

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

DRAFT – July 2, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Barnes J. Barnes at 7:02 p.m. Council members present: Catherine Kiewit, Laura Mann, Phil Jones; Isolde Schroder via phone. Staff present: Clerk-Treasurer Cheyenne Willey, City Attorney Chris Lanz. Audience present: Bingen Public Works Superintendent David Spratt, Devin Reck, Bethany Vermaas, Mike Briggs, Tammara Tippel.

WSDOT Update

Mayor Barnes explained that the WSDOT representatives would be going over the roundabout design plans and how it would connect the sidewalk on SR 14 to the cul-de-sac on Elm Street.

Devin Reck noted where the design was at currently, and said the main point he wanted to discuss was the sidewalk connection. Reck said that every intersection is a legal crossing in Washington, so there was a need to have sidewalks or a path. He said a lack of sidewalks or a path would require signage and impairment signals to designate it closed.

Catherine Kiewit asked about the speed through the roundabout.

Bethany Vermaas said the usual choice was just advisory speed signage like what is used on a sharp corner.

Mayor Barnes said she knew the City preferred an option with the least amount of impact to residential property as possible. She noted a desire to preserve buildable lots and pointed to the local housing crisis.

There was discussion on the placement of the roundabout, and how initially it had been situated further south.

Council members Mann and Kiewit both voiced that they didn't like the proposal featuring two sidewalks.

Devin Reck said that if the new sidewalk was replacing the current sidewalk then WSDOT would have to update everyone's curbside access to meet standards.

There was a discussion on sidewalk options, ADA requirements, and grading.

Devin Reck said that WSDOT was asking for 5' sidewalks and needed approval to that end from the City. He noted that a 5' sidewalk would meet ADA requirements, and that anything wider than 5' would likely push the project up the hill and into more residential property.

Devin Reck said that if the City preferred no connection to Elm Street from below, WSDOT would be alright with that option.

Mayor Barnes said if there was no connection, pedestrians would make one. She noted that if the City said no to a path then it would fall to the City to upgrade it later.

There was discussion about a no parking area due to fire lane requirements on Elm Street's dead end.

Catherine Kiewit asked for the information on roundabout center design parameters.

Council member Mann moved to allow 5' sidewalks on the SR 14 roundabout at Elm Street, and that the City Council entertain WSDOT reducing a lot on the northeast corner of Elm & Steuben to a size which may necessitate a variance, and that the City reduce on-street parking where necessary. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes 06/18/2019

Council member Mann moved to adopt the minutes from the June 18, 2019 council meeting as presented. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tammara Tippel

Tippel said the Art and wine Fusion Festival was coming together nicely. She said she had posters and brochures to share with the City. She gave a quick update that everything was going well and said everyone was very excited.

Tippel said the Oh Joy of Joys statue would be coming out of its casing on July 15th and then would need to set up and have finishing work done. She said the unveiling would occur at 5:03 PM due to the significance to friends and family of Mr. Fisch.

Proposed Ordinance 2019-03-694 Amending BMC 9.24 City Park Regulations

The council asked that the acronym WLCB be spelled out on page 7.

Council member Jones moved to adopt Ordinance 2019-03-694 with the correction as noted. Council member Mann seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposed Ordinance 2019-03-694 Amending BMC 9.24 City Park Application

The council asked the refundable deposit structure show two classes (0-100, 101+) to match the ordinance.

Council member Mann moved to approve Proposed Ordinance 2019-03-694 with the correction as noted. Council member Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 2019-003 Salary

Council member Jones moved to approve Resolution 2019-003 as presented. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 2019-004 ECY

Council member Kiewit moved to approve Resolution 2019-004 as presented. Council member Mann seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposed Ordinance 2019-08-697 Amending BMC 6.04 Dogs

Council member Mann moved to approve Proposed Ordinance 2019-08-697 as presented. Council member Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

Temporary Employee Job Description

Council member Mann asked if age played a factor.

Superintendent Spratt said he was not sure about child labor laws regarding machinery operation.

Council member Kiewit asked if the idea was to hire a temporary employee in an hourly position for a certain number of months.

David Spratt said normally most places will use temporary employees for summer time when mowing and weed eating became more time consuming. He said his crew could use help with things tasks that get in the way of painting and regular maintenance schedules. He noted that if the position were open to high school students then it would need to be in the summer. Spratt said he did not have an urgent need for extra help this year, but that he would like to see the position in next year's budget.

Mayor Barnes said that time frame would give more time to clear up any questions about the rules regarding temporary employees.

Council member Kiewit asked if Spratt was thinking of a high schooler or college student for another set of hands, or if he was looking for a future employee for career purposes.

Spratt said he would like to find someone who has an interest in the field to see if they want to commit to the career. He suggested starting with temporary and then maybe down the road theposition could be made full time.

Council member Kiewit said she fully supported that.

Street Sweeper

Superintendent Spratt shared information on a street sweeper he had found. He clarified that he was not requesting to purchase the street sweeper, but wanted to update the council on available equipment and remind everyone that it was an asset the City should look to acquire.

Council member Kiewit asked Spratt to look into more pricing and information on street sweepers.

Mayor Update & Council Comments

Mayor Barnes said she had attended the recent AWC conference in Spokane and had learned a lot. Barnes said there had been a huge focus on comprehensive planning, zoning updates, accessory dwelling units, and homelessness. She said much of the information was geared toward the larger cities, but she said there was always a take away for small towns. She said small towns face the same issues, just on a different scale.

Barnes said Spokane had many great public art installations, and that she intended to pass on more of the information that she learned. She said the event was well worth her time.

Council member Kiewit referenced an email sent to Superintendent Spratt after the last council meeting. She asked if he had any updates on the street light outages on south Maple Street.

Superintendent Spratt said he had replaced all of the parts in the decorative light and it still would not work. He said he confirmed the power supply worked fine, and said he would need an electrician to look at it.

There was a discussion on the ownership of the COBRA light by the fuel tanks.

Mayor Barnes said she believed some of the lights belonged to either WSDOT or the PUD.

Spratt said the PUD came down to look but that they didn't fix anything.

The council asked Clerk Treasurer Willey to contact NW Natural Gas about moving the portable toilet left on E Humboldt Street, and also to contact the Society Hotel about moving the trailer left on E Humboldt Street

Mayor Barnes said she would take care of the trailer near the Society Hotel.

Executive Session

Mayor Barnes announced at 9:05 pm that the City Council will go into Executive Session for 10 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 9:15 p.m. the Council resumed regular session.

Council member Kiewit moved to direct legal counsel to file a cause of action against Dickey Farms for the damages caused by their water line underneath SR 14. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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 July 2, 2019.

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

Payroll Checks 20835-20840 and Payroll EFT (Dated 6/28/2019) totaling \$29,704.84 General Fund - \$12,998.35, Street Fund - \$4,668.81, Water Fund - \$3,389.67, Sewer Fund - \$589.04, Treatment Plant Fund - \$8,058.97.

Checks 20842-20862 totaling \$51,021.77. General Fund - \$33,427.70, Street Fund - \$3,251.79, Water Fund - \$7,648.65, Sewer Fund - \$848.44, Treatment Plant Fund - \$3,345.57, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund - \$2,499.62.

The council adjourned at 9:20pm.

City Clerk

Mayor