

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL

May 15, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Betty J. Barnes at 7:00 pm. Council Members Present: Catherine Kiewit, Laura Mann, Isolde Schroder, Ryan O'Connor, Phil Jones, Student Council Member Chloe McLaughlin. Staff Members Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Cheyenne Willey, City Attorney Chris Lanz, Officer Frank Randall. Audience Present: Ken Park, Ken Alexander, Mike Meskimen, Ton Hons.

Public Comment

Tammy Kaufman, Insitu

Tammy Kaufman thanked the council for the great discussion at the May 1, 2018 council meeting. She said good forward progress had been made and that Insitu would like to encourage continuing the really positive discussion moving forward.

Mayor Barnes said she had been to a meeting the day before which Tammy Kaufman had also attended. She said the meeting was with state representatives and there had been discussion about moving forward with the Port of Hood River as a partner in the bridge replacement project.

Barnes said Senator Curtis King had done a wonderful job of facilitating the meeting, and said the focus was kept on moving forward and not going over the past. She said there will be more negotiation coming up with both the Port of Hood River and the Oregon Legislature. She said it sounded like there might need to be an amendment to ensure an equal partnership.

Barnes reported to the council that she had also called Port of Hood River Director Michael McElwee and had a discussion. She said she thought the letter sent to the Port of Hood River was a good thing because it got people and representatives moving. Barnes said she felt strongly that this project should get done and the bridge needed to get built.

Bingen-White Salmon Police Department Update

Officer Randall said Chief Hepner would be out of the office for a week and a half.

There was discussion about a recent parking complaint.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2018

Clerk Treasurer Willey asked the council for corrections to the minutes of the April 17, 2018 regular council meeting.

Corrections were noted as follows:

Page 1, paragraph 1

“Audience present: Ken Park, Ken Alexander.”

Page 2, paragraph 6

“There was a consensus that ~~mirror~~ minor corrections were needed for formatting, typos, and consistency between the ordinance and the application form.”

Page 3, paragraph 2

“Council Member O’Connor said a local business was observed with a flashing bulb illuminating ~~heir~~ **their** sign.”

Page 3, paragraph 6

“The council adjourned at **10:45** pm.”

Council Member Kiewit moved to approve the meeting minutes of the April 17, 2018 regular council meeting as corrected. Council Member Schroder seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Gray & Osborne –Acceptance of SCADA Replacement Project as Complete

Ken Alexander reported to the council that the project had been physically completed since early March 2018. He said the only thing that was holding up the completion was some paperwork that had needed to be done by Technical Systems Inc. (TSI)

Alexander recommended to the council that the project be accepted as complete. He said once the project is completed the City will need to send the required paperwork in to the state. Alexander said he was satisfied with the project and that Public Works Superintendent David Spratt was as well.

Councilmember Kiewit moved to accept the SCADA project as complete. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposed Resolution No. 2018-024 Authorizing Signers on Financial Accounts

Mayor Barnes presented the resolution to the council.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if the position titles were necessary in the language of the resolution.

Mayor Barnes said yes.

Councilmember Schroder moved to approve resolution 2018-024 Authorizing signers on financial accounts. Councilmember Mann seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

Gray & Osborne, Humboldt Street Water Line Replacement

Mike Meskimen with Gray & Osborne said the council had some questions for him at the May 1, 2018 council meeting.

Meskimen informed the council that the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) funding will cover an in-kind replacement water line, but if there is an upgrade none of the replacement will be covered. He said Gray & Osborne recommended replacing the line in question with a 6” pipe. Meskimen said the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) design manual said using a smaller pipe size would require a hydraulic analysis, but Public Works Superintendent David Spratt had contacted Andy Cervantes with DOH and was given approval to use a 2” line.

Meskimen said he ran the water system model with a 2” in-kind replacement and it seems adequate, most likely due to good pressure. He explained that only eight residential homes are serviced by the 2” line, not any fire hydrants or commercial properties.

Councilmember Kiewit said she was curious as to why TIB would fund the replacement of a substandard line.

Meskimen said the purpose of TIB is to distribute gas tax money to work on roads. He said funding a water line upgrade was statutorily not possible. He said all TIB can do is replace in-kind, and noted that setting a precedent for helping upgrade lines could encourage cities to hold off on replacing utilities until a road project was necessary.

Councilmember Kiewit said she and Councilmember Jones had met as the Budget Committee to take a look at the budget for funding sources in case the council wanted to upsize the line. She said Clerk Treasurer Willey had also been working with former City Administrator Jan Brending to understand how the budget had been allocated with the current projects in mind.

Councilmember Jones said it was a given that the line should be replaced as it is now 50 years old, and said paving over a 50 year old water line would be asking for trouble.

Mayor Barnes asked what the current pipe was made of.

Meskimen said the pipe was currently galvanized steel but suggested PVC as an alternative.

The council discussed the location of the fire hydrants.

Councilmember Mann asked if an interfund loan approved in 2017 was a viable option to fund the replacement of the water line if an upgrade was desired.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said she would have to look into that.

Councilmember Kiewit pointed out that the hydrants were already being fed by a 6” line, and that the 2” line was only to service eight homes. She also noted that the block in question was already developed, and so the line would not have to withstand much future growth.

Meskimen mentioned that the City could employ developer standards in the future and require developers to install utilities with enough capacity to service their development.

Councilmember Jones moved to authorize the replacement of the 2” water main with an in-kind pipe along the 200 and 300 blocks of East Humboldt Street under the Humboldt Street Improvement Project. Councilmember Kiewit seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The council thanked Gray & Osborne.

Gray & Osborne, Wastewater Treatment Facility Master Plan Predesign

Mayor Barnes explained to the council that during the interviews conducted to review the proposals from Gray & Osborne and RH2, Gray & Osborne were given a final score of 83 and RH2 a score of 76. She said Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Manager Ton Hons was in the audience in case anyone had any questions. Barnes noted that the interviews were attended by herself, Ton Hons, James Buckland, and Cheyenne Willey representing the City of Bingen, as well as Jan Brending and Pat Munyan representing the City of White Salmon. She said the engineering firms were scored by herself, Jan Brending, and Pat Munyan, with the scores averaged to reach the final score given.

Barnes also said that the City of White Salmon will be paying for a significant portion of the cost, and that the interview and contract award was just the first step.

Councilmember Kiewit said she really appreciated the letter written by the WWTP employees. She thanked Manager Ton Hons and said she was very glad he and Operator James Buckland shared their values and concerns. She thanked Hons for taking the time to share their position. She said when the two proposals were initially presented to the council she had just attended a meeting regarding a proposed water purchase agreement with the City of White Salmon, and that the WWTP had been discussed briefly. She said a big concern was changing the original master plan since it had already been approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE). She said she felt if a different plan was chosen it would cause a big delay so the permitting process could be redone. Kiewit said the City of White Salmon had paid for 75% of the initial plan and she understood they wanted to avoid and further costs and delays. She said she felt the points made by Hons and Buckland were valid, but ultimately she had to take the entire process into account to choose what is best for the City of Bingen.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager Tom Hons said he appreciated Councilmember Kiewit's comments but he had some questions. He said he felt the biggest concern with the decision was regarding the loading of the facility. He said the loading is increasing and he found RH2 to have presented a much better plan for dealing with the loading increase. He said the selector basin presented by Gray & Osborne should be carefully considered as it can cost a lot and will not increase the capacity of the plant to match the need. He said he felt the proposal and plan should be vetted more thoroughly no matter which engineering firm was chosen. Hones also pointed out that much of the increase in loading capacity need was coming from the City of White Salmon.

Councilmember Kiewit said she thought the plan submitted by Gray & Osborne was based off of a study done that projected future growth.

