

May 11, 2015

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, May 11, 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, Daryl Lund, and Chad Taylor. Dr. Pope participated telephonically and Tony Ketchum arrived at 4:34 p.m. Councilor Spahr was absent (excused). Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief/Interim Fire Chief; Judy Pectol, Finance Manager, Dennis Osborn, Community Development Director; Rick Sahlin, Public Works Director; and Don Schmitt Street/Stormwater Superintendent.

1. Work Session – Discuss Locomotive #15 Repairs with Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum Board. The Council held a work session to discuss the repairs being made to the city's Locomotive #15. Members in attendance from the CCRM Board of Directors included: Ron Burton, Rick Burchett, Harold Borovec, Luke Johnson, Ray Beaber, Coralee Taylor, Association President Bill Thompson, Vice-President Mike Beehler, and Secretary/Treasurer Wanda Thompson.

Mayor Dawes reported safety is the number one concern of the council. He stated the work session will allow both sides to address questions and concerns regarding the repair work being done to the engine. Mayor Dawes stated even though the CCRM is the daily operator of the engine, it's still the city's asset.

Mr. Thompson reported the Board appreciated the city having Al Di Paolo with the California State Railroad Museum inspect the work being done. He suggested Mr. Di Paolo came by a little too early because they were still in the process of tearing down the locomotive to see what they had to work on. Mr. Thompson noted, since Mr. Di Paolo's inspection, they've cleaned things up and a lot of the items noted in the draft inspection report have been taken care of. He reported the work is being monitored regularly by the FRA, who will have the final word as to whether they run, or not.

Mr. Thompson reported one of the issues brought up in Mr. Di Paolo's inspection report was the flues. He noted it's a personal choice of whether you weld, or roll them, adding they've opted to weld them as they've done in the past.

Mayor Dawes suggested they start by comparing the CCRM response letter to the draft inspection report provided by Mr. Di Paolo. The items were discussed in the following order:

- Firebox: Issue noted - some of the new patches to be welded are not of sufficient thickness and will likely result in faulty and unsafe weldments.

Mr. Thompson reported they hired a qualified welder to make the needed repairs, adding some of the work has been done and he'll be back later in the week to finish.

Mayor Dawes asked if the FRA would be inspecting the work before things are buttoned up.

Luke Johnson reported the FRA will inspect things before the installation of the jacketing and lagging. He noted at some point they'll test the repairs with excess operating pressure in front of the FRA to ensure safety and to find any weaknesses.

Mayor Dawes asked, short of derailment, is the potential of having the boiler blow up the biggest concern. Mr. Johnson asked, "When is the last time you heard of one blowing up?" He reported the last few incidents in the United States were caused by operator error and had nothing to do with the boiler.

Councilor Harris asked if there is a mechanism in the boiler that goes off if things get too hot, or if they have too much pressure. Mr. Johnson stated if the pressure gets too high there are safety valves that lift and the fusible plug in the firebox will melt and put the fire out if it gets to that point.

- Steam Dome

Mayor Dawes stated it appears the steam dome is a work in progress and they plan to follow Mr. Di Paolo's recommendation.

Councilor Harris inquired as to what the steam dome is and does.

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Mr. Johnson reported it's the dome on top of the engine that houses the safety valves, throttles, and the dry pipe that goes to all of the appliances.

Harold Bovec reported that's also where the steam collects so you can use it.

Councilor Lund asked if they were making a new dome.

Mr. Johnson reported they're making a new lid for the existing dome.

- Machinery: Issue noted - problem with lateral motion on the #3 driving axle (on the to-do list).

Mr. Johnson reported they built and test fitted them earlier that day, noting they still need to drill some holes and bolt them in.

Councilor Harris asked about the required stamping of the original diameter on the axle centers.

Mr. Thompson reported that ruling went into effect in 2005. He noted the stamp just tells them the size of the axle.

Councilor Harris asked if the stamp is necessary, or if it's just a frame of reference.

Mr. Johnson reported the requirement went into effect after the engine was put back into service in 2000. He noted a rebuild is good for up to 14,072 days, or 15 years, whichever comes first. (It was noted they plan to stamp the axles.)

- Tender: Issue noted – brake shoes.

Mayor Dawes reported Mr. Di Paolo's report noted a thin brake shoe on one of the wheels.

Mr. Bovec stated when they get too thin they change them.

Councilor Harris asked if they replace all of the brake shoes at the same time, or can they be replaced individually as needed.

Mr. Bovec reported they wear them until they're worn out, which is not completely gone, but still usable.

Councilor Pope stated he had one basic question, "If you plan to run the train this summer, is it safe to run?"

Mr. Thompson stated, "Absolutely, yes!"

Councilor Lund inquired about the truck springs plank rivets, noting their response stated, "Will be addressed at the appropriate time." He asked when that would be.

Mr. Johnson reported the welder will do that work when he gets to the point of needing to install them.

Councilor Harris inquired about the loose rivets at the connection point with the columns on both trucks, noting Mr. Di Paolo suggested this is a condemning defect.

Mr. Johnson reported all of the loose nuts have been tightened since the report came out.

- Record Keeping

Mayor Dawes reported it was noted in the response letter that they have not kept daily inspection reports for the past few years, but they will begin to do this again.

- Smokebox - Needle scaling of the smokebox has been completed.

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- Boiler Interior – Will be repaired per FRA directives; waiting for approval from the FRA mechanical engineer.

Councilor Lund asked if they intend to arc weld the pits in the boiler.

Mr. Johnson reported they plan to put weldolets in for the washout plugs, which will remove about 20 percent of the pitting and they'll arc weld the others.

- Dry Pipe – a new dry pipe is being built and should be ready to install in two weeks.

Mayor Dawes inquired as to what a dry pipe does.

Mr. Johnson reported it takes the steam from up in the dome to the header and brings it down into the cylinders.

- Installation of Tubes and Pipes

Mayor Dawes reported it appears that everyone has talked with their own experts and there's a little bit of disagreement, but either one is acceptable.

- Water Treatment – the water treatment used is recommended by the water treatment producer
- Boiler Washes – they always use the recommended method to wash the boiler on a regular basis.

Mr. Johnson reported the engine was inspected by the FRA three weeks prior to Mr. Di Paolo arriving. He noted during that three week period they did some needle gunning on it, which made a mess of it.

Mayor Dawes talked briefly about Mr. Di Paolo's recommendation of putting in a service pit. He suggested if the Board had the funds they would probably like to put a service pit in, adding it would make things a lot easier.

Mr. Thompson agreed.

Councilor Taylor asked if there were things in Mr. Di Paolo's inspection report that they didn't think about, or weren't already going to do.

Mr. Johnson replied, the stamping of the axles.

City Manager MacReynold stated, based on the discussion, he would like the council to give the administration direction with reference to putting closure on the discussion. He felt Councilor Pope hit on one of the key points, "Is it going to be safe to run?"

Councilor Harris suggested the reason the Board hasn't heard from the city about these issues before is because they've never been through a major rebuild before. He felt there was some legitimate awareness that needed to be made to the council, so they can be assured that what the mechanics are doing is exactly what should be done.

Mayor Dawes stated based on the silence of the council, there are no concerns with the report or the answers given.

Ray Beaber suggested the council come by to take a look at the work being done, adding it might give them more of an idea as to what they're doing.

Mayor Dawes stated the worst thing you want is to have someone come down that knows absolutely nothing about what you're doing; and the second worst thing is when you have someone who can talk circles around it to make it sound like they know what they're talking about.

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Mayor Dawes reported this has been a learning process for him and he wanted to echo what Councilor Pope stated earlier. He noted what scares elected officials the most is liability. Mayor Dawes stated if the council hears something and there's a potential that something may be going wrong, it's their job to look into and make sure things are being done right. He felt the FRA would do a good job inspecting the repairs and would let them know if something isn't quite right.

Mr. Borovec stated the council could be reassured that every spring the federal inspectors come in and watch them try to blow the engine up with water pressure 25 percent over and above the working pressure. He reported they've been operating the engine for over 25 years and they've never had an incident. Mr. Borovec noted they don't take things lightly because they ride it too, adding if it's going to blow sky high he doesn't want to go with it. He reported it's a good engine and they take good care of it.

City Attorney Bill Hiller stated he wanted to reassure the council that when they wrote the lease they passed the responsibility for maintenance on to the CCRM Board, and they've been diligent about taking care of it. He noted the council had the right to do a little oversight, which they've done. Attorney Hillier felt the questions had been answered and there's no reason to concern the council any further. He suggested the legal responsibility remains with the CCRM Board to do the maintenance and they're doing it, so that's where it should rest.

Mr. Thompson reported they're waiting on a report from the FRA to finish the boiler repairs. He noted all they're trying to do at this point is salvage the rest of the season.

Mayor Dawes asked when they thought they might be up and running.

Mr. Thompson reported if they could get someone to go to Washington D.C. to get the form signed they could be on their way to getting the work done.

Mr. Johnson reported they need to weld in some new modern day washout plugs, which requires approval. He noted the guy who gives his stamp of approval also inspects all of the railroad bridges in the United States, which have priority.

Mayor Dawes thanked the Board member for attending and stated he appreciated the work they've done. He reported he looked forward to hearing the whistle blow again, noting it's a nice sound to hear.

Mayor Dawes closed the work 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.

2. **Citizen Business**. Chehalis Walmart Co-Manager Mistina Willmesure reported they'll be celebrating their 20th year in the community and invited the council to attend a special event on Sunday, May 31, at 10:00 a.m. She stated representatives from the local food bank will be joining them also, adding Walmart has donated over one million pounds of food since 2009.

3. **Proclamation**. Mayor Dawes presented a proclamation to Police Chief Glenn Schaffer declaring the week of May 10–16 as "Police Week" in the city of Chehalis.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of April 27, 2015;
- b. Claim Vouchers No. 112294-112445 in the amount of \$239,658.62 dated April 30, 2015; Payroll Vouchers No. 38027-38080, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 5966-6054, and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 147 in the amount of \$726,779.33 dated April 30, 2015;
- c. Set date and time of May 26, 2015, at 5:05 p.m. for public hearing on the 2016-2021 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program; and
- d. Authorize city manager to execute Interlocal Compact between the city, city of Centralia, and Lewis County providing for cooperation in law enforcement and related activities for 2015.

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Councilor Lund seconded the motion.

Councilor Ketchum asked if the Interlocal Compact would allow the departments to create interlocal agreements as needed without bringing them before the council for approval.

Police Chief Glenn Schaffer reported the proposed interlocal would get a lot of the details regarding liability and such all wrapped up into one document. He noted with past interlocals they've run into a lot of roadblocks trying to cover all of the liability and personnel/resource issues.

City Attorney Hillier reported the issues will still come before the council for knowledge and consideration. He noted there are a number of steps involved every time they do an interlocal, adding the proposed compact will centralize issues for the police and fire departments when dealing with Lewis County and the City of Centralia.

Mayor Dawes stated it was his understanding that the departments could join any existing programs, but anything new would have to come to the council for approval.

City Manager MacReynold stated that was correct.

City Attorney Hillier stated it would compile all of the different individual interlocal agreements into one compact, and we would work off of that. He noted the interlocal would be good for one year.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Mayor Dawes.** Mayor Dawes reported he attended a meet-n-greet for the airport manager finalists along with Councilor Harris, adding we had some good candidates to choose from. He also attended the Mayors meeting, noting most of the discussion covered emergency management.

Mayor Dawes reported the next regular council meeting would be held on Tuesday, May 26 because of the Memorial Day Holiday.

b. **Update on Sidewalk Issues.** Councilor Taylor reported there had been some significant progress with the sidewalks around the city and wanted to thank public works and the police department for taking care of that.

Mayor Dawes stated he wanted to thank the public works department for educating him on the city's ordinance regarding water meters and the options residents have to re-establish service after they have their meters pulled.

Councilor Harris stated he wanted to thank everyone else involved with taking out the sand and bark that was placed in the new islands along Chehalis Avenue and replacing it with soil. He noted the Chehalis Community Renaissance Team is funding the shrubbery and trees being placed in the islands.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of May 11, 2015.