

September 14, 2015

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, September 14, 2015, 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; and Ken Cardinale, Fire Chief.

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 5:02 p.m. and announced the council would take a short recess and reopen the regular meeting at 5:05 p.m. Additional staff included: Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Dennis Osborn, Community Development Director; Judy Pectol, Finance Manager; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; Becky Fox, Municipal Court Administrator; and Don Schmitt, Acting Public Works Director/Street and Stormwater Superintendent. Members of the media included Dameon Pesanti from *The Chronicle* and Sharyn Decker from *Lewis County Sirens*.

2. **Farmers Market Harvest Dinner.** Janean Parker (722 Deep Creek Road, Chehalis) reported on the annual fundraiser for the Community Farmers Market at Chehalis. She noted the Harvest Dinner, which is their largest fundraiser, is set for Sunday, September 27, 2015, at The Loft.

3. **Update From Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments on Regional Economic Development Issues.** Executive Director Bill Fashing provided a brief review on what they're doing with the Southwest Washington Economic Development District. He noted the creation of the district took place a couple of decades ago when Lewis County and Cowlitz County came together and petitioned the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration to designate the two county regions as an economic development district.

Mr. Fashing reported there are 300 plus economic development districts around the country that focus mainly on distressed regions. He stated the core benefit of becoming a district is eligibility for certain economic development administration (EDA) grants and activities. It also provides a variety of efforts including project support and research assistance with grant development. He noted some of the funds have dried up over the years, but there is still priority funding for entities involved in economic development districts.

Mr. Fashing reported when Lewis and Cowlitz Counties came together they asked the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments to be the lead agency and to staff the operation. He noted the Board for the Economic Development District includes a variety of people throughout Lewis and Cowlitz counties. Mr. Fashing noted about two years ago they added Wahkiakum County to the district at their request. He reported they've received approval from the Governor and hopefully early next year they'll have final EDA approval on the boundary adjustment.

Mr. Fashing reported in 2015-2016 they plan to hold a couple of summits to generate some excitement and broader support for local movements in the farming and forest industry. He noted a few of their key successes include:

- Funding for the Tacoma Rail Line Feasibility Study
- Funding for the Port of Chehalis Incubator Feasibility Study
- Flood Disaster Recovery Strategy funding to help mitigate flooding in the future

Mr. Fashing reported they receive about \$70,000 annually for planning, and an additional \$7,000 from Cowlitz County as a match. They also have in-kind matching contributions for their volunteers, which is about \$63,000 annually. Mr. Fashing stated the EDA has been twisting their arm about increasing their local match, and suggested he would be back in the not too future to ask the city for some funding for the program.

Mr. Fashing provided a copy of their yearly Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan. He also talked briefly about the Lewis County 2007 Flood Disaster Recovery Strategy, noting it's available on-line if the council is interested in seeing that.

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

a. Minutes of the regular meeting of August 24, 2015; and

b. Claim Vouchers No. 113475-113587 in the amount of \$314,046.40 dated August 31, 2015; and Payroll Vouchers No. 38319-38405, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 6323-6412 and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 151 in the amount of \$762,515.36 dated August 31, 2015.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

5. **Administration Reports.**

a. **Briefing on Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team.** City Manager MacReynold reported a few months back the administration brought before the council a group of interlocal agreements to begin to work cooperatively with some of our local public safety agencies. He noted they are beginning to make some progress, so he asked Police Chief Glenn Schaffer to give a report to bring the council up to speed.

Chief Schaffer reported, over the years, there have been various degrees of cooperation between Chehalis, Centralia, and the Sheriff's Department, to include: SWAT teams, drug task forces, and anti-crime teams. He stated these have been both cooperative and standalone efforts that have come and gone with different levels of success. Chief Schaffer reported in no time has he seen the Sheriff's Department, Centralia and Chehalis working together on these tasks in such an organized fashion as we do right now. He noted to make efforts even stronger the Lewis County Prosecutor's Office is on board and cooperating.

Chief Schaffer reported when Sheriff Rob Snaza took office in January, it was his vision to have both a regional SWAT team and a regional narcotics task force team. He noted the SWAT team is already up and running and has 15 members from the three different agencies and is overseen by Undersheriff Wes Rethwill.

Chief Schaffer reported last month the Chehalis Police Department joined the Joint Narcotics Enforcement Team (JNET) and did so by assigning one detective to the group. He noted they work cooperatively under the supervision of the Centralia Police Department and their sole task is to go after every level from street to suppliers and curriers. Chief Schaffer stated, prior to joining JNET, the city addressed narcotics with a single detective. He noted our efforts were successful; however, there's only so much one person can do. Chief Schaffer reported in the one month that the city has been a part of JNET they've made 16 felony arrests, two misdemeanor arrests, and served eight search warrants. He added, year-to-date the team has made over 100 narcotic arrests and executed more than 35 search warrants.

Councilor Taylor inquired about the detective assigned to JNET asking if he still works for our department, or does he only work for the task force.

Chief Schaffer stated he works for both, noting the task force strictly works out of a single location, but the detective is still required to make appearances here and answers to one of our sergeants.

Councilor Spahr asked how big the region is for the SWAT team.

Chief Schaffer stated it's countywide.

6. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope reported the Chehalis Parks Committee met with the consultant and set up a timeline. He indicated they plan to bring something back to the council at the end of November.

b. **Update From Councilor Harris.** Councilor Harris reported the Chehalis River Basin Partnership has been struggling for the last few years due to economic setbacks. He stated one of the things they looked at was to develop a 501c3 non-profit in order to go after some funding; however, that has not been successful. Councilor Harris reported at their last

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meeting they came up with an idea similar to what we do with the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee. He noted they plan to start looking at land and water trusts to see if they can coordinate grant funding, or other resources to help get their projects underway.

Councilor Harris reported the Christmas Decoration Committee also met to talk about the upcoming season. He noted they plan to send letters to residents to invite them to decorate their homes during the holiday. He noted the letters will be mailed along with their water bill.

Councilor Harris reported Patty Kaija is currently going through some tough challenges and asked that people keep her in their thoughts and prayers.

c. **Update From Mayor Dawes.** Mayor Dawes reported he saw some folks working downtown in the rose beds, adding they did a very good job and hoped someone would pass our thanks on to them.

Mayor Dawes stated he noticed during the last rainfall there was quite a bit of debris in the ditches on 18th Street and 19th Street near Snively Avenue. He asked Acting Public Works Director Don Schmitt if they could take a look at that area before the real rains come.

Mayor Dawes reported on Garlic Fest, noting the first day went pretty well; however, on the second day the stand he was working in got blown away, so they spent a couple of hours moving everyone indoors.

Mayor Dawes reported he attended the Mayors meeting on September 4 and the .09 Committee meeting on September 11. He noted one of the highlights from the .09 meeting is that they set aside \$300,000 for the Discover! Children's Museum.

Mayor Dawes reported he received a letter from Lewis County District Court asking him to serve on their sight committee. He noted the court is trying to move away from holding a session in Morton once a month.

7. Ordinance No. 945-B, Final Reading – Replacing Chapter 10.08 of the Chehalis Municipal Code (Parking Code) and Repealing Ordinance Nos. 872-B and 889-B. Court Administrator Becky Fox reported a new bill went into effect on July 1 that required a change to the language on our parking infractions. They include changing the words "vehicle license" to "vehicle registration," and the word "will" to "may" for the Department of Licensing. This has to do with their refusal to renew a vehicle registration if there are two or more unpaid parking tickets associated with it.

Ms. Fox stated, in the process of reviewing the city's current parking infraction forms, it was found that we are out of compliance with regard to the time a defendant has to respond to an infraction. She stated we currently require defendants to respond within 72 hours of receipt of the ticket; however, by court rule we have to give them 15 days. Ms. Fox noted we are also required to have our form approved by the Court Administrator's Office.

Ms. Fox reported in order to accommodate the changes to bring us into compliance a new ordinance has been drafted to repeal the old ordinances and adopt one that includes all of the changes.

Ms. Fox reported the police department would also like to add the violation of occupying more than one parking space to our current code.

Councilor Spahr stated that was a good idea, adding next to panhandling, taking up two parking spaces is one of the biggest grips our constituents have.

Councilor Spahr moved to suspend the rules requiring two readings of an ordinance.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Harris and carried unanimously.

Councilor Spahr moved to pass Ordinance No. 945-B on first and final reading.

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The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and carried unanimously.

8. **Panhandling Ordinance Update.** Councilor Harris reported he's received a lot of positive feedback on the new panhandling ordinance, as well as a number of complaints from people suggesting the city doesn't understand human rights. He noted he challenged those who complained to actually read the ordinance, adding he thought it was very well crafted.

Councilor Harris reported in this month's issue of *Governing Magazine* there is a full two-page article on cities dealing with panhandling and the challenges they face. He believed our ordinance sits right in the middle of where it needs to be written. He thanked the administration and those involved in the process of putting the ordinance together.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of September 14, 2015.