

April 8, 2013

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, April 8, 2013, 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 Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator. Members of the media included Kyle Spurr from *The Chronicle*.

1. **Citizen Business.** Teamsters Business Agent Russ Walpole, representing the non-uniform employees for the city of Chehalis, reported he wanted to talk about contract negotiations and where they were at. He stated the intent was not for direct bargaining with the council through the union, or through the employees.

Mr. Walpole suggested the city was spending money recklessly by going to mediation and paying out attorney fees with no actual benefit to the city. He talked briefly about the role of David Fine from the Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, who was hired by the city to assist with its negotiation process. Mr. Walpole noted Mr. Fine doesn't really do any negotiating, other than to explain what the proposal is, and to keep Human Resources Administrator Peggy Hammer out of trouble, "Babysitting if you will."

Mr. Walpole believed that Ms. Hammer didn't care what it cost the city, only that there had to be takeaways. He noted they also had concerns with honesty and integrity, adding during the previous negotiations, Ms. Hammer was insistent that the non-represented employees all pay out of pocket for health and welfare. She also stated that the proposals she came in with were directed by the city council. Mr. Walpole stated they didn't believe either statement was true.

Mr. Walpole reported the union employees don't begrudge the non-represented employees for getting a three percent increase; however, at the table when trying to get the same three percent increase the response was, "The city council believes that the non-represented employees need to be taken care of and that's not the case with the public works employees." Again, they didn't believe that was the directive given to Ms. Hammer by the council.

Mr. Walpole requested that the city send somebody to the table that is competent, credible, and willing to get a fair and equitable agreement done. They also invited the Council and City Manager MacReynold to sit in on the negotiations, so they can see if the information being relayed is accurate, and that the union employees are a reasonable and understanding group.

2. **Proclamations.**

a. **Sexual Assault Awareness Month.** Mayor Ketchum presented Human Response Network Advocate Melissa Carter with a proclamation declaring April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in the city of Chehalis.

b. **Barbershop Harmony Week.** Mayor Ketchum presented Two Town Tuners President Don Lakin and Director Bob Hart with a proclamation declaring April 7-13, 2013, as "Barbershop Harmony Week" in the city of Chehalis. The Two Town Tuners also provided some entertainment by singing a few of their favorite songs.

3. **Mobile Services for Local Veterans.** Outreach Coordinator Brandon Jones with the Tacoma Vet Center provided the council with information on the various services they provide to veterans and their families. He noted the organization was founded in 1976 by veterans, to help veterans. Mr. Jones talked briefly about their mobile unit, noting they would like to bring it to the area to help the veterans who are not getting served. He reported the next closest vet center was in Portland, Oregon.

Readjustment Counseling Therapist Mark Buckler reported the veteran population for Lewis County in 2011 was 8,545, putting it at 14.8 percent of the population, which exceeded the state average of 12 percent. He noted they've been asked to try and get their mobile unit out to the underserved and rural communities.

Mr. Buckler talked briefly about the statistics for post-traumatic stress disorder and military sexual trauma, adding the October 2011 Pew Research Study estimates 52 percent of combat veterans report some level of emotional distress. He noted they would like to come to the Twin Cities area at least once a month starting the first week of May. Mr. Buckler stated they would be checking with the Veterans Museum to see if they might be able to set up in their parking lot.

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Councilor Harris suggested they also check with the Veterans Administration facility at the old Lewis County Mall to see if they might be able to set up there, or at the Twin Cities Town Center, if they want more visibility.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of March 25, 2013;
- b. Claim Vouchers No. 105722-105821 and Electronic Funds Transfer No. 22013 in the amount of \$86,515.17 dated March 29, 2013; and
- c. Adopt Resolution No. 07-2013 on first and final reading for the surplus of city property.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

5. **Administration Reports.**

a. **City Manager Annual Evaluation.** City Manager MacReynold reported it was time again for his annual evaluation, adding the city clerk would be sending out the forms within the next couple of weeks for the council to fill out. He noted an executive session would be set for the first meeting in May to review and discuss the evaluations.

b. **Riverside Fire Authority Meeting.** City Manager MacReynold reminded the council and the Regional Fire Protection Planning Committee members that Riverside Fire Authority was having a meeting on Wednesday, April 10, at their Harrison Avenue station. He noted he would be attending the meeting to explain why the administration requested to pull the interlocal agreement from the agenda this evening, and to answer any questions they may have.

6. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope reported the Chehalis Foundation received a significant gift for the STEM Program, which was the education component of the Foundation. He stated they also received money for other things, but couldn't speak to those until the board of directors has a chance to discuss it first.

Councilor Pope reported on the pool renovation project, noting the Chehalis Kiwanis Club gave \$125,000 towards the project. He stated they had most of the money in for the pool project, and were just waiting for the word to get started. Councilor Pope reported, over the next couple of months, the Foundation was going to be making contact with the surrounding communities who use our facilities to let them know they are welcome, but they would also like to have them participate by making a donation towards the pool project. He believed they were planning to break ground this September.

b. **Update From Mayor Ketchum.** Mayor Ketchum reported Lewis County was having an open house on April 23 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Lewis County Historical Courthouse, 2nd floor.

c. **Updated From Councilor Dawes.** Councilor Dawes reported the next meeting of the Regional Fire Authority Committee was set for April 17. He also reminded the other council members to file their Public Disclosure Commission forms.

d. **Update From Councilor Harris.** Councilor Harris reported the Association of Washington Cities recently posted on their website that the House Bill the city was supporting passed out of the committee and would be going to the floor. He noted there were a few minor changes, but so far it looked good and we would still be able to use it for city use, operations, and management of non-profits.

e. **Update From Councilor Lund.** Councilor Lund gave a brief update on the Tacoma Rail line issue. He noted he, Mayor Ketchum, City Manager MacReynold, and Lewis County Commissioner Bill Schulte would be meeting with the city manager from the city of Tacoma and the general manager from Tacoma Rail to discuss the Tacoma Rail system.

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Councilor Lund noted he also contacted the general managers from The Lucky Eagle Casino and the Great Wolf Lodge to see how much interest there was on their part. He noted there seemed to be a lot of support from both, as well as from the Chehalis Tribe.

Councilor Pope thanked Councilor Lund for getting the discussions going.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of April 8, 2013.