

## BINGEN CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES – September 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tempore Catherine Kiewit at 7:00 pm. Council Members Present: Laura Mann, Ryan O'Connor, Phil Jones, Isolde Schroder. Staff Members Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Cheyenne Willey, Public Works Superintendent David Spratt, City Attorney Chris Lanz. Audience Present: Ken Park, Kris Schaedel.

#### **Public Comment**

*Kris Schaedel*

Schaedel introduced herself as a Bingen resident of 3 years, living on East Jefferson. She explained she decided to attend the meeting because her neighbor had approached her about traffic. She elaborated that she was specifically concerned about traffic to and from the new hotel being constructed on Cedar Street, and traffic from Oak Street onto Jefferson as people attempt to bypass the SR 141/SR 14 intersection.

Schaedel said she was hoping the council could address her concerns, but added that she did not necessarily want more stop signs. She suggested signage or speed bumps. Schaedel noted that there were several children in her neighborhood.

Councilmember Schroder agreed that Jefferson Street was a busy area and getting busier. She remarked that there was not currently a shoulder for pedestrians to safely walk on.

Councilmember Mann asked Schaedel what her aversion was to stop signs.

Schaedel said she didn't have one, but wasn't sure she liked the idea of having one in front of her house. She concluded that she was not averse to the idea, and would be open to any solution.

Councilmember Schroder suggested a yield sign.

The council discussed placement of stop and yield signs, and seasonal issues with stopping on hills in the snow and ice.

Schaedel said she was not sure that it was necessary to have stop signs because she was not an engineer, but said speed was definitely an issue in her neighborhood.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit said stop signs could be a deterrent. Kiewit asked Councilmember Schroder if her goal was to see Jefferson Street solely used by those people that live there, or to see traffic levels unchanged but at slower speeds.

Councilmember Schroder said she wanted to see slower speeds.

Councilmember Mann said she was surprised that Schroder's goal was not to see less traffic.

Councilmember Schroder said that would not be realistic.

Councilmember Jones said he was all for making the perceived shortcut through the residential neighborhood less appealing, and that he wanted to see the City try to channel traffic down SR 141.

Councilmember Schroder suggested that efforts to calm the traffic could affect the traffic flow pattern.

Councilmember Mann agreed. She said she was not sure what she thought about stop signs. She noted that many people use Jefferson and Maple Streets as a bypass between SR 141 and SR 14 because the left turn on oak and 14 is difficult.

Public Works Superintendent Spratt pointed out that Cherry Street was used in the same way since it only has one stop sign.

Councilmember Jones agreed that many people use Cherry Street.

Schaedel said arborvitae trees had been blocking the line of sight and made a left turn onto Jefferson Street nearly impossible.

There was consensus to move old agenda item Old Business (B) up the agenda.

## **Old Business**

### *Traffic Calming and Signage – Discussion*

The council compiled the following list of traffic signs to add if possible, and directed Clerk Treasurer Willey to inquire about sign placement with WSDOT and to bring the council a draft ordinance amendment reflecting the signage changes discussed.

Stop Signs to be placed at the following locations:

- East on Jefferson at Maple Street (SW corner)
- North on Alder Street at Humboldt Street (SE corner)
- South on Alder Street at Humboldt Street (NW corner)
- North on Cedar Street at Humboldt Street (SE corner)
- South on Cedar Street at Humboldt Street (NW corner)
- East on Humboldt Street at Vine Street (SW corner)
- West on Humboldt Street at Vine Street (NE corner)
- East on Franklin Street at Pine Street (SW corner)
- West on Franklin Street at Pine Street (NE corner)

Yield Sign to be placed at the following location:

- North on Elm Street at Humboldt Street (SE corner)

Yield Signs to be removed at the following locations:

- North on Vine Street at Humboldt Street (SE corner)
- North on Pine Street at Franklin Street (SE corner)
- East on Humboldt Street at Elm Street (SW corner)
- West on Humboldt Street at Elm Street (NE corner)

No Left Turn Sign to be placed at the following location, if approved by WSDOT:

- South on SR 141 at Jefferson (NW corner)

Councilmember Mann suggested that speed signs be budgeted for in 2019.

Councilmember Schroder asked Spratt where he would suggest putting flashing “your speed” signs.

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said he would like to see one on SR 141 coming into Bingen, and one left more portable, to be placed residentially where needed.

There was discussion about investing in four “your speed” signs, with the extra two to be placed going in and out of Bingen on SR 14.

The council discussed the placement of yield signs.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit asked if the city had any “traffic control change ahead” signs.

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said he did not have any of those signs.

Councilmember Schroder asked Spratt if he intended to close any streets during the coming winter when the snow and ice makes driving hazardous.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit noted that Spratt already does that when necessary in the winter time.

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said he watches the road conditions very closely and must close the street before his plows can’t stop going downhill.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 4, 2018**

Clerk Treasurer Willey apologized for not having had time to finish preparing the September 4, 2018 meeting minutes.

### **Proposed Ordinance 2018-03-686, Proposed Budget Amendment**

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit said she had met with Councilmember Jones, Clerk Treasurer Willey, and former City Administrator Jan Brending to go over the proposed amendment in detail.

Councilmember Jones moved to approve proposed Ordinance 2018-03-686, Amending the 2018 Budget, pending review of the ordinance for clerical errors. Councilmember Mann seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Resolution 2018-025 LGIP**

Councilmember Jones moved to approve proposed Resolution 2018-025, changing the staff listed on the LGIP account. Councilmember Schroder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Walnut Street Crossing Agreement, BNSF BF10013945**

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit noted that the agreement stated the City of Bingen was governed by a board of County Commissioners, not a City Council.

City Attorney Chris Lanz said he had noted that previously.

Clerk Treasurer Willey disagreed, and said Lanz had not mentioned it when he approved the agreement language.

City Attorney Lanz said he must not have attached that correction to his email.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said she would contact BNSF to have the correction made.

Councilmember Jones asked about a section of the agreement regarding the City's liability for damages.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit said she thought that was standard to have it covered by insurance.

Councilmember Mann asked if the City had removed the gate that used to be at the Walnut Street Crossing.

Public Works Superintendent Spratt that the gate had belonged to SDS Lumber Company, and he believed they were required to remove it since it had been installed on a public crossing.

Councilmember Mann moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Walnut Street Crossing Agreement, BNSF BF10013945 as corrected. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Old Business**

#### *WSDOT Bingen Point Access Project – Design Discussion*

Clerk Treasurer Willey said she had nothing new to report on the design of the underpass and roundabout, and intended to ask WSDOT previously discussed questions from the council at the next design meeting.

### **Mayor's Update and Council Comments**

Councilmember Mann shared a compliment from a community member regarding Clerk Treasurer Willey and expressed her appreciation.

Councilmember Schroder said she had spoken with a local craftsman about the damaged ceramic around the Daubenspeck Park drinking fountain, and was looking into suggestions for repairing the mosaic.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit said it would be good to find a solution to the crumbling and loosening of mosaic pieces.

Mayor Pro Tempore Kiewit asked Spratt about street lights on Maple Street that have been out for a long time. She noted that the railroad crossing and intersection was completely dark.

Public Works Superintendent Spratt said he would look into which agency was responsible for those lights.

### **Voucher Approval**

Vouchers audited and certified as required by RCW 42.24.080 and expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 as of this date September 18, 2018.

The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list:

Checks 20236-20246 and Payroll EFT (Dated 9/14/18) totaling \$16,674.16. General Fund - \$6,184.37, Street Fund - \$2,861.64, Water Fund - \$1,927.26, Sewer Fund - \$353.58, Treatment Plant Fund - \$4,717.31.

Checks 20247-20271 (Dated 9/18/18) totaling \$8,807.87. General Fund - \$4,943.89, Street Fund - \$385.11, Water Fund - \$1,363.37, Sewer Fund - \$140.66, Treatment Plant Fund - \$1,975.44.

The council adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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City Clerk

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Mayor