

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 3, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Dan Armstrong, Stephanie Porter, Izzy Schroder. Staff present: City Attorney Chris Lanz, City Administrator Jan Brending, Police Chief Tracy Wyckoff. Audience: Michelle Scott.

City Council Vacancy

Betty Barnes reported that the city has not received any application for the vacant council position.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Update

Tracy Wyckoff reported that the proposed criminal justice tax has not moved forward much at this time. He said he will address the justification for the tax in the future. Wyckoff said dealing with drug enforcement is not a clear picture for a number of reasons. He said he did have one citizen voice concerns about what the prosecutor will do when someone has been arrested. Wyckoff said he has no control over the prosecutor's decision. He said it is his goal to present the best case possible to the prosecutor.

Catherine Kiewit asked if any of the funding would go towards the mental health side of drug use.

Wyckoff said no.

Chris Lanz said the police department is responsible for detection and arrest. He said the mental health side of things is what happens after an individual is arrested, i.e. post arrest and post prosecution.

Tracy Wyckoff encouraged council members to research the mental health side of the issue.

Betty Barnes noted that she did not speak with all of the business regarding the tax increase. She said that she feels she knows what most of the businesses feel about any sales tax increase. Barnes said Chief Wyckoff is asking the city council if it will support the proposed tax increase when presented to the county commissioners.

Wyckoff said that until he hears an answer from the City of Goldendale and the county he does not know where the proposal is headed. He said if they don't support the idea then it is a dead issue.

Dan Armstrong said he likes the idea of pursuing the proposed increase. He asked if funding will go towards illegal marijuana crops that compete with legal marijuana.

Wyckoff said the area sees a lot of different drugs, including illegal marijuana. He said is not sure how the prosecutor will handle illegal marijuana grows and sales. Wyckoff noted that in other areas it is not being pursued.

Catherine Kiewit asked if drug enforcement is currently taking place.

Wyckoff said that when the department has the ability to arrest someone they do. He said the department does follow up on tips. Wyckoff said it is difficult when he does not have the personnel available for follow up. He suggested the council think about the idea and talk to people in the community to see what they think about it.

Izzy Schroder said she has a level of awareness of the drug issue because of her connection to the hospital family. She asked if there would be any outreach to the high school such as preventative outreach.

Wyckoff said that would be a county decision as the high school is in the county. He said he has spent many years doing outreach. Wyckoff noted that the intermediary school asked the department to come and speak and he will be doing that.

Izzy Schroder said she would like the council members to think about the issue and come back to the next council meeting ready to make a decision.

Tracy Wyckoff noted that he has hired two officers and has submitted their names for the July academy. He said they are Pedro Virgen and Sean Dawkins. Wyckoff said that both of the individuals plan to move to Bingen/White Salmon. He said the department has received another new car.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 19

Changes to the minutes of the April 19, 2016 regular council meeting were noted as follows:

Page 1, 11th paragraph should read as follows: “Jan Brending said no, but the temporary worker will be doing only street and park work and will not be doing work related to the water and sewer department unless there is an emergency.”

Page 2, 8th paragraph, 1st sentence should read as follows: “Betty Barnes said she, Catherine Kiewit and Jan Brending met with a different set of WSDOT representatives regarding the Oak and Humboldt Street crossing.”

Stephanie Porter moved to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting on April 19, 2016 as corrected. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

LED Streetlight Conversion Proposal – Transportation Improvement Board Grant

Jan Brending said she has been working with the Klickitat PUD to develop a grant proposal for converting the city’s streetlights to LED. She said the PUD maintains a number of the street lights while the city maintains all of the decorative lights and several “cobra” lights. Brending said several options were presented to the city for upgrading the decorative lights to LED. She said she used the 18” lights in the proposal to the Transportation Improvement Board because they were the lowest cost. Brending said that even at the lowest cost it is considerably more than the “cobra” type lights at approximately \$1,007 per light. She said the proposal was submitted to the Transportation Improvement Board and the city has received notification that the proposal was accepted and will be fully funded. Brending noted that she was surprised that the Transportation Improvement Board agreed to fully fund the replacement of the decorative lights. She said the PUD will be developing bid documents for the purchase of the equipment and for the installation. Brending said the city will need to enter into an agreement with the PUD.

The city council took a short trip to look at the existing decorative lights.

There was a consensus of the council members to make a request to the Transportation Improvement Board to see if they will fund the replacement of the decorative lights with 22” lights at a higher cost. The council also said they would prefer to see the use of the warm color temperature if that is acceptable with Washington Department of Transportation.

Catherine Kiewit moved to accept the Transportation Improvement Board grant for LED streetlight conversion pending a conversation about funding the 22” series of lights versus the 18” series of lights. Stephanie Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Park Tree Replacement Proposal

Jan Brending said the city council has been discussing replacing the evergreen trees that had to be removed from Daubenspeck Park. She said she contacted a company, Big Trees Today Inc., about the cost of using large trees, specifically Giant Sequoias. Brending said Big Trees Today Inc. have quoted a price of approximately \$1,950 delivered, planted and guaranteed (not including taxes). She said before the city made a decision to purchase, she would need to obtain quotes from several other companies. Brending said however, she is not aware of any company in the local area (Gorge and Portland/Vancouver) that offers similar services.

The council discussed the proposal. The council asked staff to request information about the caliper of the 16 to 18 feet trees and to obtain additional quotes.

Mayor’s Update and Council Comments

Community Pride

Information was presented to the city council regarding the amount of yard and garden debris picked up in Bingen.

Dan Armstrong noted that there was some old wire that had been pulled out of a property next to him and wondered if it could be picked up.

Jan Brending said she would look into it.

Pedestrian Crosswalk Signage

Betty Barnes said the city was contacted by a concerned citizen regarding vehicles not stopping at the crosswalks on Steuben. She said he recommended the city install canisters and provide orange flags for pedestrians to use when crossing the street. Barnes said Jan Brending has provided some information to the city council regarding pedestrian signage and flags.

Jan Brending said she did some research about the use of pedestrian flags and pedestrian signage. She said that some cities have started using pedestrian flags while others have discontinued their pedestrian flag programs. Brending said cities that discontinued the program said it was expensive to keep replacing the flags. She said another issue that was raised about the use of flags is that all of the flags could end up on the one side of the road or another with none being available for the pedestrian crossing a certain direction. Brending provided information to the council regarding the cost of flags and pedestrian signage. She said she is recommending the city install pedestrian signage at each crosswalk on Steuben. Brending said the price for 16 sets of signs (single-sided) would be approximately \$928 before shipping and taxes or \$1,856 for 32 sets (double-sided). She said she recommends double-siding the signage so that drivers will be able to see the signs from both. Brending noted the city will need to obtain concurrence from the Washington Department of Transportation for the installation of the signs.

The council discussed the proposal.

Stephanie Porter moved to approve up to \$2,500 for the installation of pedestrian crosswalk signs on Steuben. Izzy Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Betty Barnes said that she will contact Washington Department of Transportation to see if they will help with the part of the cost for the signs since there are problems with the crosswalk installation.

Impounding of Dogs

Betty Barnes said that if council members see or find a dog running at large they should contact dispatch who will arrange for the dog to be picked up and lodged either temporarily at the city or at the Hood River impound facility. She said council members should not pick up dogs and take them to Alpine Vet. Barnes said if they do they will be personally responsible for any fees that are charged.

The council discussed a recent incident with a dog being lodged at Alpine Vet. Izzy Schroder noted that dispatch told her to pick up the dog and take it to Alpine Vet. It was noted that the owner of the dog was found and the Alpine Vet fees in addition to the City of Bingen fee was paid by the owner.

Betty Barnes and Jan Brending said they will discuss the issue with Tracy Wyckoff to insure that county dispatch knows the procedures for impounding dogs in Bingen.

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 May 3, 2016. The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: checks 18390-18412 (dated 05/03/2016) totaling \$40,751.95. General Fund – \$27,861.14; Street - \$3,039.89; Water - \$6,718.10; Sewer - \$257.24; Treatment Plant - \$2,875.58.

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 May 3, 2016 The council by unanimous vote does approve for payment the following list: payroll EFT and checks 18385-18389 (dated 04/29/2016) totaling \$21,331.14. General Fund – \$9,447.40; Street Fund - \$2,896.62; Water Fund - \$2,207.31; Sewer Fund - \$384.52; Treatment Plant Fund - \$6,395.29.

The council adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor