

BINGEN CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES – October 16, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tempore Catherine Kiewit at 6:30 pm. Council Members Present: Laura Mann, Phil Jones, Isolde Schroder, Ryan O'Connor (via telephone). Staff Members Present: City Clerk/Treasurer Cheyenne Willey, City Attorney Chris Lanz. Audience Present: Jeff King, Ryan Walters, Ken Park.

Executive Session

Catherine Kiewit announced at 6:30 pm that the City Council will go into Executive Session for 30 minutes to discuss potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).

At 7:00 pm the Council resumed regular session.

Police Department Update

Speed Signage

Chief Hepner explained that the most expensive part of the speed signs he was looking at was cloud storage, but that the City might not want that. He noted that it wasn't very crucial if the City didn't plan to run traffic studies.

Chief Hepner asked the council and staff to email him opinions on the signage options once they had a chance to look the information over.

Councilmember Jones asked what size the speed sign was by the old Underwood Mercantile on SR 14.

Chief Hepner said he believed it was 15". Hepner noted that 12" was a very small sign and that for 18" there was a very large increase in price.

Councilmember Kiewit said she was most interested in the signs from Traffic Logic because she had seen them used in other cities.

Chief Hepner said he agreed but that he wasn't quite sold. He said he would like to get more information.

Councilmember Schroder said the council had been talking about purchasing four signs.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if the signs in Stevenson had been provided by WSDOT or if it was a city purchase.

Chief Hepner said the City of Stevenson had purchased those signs.

Councilmember Mann said the council had been thinking about four signs but that she wasn't sure that the State highway was Bingen's responsibility.

Chief Hepner said no but if the council wanted to slow traffic coming into the city, it would be their responsibility, same as the City of Stevenson.

Chief Hepner noted that traffic safety grants would be open soon, maybe in November.

Mayor Barnes asked if the portable ones were solar and battery powered, or just battery powered.

Chief Hepner said he had looked over the suggested changes requested by the council and that he agreed the intersection of Alder and Humboldt Street did need to be a four-way stop.

Councilmember Mann said she would like to hear Chief Hepner's input on a no left turn sign prohibiting turning onto East Lincoln from southbound SR 141.

Mayor Barnes asked Cheyenne to provide a map of just WSDOT signage. She suggested it may help when meeting about the left turn in question. She said she would like internal comments from Public Works and the Police department.

Chief Hepner noted that the biggest complaint generator in Bingen was the intersection of Alder and Humboldt Streets.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if there had been a Huckleberry Festival meeting to discuss how the festival went this year.

Clerk Treasurer Willey and Chief Hepner said no, but that it would be arranged before too long.

Chief Hepner shared that a local business was recently burglarized.

Gorge Happiness Month

The council discussed Gorge Happiness Month.

Councilmember Kiewit noted that last year when the council participated, the things everyone was thankful for was the smoke blowing away and being thankful for firefighters.

Councilmember Schroder said that it was also National Boss's Day, and said she was thankful for Betty for being a great leader and leading such a wonderful staff.

Mayor Barnes said it would be a pleasure to do some favors for friends and community members when she gets a chance, she said she could not thank the community enough for being so supportive of her through a very difficult time.

Klickitat County Department of Emergency Management

Jeff King, Director (DEM)

DEM King introduced himself and explained that he reports to Mayor Barnes as the City's Emergency Management Director.

King noted that the structure of the department changed in 2012 to include 911 dispatch and the public safety radio system. He said the County's 911 dispatch center takes in a substantial amount of calls for Oregon due to how cell calls are routed. He explained that when a call is received, the dispatch center will then page for resources including emergency response and road crews.

King said three local law enforcement departments, three cities, the sheriff's department, eighteen rural fire districts, three city fire departments, and the EMS district were the primary users of the dispatch and radio systems.

King gave some background and history, and described the structure of the Department of Emergency Management.

King said the biggest focus is on the Emergency Notification System. He said if the DEM cannot reach you, they cannot help you. He said he mostly used the service for evacuation notices and shelter in place notices. He said he didn't want to overuse the system and risk desensitizing people.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if the system could break down recipients by area.

King said yes, the system allowed him to just draw a line.

King discussed recent uses of the emergency notification system. He noted a recent change in the recommendations from FEMA and the State of Washington. He said it used to be the standard to have an emergency kit with enough supplies to last 72 hours, but that the standard was now upped to enough supplies to last for 2 weeks. King said as evidenced by recent emergencies around the country, not enough help would be coming in 72 hours and he urged all citizens to heed the 2 week suggestion.

King noted that the local first responders are very committed and dedicated. He noted that at the Underwood Fruit and Warehouse fire not only was help received from across the river and Skamania County, but there was a county-wide page sent out and responders came all the way from Roosevelt.

King mentioned that he was raised in Klickitat County, graduating from Columbia High School like others involved in local government and services such as Chief Hepner and Clerk Treasurer Willey. He said the first responders at the Underwood Fruit fire knew the plant and its dynamic, and knew their community well enough to know where people would be and how to approach the situation. King said Fire District #3 chief Wes Long wrote after action review. King said it was noted in the review how well everyone had worked together.

