

March 26, 2012

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, March 26, 2012, in the Chehalis city hall. Mayor Ketchum called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following council members present: Terry Harris, Dr. Isaac Pope, Bob Spahr, Daryl Lund, Chad Taylor, and Dennis Dawes. Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Brian Kelly, Assistant City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Kelvin Johnson, Fire Chief; Bob Nacht, Community Development Director; Eva Lindgren, Finance Manager; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Director; and Herta Fairbanks, Public Works Director. Members of the media included Kyle Spurr from *The Chronicle* and Michael Preston from KELA/KMNT.

Councilor Taylor introduced his son Franklin Taylor as his special guest for the evening.

1. **National Avenue Wetland Mitigation Bank Update.** Bob Sokolove from Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge and Rice, gave a brief update on the progress of the National Avenue Wetland Mitigation Bank project.

Mr. Sokolove reported the process of getting the wetland mitigation bank approved was anywhere from six months to a year, depending on how things go. He noted the city's project was being done in conjunction with the mitigation bank taking place on TransAlta's property at Little Hanaford Valley. Mr. Sokolove suggested the city's site was a little more complicated because of the road and ditch on one side, and the railroad on the other. He noted they also found a small sinkhole on the southwest corner of the site that keeps bringing up water, but not enough to matter.

Mr. Sokolove reported the project was on track and the consultants they were working with were doing a really thorough job. He added the regulators love the project and site and are very happy with what they are being given. Mr. Sokolove estimated they would have approval on the mitigation bank sometime mid-summer. He noted the Little Hanaford Valley site at was on a slightly faster track and could be approved within the next 60 days or so. The next step was to get final approval on both banks.

Mr. Sokolove reported they were already talking with the United States Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Department of Transportation about potential end users. He noted there were some violators out there who owe mitigation from the past and they would be talking to them as well, one being Providence Hospital. Mr. Sokolove indicated he would also be meeting with the Corps, who is very grateful that the site was being put together as a mitigation bank.

Mr. Sokolove reported they had a good relationship with Kevin Klumper, who has property involved in the National Avenue site. He added they had recently been contacted by Richard Pine who owns a piece of land to the south on National Avenue, but didn't believe they would include his piece into the bank this go-round because it would slow the process down. Mr. Sokolove indicated they could possibly bring Mr. Pine into the umbrella bank after approval is granted. He noted even though the city's site and the site at Little Hanaford Valley were operating in tandem, the city would receive the first credit sales.

Mr. Spahr asked Mr. Sokolove to briefly describe what the site might look like when finished. Mr. Sokolove reported, if done correctly, it should mimic nature and would include a lot of grasses and wetland trees. He noted the creek would have more of a winding effect that will help create the wetlands off to the sides. Mr. Sokolove stated it was not a landscaping project designed to be pretty; however, by the time they're done, it would be prettier than it is today. He reported the regulators preach the concept of restoration, which technically means to bring it back to where it was historically. Ms. Sokolove indicated the city would get the most credit by restoring it back to its natural historic self, which was what they were doing.

2. **Proclamation.** Mayor Ketchum presented Human Response Network Representative Katie Breea with a proclamation declaring April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month."

3. **Employee Service Awards.** Mayor Ketchum presented Fire Captain Kevin Curfman with a certificate of appreciation for 25 years of dedicated service to the city.

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

a. Minutes of the regular meeting of March 12, 2012;

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b. Claim Vouchers No. 102510-102518, 102520-102620, and EFT No. 22012 in the amount of \$149,395.94 dated March 15, 2012; and

c. Approve city manager contract agreement.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and carried unanimously.

5. **Administration Reports.**

a. **February Financial Report.** Eva Lindgren reported the February financial report reflected both the January and February insurance premiums making it more in line with what was expected.

Councilor Lund asked, after what happened with the historical society, could the council get a copy of the city's monthly bank statement. Ms. Lindgren noted the city had a number of bank statements and investment accounts. Councilor Lund suggested they never get to see that kind of information and thought perhaps they should be asking for it, to make sure the city's money is where it's supposed to be. Ms. Lindgren noted, unlike the historical society, the city is audited every year and we're held to a much higher standard. Councilor Lund stated that was fine, but he had to ask. Ms. Lindgren reported the statements would not tell the council what funds the money is located in. Councilor Lund noted the council has asked for information in the past, but they never get it.

City Manager MacReynold suggested he and Ms. Lindgren could talk about it and report back to the council.

6. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Dawes.** Councilor Dawes welcomed Councilor Pope back, adding he was very happy to see him sitting where he belonged.

Councilor Dawes reported he attended a Business After Hours event at Helly Hansen in Centralia. He also attended the monthly North Lewis County Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee meeting where they continue to make progress towards defining what a proposed fire authority would look like. Councilor Dawes noted the operating procedures of the committee called for elections, adding he was re-elected to continue chairing the committee and Greg Pulver from Fire District 6 would continue to serve as vice-chair.

Councilor Dawes reported the Lewis County Historical Museum recently hired Johanna Jones as their new executive director. He noted Ms. Jones comes to the museum from DuPont, Washington, and would start work on March 27. Councilor Dawes stated Ms. Jones interviewed very well and brings with her a wealth of knowledge. He noted a meet-and-greet would be scheduled in the near future for people to come by and welcome Ms. Jones to the community.

b. **Update From Councilor Spahr.** Councilor Spahr noted, with regard to the regional fire committee meetings, the information they were getting was pretty incredible. He noted even if a merger doesn't take place, the information and cooperation they are getting from the districts will take them forward if somebody wants to do something with it in the future.

c. **Update From Mayor Ketchum.** Mayor Ketchum reported he received a letter from the Lewis County LEOFF Disability Board to say they were looking to reappoint City of Centralia Mayor Bonnie Canaday to the board. The letter noted if the Board did not receive any other nominees, Mayor Canaday would continue to represent the cities.

d. **Update from Councilor Pope.** Councilor Pope reported on the Chehalis Foundation's upcoming fundraising event on March 31. He noted the movie "Shrek" would be playing at the Historic Chehalis Theatre and the donations received would go to help finance the outdoor pool project.

7. **Ordinance No. 891-B, Second and Final Reading – Vacating a Portion of SE Hilltop Drive.** Bob Nacht reported they went through the first reading of the ordinance at the last meeting. He noted he talked with one of the petitioners earlier in the day and they were satisfied with it and were just waiting for the ordinance to pass on second reading so they can send in their check.

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Councilor Spahr moved to pass Ordinance No. 891-B on second and final reading.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund and carried unanimously.

8. **Ordinance No. 892-B, First and Final Reading – Revising Chehalis City Council Districts**. Mr. Nacht reported the issue came before the council at the last meeting at which time the details were presented. He noted, essentially, there was an imbalance between the populations in all of the existing council districts.

Mr. Nacht reported under state law they have to take a look at the districts after each decennial census. He provided additional maps for the council to review, noting the city worked with Lewis County using their GIS mapping process to identify some resolutions.

Mr. Nacht reported the information and legal descriptions had been sent to the county for their review and comment. He indicated the state would like to have the process done at the county level by April 13 and asked that the council suspend the rules and pass the ordinance on first and final reading.

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

The motion was seconded by Councilor Harris and carried unanimously.

Councilor Taylor moved to pass Ordinance No. 892-B on first and final reading.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Lund and carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

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Mayor

Attest:

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City Clerk

**SUGGESTED MOTION**

**I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of March 26, 2012.**