

## Chehalis City Council

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021

The Chehalis City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 8, 2021. Mayor Dennis Dawes called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm with the following council members present: Michael Bannan, Tony Ketchum, Jerry Lord, Dr. Isaac Pope, and Bob Spahr. Councilor Daryl Lund participated via Zoom. Staff present included: Jill Anderson, City Manager; Caryn Foley, City Clerk; Kiley Franz, City Manager's Administrative Assistant; Erin Hillier, City Attorney; Randy Kaut, Interim Police Chief (Zoom); Trent Loughheed, Public Works Director (Zoom); Brandon Rakes, Airport Operations Coordinator; Chun Saul, Finance Director; and Lilly Wall, Recreation Manager (Zoom). Due to orders from the Governor's office relating to COVID-19, members of the public and the press were able to view the meeting via live streaming or Zoom. The public was also provided a process for submitting comments prior to the meeting.

**1. Swearing-in of New Council Member – Michael Bannan.** Mayor Dawes administered the oath of office to Michael Bannan. Mr. Bannan was appointed to serve the remaining term left by Chad Taylor, set to expire at the end of 2021.

**2. City Council Committee Assignments.** Mayor Dawes reviewed the vacant positions for council committees. Mayor Pro Tem Lund expressed interest in the 9-1-1 Dispatch Committee and the Beautification Committee. Remaining positions consisted of the CARES COVID-19 Community Program, the Centralia-Chehalis Transportation Cooperative, the Lewis County Public Transportation Benefit Area Authority (Twin Transit), and the Southwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization Board, which were assigned to Councilor Bannan.

**3. Citizens Business – John Csernotta.** John Csernotta of the O'Brien Auto Group (Honda of Grays Harbor) introduced himself to the council and provided an overview of his experience in the automotive industry. Mr. Csernotta explained that he was in attendance regarding the lease agreement that was included in the consent calendar for O'Brien Auto Group.

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

a. Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of February 22, 2021;

b. Minutes of the special City Council meeting of March 1, 2021;

c. February 26, 2021 Claim Vouchers No. 131223 – 131298 and Electronic Funds Transfer Check Nos. 1156 – 1181, 120212, and 120213 in the amount of \$230,464.78 and voided Check No. 131190 in the amount of \$482.20 for the net total of \$229,982.58;

d. February 26, 2021, Payroll Vouchers No. 41576-41603, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 13114-13217, Electronic Federal Tax and DRS Pension/Deferred Comp Payments No. 331-334 in the amount of \$770,705.24;

e. 12<sup>th</sup> and William Rechannelization Project – Change Order No. 1 in the Amount of \$19,538.82; and

f. Agreement to Lease Tract 9 at 1850 NW Louisiana Avenue to O'Brien Auto Group, an Illinois Corporation.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

Councilor Ketchum asked why the 12<sup>th</sup> and William Rechannelization Project had not checked the depth of the asphalt before the project began. Trent Loughheed informed the Council that no record drawings existed of that area. For larger projects geotechnical borings would have been conducted, but it had seemed excessive for the size of the project. Trent Loughheed noted that the depth of the asphalt was abnormal and would not have been anticipated for this kind of project.

**5. Ordinance No. 1017-B, Second and Final Reading – Establishing 2020 Year-End Fund Balance Commitments.** City Manager Anderson explained that Chun Saul, Finance Director, had provided an overview of the 2020 year-end balance commitments at the February 22, 2020 meeting. She noted that revisions had been made to the agenda report and the ordinance to correct minor typos found during the first reading. Councilor Ketchum moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1017-B on second and final reading, as amended to correct the amounts for the debt service, dedicated street fund, and the city hall debt service. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

**6. Administration Reports.**

a. **City Manager Update.** City Manager Anderson congratulated Councilor Bannan on his appointment and Caryn Foley, City Clerk, on her last meeting before her retirement.

7. **Councilor Reports/Committee Updates.**

a. **Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope asked that Erin Hillier, City Attorney, explain the responsibilities of council members during executive sessions for the newly elected council member. Erin Hillier briefly explained the rules of open government and the exemptions provided by executive sessions.

b. **Councilor Ketchum.** Councilor Ketchum stated that he had learned Wells Fargo in downtown planned to close.


c. **Mayor Dawes.** Mayor Dawes attended the Mayors Meeting, participated in the 9-1-1 feasibility committee and stated that the results showed that a regionalization with TCOMM is not going to work.

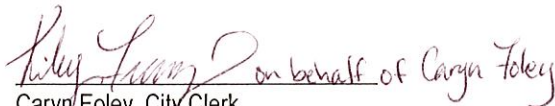
d. **Mayor Pro Tem Lund.** Mayor Pro Tem Lund asked if a guardrail could be placed on NW Louisiana Avenue near the wastewater treatment facility. He expressed concern for a possible automobile accident due to the sharp corner, which could cause a vehicle to land in the retention pond. Mayor Pro Tem Lund informed the council of a letter he received from Mr. Steve Ryan regarding water runoff on his property.

Mayor Dawes explained that a potential realignment of the intersection on Louisiana Avenue and West Street was planned by the Washington State Department of Transportation within the next two years. Trent Lougheed, Public Works Director, stated that design of the intersection was still underway, but the intent is to add a guardrail during the reconstruction process.

Trent Lougheed stated that he had met with Mr. Steve Ryan regarding the water issue. He stated that the soil was unstable and would need to dry out before a plan could be made. Mr. Lougheed expects to create a plan with Mr. Ryan in the next few months. Mayor Pro Tem Lund asked City Manager Anderson to have staff talk to Mr. Ryan regarding a plan for his property.

8. **Executive Session.** Mayor Dawes announced the council would take a short recess and then be in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) – Litigation/Potential Litigation and RCW 42.30.110(1)(c) – Sale/Lease of Real Estate, not to exceed 6:30 pm and there would be no action following conclusion of the executive session. Mayor Dawes closed the regular meeting at 5:38 pm. The executive session began at 5:40 pm. Following conclusion of the executive session, the regular meeting was reopened at 6:30 pm and immediately adjourned.

  
Dennis L. Dawes, Mayor

  
Kiley Lund on behalf of Caryn Foley  
Caryn Foley, City Clerk

Approved:

Initials: 