

September 8, 2014

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, September 8, 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, Chad Taylor, and Tony Ketchum. Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Rob Gebhart, Interim Fire Chief; Judy Pectol, Finance Manager; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; and Rick Sahlin, Public Works Director.

1. **Introduction of Fire Chief Finalists.** City Manager MacReynold reported the administration was in the process of hiring a new fire chief. He noted, earlier in the day, the three finalists interviewed with three different panels and then met with the firemen for lunch and went through an interview process with them, as well.

City Manager MacReynold gave each candidate an opportunity to talk briefly about their background and why they would like to be the next fire chief for Chehalis. The three finalist include: Gary Woodson from Pendleton, Oregon; Jeff Larson from Woodbridge, California (currently working for the City of Lodi); and Joseph Sands from Billings, Montana (currently working for the City of Billings).

2. **Proclamation Presentation.** Mayor Dawes presented Chris Thomas with a proclamation declaring September 20, 2014, as "Health and Wellness Day" in Chehalis.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of August 25, 2014;
- b. Claim Vouchers No. 110214-110355 in the amount of \$405,098.30 dated August 29, 2014; Payroll Vouchers 37560-37640, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 5259-5344 and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 139 in the amount of \$691,946.64 dated August 29, 2014; and
- c. Approve interlocal agreement between the city and Lewis County for cost sharing of the Chehalis River Basin flood warning system and authorize the city manager to execute the same.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

4. **Administration Reports.**

a. **2013 Audit Exit Conference.** Mayor Dawes reported the 2013 exit conference with the State Auditor's Office was scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, at 10:30 a.m. He asked if anyone other than himself and Councilor Harris planned on attending. (No one else planned on attending at this time.) Mayor Dawes suggested if something changes and they get close to four members who want to attend they will need to publish an announcement about the meeting.

5. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope reported, apparently, his absence during recent months is of some interest to some people, adding he didn't know it was important for the public to know about his personal life. He reported he suffered a neck injury while serving in the military, which required some emergency surgery earlier this year, and shortly after that, his brother, Charles passed away unexpectedly and he had to attend to family matters. Councilor Pope stated this community has been a wonderful and supportive place to live and serving on the city council is a privilege. He felt that missing four or five meetings after serving for so many years was warranted.

Mayor Dawes suggested if the same had happened to anyone else on the council, they too would have probably had to miss a few meetings. He stated it was too bad that it had to become a point of contention for someone.

b. **Update From Councilor Lund.** Councilor Lund reported the downtown businesses are ecstatic to have a parking enforcement officer again and wanted to thank Police Chief Glenn Schaffer for filling the position. He also thanked Public Works Director Rick Sahlin for getting the new strobe lights installed at the crosswalk on S. Market Boulevard near Safeway, noting that was the area where former Fire Captain George Benton was hit on his scooter.

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Mr. Sahlin stated Councilor Lund could thank Human Resources Administrator Peggy Hammer for that, noting the city applied for a risk reduction grant through the Washington Cities Insurance Authority and the city was awarded \$6,400 for pedestrian safety enhancements. He noted the lights work very well and they will try for some additional funding during the next grant session.

Councilor Lund thanked Ms. Hammer for her involvement in getting the grant.

c. **Update From Mayor Dawes.** Mayor Dawes reported he attended a ribbon cutting at Washington Orthopedic in celebration of their 25th anniversary.

Mayor Dawes reported, as a result of one of the monthly mayors meeting, they had a legislative person from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) come and speak on their effort to mobilize city officials. He noted AWC is looking for ways to get the State Legislature to work more closely with cities and respond to our needs. Mayor Dawes suggested the old way of doing things just isn't getting the answers to the problems faced by cities. He provided the council with a copy of the pocket guide that was handed out at the meeting titled, "Operation: Strong Cities," adding their hope is that it might help strengthen the voice of cities and counties.

Mayor Dawes reported cities, counties and school districts are probably three of the biggest funds that come out of state government and suggested if they don't form some sort of partnership between the three they're going to end up fighting with one another. He noted this is the second time the Legislature has had a Supreme Court finding about not adequately funding public education.

6. **Ordinance No. 933-B, Second and Final Reading - Dedicating Four Percent (4%) of Annual Sales and Use Tax Revenue Budgeted by the City to Road Improvements, Maintenance and Preservation Projects, and Ordinance No. 934-B, Second and Final Reading – Establishing a Transportation Benefit District within the Corporate Limits of the City of Chehalis, Specifying the Maintenance and Preservation of Existing Transportation Improvements, Providing for Additional Transportation Improvements and Creating a New Chapter 11 in the Chehalis Municipal Code Entitled "Chehalis Transportation Benefit District."** City Manager MacReynold reported at the last meeting the council passed Ordinance Nos. 933-B and 934-B unanimously and suggested they make a motion to pass both ordinances at the same time on second and final reading.

Councilor Harris moved to pass Ordinance No. 933-B and 934-B on second and final reading.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Spahr and carried unanimously.

Councilor Pope stated he was not present when the two ordinances were discussed and put together, but he agreed with them. He added it showed great responsibility by the council.

7. **Ribbon Cutting at the Gail and Carolyn Shaw Aquatics Center.** Mayor Dawes reminded the council about the Chamber's membership appreciation BBQ and ribbon cutting at the Gail and Carolyn Shaw Aquatics Center at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned 4:54 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of September 8, 2014.