor Harris stated he and others tried to impress that the state shouldn't have as heavy a hand in it; that it should be for local opportunities, which was the design of the law when first written.

Councilor Harris felt they could live with the Senate bill, but he attended the hearing to support the House bill.

Councilor Dawes asked if both bills would allow us to continue to do what we're doing.

Councilor Harris stated the House bill would, but the Senate bill would be a little touchier. He noted apparently Senator Braun believes we can contract through some of the entities, which is how the funding could be given to them. Councilor Harris didn't know if Senator Braun completely understood the nuances of who we can and cannot contract with, and for what purpose.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

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Mayor

Attest:

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City Clerk

**SUGGESTED MOTION**

**I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of March 25, 2013.**