

July 14, 2014

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, July 14, 2014, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Dawes called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Dr. Isaac Pope, Bob Spahr, Daryl Lund, and Tony Ketchum. Councilor Taylor was absent (excused). Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Dennis Osborn, Community Development Director; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; and Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator.

1. **Executive Session.** Mayor Dawes announced the council would be in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) – collective bargaining; and 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 Dawes closed the executive session at 4:56 p.m. and announced the council would take a four minute recess before opening the regular meeting at 5:00 p.m. Additional staff included Judy Pectol, Finance Manager; and Patrick Wiltzius, Wastewater Superintendent. Members of the media included Dameon Pesanti from *The Chronicle*.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of June 23, 2014;
- b. Claim Vouchers No. 109637-109752 in the amount of \$85,669.61 dated June 30, 2014; and Payroll Vouchers No. 37413-37487, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 5090-5173 and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 137 in the amount of \$731,964.18 dated June 30, 2014; and
- c. Ordinance No. 931-B - pass on second and final reading amending the Chehalis Municipal Code pertaining to firearms and panhandling.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

3. **Administration Reports.**

- a. **City Manager Search Update.** City Clerk Judy Schave reported she was working with Prothman Company on the city manager search profile development and recruitment schedule. She provided the council with a copy of the schedule and asked that they keep the highlighted dates open for the interview process.
- b. **Stan Hedwall Park Ribbon Cutting.** City Manager MacReynold announced there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Stan Hedwall Park on July 21, at 2:00 p.m., to celebrate the recent ownership of the park. Councilor Spahr inquired about the ribbon cutting for the Gail and Carolyn Shaw Aquatic Center. City Attorney Hillier believed it was scheduled for August 10.

4. **Council Reports.**

- a. **Update From Councilor Spahr.** Councilor Spahr reported he attended the Lewis County Economic Development Council (EDC) Board meeting to listen to the presentation given by Mayor Dawes and company regarding the possible purchase of the Tacoma rail line. He stated he was happy to see some support come from that group.
- b. **Update from Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope reported he recently had a couple of citizens ask him why the city is using tax to dollars to support the pool project. He indicated, other than city staff time, there is no tax money being used for the pool project. Councilor Pope provided the council with a breakdown of the pool budget and funding sources. He noted, out of the estimated \$2.5 million, \$750,000 was covered by grants and the remainder would be covered by the Chehalis Foundation.
- c. **Update From Councilor Harris.** Councilor Harris reported he attended the Chehalis Community Renaissance Team meeting on July 11. He noted Community Farmers Market Manager Rachel Reiton asked individuals and entities if she could get a letter of support for their funding application through the Local Foods, Local Places Foundation. The consensus of the council was to approve the draft letter of support. Mayor Dawes stated he would be happy to sign the letter.

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d. **Update From Mayor Dawes.** Mayor Dawes reported he attended an open house on June 28 at the Greater Chehalis Food Bank, at their new facility located behind Lewis County Fire District #6.

Mayor Dawes reported he met with some bike riders from the Friendship Circle Bicycle Group that rode through town on July 1. He noted their mission is to bring awareness to special needs children. Mayor Dawes stated he answered a number of questions about our community, and provided information about the library and the new pool. He also provided information on Pope's Kids Place Respite Care Center, adding they were very impressed that a community of our size would have such a facility.

Mayor Dawes talked briefly about the train presentation at the EDC Board meeting, noting he felt very good about it. He also attended funeral services for Gail Shaw and Connie Small, noting they were both very supportive members of our community.

Mayor Dawes provided the council with copies of a draft resolution pertaining to the transport of crude oil through the city. He noted, while it was an important issue and one that they should address in some manner, he was hesitant about the city reaching out to do something that would interfere with another community, or with commerce.

Mayor Dawes stated they would continue to see oil trains whether they pass a resolution or not. He reported the proposed resolution included language to address the safety aspect of transporting crude oil. Mayor Dawes suggested if one of these trains were to derail in our area the local municipality would be the one stuck with the bill to clean it up. He stated the resolution would put on record that the council recognizes these things are going to happen, but there might be a safer way to transport it.

Councilor Spahr stated he agreed, adding he was very concerned about the trains coming through Chehalis. He noted there wasn't a lot they could do about it, but he wants them to be as safe as they can be. Councilor Spahr suggested the best way to move crude oil was through a pipeline.

Mayor Dawes asked for a consensus of the council to see if they were interested in bringing the resolution back for a vote at the next meeting, or the following meeting.

Councilor Harris reported there was a lot of pass-through information in the proposed resolution that they would be putting their signature on. He felt he could support the information on page two, but didn't know if they would need to include all of the information on page one. Councilor Harris stated the first and foremost thing is that the trains need to be as safe as possible. He suggested they're already going through our community and they don't need to add more to it.

Councilor Harris stated he would like to include language in the resolution to require that the rail lines be responsible for any hazard recovery and clean up. He stated he could support the resolution, in theory.

Mayor Dawes suggested the council could certainly offer any amendments they would like to see included in the resolution, adding he had no problem with the idea of adding language stating the rail line would be responsible for the cost of any cleanup in the event of an accident. He reported he would like to see the council either take a stand with something along the lines of the proposed resolution, or just move on.

Councilor Harris stated this was one of those rare things that he could be NIMBY (not in my backyard) on.

Mayor Dawes stated he didn't think it would be too hard to add a 'Section 4' that the railroad would be the one to cover any expenses incurred by the city as a result of an unfortunate incident or derailment causing major damage. City Manager MacReynold reported the administration could certainly add an additional section for the council to consider.

The consensus of the council was to bring the resolution back for their consideration.

5. Ordinance No. 930-B, First Reading – Adopting Cable Television System Franchise Agreement between the City and Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC. City Manager MacReynold reported the city has been in negotiations with Comcast for quite a few years. He encouraged the council's consideration of the ordinance, noting the

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agreement provides for a utility tax and a franchise fee. City Manager MacReynold noted this would be an improvement to our current revenue situation, since we haven't collected a franchise fee from Comcast in the past.

City Attorney Hiller stated the report is self-explanatory and the few changes made were very minor. He noted the city has received very few complaints over the years about the service and performance of Comcast.

Councilor Ketchum suggested the reason the city hasn't received as many complaints is because people are tired of complaining and not getting anywhere. He stated he subscribes to Comcast, but doesn't enjoy them.

Councilor Spahr suggested the agreement have a provision for when someone calls with a problem that Comcast can't put them on hold for more than 15 minutes, but noted that would probably be pretty hard to administer.

Councilor Harris moved that the Council pass Ordinance No. 930-B on first reading

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

6. **Groundbreaking Ceremony.** Mayor Dawes reported a groundbreaking ceremony was planned for the new Fresenius Medical Care clinic (1684 Bishop Road) on July 17, at 11:00 a.m. He noted a luncheon was also planned at The Shire after the groundbreaking.

7. **Letter from the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE).** Councilor Spahr stated he wanted to acknowledge receipt of the letter from DOE in regards to the wastewater treatment plant. He stated, "Good Job!" to Wastewater Superintendent Patrick Wiltzius and everyone else involved.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned 6:28 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of July 14, 2014.