

April 13, 2015

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, April 13, 2015, 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 15 minutes and there would be no decision following conclusion of the executive session.

Mayor Dawes closed the executive session at 4:57 p.m. and announced the council would take a short recess before opening the regular meeting at 5:00 p.m. Additional staff included: Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief/Interim Fire Chief; Judy Pectol, Finance Manager; and Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator. Members of the media included Dameon Pesanti from *The Chronicle*.

## 2. **Proclamations.**

a. **Chehalis Girls Basketball Team.** Mayor Dawes reported a proclamation was prepared to congratulate the W.F. West Girls Basketball team on another successful season. He stated, “They may not have taken the state championship, but three times in a row they went to the state finals and they’ve had much success. We’re just as proud of them for what they did this year as we were any of the other years and we look forward to continued success for the program they’ve built.”

b. **Sexual Assault Awareness Month.** Mayor Dawes presented Human Response Network Executive Director Tara Leno with a proclamation declaring April as “Sexual Awareness Month” in the city of Chehalis.

3. **Interview Applicants for Consideration of Appointment to the Chehalis Historic Preservation Commission.** The council interviewed Steven (Andy) Skinner, John McKerricher, George Hauer, and Douglas Peterson for consideration of appointment to the Chehalis Historic Preservation Commission. Mayor Dawes stated the council would let the applicants know their intentions and hoped to make the appointments at the next regular meeting.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of March 23, 2015; and
- b. Claim Vouchers No. 112049-112154 in the amount of \$113,121.34 dated March 31, 2015; and Payroll Vouchers No. 37975-38026, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 5876-5965, and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 146 in the amount of \$737,526.59 dated March 31, 2015.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and carried unanimously.

## 5. **Administration Reports.**

a. **Update on Recreation Park.** Community Development Director Dennis Osborn reported the administration met with the Parks Committee late last week to talk about Recreation Park. He noted the administration received direction for the council to look at the park to see what it would take to make it a first-class facility. Mr. Osborn provided the following summary of the work done to date:

- RB Engineering completed preliminary design work for parking and drainage improvements
- The administration expanded RB Engineering’s proposal to include some additional work
- The administration presented the proposal to council and the Chehalis Foundation and received direction from the council to proceed
- The administration spent several weeks seeking a project manager and was close to signing one, but could not resolve legal language in the contract between the two parties (the administration is continuing to look for a project manager)

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Mr. Osborn reported, during the time of negotiating with the potential project manager, additional discussions about the project occurred between the administration and folks in the community. From these conversations the administration concluded that some of the issues raised may have merit and may change the project scope. Mr. Osborn stated the administration wanted to take this time to check with council to see if they would like the administration to explore the following issues that came up for discussion:

- Status of Penny Playground.

Mr. Osborn reported this project was in the scope that was presented to council, but the administration received feedback regarding the sensitivity of this park to the community. The question being asked is does it really need to be replaced?

Property Maintenance Worker Ryan Chaney reported he's been inspecting Penny Playground since it was built in 1993. He noted according to the manufacturer, Leathers, the toy had a lifespan of 20 years. Mr. Chaney, who is certified to inspect the city's playground equipment, reported he found a number of issues on the decking of the platforms caused by weathering. He stated wood is no longer recommended or available, making it difficult to find a suitable replacement. Additionally, the playground is functionally linked, so they can't just rip off a board and replace it.

Mr. Chaney reported when they installed the toy they didn't account for the Chromated Copper Arsenate toxins in the pressure-treated wood. He noted the toxins can be hazardous if dermally or orally absorbed. Mr. Chaney reported over the last 16 years they've been pressure washing and sealing the toy with linseed oil, which has created a resin around all of the posts. He stated the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) would like to see all wood toys ripped out and replaced for safety reasons.

Mr. Chaney reported the playground is also experiencing dry-rot issues, noting given the high water table at Recreation Park, the posts below ground have been sitting in water for the last 22 years. Because they've already surpassed the expected lifespan of the toy he wondered how much longer they could keep it compliant and safe.

Mr. Chaney reported several states have already adopted the CPSC recommendations and guidelines. He noted there are several entities pushing for them to be adopted in Washington State, as well. Mr. Chaney thought the toy should be put on the list for replacement if they're planning to make Recreation Park a first-class facility.

Councilor Pope stated the city has always been pro-active and hoped they would include Penny Playground in the plan. He asked Mr. Chaney if the state could mandate the city to take it out or replace it if the guidelines are adopted.

Mr. Chaney stated the CPSC could.

Councilor Spahr inquired about what they would get for the estimated \$300,000 to replace the structure.

Mr. Chaney reported there are several manufacturers who make recycled plastic boards and panels that don't rot.

Councilor Lund stated he would feel terrible if the structure fell apart while kids are playing on it. He thought it would be worth changing it, even though it's sentimental.

Mr. Osborn reported the parks crew has bored down into the posts and poured materials in to solidify them, but there's still rot going on inside.

Mr. Osborn talked briefly about other issues that came up for discussion, to include:

- Additional parking – the original plan showed additional parking along the road between Green Hill School and Recreation Park. We may be able to provide additional parking, but the trade-off would be a loss of green space.
- Adding security cameras.
- Does the VR Lee Building and Hess Kitchen still function as needed, or do we replace the two facilities and create one new structure on the corner?

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Mr. Osborn reported if the project scope stays the same as previously discussed and the improvements come in around \$2 million, and loans are utilized to obtain funds, the improvements for the park would be locked in for the time of retiring the debt. He suggested this may limit future opportunities to deal with life expectancy issues of structures.

Mr. Osborn reported a key component to the plan will be community involvement and outreach programs to get feedback about what the park will ultimately look like.

City Manager MacReynold stated they were looking for an indication from the council that they would like the Parks Committee to look at the additional items that were not part of their initial discussion with council. He suggested the public process that Mr. Osborn talked about was also very important.

Councilor Ketchum stated he would like to see a plan that turns it into the most unique park around. He suggested the Committee provide a complete plan that includes everything you can wish for to make it a first-class facility.

Councilor Taylor agreed.

Councilor Pope suggested if they're going to look at doing anything they should look at the overall improvement as a complete package, and then they can decide if they need to take things out.

Councilor Spahr asked if anyone had been in contact with Leathers to see what materials they're using for their playground equipment now. He stated he really likes their approach of letting the community build it, but didn't know if they still do that, or if we want to do that. Councilor Spahr stated he's all for making it a first-class park.

Mr. Chaney reported Leathers makes a lot of their toys out of a composite material.

Recreation Manager Lilly Wall reported she's talked with Leathers and they can still incorporate the community into the planning of the project, but did not believe they would let the community come in and actually help build it.

Councilor Harris reported there are a lot of things about Penny Playground that can be recreated or duplicated so people will still have that visual attachment of what's there now. He agreed that they need to look at the big pie first, and then take out what they don't want later. Councilor Harris believed there would be a lot of community involvement, and lots of projects that can be adopted by the community and developed. He felt it was important to put the people's fingerprints on the new development.

Councilor Lund stated, "When has Chehalis not done that, just look at the Gail and Carolyn Shaw Aquatics Center, the Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library, and Lintott-Alexander Park." Councilor Lund felt it was going to be a great facility for our citizens.

b. **Planning Commission Code Revision Update.** Mr. Osborn reported the items he shared with the council he also shared with the Chehalis Planning Commission. He indicated he was still waiting for some feedback from the Commission, noting if they have anything to add he'll bring it back and share it with the council.

c. **Update on Twin Transit Senior Discounts.** City Manager MacReynold reported he met with Twin Transit General Manager Rob LaFontaine to explore the possibility of the city providing waivers to our senior citizens (70+), noting Councilor Taylor brought this request to the council at the previous meeting. What he learned is there are 16 social service organizations in the local area that receive waivers and provide financial assistance for transportation. He noted the three agencies within Chehalis are: Catholic Community Services, Twin Cities Senior Center, and the Area Agency on Aging. City Manager MacReynold stated, with those services available, he would not be recommending the city provide any additional service for our senior citizens. He suggested the city can work with Twin Transit to make sure we direct people who are interested in receiving that waiver to those agencies.

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6. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Spahr.** Councilor Spahr reported he attended the Lewis Economic Development Council (EDC) Board meeting, adding the communication coming out of the EDC seems to be a lot better. He noted they recently put out a Director's Report that the council should have received. Councilor Spahr stated he hoped the relationship would build and get better as time goes on.

b. **Update From Councilor Lund.** Councilor Lund reported he attended the Parks Committee meeting along with Councilors Harris and Pope.

c. **Update From Councilor Ketchum.** Councilor Ketchum reported he had heart surgery a little over a week ago and everything is going fine.

d. **Update From Mayor Dawes.** Mayor Dawes reported on March 25 he had a chance to attend and greet the Timberland Library Board of Trustees. On March 27, he attended the .09 Committee meeting, noting there was money approved for the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum (CCRM) for one of their upcoming projects. He also attended the grand opening of the Fresenius Dialysis Clinic on Bishop Road, the Mayors meeting on April 3, and a reception held for the fire chief finalists on April 6.

e. **Update From Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope reported he was being treated for a medical issue that's been going on for a number of years. He noted the doctors finally decided to do something about it, and he's doing fine.

7. **Question on .09 Grant Funding.** Councilor Lund asked, "How can a group ask for funds when they won't help themselves?" He noted the CCRM didn't run an Easter train this year and they don't plan to run the Mother's Day brunch trains.

Mayor Dawes stated he didn't think the work was complete on the engine yet.

Councilor Lund reported Toby Van Altvorst (Western Washington Rail LLC) offered to let them use his engine. He stated it made him wonder why they give people money when they're not trying to make money on their own.

Mayor Dawes stated a presentation was made to the Committee and they approved half of their request.

8. **Executive Session.** Mayor Dawes closed the regular meeting at 5:59 p.m. and announced the council would be in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) – evaluate qualifications of an applicant for approximately 10 minutes and there would be no decision following conclusion of the executive session.

Following conclusion of the executive session, Mayor Dawes reopened the regular meeting at 6:05 p.m., and there being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was immediately adjourned.

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Mayor

Attest:

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City Clerk

**SUGGESTED MOTION**

**I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of April 13, 2015.**