King noted that what could use some improvement was the amount of trained and somewhat experienced public information officers.

King said Bingen specifically is pretty well covered though mutual aid, and said that the City firefighters handle house fires and grass fires very well. He noted that industrial fires have been identified as a point that needs more training.

King said the automated notification system converts both speech and text to Spanish. He said what is much harder is press releases since auto translation services are not always trustworthy and he only has one Spanish speaking employee.

Mayor Barnes pointed out that Radio Tierra is on the press release list and they are great to work with and can translate as well if need be.

King spoke about social media and related misinformation issues.

The council and DEM King discussed the difficulty of locating those with special needs in an emergency and how information would need to be integrated into the phone data in order for that service to be available.

King said he was a big proponent of exercises being as realistic as possible. He spoke about a full scale exercise completed at the Courthouse in Goldendale. He said he was hoping to do one at the Pioneer Center in White Salmon next year.

King said in January of 2019 the first Emergency Management Volunteer program will be launched.

King mentioned that on the planning side, Bingen Point Emergency Response Plan was created and finalized, and a community wildfire protection program was planned to be signed in November.

King said in 2015 the county had two "FMAG" fires which made \$1.2 Million in funding available, but only the planning portion was able to be obtained since the county had no mitigation plan in place.

Councilmember Kiewit asked how information would be circulated during power outages. She pointed out that in the event of a prolonged power outage residents cannot charge their phones.

DEM Jeff King noted that a similar scenario had occurred during the 2008 ice storm, when most of the county lost power for several days. He said since there was no power, Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers went door to door, even going out on snowmobiles to rescue housebound residents and relocating people to a Red Cross shelter or the hospital. He noted that Clerk Treasurer Willey would remember as she was a SAR volunteer and firefighter at the time.

King said in the event that you cannot reach 911, residents should go to the fire hall.

Old Business

Gray & Osborne, Collection System Plan

Ryan Walters

Walters explained that he was responsible for the collections systems portion of the Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan. He said Nancy Wetch was working hard on the Treatment Plant upgrades and maintenance portion.

Walters shared updated plans and noted that they included a fix for the one comment received.

Walters said he was concerned about BNSF owning the property where the existing sewer passes through on Depot Street. He noted that usually BNSF does permits not easements, but that he was hoping for an easement.

Walters said he reached out to WSDOT about crossing SR 14, he was not sure if they would be able to trench or if they would have to bore underneath the roadway.

Walters noted that throughout entire length of Depot Street there was no location of any side sewer, where the commercial service lines meet the gravity sewer main. He suggested the need to TV the line to find the connections.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if he could provide a quote for that service.

Walters said he initially looked into having the City do it, but said that according to Dave Spratt and Tom Hons the equipment would be at a high risk for being lost due to a rapid and high level of flow.

Councilmember Kiewit asked if the high flow was because Dry Creek has water getting into the sewer line.

Walters said if the City had infiltration and inflow (I/I) problems then yes that could be contributing, but he suspected it was mostly due to regular use and local businesses with seasonal or periodic output.

Walters noted that if the City wanted to change out or replace any manhole covers then now would be the time. He said the lids could be sliding or locking if desired.

Walters said he would provide a quote for the TV service to the council.

USDA Funding – Update

Clerk Treasurer Willey explained the current status of the USDA funding application, and that she was still waiting on the official letter of award.

WSDOT

The council looked at roundabout design examples.

The council noted that speed limits coming into Bingen on SR 14 would need to be lowered, as the roundabout location is in a posted 35mph speed zone.

It was noted that any design shouldn't encourage people to occupy the green spaces out of safety concerns.

Councilmember Kiewit asked about the possibility of trees in the roundabout center.

Mayor Barnes said she would ask WSDOT.

Mayor Barnes noted that instead of WSDOT buying City property and then giving it back after the project, the City would issue a construction permit.

Councilmember Jones asked what land the City owned that would be subject to the project right of way.

Mayor Barnes said on the south side of tracks, where the storm water pond is. She noted there would need to be an easement for overflow from the pond to Bingen Lake.

Councilmember Mann moved to authorize issuing WSDOT a construction permit. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor's Update and Council Comments

Councilmember Kiewit received comments from the residents about the construction at The Society Hotel beginning very early and continuing very late into the evening.

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 16, 2018.

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

Checks 20302-20305 and Payroll EFT (Dated 10/15/18) totaling \$17,132.23. General Fund - \$7,444.37, Street Fund - \$2,873.13, Water Fund - \$1,935.92, Sewer Fund - \$354.53, Treatment Plant Fund - \$4,524.28.

Checks 20306-20325 (Dated 10/16/18) totaling \$18,504.80. General Fund - \$2,171.99, Street Fund - \$537.58, Water Fund - \$15,025.51, Sewer Fund - \$378.69, Treatment Plant Fund - \$391.03.

The council adjourned at 9:30 pm.

City Clerk

Mayor