

June 10, 2013

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, June 10, 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; Amanda Vey, Assistant City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Herta Fairbanks, Public Works Director; Dennis Osborn, Community Development Director; Eva Lindgren, Finance Manager; and Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator. Members of the media included Kyle Spurr from *The Chronicle*.

1. **Introductions.** Lewis County Historical Museum Interim Director Andy Skinner stopped by to introduce himself to the council. He stated he looked forward to getting things rolling again, noting they just finished up with school tours last week. Mr. Skinner reported he hoped to make the museum a new and exciting place for people to bring their families.

2. **Update on Chehalis Foundation Projects.** Chehalis Foundation President Tim Saylor gave the council a brief update on what the Foundation has been doing and where they are headed. Recent projects included:

- Installation of new septic system at Lintott/Alexander Park
- Renovation of Field #2 at Stan Hedwall Park (working with Chehalis Babe Ruth)
- Field renovation behind Olympic School (led by Twin Cities Youth Football)
- Upgrades to the city's holiday decorations
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Program through the Chehalis School District ( set up committee to handle the donated money for the program)
- Chehalis Outdoor Pool Renovation Project

Mr. Saylor reported they were waiting on the results from their grant applications through the state and federal government. He noted they received the grants, but they were still pending funding.

Mr. Saylor reported they were approaching \$2 million in contributions with the grants; \$1.5 without the grants. He felt they could still get the project done, but what they can and can't do as far as features would depend on the funding received.

Councilor Spahr reported he recently had an opportunity to talk with a parent about how much further ahead their son was academically because of the programs sponsored by the Foundation at W.F. West, noting it was an incredible.

Mr. Saylor stated, whether it was academics, the pool project, or holiday decorations, it really goes to the standard of living in our town. He hoped that standard of living will attract business and improve the economics of the area.

Councilor Lund reported the Planes, Trains, & Automobiles Festival was coming up in July, and thought it might be fun for the Foundation to do an activity. He noted they would be surplussing a vehicle under the consent calendar, and suggested they give it to the Foundation to use as a fundraiser for the pool. Mr. Saylor stated anything that builds fun and excitement was a great idea.

Mr. Saylor reported the pool project was really absorbing a lot of their time. He provided the council with the most recent drawing, noting it would continue to morph as they see what their budget entails. He stated one of the best things they designed into the project was a "zero entrance" feature, where the pool actually slopes up to the deck level creating a beach-like effect. Mr. Saylor suggested it would be a great place for younger kids, and also accomplished some ADA accessibility issues.

Councilor Harris stated it never gets old bragging about the gift we have with the Foundation. Mr. Saylor thanked Mr. Harris for his comments, noting it all goes back to the smart-thinking individuals who formed the Foundation long before he ever became involved.

Councilor Dawes reported he was asked one time if he thought it would short-change the city if the Foundation got involved with the school district. He felt it was a wise move by the Foundation to involve the schools because one of the things people look for in a community are the schools, adding if they're not good, they're not going to relocate here.

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Mr. Sayler stated they enjoyed doing what they do and thanked the council for their support.

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

a. Minutes of the regular meeting of May 28, 2013;

b. Claim Vouchers No. 106200-106300 in the amount of \$181,947.49 dated May 31, 2013; and Payroll Vouchers No. 36538-36604, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 4050-4127, and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 124 in the amount of \$660,970.67 dated May 31, 2013; and

c. Adopt Resolution No. 10-2013 on first and final reading for the surplus of city property.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

4. **Administration Reports.**

a. **Community Farmers Market.** City Manager Merlin MacReynold reported the 2013 Community Farmers Market will be opening on Tuesday, June 11, at noon, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:00 a.m.

5. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Spahr.** Councilor Spahr reported he attended the 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sunbird Shopping Center, noting it was a nice event and they had a great turnout.

Councilor Spahr reported the Cowlitz-Lewis Economic Development District Board has a new executive director. He noted they had a meeting coming up on the 18<sup>th</sup> and hoped to find out more about the new director and what's going on in that area.

b. **Update From Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope reported the Children's Justice Task Force held their annual conference in Seattle a couple of weeks ago, with a follow up meeting this week in Spokane. He noted one of the issues discussed was homeless youth. Councilor Pope reported the Columbia Legal Counsel recently put out a guide book for homeless youth. He noted, in the next few months, there is going to be a push to help homeless kids and hoped Chehalis would consider participating.

c. **Update From Councilor Harris.** Councilor Harris reported he and Administrative Assistant Caryn Foley sat in on a webinar hosted by the Association of Washington Cities regarding the implementation of the new lodging tax regulations. He reported they still have one question they need clarification on, having to do with whether the council can give more than what the committee approves. Councilor Harris stated his understanding was that the council could give up to the original amount requested, but no more. He noted that was the only thing that changed in the new regulations, other than there was no sunset date attached to it.

Councilor Harris reported he also attended the PARC Resources meeting on June 5, noting a lot of the people were in attendance to ask what PARC could do for us relating to several Renaissance projects. He stated the answers they received were not all good, but not all bad.

Councilor Harris reported the holiday decorations committee met recently and formed letters to send out to the residents and businesses in the areas they hope to decorate this year. He noted they also want to find out if the businesses are going to help light the poles downtown, until the city can get the electrical fixed. Councilor Harris stated they would be working with the residents in the Cascade Avenue area, from city hall to Recreation Park, to get that area lit up with lights over the next few years.

d. **Update From Councilor Taylor.** Councilor Taylor asked the council if they had any recommendations or comments they want carried forward to the Twin Transit Board concerning the city's position on what we want transit to look like in our community. He stated he can normally carry the council's wishes forward without having to come to them, but felt the

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recent information presented on the lower forecasted revenues was a little more significant, and could affect some of the routes in our community.

Mayor Ketchum stated if anyone had any concerns, they should respond to Councilor Taylor before the next transit meeting.

Councilor Dawes stated he appreciated the information that was provided and felt very strongly that he wanted to see our transit system stay as local as possible. He noted it was great to have the add-ons, but given the current economic situation, Twin Transit needs to do everything they can to make sure they keep our routes open before looking elsewhere.

Councilor Dawes stated concerns about the Grand Mound route because of the low ridership. He noted people are not going to want their fares raised and he didn't feel comfortable even suggesting they consider raising sales tax. Councilor Dawes stated he hoped the rest of the council felt the same and would instruct Councilor Taylor to convey those wishes to the other board members.

e. **Update From Councilor Dawes.** Councilor Dawes reported the next Riverside Fire Authority Regional meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m., in the Fords Prairie Fire Station.

Councilor Dawes noted he also had a chance to go to the Centralia College Foundation gathering last week. He stated the College may be located in Centralia, but it was a jewel for the entire Lewis County community.

f. **Update from Mayor Ketchum.** Mayor Ketchum congratulated the W.F. West High School spring sports teams, noting they did tremendous this year. He reported the boys' baseball team took first place at state; the girls' fastpitch team took 5<sup>th</sup> at state; Brady Calkins placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at state in golf; and one of the tennis duo teams also did well at state this year.

6. **Ordinance No. 910-B, Second and Final Reading – Providing for a Change in Time of Regular City Council Meetings.** City Manager MacReynold reported the council took action and voted unanimously at the previous meeting to pass Ordinance No. 910-B on first reading. He noted Councilor Pope was the initiator of the request and they were both available for questions.

Councilor Spahr moved to pass Ordinance No. 910-B on second and final reading.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund and carried unanimously.

7. **Resolution No. 9-2013, First and Final Reading – Adopting the 2014-2019 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Public Works Director Herta Fairbanks reported, at the last council meeting, they held a public hearing and presented the proposed TIP for the city of Chehalis for the next six years. She noted there was no public comment, so no changes were made to what was previously presented.

Councilor Harris moved to adopt Resolution No. 9-2013 on first and final reading.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund and carried unanimously.

8. **Executive Session.** Mayor Ketchum closed the regular meeting at 6:39 p.m. and announced the council would be in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) – purchase or acquisition of real estate for approximately 30 minutes and there would be no decision following conclusion of the executive session.

Mayor Ketchum closed the executive session and reopened the regular meeting at 7:04 p.m. There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned immediately.

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Mayor

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Attest:

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City Clerk

**SUGGESTED MOTION**

**I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of June 10, 2013.**