

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:06 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Dan Armstrong, Stephanie Porter. Council members absent: Izzy Schroder. Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Jan Brending Audience: Michelle Scott, Marilyn and Kenny Winter, Pat Arnold.

Public Comment

Marilyn and Kenny Winter, Bingen

Marilyn Winter said she is concerned about a junk car that is parked on adjacent property. She said it has been spray painted, has flat tires and grass grown up around it. Winter said she feels the car downgrades property values. She said she feels the vehicle is an eyesore. Winter said she has good neighbors but did not feel comfortable talking to them.

Betty Barnes said she can talk to the property owner and see if there is something that can be done about the vehicle.

Winter said that she believes her property line ends at the end of the concrete wall and asked who is liable for the sidewalk in front of the house if someone was to get hurt.

Chris Lanz said he will have to do some research and get back to Winter.

Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2016

Changes to the minutes of the September 20, 2016 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 8th paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: “He explained officers will have to walk or run in the case of an emergency to where vehicles will be parked in order to respond to a call.”

Page 5, 14th paragraph, 1st sentence should read: “Barnes explained to the council that the reservoir will still be needed for storage even if Bingen were to purchase all of its water from the City of White Salmon.”

Catherine Kiewit moved to approve the meeting minutes of the September 20, 2016 regular council meeting as corrected. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Pat Arnold, Candidate for Klickitat County Commissioner

Pat Arnold introduced herself to the council. She said she had originally decided not to run for the office of County Commissioner but learned in August that she was qualified due to a write-in campaign. Arnold said she has lived in the area for 26 years. She said her key focuses are affordable housing, reinforcing rural centers, preserving farm and forest land, developing emergency plans for the entire county, health care, and developing a more productive and harmonious relationship with the Yakama Nation.

Betty Barnes thanked Arnold for coming and sharing her views.

Catherine Kiewit thanked Arnold for sharing her background and the things she cares about.

Rex Johnston, Candidate for Klickitat County Commissioner

Betty Barnes announced that Rex Johnston was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. She said he will be scheduled for the next council meeting.

Public Hearing, Proposed 2016 Budget Amendments

Betty Barnes opened the public hearing regarding proposed amendments to the 2016 budget.

Jan Brending presented the proposed budget amendments.

Catherine Kiewit asked if department heads are helping forecast expenses.

Betty Barnes and Jan Brending said yes. Brending said the proposed amendment providing funds for replacing two mixers was an unknown.

Betty Barnes closed the public hearing.

Proposed Ordinance 2016-09-665, Amending the 2016 Budget

Catherine Kiewit moved to adopt Ordinance 2016-09-665, Amending the 2016 Budget. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Underwood Fruit Vault and Meter Replacement Project, Technical Memorandum and Recommendations

Jan Brending said Gray and Osborne has prepared a technical memorandum regarding the options for the replacement of the Underwood Fruit Vault and meter. She said they are recommending Option C. Brending noted that David Spratt, Public Works Superintendent also supports Option C. She said the cost for Option C is \$51,930 including sales tax and a contingency. She noted the project was original estimated to cost approximately \$200,000. Brending said she is seeking authorization to proceed with the project, developing bid documents and going out to bid. She said she is recommending that the funding for project come from a short-term interfund loan from the Sewer Construction & Maintenance Fund with repayment to occur by the end of the 2017.

Catherine Kiewit said she read the technical memorandum and liked Option C also.

Catherine Kiewit moved to authorize putting the Underwood Fruit Vault and Meter Replacement Project out to bid using Option C. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report – August 2016

Jan Brending presented the Treasurer's Report for August 2016.

Catherine Kiewit moved to accept the August 2016 Treasurer's Report. Dan Armstrong seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Old Business

City Tree Maintenance

Jan Brending provided clarifying information regarding soliciting for tree maintenance. She noted that Milling Tree Care LLC has never done the physical maintenance of the trees. Brending said the company was hired to complete an inventory and develop maintenance recommendations. She said the last time the city hired a company to do overall tree maintenance of the city's trees was in 2010.

Brending said that to hire an arborist the city must issue a Request for Proposals that would be sent to local arborists as well as being published in The Enterprise and the Portland Daily Journal of Commerce. She said after hiring an arborist, the city would solicit a small works roster bid based on the information provided by the arborist.

Brending said there are several options to address the two suspect trees the city is concerned with: 1) hire an arborist to look at only the two trees and then based on the arborist's recommendations hire a tree maintenance company to carry out the recommendations or 2) hire a tree maintenance company through the small works roster process to look at only the two suspect trees and have the maintenance done as they recommend.

There was a consensus of the council to use the small works roster to hire a tree maintenance company with an arborist on staff to look at and maintain the two suspect trees.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

New Employee

Betty Barnes said the city has hired a new employee, Michael Solomon. She said he will start on October 17th. Barnes said Solomon has grown up in the area and most recently worked for Republic. She noted that Chief Tracy Wyckoff sat in on the interview and was very pleased with Solomon.

Catherine Kiewit said it is her understanding that Solomon had to go through a background check and take a polygraph.

Barnes said that is correct, there were no issues and Solomon passed with flying colors.

Flag Pole Located at Post Office

Betty Barnes said the Post Office has requested to move the flag pole located at the post office. She said where it is currently located the flag gets tangled up in the tree. Barnes said the pole will be moved to the east and the post office will do the work under the supervision of city staff.

Pine Shed Ribs

Betty Barnes said the owners of Pine Shed Ribs have contacted her regarding the possibility of moving the benches in front of the business. She said they would like to develop some outside eating area. Barnes said she will work with the owners to determine where the benches could be moved.

Water Fountain Mosaic

Betty Barnes said she has noticed a couple of the mosaic tiles coming up at the fountain. She asked Catherine Kiewit if there is something that should be done to protect the mosaic or replace missing tiles.

Catherine Kiewit said her main concern would be water getting into the area where the tiles were located and freezing.

Dan Armstrong said he is concerned about individuals in bare feet walking or running over the mosaic.

Catherine Kiewit said she can reach out to the artist to see what she proposed be done.

Joint Legislative Transportation Committees Visit

Betty Barnes said the joint Legislative Transportation Committees made a short tour to Bingen to look at the railroad crossings. She said the purpose of the trip was to look at safety issues related to railroad crossings across the state. Barnes said the representatives from Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and Washington State Department of Transportation were also present. She said they talked about installing signalization and gates. Barnes said a grant upgrading the Walnut crossing to LED flashing lights has already been approved. She said, in addition, the committees looked at different locations where the overpass to Bingen Point might be located. Barnes said it was a very nice visit and that the individuals attending were impressed with Bingen.

Catherine Kiewit noted that a guardrail associated with the Maple Street crossing is not bolted down.

Jan Brending said she will take a look at it.

Betty Barnes noted that she and Jan Brending will be attending a meeting with Washington State Department of Transportation on October 27 regarding the overpass.

November 1 Council Meeting

Dan Armstrong noted that he will not be in attendance at the November 1 council meeting.

Jan Brending noted that Izzy Schroder will not be in attendance at the October 17th council meeting and will be attending the November 1st meeting by telephone.

Stephanie Porter said she is concerned about her attendance at council meetings. She said her and her children’s schedule are causing some conflicts. The council discussed start times and agreed to start the next council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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 October 4, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 18691-18715 (dated 10/04/2016) totaling \$61,385.33. General Fund – \$9,184.84; Street - \$2,895.95; Street Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$6,419.96; Park Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$64.00; Water - \$17,922.73; Sewer - \$2,415.34; Treatment Plant - \$12,014.43; Water Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$782.26; Sewer Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$782.26; Treatment Plant Improvement Fund - \$3,173.08.

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 October 4, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 18689-18690 (dated 9/30/2016) totaling \$678.68. Court Remittance Agency Fund - \$678.68.

The council adjourned 8:50 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor