

September 23, 2013

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, September 23, 2013, in the Chehalis city hall. Councilor Pope called the meeting to order at 4:46 p.m. with the following council members present: Daryl Lund, Chad Taylor, and Dennis Dawes. Mayor Ketchum, Mayor Pro-tem Harris and Councilor Spahr were absent (excused). Staff present included Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; and Dennis Osborn, Community Development Director.

1. **Appoint Chairman Pro-tem.** With Mayor Ketchum and Mayor Pro-tem Harris both absent, Councilor Dawes nominated Councilor Pope to oversee the meeting as Chairman Pro-tem. The nomination was seconded by Councilor Taylor and approved unanimously.

2. **Executive Session.** Chairman Pro-tem Pope closed the regular meeting at 4:47 p.m. and announced the council would be in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) – potential litigation for approximately 15 minutes and there would be no decision following conclusion of the executive session.

Chairman Pro-tem Pope closed the executive session at 5:04 p.m. and announced the council would take a short recess and reopen the regular meeting at 5:07 p.m. Members of the media included Kyle Spurr from *The Chronicle*.

3. **Citizen Business.** Celeste Avy, (1017 W. Main Street) from Possibilities Pregnancy Center, invited the council and community to attend their Mystery Dessert Theater event on Saturday, October 5 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., at the Centralia Community Church. She noted the proceeds would go to support the needs of women and children in the community.

4. **Louisiana Avenue Roundabout.** Heidi Pehl (1950 NW Louisiana Avenue) reported, when the city started the construction of the Louisiana Avenue roundabout near I-5 Toyota, Airport Manager Allyn Roe suggested she approach the city to talk about the landscaping of the roundabout. She approached city staff to let them know I-5 Toyota would like to take on the design, installation and maintenance of the landscaping in the roundabout in exchange for the use of the roundabout for advertising purposes. Ms. Pehl stated, as part of their proposal, they would ask that the city consider changing its ordinance to allow for advertising on city right-of-way.

Ms. Pehl reported she recently met with city staff and was informed that the city had already designed the landscape for the roundabout. She appreciated that the city asked her to look at the design; however, she is not a landscape person and it would be a waste of city time and hers to say whether it was a good design, or not.

Councilor Lund stated he was the one who asked Ms. Pehl to attend the meeting because he loved her idea. He also loved that we have businesses that care enough about the city that they want to work together to help us save where we can. Councilor Lund believed I-5 Toyota did a lot for our community and he was supportive of Ms. Pehl's proposal.

Councilor Dawes reported he had responded to Ms. Pehl's original email and was under the impression that city staff would be working with I-5 Toyota on it. He was very disappointed that staff didn't.

Councilor Dawes stated he wasn't totally in favor of allowing carte blanche advertising on city property; however, he believed there was a precedent already set with the traffic circle on West Street that advertises the Westside neighborhood. He felt the city would be very short-sided if we didn't do something with Ms. Pehl's proposal, adding we would be shooting ourselves in the foot if we didn't work with people who are willing to invest in our city. Councilor Dawes stated if the city wants to do it themselves, he does not want to hear from staff that we have more work than we have people during the budget presentations this year.

Councilor Dawes reported the city is receiving a direct benefit from the development in that area and didn't want the message to be, "Don't come to Chehalis to development because the city isn't willing work with you." He noted we've had the reputation of being the easiest to work with in this area for a long time, and he did not want that to change. Councilor Dawes stated he supported the concept proposed by Ms. Pehl, as he would with anyone who invests as much as our businesses do.

Ms. Pehl stated, if the city is interested in pursuing it, they would be happy to review their plans with city staff to make sure they meet the city's approval.

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Chairman Pro-tem Pope asked, "What would prevent someone else from doing the same thing somewhere else in the city?"

City Attorney Hillier stated the administration needs direction from the council because staff can't make the decision to arbitrarily let a business take over public property. He noted up until this discussion, staff has been under the direction that we take care of our own property; however, if the council wants to lease out a public right-of-way for the purpose of maintenance and beautification they can direct staff to bring back a proposal to amend the ordinance to do that. City Attorney Hillier suggested it could be done through a lease agreement or license to use public property.

Chairman Pro-tem Pope stated the rules need to be stated very clearly on how it will be done and what the consequences will be. He indicated he thought Ms. Pehl's idea was a good one.

Councilor Taylor asked if the city could work with Ms. Pehl on putting together a concept of what the roundabout could potentially look like.

Ms. Pehl suggested I-5 Toyota could design it, and if the council decides it isn't something they want, the city could design it and I-5 Toyota could install and maintain it in exchange for signage that's acceptable to the city. She noted they would be agreeable of having parameters on the type of signage the city is comfortable with.

Ms. Pehl stated they originally wanted to install flags along the street to welcome people to I-5 Toyota, but were told by city staff that it would violate the city ordinance of advertising on the city's right-of-way.

Councilor Taylor stated he wanted to get the issue handled a lot faster than it's been handled.

City Manager MacReynold stated they first needed to look at the code and bring something back to the next meeting for the council to consider. In the meantime, it sounded like Ms. Pehl already had a plan and the city could introduce that into the process to look at how it might match up with what the administration brings back.

Chairman Pro-tem Pope reported there were other businesses in that same area and asked what would happen if they all want to put something in the roundabout.

City Attorney Hillier stated if they create a license process, it would be no different than having the ability to name Century Link Field anything other than Century Link.

Ms. Pehl stated it was her understanding that it would be limited to the roundabout. Mr. Hillier stated that was correct, adding they would create a license to have exclusive rights to maintain, create, and operate it. Ms. Pehl asked if the city would need to put a term on the license. City Attorney Hillier suggested they would all need to meet and talk about it.

Councilor Lund stated he had heartburn over making Ms. Pehl go through all of this, adding he could probably go through town and find a number of signs on city right-of-way that staff's not doing anything about. He was kind of glad that we don't enforce it because the realtors who are trying to sell homes need to have their signs out where they can be seen. Councilor Lund stated it appears the city is letting everyone else just do it, while making Ms. Pehl go through a process to do it.

Ms. Pehl stated she didn't get that impression.

Chairman Pro-tem Pope stated he somewhat disagreed with Councilor Lund.

Councilor Taylor stated at one time they looked at having hardware installed on the light poles for banners and flags. He noted the city of Centralia did something similar that was paid for by donations from businesses. Councilor Taylor stated it would be nice to see if we can figure out how to get something similar done here.

Councilor Dawes agreed, noting it would be a great thing for the community.

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Ms. Pehl thought the banners in Centralia were really nice and believed business owners would be very supportive, especially when talking about youth and community pride.

Councilor Dawes stated the message he would like to see come out of the discussion is that when we get good ideas that make sense, rather than just saying it conflicts with our ordinances, maybe we can look at how to make it work.

City Manager MacReynold thought it was important to recognize that the council tends to only hear about the times when staff says "no," and not so much about all of the times we work with people to get things done. He believed city staff works very hard and tries to get things done with a positive attitude. City Manager MacReynold also recognized there are times when perhaps we're not as responsive, and that's when the council gets the calls.

Chairman Pro-tem Pope thanked Ms. Pehl for attending the meeting.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of September 9, 2013; and
- b. Claim Vouchers No. 107100-107214 and Electronic Funds Transfer No. 82013 in the amount of \$385,379.54 dated September 13, 2013.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and carried unanimously.

6. **Administration Reports.**

a. **August Financial Report.** City Manager MacReynold reported, with the exception of property taxes, the August financials were looking good. He noted the city tends to get a large payment for property tax from the county in November.

b. **Shorelines Update.** Community Development Director Dennis Osborn reported the Chehalis Planning Commission met the previous week on the shoreline work, and on Tuesday the Technical Advisory Committee met. He noted the consultant doing the facilitation for all of the jurisdictions in Lewis County would be starting the public meeting process with the people who have interests within the shoreline.

Mr. Osborn reported the open house for Chehalis is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, at 6 p.m., in the Chehalis city hall. He noted they would primarily be going over the shoreline inventory that the consultant has done, adding a mailing regarding the meeting would be sent to property owners within a day or two.

7. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Dawes.** Councilor Dawes reported he attended the Olympia Master Builders Candidates Night last week, noting it was the first time he met with that group. He stated the highlight of the meeting was sprinkling systems. Councilor Dawes let them know that Chehalis is probably not going to be looking at residential sprinkling, which met with a lot of positive comments.

Councilor Dawes reported he attended the Business After Hours at the Chamber of Commerce, sponsored by Costco. He also had a chance to attend the ARTrails gala event last Friday, adding they had some interesting art on display.

Councilor Dawes reported the Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee meeting had been cancelled because the draft interlocal agreement was still in the attorney's office. The next committee meeting is scheduled for October 16.

b. **Update From Chairman Pro-tem Pope.** Chairman Pro-tem Pope gave a brief report on the Lewis County Autism Coalition. He noted there was a group of agencies in our community that have come together to try to do something about autism and other behavioral issues that kids in our community are dealing with. Chairman Pro-tem Pope reported they would be having their 3rd Annual Conference here in Lewis County on October 11 at the Bethel Church in Chehalis.

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c. **Comments From Councilor Lund.** Councilor Lund thought Chairman Pro-tem Pope did a wonderful job running the meeting and looked forward to the next time he runs it.

8. **Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) Membership Appointment.** Chairman Pro-tem Pope stated the city was recently made aware of a vacancy on the LTAC. He noted, in order to comply with state law, the vacancy must be filled prior to the LTAC meeting on October 7 to review the 2014 tourism funding applications. Chairman Pro-tem Pope noted the city received an application from Michel Rey from the Best Western, requesting appointment to the committee.

Councilor Taylor moved that Michel Rey be appointed to the city's Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund and carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of September 23, 2013.