

February 22, 2016

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, February 22, 2016, 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 arrived at 4:57 p.m. Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; 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)(g) – review qualifications of applicants for approximately 45 minutes and there would be no decision following conclusion of the executive session.

Mayor Dawes closed the executive session at 4:51 p.m. and announced the council would take a short recess and reopen the regular meeting at 5:00 p.m. Additional staff included: Bill Hillier, City Attorney; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Dennis Osborn, Community Development Director; Judy Pectol, Finance Manager; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; Rick Sahlin, Public Works Director; and Don Schmitt, Street/Stormwater Superintendent. Members of the media included Justyna Tomtas from *The Chronicle*.

2. **Citizens Business.**

a. **Rural Tourism Development Workshop Series.** Harry O. Bhagwandin (183 Shady Grove Rd, Onalaska) invited the council to attend an upcoming series of rural tourism development workshops funded by a USDA Rural Business Development Grant through the Community Farmers Market of Chehalis. He noted the first workshop is Saturday, February 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lewis County Courthouse. The other workshops are scheduled for March 5, 12, and 19.

b. **Street Name Change Request.** Dave Cochenour (810 NW Liberty Place) reported he submitted paperwork requesting a street name change to the community development department about a month and a half ago. He noted he was following up to see when that might be on the council's agenda for discussion.

Community Development Director Dennis Osborn reported he plans to bring this back after he notifies the other property owners in the area. He noted he's also looking into setting a public hearing to take public comment on the request.

3. **Briefing on Sports Commission.** Public Facilities District Chairman Todd Chaput reported a proposal was brought forward by the hotel industry to form a Tourism Promotional Area (TPA) that would generate funds for a Sports Commission. He noted the funding would come from a \$2 fee per occupied room for all stays in the taxing district. Mr. Chaput noted the original proposal was to go countywide, but they've since pared it down to the Chehalis and Centralia communities. He stated the money generated from this fee would be used to finance the Sports Commission.

Mr. Chaput briefly reported the Commission would be funded via the TPA and the monies would be distributed similar to lodging tax dollars, noting it would first go to Olympia and the Department of Commerce would kick it back to the communities.

Mr. Chaput reported the purpose of the Sports Commission would be to hire a Sports Commission Director to provide marketing and advocate outside sales, facilities development, and coordination and communication. He noted they would also be in charge of coordinating assets to make sure the facilities are utilized to maximize potential income.

Councilor Pope asked if the money collected could be used for capital improvements, and if so, how would it be accessed.

Mr. Chaput reported the Governing Board would establish the direction of the Director. He noted if something is identified as needing improvement they can address it. Mr. Chaput doubted there would be a large sum of money for capital improvements, noting they're only estimating to receive about \$200,000 annually.

Mr. Chaput reported some of the larger events that they plan to compete for expect the facilities to be provided for free, which is something the money can be used for.

Councilor Lund stated he appreciated Mr. Chaput putting this all together, adding it sounded like a really great plan and he would support it.

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Mayor Dawes reported, in concept, it sounds great. He stated it would be nice to get some of those larger events in town. Mayor Dawes hoped that if they're going to request this of both cities that both will be beneficiaries of the type of activities that are going to occur. He also thought the idea of having someone to coordinate everything would be great.

Councilor Taylor thanked Mr. Chaput for his time and effort. He brought up the Firecracker Tournament that takes place in Las Vegas, noting being able to compete with this type of organization is really important and he would definitely support it.

Councilor Spahr stated he supported the concept and would be willing to look at it further to find out more about it.

The consensus of the council was to move the proposed Sports Commission forward.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of February 8, 2016;
- b. Claim Vouchers No. 114904-115044 and Electronic Funds Transfer No. 12016 in the amount of \$199,828.65 dated February 12, 2016;
- c. Confirm city manager's appointment of Joseph Mano Jr. to the Civil Service Commission for a six-year term expiring February 28, 2022;
- d. Authorize city manager to execute Consultant Agreement with Skillings Connolly, Inc., in an amount up to \$53,231 for the National Avenue Grind and Overlay Project; and
- e. Set the date and time of March 14, 2016, at 5:05 p.m. for a public hearing on marijuana processing and production facilities, along with retail facilities.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

5. **Administration Reports.**

a. **January Financial Report.** Finance Manager Judy Pectol reported the revenues are pretty much coming in where she expected them to be for this time of year. She indicated some of the expenses in the general fund are looking rather high, noting this is because we are cash basis and some of the larger expenses, such as the annual financial software expense, are paid in January.

b. **Follow Up on City Code Regarding Honeybee Hives.** Police Chief Glenn Schaffer reported, shortly after the meeting of February 8 when the issue of bees came up, he received a call from a member of the Lewis County Beekeepers Association (LCBA) who had similar questions about the city's ordinances regarding honeybees.

Chief Schaffer indicated the city has two ordinances which address the issue. The first is under the nuisance of animals, which states, "Any animal that trespasses upon the property of another and which interferes with the quiet enjoyment of residential property, or which flies, buzzes, digs or otherwise harasses any person while off the owner's or custodian's property, shall be considered a nuisance animal and shall be abated." The second ordinance, which is the one in question, is under minimum space requirements. It states, "Honeybee hives shall not be located closer than 300 feet to any habitable building; other bee hives and all other insect hives shall not be located closer than 1,000 feet to any habitable building."

Chief Schaffer reported he didn't know where these numbers came from, but suggested the council could certainly do something about it and provided the following options:

- Leave the current ordinance as is
- Repeal the ordinance that restricts the distance, but leave the nuisance ordinance in place

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- Re-write a more practical ordinance that allows responsible beekeeping

Chief Schaffer provided some examples of restrictions that other agencies are using. He suggested they could certainly come up with something reasonable for our community if that's the direction the council would like to go.

Councilor Spahr stated they really just need something that makes sense and works for the LCBA and the community.

Three members of the LCBA, President Kevin Reichert, Dan Maughan, and Vice President Robert Harris, spoke in support of allowing beehives in the city.

Mr. Reichert reported he met with city staff to discuss the issue. His recommendation to the council was to repeal the ordinance on restrictions, but leave the nuisance ordinance in place.

Mr. Maughan reported there are a lot of feral bees around, adding it would be nice to have people responsibly take care of them. He stated some people just like having them for recreational purposes and suggested the city have an ordinance that allows a responsible number of hives.

Councilor Spahr asked what a responsible number of hives would be for a city lot.

Mr. Maughan stated it depends on the skillset of the beekeeper and the topography.

Mr. Harris reported they are an educational organization. He talked briefly about the program and the strengths of the mentoring process. Mr. Harris suggested the council repeal the ordinance, or perhaps re-work the current ordinance and leave an appropriate nuisance element in place.

After a brief discussion on the options presented, Councilor Lund moved that the administration bring forth an ordinance that would repeal the current restrictions on beehives.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and carried unanimously.

6. **Citizen Issue with Dispatch.** Mayor Dawes reported he received a call from a citizen who was trying to get a situation taken care of related to parking. He noted the citizen asked to be contacted by an officer and was told by Dispatch that the city didn't have an ordinance against what they were calling about, so there was no need to talk with an officer. Mayor Dawes found it very frustrating that Dispatch is trying to determine what ordinances we have and don't have. He asked Chief Schaffer to pass on to Dispatch that if a citizen wishes to get a phone call from an officer that they give that information to an officer for them to call and find out what the problem is.

Chief Schaffer stated he didn't disagree at all.

City Manager MacReynold clarified that it was a Lewis County dispatcher that refused to pass the information on, not a city employee.

7. **On-Street Parking.** Councilor Pope reported there's an RV parked between the Chevron Station and Jack in the Box on Interstate Avenue. He asked if the city had an ordinance regarding people living in RV's on city streets.

Chief Schaffer stated yes, noting he would look into it.

8. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope reported the Chehalis Parks Committee met with the School District in regard to the ballfields, noting it was a very informative meeting. He stated they plan to meet again and would provide more details as they come in.

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b. **Update From Councilor Taylor.** Councilor Taylor reported Twin Transit is working with the city and county to construct a 'pullout' in front of the Vintage At Chehalis apartment facility. He noted they're working to improve access to the bus line for people who need it.

c. **Update From Mayor Dawes.** Mayor Dawes reported he attended a retirement reception for Ladonna Neiser on February 10, and a meeting at the Port of Chehalis to discuss the recent changes to the permit process. He noted he appreciated the article written by Justyna Tomtas, noting she nailed the progress of the meeting very well.

Mayor Dawes also attended the wine-mixer at I-5 Toyota, a ribbon cutting at the Visiting Nurses Thrift Shoppe on Chehalis Avenue, and the Business After Hours event at Moerke & Sons Pump & Drilling on State Street.

9. **Resolution No. 3-2016, First and Final Reading – Accepting Amended Petition for Annexation of the Phase 1 Industrial Annexation.** Mr. Osborn reported the amended petition before the council for the Phase 1 Industrial Annexation had been signed by more than 60 percent of the assessed valuation of the property owners. He noted two public hearings were held to take public comment on the matter.

Councilor Harris moved that the council adopt Resolution No. 3-2016 on first and final reading to accept the amended petition for annexation of the Phase 1 Industrial Annexation.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

10. **Ordinance No. 953-B, First Reading – Providing for Annexation of the Phase 1 Industrial Annexation.** Councilor Spahr moved that the council pass Ordinance No. 953-B on first reading providing for the annexation of the Phase 1 Industrial Annexation.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

11. **Resolution No. 5-2016, First and Final Reading – Accepting the Petition for Annexation (known as the Chehalis School Annexation) and Setting the Date and Time of March 14, 2016, at 5:05 p.m. for a Public Hearing.** City Manager MacReynold reported this petition was initially brought to the city by the Chehalis School District for the Shaw property on 20th Street. He noted the associated property owners that would have been negatively impacted, or made islands, were also approached to get their petition signatures. City Manager MacReynold stated the School District alone provided more than 60 percent of the assessed valuation needed and encouraged the council's consideration and approval of the resolution.

Councilor Taylor moved that the council adopt Resolution No. 5-2016 on first and final reading accepting the petition for annexation and setting the date and time of March 14, 2016, at 5:05 p.m. for a public hearing on the Chehalis School Annexation.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of February 22, 2016.