Ken Alexander said he felt the need to correct what Manager Hons had said. He said the plan submitted by Gray & Osborne did increase capacity, and that the loadings seen have been inconsistent. He said the presentation given by Gray & Osborne had made it clear that installing the selector basin would get more capacity out of the oxidation ditches. Alexander pointed out that speaking with three different consultants will get you three different answers. He said the original plan had taken five years to complete, and cost quite a bit of money. He said hiring a new firm would essentially be starting a whole new process from the beginning. He also said that if the City of Bingen hired RH2 they would not be able to secure Connolly Electric for the electrical work since that company was on Gray & Osborne's team.

The loadings of a local brewery were discussed and compared to that which a small city might expect to see, just from the brewery alone.

Mayor Barnes said she had invited WWTP Manager Hons to the meeting to share his concerns and speak with the council, not to pit anyone against each other.

WWTP Manager Hons said he wanted the proposal selected to be subject to a peer review.

Mayor Barnes confirmed that a third party peer review would be appropriate, but cautioned the council that the City of White Salmon had informed her they would not be paying for anything that caused additional delays. Barnes said she needed a decision from the council on the issue.

Councilmember Jones moved to award the wastewater treatment facility master plan predesign to Gray & Osborne. Councilmember Mann seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Barnes thanked WWTP Manager Hons for attending the meeting and sharing his expertise.

Mayor Barnes left the meeting for five minutes.

Alexander said he would attempt to bring the council an update on the progress in finding a solution to the heavy loading coming from the brewery by the June 19, 2018 council meeting.

The council thanked Gray & Osborne.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

City Safety Grant

Councilmember Kiewit asked Clerk Treasurer Willey if she had any information on the status of the City Safety Grant application that had been started by former City Administrator Cindy Marbut.

Willey said she would check and contact Kiewit with a status update and the next steps to be taken.

Circulation Study

Mayor Barnes said she was informed the traffic circulation study completed recently in the process of the Bingen Point Access Project approval was not completed properly. She said Dale Robbins with the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) had contacted the firm who initially did the study, and they were going to complete it for no additional charge. She said the council may see an updated version of it soon with some slight changes.

Street Signs

Councilmember Schroder said she had heard from Jefferson Street residents that stop signs on East Jefferson Street at the Maple and Cherry Street intersections would be beneficial. She said the yield sign at the Jefferson and Cedar Street intersection is working well and is the safer choice for that intersection.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if the Public Works department could provide a sign map.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said she would ask Public Works Superintendent David Spratt.

The council discussed speakerphone options and asked Clerk Treasurer Willey to provide further information.

Councilmember Mann asked if monthly Treasurer's reports were necessary.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said she intended to provide them for approval regardless.

A Budget Committee Meeting was scheduled for May 25, 2018 at 8:30 am.

A Special Council Meeting was scheduled for May 29, 2018 at 6:00 pm

Councilmember Mann said she appreciated all the expertise that went into the letter written to Greg Kish.

The council discussed whether or not Our Savior Lutheran Church had been contacted regarding the storm water runoff issues on Jefferson Street.

Clerk Treasurer Willey said the Consumer Confidence Report and the Water Use efficiency Report were both completed by her and Public Works Superintendent David Spratt.

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 15, 2018.

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

Checks 19980-20014 (Dated 5/15/18) totaling \$52,592.74. General Fund - \$32816.23, Street Fund - \$1,503.10, Street Construction & Maintenance Fund - \$7,033.64, Water Fund - \$5,069.36, Sewer Fund - \$272.53, Treatment Plant Fund - \$3,231.77, Water Capital Reserve Fund - \$319.36, Sewer Capital Reserve Fund \$2,346.75.

Checks 19978-19979, Checks 20015-20016 and Payroll EFT (Dated 5/15/18) totaling \$17,496.65. General Fund - \$7,482.72, Street Fund - \$2,859.95, Water Fund - \$1,926.11, Sewer Fund - \$353.40, Treatment Plant Fund - \$4,874.47.

The council adjourned at 9:05 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor