

June 9, 2014

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, June 9, 2014, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Dawes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Bob Spahr, Daryl Lund, Chad Taylor, and Tony Ketchum. Councilor Pope was absent (excused). Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Judy Pectol, Finance Manager; Dennis Osborn, Community Development Director; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; Rick Sahlin, Public Works Director; and Don Schmitt, Street Superintendent.

1. **Remembering Gail Shaw.** Mayor Dawes reported the community lost a local icon over the weekend when Gail Shaw passed away. He noted Mr. Shaw was very instrumental in a number of projects too numerous to mention. Mayor Dawes stated Mr. Shaw was a very intelligent, savvy businessman and was always thinking about working on a project that would make Chehalis a better place to live. Mayor Dawes requested a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Shaw.

2. **Lewis County Historical Museum Update.** Museum Director Andy Skinner was pleased to announce that the museum received a significant donation to their endowment fund in the amount of \$149,000 from the estate of June Clare. He noted the total amount in the endowment fund was now \$180,700.

Mr. Skinner reported they recently launched their new project, "Digital Museumous." He noted the project will include more on-line items, such as photographs, postcards, and a research library. The idea behind the project is to peek interest just enough to get people to come into the museum. Mr. Skinner talked briefly about two of their annual upcoming events:

- July 13 - Annual Pie Social at the Claquato Church
- July 26 - Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Lewis County Historical Museum

3. **Update on Chehalis Renaissance and Main Street Designation.** Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT) Chair David Hartz thanked Mayor Dawes for recognizing Mr. Shaw earlier, adding he was one of the most amazing men he's ever had the privilege of knowing and to work with. He believed the CCRT was in existence because of Mr. Shaw's vision and leadership, adding the community was indebted to him.

Mr. Hartz provided the council with handouts and reported on the various programs the CCRT is working on, to include:

- Washington Main Street Program Designation – State approved on 5/29/14
 - Eligible for B&O tax credit incentive program
 - Opens resources to Chehalis – historic revitalization will be important
- Downtown Revitalization Group
 - Awaiting consultant's report of downtown historic building inspections
 - Preparing a proposal for Community Development Director Dennis Osborn's review to consider a change in city code requirements to provide an incentive for building restoration
- Steam Train
 - Strategic Plan completed – implementation stage
 - Facility activity:
 - 2014 monthly transactions entered into Peachtree Software by Ben Kostick, CPA
 - Audit – awaiting quote and engagement letter from Blue Golding (Winlock)
- Decorations Committee
 - Refining a 3-5 year city plan
 - Presenting a request for funding to the Chehalis Foundation on June 17, 2014
- New Chehalis Brochure and 2014 Events Card

June 9, 2014

Councilor Lund asked if there was any mention of our Historic Commission working with them on some of the Main Street Program projects. Mr. Hartz stated it had not been mentioned yet, adding the Main Street Program has been undergoing a leadership change at the national level. He noted the next step will be to invite State Director Sara Hansen to meet with the CCRT, so they can start asking those types of questions.

Mr. Hartz reported, thanks to Councilor Lund, he met with one of the principals from The Artifacts Group, a consulting group from Tacoma that was commissioned by the State Legislature to do a study on funding theater restorations. He noted during their meeting he asked if their group could identify some theaters for the CCRT to contact, to find out what they did to be successful.

Mayor Dawes thanked Mr. Hartz and the rest of the CCRT for all the work they've done.

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

a. Minutes of the regular meeting of May 27, 2014; and

b. Claim Vouchers No. 109356-109480 in the amount of \$955,293.38 dated May 30, 2014; and Payroll Vouchers No. 37346-37412, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 5006-5089 and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 136 in the amount of \$667,972.85 dated May 30, 2014.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Harris and carried unanimously.

5. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Spahr.** Councilor Spahr reported he attended the Joint Oversight Board meeting for the functional consolidation, adding the Board decided to start meeting every other month rather than every month due to the funding situation that's pending. He noted, with everything that's gone on, Riverside Fire Authority will probably have to run another levy to fund their department. Councilor Spahr stated the committee would continue to work through the process to see how it will all work out, adding they should know more by the end of the year.

Councilor Spahr reported he attended the Chamber Forum, noting Port of Centralia Executive Director Kyle Heaton was the guest speaker. According to Mr. Heaton, all of their permits are in and they're ready to start construction on the Centralia Station Project.

Councilor Spahr reported he had a chance to talk briefly with Mr. Heaton and Port of Centralia Commissioner Dan Keahey about the Tacoma rail line. It was Councilor Spahr's understanding that when the city and county started talking about purchasing the rail line that the City of Centralia and the Port of Centralia were invited to participate. City Manager MacReynold reported the Port of Centralia as well as other stakeholders, including the City of Centralia, received an invitation to participate in the initial meetings.

Councilor Spahr inquired about the letter sent to the Port of Centralia in May from the City of Chehalis, wanting to know the purpose of the letter. City Manager MacReynold reported a letter was sent to get clarification on their TIGER grant application, to see if they were intending to use the money to purchase the same rail line that we're looking to purchase from the City of Tacoma.

Councilor Spahr stated Mr. Heaton was pretty adamant that there was a lack of communication. He suggested they set up a meeting with Mr. Heaton and Port Commissioner Keahey to discuss some of the issues.

Councilor Ketchum noted, before this whole thing even started, he and City Manager MacReynold met with Mr. Heaton to discuss the matter.

City Attorney Hillier reported he had been to all of the meetings, and Mr. Heaton was in fact at one of the major meetings at the Lewis County Courthouse. He noted Mr. Heaton attended, but did not say anything.

June 9, 2014

Councilor Spahr stated he would like to hear a little more about what Mr. Heaton thinks because he has some definite ideas on how or why it won't work.

Mayor Dawes suggested one of the easiest things to do would be to invite Mr. Heaton to attend the next rail meeting.

Councilor Ketchum suggested Councilor Spahr meet with City Manager MacReynold and Mr. Heaton, so he can get his questions answered.

b. **Update From Councilor Taylor.** Councilor Taylor reported the Twin Transit Board held a work session last week to work on getting their budget back in balance. He noted a recent change to some of the routes has forced some residents to rely more heavily on paratransit services. Councilor Taylor noted the cost for providing paratransit services runs about \$58 per ride, compared to \$3 for a bus ride. He noted the Board is looking at cutting back the commuter service to Olympia and reducing service hours on the weekends. Councilor Taylor reported the Board also talked about an increase in sales tax, which he was not in favor of and didn't believe the council would support it either. He asked if the council had any thoughts about what transit should look like in Lewis County.

Councilor Lund stated he was not in favor of raising sales tax, adding if Twin Transit is having issues with funding they should quit spending money.

Mayor Dawes thought they should be able to plan accordingly based on ridership. He also suggested services be geared towards our citizens here. Mayor Dawes stated he continues to have concerns about the commuter service to Olympia, the number of drivers they have on staff, and the potential of eliminating local weekend services.

Councilor Lund suggested Twin Transit raise fares, so the people who are using it pay for it.

Councilor Taylor noted Twin Transit did an increase last year, which accounted for roughly seven percent of their revenue. He also agreed that the commuter service to Olympia was not a good idea from the beginning and never supported it. Councilor Taylor didn't see how the general manager wouldn't request that the commuter service be cut.

Mayor Dawes believed people ride the bus because it's a necessity, and he had no problem assisting with that. He stated when things get tight, like they did with the city a while back, you have to tighten your belt and not look at increasing rates or ask someone else to pay the bills.

c. **Update From Mayor Dawes.** Mayor Dawes reported he attended the Mayors' meeting last week and talked briefly about the functional consolidation and joint response by the fire departments.

Mayor Dawes reminded the council about the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Chehalis Farmers Market on June 10, at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Dawes reported Airport Manager Allyn Roe was honored at the Chehalis High School graduation ceremony, receiving the Board Award of Excellence for leading the charge on the restoration of the tennis courts at W.F. West High School. He indicated the project came about as a wish made by Nichole Beck, daughter of Chehalis Fire Captain Casey Beck, through Make-a-Wish.

6. Resolution No. 6-2014, First and Final Reading – Adopting the 2015-2020 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Public Works Director Rick Sahlin reported a public hearing was held on May 27 to receive public comment on the 2015-2020 TIP, adding no comments were received. He noted the first two projects on the list, the Chehalis Avenue Beautification/Traffic Calming/Safety project and the National Avenue Bridge Scour project, are already underway. Mr. Sahlin reported he hopes to seek funding for the other projects listed on the TIP as it becomes available.

Councilor Spahr moved to adopt Resolution No. 6-2014 on first and final reading.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Harris and carried unanimously.

June 9, 2014

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned 5:39 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of June 9, 2014.