

December 10, 2012

The Chehalis city council met in regular session on Monday, December 10, 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, Chad Taylor, and Dennis Dawes. Councilor Lund was absent (excused). Staff present included Merlin MacReynold, City Manager; Mark Scheibmeir, 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 Administrator; Becky Fox, Court Administrator; and Herta Fairbanks, Public Works Director. Members of the media included Kyle Spurr from *The Chronicle*.

1. **Interview Applicant for Sister City Committee Appointment.** The council interviewed Dennis Clark to replace Susan Gonzales on the Sister City Committee, whose term expires December 31, 2012.

2. **Briefing on New Program at American Behavioral Health Systems (ABHS), Inc.** City Manager MacReynold introduced Tony Prentice, ABHS Program Manager to brief the council on a new program in their facility.

Mr. Prentice reported ABHS was recently awarded another contract with the Department of Corrections to continue the work they are currently doing. He indicated their Chehalis facility was now an 'all male' facility, noting the females were now being housed in their facility in Spokane, Washington. Mr. Prentice reported ABHS has been reaching out to the community through various volunteer programs, such as The Salvation Army, Acres of Hope, Visiting Nurses, Providence Place, Love Inc., and the Southwest Washington Fair.

Mr. Prentice reported on a new pilot program (ABHS Specialty Services II) that recently opened at their Chehalis facility under a sister company for a legislatively mandated Medicaid funded program for both male and female clients. Mr. Prentice stated they had 16 clients in the program who rent the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of their facility. He noted this reduced the client count in their portion of the facility from a capacity of 210 to 180. Mr. Prentice talked briefly about their new pilot program, noting after the nine month trial period they would go back to the Legislature to see if it is something they want to continue.

Mr. Prentice reported the last year had been pretty easy with regards to complaints, noting all of their clients are supervised 24/7.

Councilor Taylor thanked Mr. Prentice, noting he hadn't heard any complaints from his neighbors since their last meeting. He inquired about the new pilot program wanting to know what type of services those clients were receiving. Mr. Prentice reported they were there for drug and alcohol treatment, noting it was the same type of work they are doing, just under different funding. He stated it was a 30-day intensive in-patient treatment for low income people who are mostly on Medicaid.

Councilor Spahr asked if the specialty patients were supervised the same as the other patients. Mr. Prentice indicated they were.

Councilor Spahr inquired about the time the average patient stays in their facility. Mr. Prentice reported the specialty patients stay for 30 days. In the other part of the facility they have two separate programs: the Drug Offender Sensing Alternative Program where clients stay for three to six months; and the Offender Program clients who are there for 28 to 45 days.

3. **Employee Service Award.** Mayor Ketchum presented a certificate of appreciation to Finance Manager Eva Lindgren for five years of service with the city.

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

a. Minutes of the regular meeting of November 26, 2012;

b. Claim Vouchers No.104729-104823 in the amount of \$287,334.81 dated November 30, 2012; Payroll Vouchers No. 36151-36218, Direct Deposit Payroll Vouchers No. 3595-3667, and Electronic Federal Tax Payment No. 117 in the amount of \$647,826.03 dated November 30, 2012; and

c. Approve appointment of Dennis Clark and reappointments of Etsuko Holmes and Sue Carmick to the Sister City Committee for four-year terms expiring December 31, 2016.

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The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and carried unanimously.

5. **Administration Reports.**

a. **Work Session Reminder.** City Manager MacReynold reminded the council about the special work session scheduled for Thursday, December 13, at 5:30 p.m. to meet the three finalists for the community development director position.

b. **December 24, 2012 Council Meeting.** City Manager MacReynold recommended the council cancel the December 24, 2012, council meeting.

Councilor Dawes moved to cancel the December 24, 2012, city council meeting.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Spahr and carried unanimously.

c. **Update on City Hall Fire.** Fire Chief Kelvin Johnson reported, earlier in the day shortly before noon, they were dispatched to an alarm at city hall. He noted crews found smoke in the building and tracked it to the elevator panel in the electrical room in the basement. Chief Johnson stated Lewis County Fire District #6 was called in to help ventilate the building.

Chief Johnson also recognized former fire fighter George Benton who recently passed away. He noted Mr. Benton started with the city in 1952 and retired in 1984 as a fire captain.

6. **Council Reports.**

a. **Update From Councilor Spahr.** Councilor Spahr reported he attended a Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT) meeting on December 6, adding they were doing a tremendous job. He noted they had a list full of things they've done and another list of things they still want to do. Councilor Spahr suggested anyone interested in helping out should contact the city.

Councilor Harris reported CCRT Chairman Larry McGee recently stepped down because of his busy work schedule. He indicated David Hartz from Book 'n Brush would be taking his place, adding he was a wonderful volunteer and advocate for the community and would carry the torch well.

Councilor Harris also thanked Senator Elect John Braun and Buck Hubbert for attending the last CCRT meeting.

b. **Update From Councilor Dawes.** Councilor Dawes reported on November 29 he and Councilors Spahr and Lund met with City Manager MacReynold and Fire Chief Johnson to discuss a proposal to present to the council for consideration regarding the Regional Fire Authority.

Councilor Dawes reported on December 4 he attended his last meeting of the Lewis County Historical Museum Executive Board. He noted Councilor Lund was vacating the position of Treasurer and would be taking his position as the city's representative. Councilor Dawes stated the museum was in much better shape than it was last year, noting a lot of modernization had gone in and they continue to have a good core of volunteers.

Councilor Dawes reported he attended the United Way Campaign Celebration at the Holiday Inn Express on December 6, adding it was a good event.

c. **Update From Mayor Ketchum.** Mayor Ketchum reported the Santa parade went off really well this year, adding they had a lot of good floats and candy.

7. **Ordinance No. 907-B, Second and Reading – Amending the 2012 Budget.** City Manager MacReynold noted there were some changes to the ordinance from first reading, which were summarized in the report.

Councilor Harris moved that the council pass Ordinance No. 907-B as amended on second and final reading.

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The motion was seconded by Councilor Taylor and carried unanimously.

8. **Recommendation Regarding the North Lewis County Regional Fire Authority.** Councilor Dawes reported, as stated earlier, the three city committee members met with City Manager MacReynold and Fire Chief Johnson to assess where they were at. He noted he was both surprised and disappointed that Lewis County Fire District #6 pulled out, but the city still had to do what was best for our citizens.

Councilor Dawes reported on the four areas that came up as questions. They included: governance; LEOFF 1 liabilities; assets and debt transfer; and taxation.

Governance:

Current - All of the fire commissioners are elected at-large.

Recommendation – Three council representatives for the city for four years; Representatives from city would be city council members; City would have equal representation (three) for at least four years. After four years, the governing board could look at possible changes to at-large positions.

LEOFF 1 Liabilities:

Current – Maintained by the city.

Recommendation – The city would keep LEOFF-1 and Pre-LEOFF liabilities.

Assets and Debt Transfer:

Current – No debt in city fire department.

Recommendation – All would go to the Fire Authority; Assets would go to Riverside Fire Authority, but there was interest in the building by the city should it no longer be used as a fire station.

Taxation:

Recommendation: Yet to be determined. Need to make sure whatever plan and staffing is determined, taxes paid by city residents would have to be the same or lower than current levels. Can the city give up \$1.50 of taxation and maintain remaining services?

Councilor Dawes reported he reviewed the recommendations with Riverside Fire Chief Jim Walkowski who didn't see any problem as far as anything being a deal breaker. He indicated they still needed to receive a resolution of withdrawal from Lewis County Fire District #6, adding he had contacted their board chairman asking for the resolution.

Councilor Dawes reported if the council concurs with the committee's recommendations, the city would need to pass another resolution similar to the one already adopted. He stated Riverside Fire Authority was going to look at doing that at their next meeting and Chief Walkowski would send him over a copy, so we don't have to re-create it.

Councilor Dawes strongly recommended they move forward with the process, adding the time was right and there was no doubt in his mind that the model that appears to be envisioned is one that would provide the city with a higher level of service than what we're able to provide right now. He noted that wasn't to say better people, only the possibility of more staffing at a cost that would not increase the overall taxation to our residents.

Councilor Taylor moved that the council support the Planning Committee recommendations as outlined in Attachment "A."

Councilor Harris seconded the motion.

Councilor Harris thanked the committee for getting together to work out the details. He noted the statement regarding right of first refusal on the building answered all of his questions concerning the building. Councilor Harris noted the only other thing he had questions on was the taxation issue. He suggested as soon as they get the numbers on that he would have no

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problem with it. Councilor Harris stated he too was disappointed that District #6 dropped out, adding it could have been a win for everyone.

Councilor Spahr asked if they might be getting a little ahead of themselves since District #6 hadn't officially withdrawn. Councilor Dawes stated they didn't have to take action that evening because the Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee wouldn't be meeting until January. He talked briefly about the timeline, noting the chiefs had been gathering information and felt they were not going to lose any steps in the process, and the timeline they originally set out was one that was still reachable. Councilor Dawes believed there was still interest by the Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee members to continue talks, as long as the city is interested. He indicated there was still work to do, adding it was suggested they start meeting twice a month to keep things moving.

The motion carried unanimously.

**9. Resolution No. 18-2012, First and Final Reading – Establishing an Employee Wellness Program.** Court Administrator Becky Fox reported the city has an opportunity to participate in an "Employee Wellness Program" next year, using the guidelines supported by the Association of Washington Cities. She noted the goal was to promote wellness for employees and to enhance their personal lives. Ms. Fox suggested the program might benefit the city by reducing absenteeism, and to gain better control of our healthcare costs. She stated they didn't anticipate a lot of group activities, but hoped to encourage employees to incorporate everyday healthy habits. Ms. Fox reported the first step in developing the program was to get council approval by resolution, to allow a committee to be formed.

Councilor Dawes asked if this was the same thing as the "Well Cities" program. Ms. Fox indicated it was. Councilor Dawes stated if they were successful with the program the city would receive a two percent reduction in health costs. Ms. Fox stated that was correct, but it wouldn't be realized until 2015. She stated they would try and reach that goal, noting the reduction of health care costs would be a great benefit to the city.

Councilor Spahr moved to adopt Resolution No. 18-2012 on first and final reading.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Harris and carried unanimously.

**10. Resolution No. 19-2012, First and Final Reading – Amending the City's Alcohol and Drug-Free Work Place Policy.** Human Resources Administrator Peggy Hammer reported there may be some confusion brought on by the passage of Initiative 502, noting the new law concerning marijuana states you cannot grow it, buy it, sell it, or trade it, but you can have it.

Ms. Hammer stated the administration wants to make sure it's very clear in our workplace policy that by illegal drugs they mean, "any drug considered illegal under any federal, state or local law or statute." She recommended the council adopt the resolution to have language added to the city's current workplace policy to that effect.

Councilor Pope moved to adopt Resolution No. 19-2012 on first and final reading.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Spahr and carried unanimously.

Councilor Taylor asked how the city was going to handle the new law. Police Chief Glenn Schaffer stated they were going by the recommendation of the prosecutor's office, which was the possession of one ounce of marijuana was legal. He noted they were still waiting for some clarification, so the direction to the officers at this time was to pretty much keep doing things as they always have been, and to follow state law until the state receives direction otherwise from the feds.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

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Mayor

December 10, 2012

Attest:

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City Clerk

**SUGGESTED MOTION**

**I move that the council approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting of December 10, 2012.**