

February 9, 2015

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, February 9, 2015, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Dawes called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Dr. Isaac Pope, Bob Spahr, Daryl Lund, and Chad Taylor. Councilor Ketchum was absent (excused). Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; and Judy Schave, City Clerk.

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 45 minutes and there would be no decision following conclusion of the executive session.

Mayor Dawes closed the executive session at 5:02 p.m. and announced the council would take a short recess before opening the regular meeting at 5:04 p.m. Additional staff included: Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief/Interim Fire Chief; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; Dennis Osborn, Community Development Director; Lilly Wall, Recreation Manager; Rick Sahlin, Public Works Director; and Don Schmitt, Street/Stormwater Superintendent. Members of the media included Dameon Pesanti from *The Chronicle*.

2. **Public Hearing on 2015-2020 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) Proposed Amendments.** Public Works Director Rick Sahlin reported the administration had been before the council on three previous occasions to talk about the bridge scour grant that was received in 2012. He noted the initial estimated cost for the project was \$190,500.

Mr. Sahlin reported, in April 2014, the city hired HDJ Design Group, PLLC (HDJ) to manage the project, and in August 2014, the city hired ESA Vigil-Agrimis to do the design work. He stated the plans are now at 60 percent and HDJ and the Washington State Department of Transportation Local Programs is requiring us to amend our 2015-2020 STIP at the state level for the new projected cost of \$430,700 (\$251,000 being construction costs).

Councilor Harris stated it was interesting that the engineering costs are \$180,000 for a \$250,000 project. Mr. Sahlin indicated the \$180,000 includes the engineering and permitting costs.

Mayor Dawes closed the regular meeting at 5:08:24 p.m. and opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment, Mayor Dawes closed the public hearing at 5:08:46 and reopened the regular meeting.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of January 26, 2015;
- b. Claim Vouchers No. 111548-111671 in the amount of \$178,233.13 dated January 30, 2015; Payroll Vouchers No. 37875-37923, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 5696-5785, and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 144 in the amount of \$683,452.56 dated January 30, 2015; and
- c. Approve and authorize the city manager to execute the updated right-of-way procedures for potential/temporary property acquisition for the National Avenue Salzer Creek Bridge Scour Mitigation Project.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

4. **Administration Reports.**

a. **Recreation Park - Scope of Improvements.** City Manager MacReynold reported a couple of years ago the council gave policy direction to begin to do significant improvements to Recreation Park. He noted the project was put on hold while the pool project was being dealt with. City Manager MacReynold stated the Chehalis Parks Committee and the Chehalis Foundation's City Projects Committee met to discuss the scope of work, adding the project has significantly increased not only in scope, but also in cost. He noted based on recent discussions, the administration thought this would be a good time to bring the rest of the council up to speed on the proposed improvements to make Recreation Park a first-class facility.

February 9, 2015

Community Development Director Dennis Osborn reported the Recreation Park Project is now estimated to be anywhere between \$2.1 to 2.45 million. The proposal includes improvements to the parking, infrastructure and ball fields, as well as remodeling the existing facilities, including the V.R. Lee Community Building, Fred Hess Kitchen and restrooms. Also included in the cost is site preparation and drainage, the concept of synthetic fields, remodel/upgrades to Penny Playground, new picnic shelters, picnic tables, and trash receptacles.

Mr. Osborn walked the council through the list of projects, to include:

- V.R. Lee Community Building – interior remodel, replace/update windows
- Fred Hess Kitchen – replace linoleum, replace/update windows
- Penny Playground – retrofit/replacement
- 10 picnic tables and eight (8) trash receptacles
- Playground - restroom upgrade w/new roof
- Replace three (3) picnic shelters (includes demo, site prep, pads, and new structures)
- Landscaping improvements
- Game Day Grass/without soil prep – two (2) infields
- Game Day Grass/without soil prep – one (1) full field
- Soil prep for Game Day Grass – two (2) infields
- Soil prep for Game Day Grass – one (1) full field
- Maintenance Equipment for Game Day Grass
- Storm main line
- Fields 3 & 4 - drainage improvements w/sprinklers
- Parking area extension
- Park circulation road
- Ball field concrete viewing corridor

Councilor Pope stated the council should know that the responsibility of the Penny Playground has been transferred to the Chehalis Foundation.

Mr. Osborn stated if the scope of work looks good to the council they would present it to the Chehalis Foundation at their February 10 meeting. He noted they would work with the Foundation to seek funding options and would continue to keep the council informed.

Councilor Pope stated, as a member of the Chehalis Parks Committee, he would suggest they move forward with the plan.

Councilor Taylor agreed, adding he would love to see as much of the 'game day grass' as possible. Mr. Osborn stated the game day grass will make the facility more attractive for statewide tournaments.

Mayor Dawes agreed, adding the game day grass would allow more use and would make it look so much nicer.

Councilor Harris thanked Mr. Osborn for mentioning that they are looking for alternate funding sources. He reported it would be great if they could figure out how to activate other folks in the community to step forward and take on some of the projects themselves. Councilor Harris stated we have a lot of contractors in town and suggested knocking on some doors to see what some of them might be willing to do.

Councilor Harris reported a lot of money was going to go into the improvements and suggested if they do install the game day grass they can start tournaments earlier and play later into the year. He stated that was going to make the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) and the hoteliers and business people in the community very happy.

Councilor Harris asked if they would lose a season by starting the work in July.

February 9, 2015

Recreation Manager Lilly Wall reported they wouldn't start the project until after the season ends, which is usually the first week of July. Mr. Osborn stated, conceptually, they could start earlier in the year on some of the other improvements that don't affect the play area.

Councilor Lund agreed, suggesting they go full steam ahead. He stated it will be nice to have a first-class facility.

Councilor Spahr inquired as to the number of parking stalls that would be added. Ms. Wall stated they would get some additional parking stalls plus improve on what's currently there. Mr. Osborn believed the total number of parking stalls is 61, but he would follow up with the council on the actual number.

Councilor Spahr inquired about the Fred Hess Kitchen improvements, wondering why the estimated cost is so high. Mr. Osborn reported they plan to put in new windows, electrical, flooring and sub-flooring, depending on what they find once they pull up the old flooring. Councilor Spahr asked if the estimates were on the high side. Mr. Osborn stated they were.

Councilor Pope reported the way they have the projects broke down it will allow others or civic groups to take on some of the projects individually.

Mayor Dawes stated, based on the discussion, the council is very supportive of the Committee moving forward with the proposed improvements for Recreation Park.

Councilor Lund stated he didn't want people to forget that they're still working on plans for Stan Hedwall Park.

Mayor Dawes reported a lot of things on the list, drainage being one of them, have been talked about for over 30 years. He stated it was exciting to see things finally moving forward and to be able to turn it into a first-class facility.

Councilor Lund wanted the citizens to know that the city is not writing a check for this, adding they plan to try to find funding with the help of the Foundation. City Manager MacReynold stated they would be looking at all possibilities for how to fund the improvements.

Councilor Harris stated in 2013-2014 the LTAC gave city staff funding to pay for the initial ground work, primarily for the drainage.

5. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Lund.** Councilor Lund reported he attended the Chehalis Parks Committee meeting along with members of the Foundation's City Project Committee to discuss plans for Recreation Park. He stated things are also going well for the Lewis County Historical Museum, noting they're having a fundraiser "Gala" on February 14.

b. **Update From Councilor Spahr.** Councilor Spahr reported he attended his first Sewer Operating Board meeting, as well as the Lewis Economic Development Council (EDC) banquet.

c. **Update From Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope stated he also attended the Chehalis Parks Committee meeting. He noted the Committee will be making a presentation to the Chehalis Foundation on Tuesday, February 10.

d. **Update From Mayor Dawes.** Mayor Dawes reported he attended the EDC banquet as well, adding he was pleased to report that Councilor Spahr will continue to be the city's representative on the EDC Board.

6. **Resolution No. 2-2015, First and Final Reading – Amending the 2015-2020 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan.** City Manager MacReynold stated the council already heard from the administration on the proposed amendments to the 2015-2020 STIP and encourage a favorable vote.

Councilor Lund moved to adopt Resolution No. 2-2015 on first and final reading.

February 9, 2015

The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned 5:32 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of February 9, 2015.