

May 11, 2020

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, May 11, 2020, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Dennis Dawes (present in the council chambers) called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm with the following council members present telephonically: Tony Ketchum (joined call at 5:05 pm); Jerry Lord, Daryl Lund, Dr. Isaac Pope; Bob Spahr; and Chad Taylor. Staff present in the council chambers included: Jill Anderson, City Manager; Caryn Foley, City Clerk; and Andrew Hunziker, Parks & Facilities Manager. City Attorney Erin Hillier was present telephonically. Due to orders from the Governor's office relating to COVID-19, members of the public and the press were restricted from the meeting room, but were able to view the meeting via live streaming and were provided a process for submitting comments prior to the meeting.

1. **Proclamation – National Public Works Week.** Mayor Dawes read a proclamation designating May 17-23 as National Public Works Week.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of April 27, 2020;
- b. April 30, 2020 Claim Vouchers No. 128890 – 128993 in the amount of \$501,221.78;
- c. April 30, 2020, Payroll Vouchers No. 41271-41297, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 12028-12133, Electronic Federal Tax and DRS Pension/Deferred Comp Payments No. 291-294 in the amount of \$764,626.80;
- d. Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$19,054.35 for the Shaw Aquatics Center Pool Resurfacing Project; and
- e. Authorize City Manager to sign early renewal of agreement for lease of train engine with the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund and carried unanimously.

3. **Administration Reports.**

a. **City Manager Update.** City Manager Anderson reported staff continues to evaluate the stay at home order and how the reopening phases would effect the city. The city's organic waste site at Stan Hedwall Park is now available to city residents by permit. Information is available by calling 360-748-0271. The RV disposal site is also open. The open spaces at Hedwall are open for non-organized family/individual activities because it has the space for social distancing. Penny Playground equipment installation will begin May 20. Staff continues to evaluate operational modifications by phone, on-line, and by appointment. People are encouraged to call city hall for additional information on how to get their needs met for city services at 360-345-1042. Staff is evaluating the pool and whether or not we are able to comply with social distancing requirements. City Manager Anderson thanked the council, staff, residents, and businesses for adapting to new ways of doing things.

4. **Councilor Reports/Committee Updates.**

a. **Councilor Taylor.** Councilor Taylor asked for an update on matters relating to the fire department.

City Manager Anderson stated Lewis County Fire District 6 provided 60-day notice to the city to discontinue the station sharing agreement. Staff is looking at a variety of options for an emergency station, including an evaluation of the old fire station and some of the sites previously reviewed in 2017. The city has until July 5 to vacate the District 6 station and she expected to have some proposals at the next council meeting. Staff continues to process information regarding the potential purchase of property for a new fire station. She stated the options for a temporary station that will be brought to council will have the pros and cons of each of the options, none of which are without cost or risk. The most important thing is that the city keep the firefighters safe and be able to provide services to our community.

Councilor Pope stated there was one other thing that should be included in the evaluation of a site. He stated there was a lack of trust and integrity with some people in dealing with this situation. The old fire station was found to have a great deal of problems he thought to go back and reassess its use was a waste of money.

Mayor Dawes stated he heard what Councilor Pope was saying and had a lot of agreement with him. He thought the cost of putting up an emergency fire station should be compared to the cost of what it would take to move the firefighters back into

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the station on Park Street. He stated a temporary station would be taken down, but at least if it was an equal cost and it was put back into the old fire station it would add value to that for the ultimate disposal after a new fire station was built.

Councilor Taylor stated it sounded to him that the working conditions for the city's firefighters wasn't going very well. He didn't want to create any liability for the city by not working or moving fast to relocate the firefighters.

Mayor Dawes felt the council should be focused on a physical location for the firefighters.

b. **Mayor Dawes.** Mayor Dawes stated he was working with the Business Recovery Center group and asked them to look at working with the Chehalis Community Renaissance Team and the Lewis County Now group to share information and avoid duplication of efforts. He stated he would continue to participate because he thought it was important to get the business community up and running as quickly as possible. Mayor Dawes attended a special mayors' meeting in Mossyrock and all were in agreement to work together with Lewis County and they have asked the county to give the mayors an opportunity to weigh-in on anything they send to the state relating to a waiver of the Governor's phases in an effort to show a united front. Mayor Dawes sent a written invitation to the Governor to meet with Lewis County mayors and a commissioner. He thought it was important for the Governor to hear directly from us and not filtered through his staff.

Mayor Dawes stated there would be no executive session and he announced the next regular council meeting was Tuesday, May 26 due to the Memorial Day holiday on May 25.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 pm.

Dennis L. Dawes, Mayor

Caryn Foley, City Clerk

Approved: 5/26/2020

Initials: cf