

April 9, 2012

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, April 9, 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, and Dennis Dawes. Councilor Taylor arrived at 6:17 p.m. Staff present included: Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Amanda Vey, Assistant City Attorney; Judy Schave, City Clerk; Glenn Schaffer, Police Chief; Bob Nacht, Community Development Director; Eva Lindgren, Finance Manager; Peggy Hammer, Human Resources Administrator; and Herta Fairbanks, Public Works Director. Members of the media included Kyle Spurr from *The Chronicle*.

1. **Introduction of Lewis County Public Utility District (PUD) Manager.** City Manager MacReynold introduced the new Lewis County PUD Manager Bob Geddes.

Mr. Geddes reported he was not new to the utility business, adding he came from Pend Oreille County where he had been the general manager of the PUD for the last eleven years. He stated he and his wife were glad to be back on the west side of the state, noting they both grew up in Washington. Mr. Geddes welcomed the opportunity to work together on future projects with the city, adding his door was always open. He noted they were currently working on a sub-station project off of Main Street, and suggested there was some opportunity for the PUD and the city to do something together to make it a much nicer entrance to the city.

Councilor Pope welcomed Mr. Geddes and his family to the community. He indicated there were already some ideas on how to beautify the space along Main Street. Mr. Geddes noted one suggestion was to install a time and temperature sign in that area.

Councilor Lund stated Councilor Spahr knew a lot about railroads and wondered if the area on Main Street would be a good spot for a train depot for the steam train. Mr. Geddes stated he didn't know much about the steam train depot idea, but added those kinds of things can be a great addition to a community.

2. **Consent Calendar.** Mayor Ketchum announced item No. 6, Resolution No. 6-2012, would be moved to "new business," so it could be discussed by the council.

Councilor Dawes moved to approve the consent calendar comprised of the following:

- a. Minutes of the regular meeting of March 26, 2012; and
- b. Claim Vouchers No. 102621-102757 in the amount of \$131,272.21 dated March 30, 2012; and Payroll Vouchers No. 35500-35572, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 3015-3086 and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 109 in the amount of \$679,278.36.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

3. **Administration Reports.**

a. **Update on Request to Review City Bank Statements.** City Manager MacReynold reported, at the last council meeting, Councilor Lund suggested the administration provide more detailed information about city bank records on a more regular basis. He noted he met with Finance Manager Eva Lindgren to discuss the request and she recommended that the information be provided on a quarterly basis, at a minimum for the voucher committee to review, and any other council member who would like to go through it. City Manager MacReynold suggested this would be a way to meet the information needs of the council. He noted he was looking for some guidance and support from the council, and he was specifically interested in Councilor Lund's perspective, since he suggested it.

Mayor Ketchum asked if that would work. Councilor Lund stated sure, noting "it's not what I asked, but sure." No other suggestions or comments were made.

4. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Dawes.** Councilor Dawes stated he recently enjoyed a week down in San Antonio, TX, in

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80 to 90 degree weather. He noted he missed the last Lewis County Historical Museum meeting, since it was held while he was gone.

5. Resolution No. 6-2012, First and Final Reading – Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Addendum to the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Interlocal Agreement adding the Town of Bucoda. City Manager MacReynold reported a request came from the Flood Authority to accept the Town of Bucoda back into the Flood Authority after they had requested to be withdrawn. He noted the Flood Authority was recommending each jurisdiction consider approval.

Councilor Harris moved to adopt Resolution No. 6-2012 on first and final reading and authorize the City Manager to execute the Addendum to the Flood Authority interlocal agreement adding the Town of Bucoda.

Councilor Pope seconded the motion.

Councilor Harris noted, when talking with City Manager MacReynold, he asked to have the item pulled from the consent calendar because he wanted a chance to explain why he would be voting against it.

Councilor Harris reported the Flood Authority group was originally designed to have eight members, and subsequently three other entities either asked or were asked to be involved, one of them being Bucoda. He felt some of the dissention inside the Flood Authority has been primarily from Thurston County. Councilor Harris stated Bucoda made a decision to pull up stakes and be removed from the Flood Authority, and now they've decided they want back in. He suggested they were like the kid next door who liked to play catch, and if he didn't catch the ball often enough he would take his ball and go home. Councilor Harris stated, until Bucoda wants to become part of a constructive program, he would not support them being on the Flood Authority.

Councilor Dawes reported he hadn't been to any of the Flood Authority meetings, adding he relied on the reports he received from other council members and what he reads and hears in the local media. He stated it appeared that the makeup of the flood committee consisted of one group that wants to look at solutions, and another that just wants to fight everything and not offer any constructive solutions.

Councilor Dawes reported a lot of money had been spent since the 1930s and felt they were no closer to finding a solution than they were back then. He suspected Bucoda was probably being pushed from behind by other entities just to throw water on any ideas that come up. Therefore, he would join Councilor Harris in voting against it.

Councilor Spahr stated he was bothered by the fact that they had to make a decision without more information. He asked if the city had heard anything from its representatives on the issue. City Manager MacReynold reminded Councilor Spahr that Julie Balmelli-Powe resigned as the city's representative to go to work for Congresswoman Jaime Herrera-Beutler. He noted Ms. Balmelli-Powe did, however, speak favorably of adding Bucoda back in, but it was really the council's call. City Manager MacReynold noted members of the Flood Authority were trying to move it forward, so Bucoda could participate at the next meeting. He stated if the council chose not to vote in favor of it, or if they want to take a couple of weeks, the administration could ask for more information about why they should be considered.

Councilor Spahr asked if it would be out of line to ask Bucoda to come and talk to the council. City Manager MacReynold stated if that is what the council wants, that's what they should ask for. Councilor Spahr reported he appreciated the input from Councilors Harris and Dawes. He stated, if Bucoda wasn't interested before and all of the sudden they are, he would like to hear it from the horse's mouth.

Mayor Ketchum felt part of why they are interested now was because Lewis County now had Napavine and Grays Harbor County had Cosmopolis to represent us.

Councilor Pope stated his attitude hadn't changed from the last time they pulled out, adding he would not vote in favor of it.

Councilor Harris reported Bucoda was frequently not in favor of supporting the idea of looking at the top of the river to start fixing things with water retention. He found it very strange that they would be against dams when their town might not even

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be standing if it weren't for the Skookumchuck Dam. Councilor Harris stated it seemed to him there was something other than looking at true ideas than what was really going on here.

Councilor Taylor talked briefly about the issue of appointing a citizen to represent the city on the Flood Authority. He noted one of the reasons he got off the committee last time was because he got a little too divisive at times and wanted the solution of flooding more than he wanted to get along. Councilor Taylor stated he would support the idea of having a citizen appointed to the Flood Authority to represent the city.

Councilor Taylor stated Bucoda was already going to be let back on the Flood Authority because Napavine and Cosmopolis were added. He suggested letting them back on would not hurt anything as far as getting things passed, adding the majority of the members on the Flood Authority had the same opinion as we do. Councilor Taylor stated, in an effort to create a sense of moving forward with everybody on board, they allowed them back on. He noted he didn't attend the meeting when they added Bucoda, adding he heard it from Ms. Balmelli-Powe. If that were the case, Mayor Ketchum suggested the city's vote was pretty much moot. Councilor Taylor agreed, adding he thought it was talked about at the last meeting.

City Manager MacReynold stated it was his recollection that in order for them to make an addition or change, based on the interlocal agreement, they had to get approval from all of the participating participants, which was why they were asking each of the jurisdictions to take a formal action to allow them back on.

Councilor Taylor stated, if they still had the ability, he would vote against it, adding Bucoda has always been against everything that's been said. He suggested they were just a voice for Thurston County and when told to vote against something, they did.

Councilor Spahr asked if there had to be an equal number of participating entities from each county. Councilor Taylor stated no.

Councilor Pope called for the question.

The motion failed 1 to 6. Councilor Spahr voted for the motion, while the remaining council members voted against it.

6. Ordinance No. 893-B, First Reading – Amending the 2012 Budget. Ms. Lindgren reported the highlights of the budget amendment were noted in the agenda report. She indicated they were primarily looking at grant funding and tourism funds that had already been approved by the council, adding the budget amendment was needed to formalize it.

Councilor Dawes moved to pass Ordinance No. 893-B on first reading.

Councilor Lund seconded the motion.

With regard to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) grant, Mayor Ketchum inquired about the number of homeowners eligible to elevate their homes. Bob Nacht reported, after the 2007 flood, 25 residential structures had been identified and all qualified for eligibility of grant funding through the program. He noted the contract the city has with FEMA identifies the specific properties, adding they were the only ones the city can deal with at this time.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. Approve Acceptance of FEMA Grant Agreement for Event No. 4056-DR-WA. Ms. Lindgren reported the city was extremely fortunate in how little damage we sustained during the recent FEMA event. She noted, originally, the city was looking at \$3,000 in funding; however, after meeting with community development and the on-site FEMA representative, the city's total costs are going to exceed \$6,000. Ms. Lindgren indicated if they could get substantiation from the Lewis County jail, most of the city's match would be from donated inmate labor making our out of pocket cash very insignificant.

Councilor Harris moved to approve acceptance of the grant agreement for FEMA Event 4056-DR-WA "January 2012 Severe Winter Storm Declaration."

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The motion was seconded by Councilor Pope and carried unanimously.

8. **City Representative for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority.** Councilor Lund reported Council Taylor had been the city's representative on the Flood Authority for quite a while, and a lot of his time was taken up attending meetings. It was suggested to him by others around town that Councilor Taylor was a young guy with a family to support. He wondered what the council thought about appointing City Manager MacReynold as the city's representative on the Flood Authority.

Mayor Ketchum stated he didn't have a problem with City Manager MacReynold representing the city.

City Manager MacReynold stated if the council wanted him to be the representative, he would certainly do it. He suggested he could be the alternate for Councilor Taylor and attend when he's not able, noting he would be attending the meetings either way.

Councilor Dawes felt it was a little unfair to put the city manager in a situation like that at a meeting. He thought he heard there were some potential candidates, adding if they could find someone of Ms. Balmelli-Powe's caliber that has the time and willingness, that would be the better way to go. Councilor Dawes believed it was better to have a capable citizen represent the city, noting the city manager has a lot of things to do to keep the city going from day-to-day and he certainly didn't want to take anything away from that.

Councilor Harris suggested Councilor Taylor stay on as the city's representative and City Manager MacReynold could be the alternate, and in the meantime, go through a process to look for someone. Councilor Taylor stated he liked that idea.

Mayor Ketchum stated he would be glad to let the city manager take his alternate spot.

Councilor Taylor reported he loved being on the Flood Authority, but it was very time-consuming. He thought there might be a couple of people interested in representing the city, and perhaps they just need to look at it a little more.

Councilor Spahr stated he liked the idea of keeping Councilor Taylor on and making the city manager the alternate until they find another citizen.

9. **Nacht Family History Report.** Bob Nacht reported this was a very significant day, noting 33 years ago on April 9, 1979 he began his career with the city of Chehalis. He stated he was originally hired as a building inspector, adding he would like to think it was because of his charm and wit, but it was probably because he had an extensive background in construction with the United States Navy Seabee's. Mr. Nacht noted the Seabee's insignia rating stripes (shoulder patches) were blue, adding he would speak to their significance later in his report.

Mr. Nacht reported over the last 33 years he had been the building inspector, building official, director of building and planning, community development manager, and now the community development director. He has worked for four city managers, including: Jay Haggard, Lloyd Willis, Dave Campbell, and last but not least, City Manager MacReynold.

Mr. Nacht stated when he came to work for the city his brother Bill Nacht was already working for the city. He noted Bill was hired in February 1971 as a firefighter and was promoted through the ranks until he retired as fire chief in 2007. (Bill was also Chief of Fire District #6 during his career with the city). Bill retired from the city with 36 years of service credit. He actually volunteered for three years prior to being hired, so he essentially had 39 years with the city. The only other person in the history of Chehalis to have more service credit years was Ernie Kuehner, who retired after 42 years. He noted Mr. Kuehner was also the city's youngest appointed department head, appointed as fire chief at the age of 21.

Mr. Nacht noted his brother Bill enlisted in the United States Navy Reserves in 1967, and his insignia rating stripes were white.

Mr. Nacht reported his brother John Nacht enlisted in the United States Navy ROTC program right out of high school and eventually retired from the Navy as a commander in 1991. John returned to Chehalis in 1992 and went to work for Lewis County. He was also a volunteer firefighter for the City and Lewis County Fire District #6.

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Mr. Nacht reported in 1929, his dad, F.J. 'Bud' Nacht, joined the Chehalis Fire Department in their "Sleeper" program. He noted back then they didn't call them volunteers, they were firefighters who lodged at the fire station on the graveyard and swing shifts to help supplement the firefighters. Mr. Nacht reported after six years of working in the 'sleeper' program his dad was hired as a paid firefighter in 1935. He noted the 1940 Census actually had his dad as residing at the Chehalis Fire Department. In 1941 his dad enlisted as a fire control technician in the Navy to support the war effort. His insignia rating strips were red.

Mr. Nacht reported his dad returned from the Navy in 1945 and continued working for the Chehalis Fire Department as fire captain, acting fire chief, and eventually retired as the assistant fire chief in 1960.

Mr. Nacht talked briefly about the significance of the insignia patches, noting his dads were red, Bills were white and his were blue, which, in his eyes, made them a very patriotic family.

Mr. Nacht reported his dad had 31 years of service with the city, Bill had 36, and as of this day he had 33, totaling 100 years of combined service to the citizens of Chehalis.

On behalf of the Nacht family, he thanked the councils, the managers, and the citizens of the community, as well as their wives, who put up with them over the last 100 years.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk