

December 8, 2014

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, December 8, 2014, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Dawes called the meeting to order at 4:45 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; and Dennis Osborn, Community Development Director.

1. **Executive Session.** Mayor Dawes announced the council would be in executive session pursuant to 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 5:01 p.m. and announced the council would take a short recess before opening the regular meeting at 5:06 p.m. Additional staff included: Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief/Interim Fire Chief; Judy Pectol, Finance Manager; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; Becky Fox, Court Administrator; Rick Sahlin, Public Works Director; and Allyn Roe, Airport Manager. Members of the media included Dameon Pesanti from *The Chronicle*.

2. **Introduction of Scouts.** Life Scouts Alex and Zack Anderson from Troup 373 introduced themselves, noting they were just there to observe the meeting.

3. **Briefing on Chehalis Basin Strategy to Reduce Flood Damage and Restore Aquatic Species.** Mayor Dawes reported the Chehalis City Council was the first entity to sign on to support flood retention in the basin, adding he was very proud that the city took the lead on it. He introduced Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Representative J. Vander Stoep to provide a summary on the briefing they gave in front of the House Agriculture Committee in Olympia.

Mr. Vander Stoep reported a state funded study showed that the 2007 flood did \$938 million worth of damage, which included \$500+ million to Lewis county families, businesses and local governments.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated, in 1932, the federal government put a gauge in the Chehalis River at Grand Mound to measure the flows. He reported the five largest recorded flood events have been since 1986, with 2007 being the highest. Mr. Vander Stoep talked briefly about the 100 year flood, noting it's just a mathematical calculation of the statistical averages. He indicated the 100 year flood level has gone up 33 percent since 1986.

Mr. Vander Stoep reported there's been a significant decline in the salmon population in the Chehalis Basin over the last century. He stated when they first started meeting it was important for some to find a flood solution, while others wanted a salmon solution. It was decided early on that they would only move forward if they could address both problems at the same time. Mr. Vander Stoep stated, if the climate impact continues, it's predicted that our floods will only get worse, the winter storms will get bigger and stronger, and the summers will be hotter and dryer. He suggested, if the predictions are true, we'll begin to see the extermination of the spring Chinook runs and a major decline in the other Steelhead and Coho fall Chinook in the Chehalis River.

Mr. Vander Stoep reported the Local Conservation District found 830 studies on fish and flooding that had been done since 1933 when the government promised a solution to flooding in the Chehalis Basin. He noted, over the last couple of years, the Flood Authority has done a lot of local projects in the basin, to include: a dike in Pe Ell; widening of the airport levee; repaired and restored the levee at Adna; critter pads and evacuation routes; and flood prevention at the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Vander Stoep reported after the 2007 flood there was much discussion on why it happened and how to solve the problem. He noted no one really knew what the impact would be when looking at options, but the hydraulic modeling they've done since that time provides enough information so they don't have to guess what the impacts will be.

Mr. Vander Stoep reported, in 2013, the Flood Authority was tasked to supervise the efforts of the state agencies and consulting groups and have the report done by the end of August 2014. The following recommendations were made to the Governor's Office:

- Move forward with a single project for Fish and Flood
 - Comprehensive habitat restoration: Over 100 miles of riparian and instream improvements and fixing priority fish passage barriers

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- Water retention dam: either flood control only or flood control with augmentation of summer flows
- Flood proofing and local projects
- Improved land use management
- Economic Costs and Benefits:
 - Cost: \$500 million to \$600 million depending on type of dam (flood control only, or with augmentation)
 - Direct benefits: \$720 million based on historic record of flooding
 - \$3.8 billion in total benefits, including economic multiplier and intrinsic value of fish
- Tangible Benefits:
 - I-5 closed for less than one day instead of five or more
 - Flood proofing airport levee; water retention will protect 2000 structures from a 2007 like flood
 - Up to 50 percent increase in salmon and benefit for other aquatic species

Mr. Vander Stoep reported they basically have two choices: move forward with the recommended projects; or take no action at all, which could cause \$3.5 billion in damage over the next 100 years and the decimation of salmon runs.

Mr. Vander Stoep reported the Governor sent a letter out that endorses the project to go forward with permitting. He noted the Governor also recommended that the work group stay together for the next few years to supervise the permitting process. The next steps include:

- Legislative decision on budget
- Initiate permit process with programmatic EIS
- Implement immediate actions to restore habitat and reduce flood damage
- Continue community awareness and preparedness for floods

Mayor Dawes asked what the potential timeline is to complete the project.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated the forecast is that it will take about four to six years for the permitting, and two years for construction.

Councilor Ketchum inquired about the river restoration projects, wondering if the work done will end up getting flushed down river during future flood events.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated he was told that they have learned how to cable stuff into the ground. He noted some of it will wash out, but most of it will remain.

Councilor Harris asked if they would be using the project list put together by the Chehalis River Basin Partnership.

Mr. Vander Stoep believed the Chehalis Basin Partnership projects had been picked up on the fisheries' side. He noted the local projects have been coming through the Flood Authority with some additional projects recommended by the Work Group (based on the recommendation of the Flood Authority). Mr. Vander Stoep reported the recommendation of the Work Group is that they continue that process and have the Flood Authority come up with local projects, and have the Chehalis River Basin Partnership come up with the fisheries' projects.

Councilor Harris noted the Chehalis Basin Partnership is struggling right now because there hasn't been money or grants to complete a lot of the projects. He stated he would like to see some support for the Partnership, noting they're currently having difficulty finding a permanent chairperson.

Councilor Pope inquired about the salmon habitat enhancements and asked if there were any plans to put a new hatchery on the Chehalis River.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated he was not aware of any hatcheries being proposed at this time. He noted at one time there were hatcheries in the upper Chehalis River, but they no longer exist.

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Councilor Lund thanked Mr. Vander Stoep for all of his hard work and for his time and leadership. He stated if Mr. Vander Stoep hadn't been involved, the process probably wouldn't be as far as it is.

Mayor Dawes agreed, adding the council appreciated his leadership and involvement. He stated Mr. Vander Stoep understood the system and how to make it work to the benefit of the community.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated he very much appreciated the complement, but added it has been a real team effort. He noted one of the bi-products of the process is that there's been a real unity brought about by this issue. Mr. Vander Stoep stated it's been encouraging to see Lewis County joined at the hip with the local agencies and other counties on this issue. He added we would not be here if we were not all in agreement on this issue.

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

a. Minutes of the regular meeting of November 24, 2014; and

b. Claim Vouchers No. 111034-111128 in the amount of \$932,852.04 dated November 26, 2014; and Payroll Vouchers No. 37772-37821, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 5518-5606, and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 142 in the amount of \$666,787.25 dated November 26, 2014.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

5. **Administration Reports.**

a. **West Street Demolition Project.** City Manager MacReynold reported the city will begin demolition on the fire-damaged apartment building on West Street, noting it's been an eyesore for quite some time. He indicated it would take about one week to complete the project.

b. **Report on City Accomplishments.** City Manager MacReynold reported he thought it would be nice to talk about what we've done over the past eight years, and provided the council with the following list of accomplishments:

- Constructed Chamber Way traffic/road improvements and not roundabouts
- Constructed a new library and remodeled the new city hall building
- Constructed kiddy spray pool at Recreation Park
- Constructed Chehalis Avenue beautification and street improvements
- Funded city hall building improvements with council manic bonds
- Management of the city through the 2007 flood of record and the 2009 flood, and recovery efforts (especially after the 2007 flood)
- Took ownership of Stan Hedwall Park at a minimal cost to the city
- Maintained and improved the city's financial viability during the great recession and even improved the city's bond rating from an "A" to an "A+"
- Completed the city Renaissance Plan and established the Chehalis Community Renaissance Team that has been more successful than what we could have hoped
- Constructed the Gail and Carolyn Shaw Aquatics Center
- Took sole ownership of the Chehalis-Centralia Airport and managed a successful transition to a city department
- Negotiated an agreement with the city of Tacoma to possibly take joint ownership with Lewis County of the Tacoma rail line from Chehalis to Maytown
- Completed the connection of Louisiana Avenue with Airport Road in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Centralia and Lewis County
- Explored different governmental service relationships and improved our relationship with Fire District #6
- Explored and began planning a functional consolidation with Riverside Fire Authority with plans for a possible annexation
- Started an annual chip sealing program for our local streets in our Public Works Department that had been discontinued
- Completed a city branding change for the city and a new tagline

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- Developed funding and placed new wayfinding signs throughout the city with the new logo
- Created and funded the historic walking tour guide that has been reprinted numerous times
- Established positive working relationships with Lewis County and the city of Centralia
- Developed alternative funding sources to make improvements to our local streets and roads, dedicating four percent of the city sales and use taxes and the creation of a Transportation Benefit District; council passed the sales tax dedication fund which will provide approximately \$150,000 more for our local streets and roads
- Established the monthly Lewis County public managers breakfast meeting, so that appointed governmental CEOs can meet and discuss common issues and get to know each other
- Successfully negotiated 11 contracts with the 3 employee unions
- Established the Façade Improvement Program for the Historic Downtown and funded numerous projects
- Elevated 16 homes within the city as part of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Home Elevation Program
- Reestablished the Flood Authority for the Chehalis Basin after the 2007 flood and was the first jurisdiction in the basin to pass a resolution in support of flood retention
- Applied and received state funding to construct Phase 1 of the Airport Levee Project
- Took the lead on preventing implementation of the draft FEMA map based on the 2007 flood and established a working relationship with the FEMA Regional Office to explore alternative approaches to the mapping
- Established live video streaming of city council meetings via the city website and the internet
- Established a successful citywide wellness program through the Association of Washington Cities that benefits not only our employees, but the city

6. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Council Harris.** Councilor Harris reported the Chehalis Basin Partnership had a special meeting scheduled to discuss the hiring of a new watershed coordinator, noting the last person took a much deserved and higher paying job in Thurston County. He stated the watershed coordinator position is very important and he may come back in a few months to ask for some funding in case it's needed to pay for the position. Councilor Harris reported the work done by the Partnership has been tremendous over the years, adding a lot of it had to do with the fish habitat and reclamation of land.

Councilor Harris reported he attended the December meeting of the Chehalis Community Renaissance Team and asked David Hartz if he could give a brief update on what they will be looking at next year.

Mr. Hartz reported earlier in the day he met with the landscape architect who is working with the group on the Lewis County Public Utility District Park. He noted one of the things discussed at their last meeting that was dear to Gail Shaw is to get together every once in a while for a sit-down meal, so they can get to know one another in a more informal sense. Mr. Hartz stated they have a lot of exciting projects coming up that are driven by the relationships and commitment they have for one another.

Councilor Pope stated there's great excitement among the CCRT members, noting it was exciting to see the energy in the room at the last meeting.

b. **Update From Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope reported the Chehalis Foundation is working with a consultant and hopes to expand their future role in the community into a leadership role.

c. **Update From Councilor Ketchum.** Councilor Ketchum reported he helped the Chamber of Commerce with their annual "Black Friday" event, noting they gave out 250 bags in just a couple of hours. He noted the Chamber also had a good turnout for the Santa Parade, noting it was a lot of fun and they gave out lots of candy.

d. **Update From Mayor Dawes.** Mayor Dawes reported he attended a ribbon cutting at Petals Design and Living Gifts, noting it was quite a unique little store. He also attended the Business After Hours at the Holiday Inn Express that was held in conjunction with the United Way campaign celebration.

Mayor Dawes reported he attended the "Evening with the Authors" event at the Lewis County Historical Museum, noting they also had a ribbon cutting at 5:15 p.m. to honor 50 years of the Historical Society. He noted the Historical Society started at the old Author S. Cory home on Adams Avenue in 1965 and moved to its present location in the 1970s.

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Mayor Dawes reported he also attended the Santa Parade, noting they had a good turnout. He agreed with Councilor Ketchum, they handed out a lot of candy this year.

7. **Ordinance No. 939-B, Second and Final Reading – Amending the 2014 Budget.** Councilor Spahr moved to pass Ordinance No. 939-B on second and final reading.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

8. **Resolution No. 11-2014, First and Final Reading – Amending Title 17, Appendix “A” (Schedule of Fees and Charges) of the Uniform Development Regulations.** City Manager MacReynold reported the subject of fees has been discussed many times over the last several years. He noted the process they used to examine the city’s fees this time was significantly different from in the past. City Manager MacReynold stated they were not trying to recoup all of the city’s costs with the proposed adjustments, but wanted to recoup some of the costs that are currently being subsidized by the general fund. He noted most of the fees were created in the 1990s and have not changed since.

City Manager MacReynold reported the administration held two meetings with the Council Budget Review Committee made up of Mayor Dawes, Mayor Pro tem Harris, and Councilor Spahr, to review the fees.

Mayor Dawes reported the Budget Committee directed the staff to be more realistic with our fees, asking them to keep them competitive while keeping the city an attractive place to do business. He stated it was important to recognize that the city cannot continue to have the general fund subsidizing things at the same level as it has in the past.

Councilor Taylor moved to adopt Resolution No. 11-2014 on first and final reading.

Councilor Lund seconded the motion.

Councilor Spahr reported they went over the fee schedule with somewhat of a fine-toothed comb and had a good discussion about how to arrive at some of the proposed fees. He stated what they had before them is what came out of their meetings, adding he thought it was a good step.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. **Cable Fees for High Definition Television.** Councilor Pope stated he recently noticed he was being charged \$10 per month on his cable bill for high definition television, which he does not have. He stated he just wanted others to be aware of it to make sure they’re not being charged for something they’re not receiving.

10. **December 22 Council Meeting.** Mayor Dawes reminded the council that the December 22 meeting had been cancelled. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season, adding he hoped 2015 would be a great year for everyone.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned 6:04 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

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